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BlindCopyTo: CN=R ecord/O=ARRB
From: CN=Douglas Horne/O=ARRB
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DisplayDate: 09/27/1996
DisplayDate_Time: 4:40:38 PM
ComposedDate: 09/27/1996
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Subject: Randy Robertson Called Doug Horne
CALL REPORT. PUBLISHED DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD PURSUE JOE O'DONNELL AS A LEAD RE. INFORMATION ON autopsy photography and the Zapruder film?Document's Author: Douglas Horne/ARRB Date Created: 09/27/96 The Players Description of the Call Date: 09/27/96Subject: Randy Robertson Called Doug HorneSummary of the Call:Dr. Randy Robertson called me today to tell me that he is very interested in the HSCA deposition of Robert Knudsen, which is now a public document. He wanted to know if we were aware of that document, and what we were doing in regard to Knudsen's allegations that he was involved in developing autopsy photographs.I told him that we were well aware of the HSCA Knudsen deposition, but that as a policy we were not permitted to comment in regard to our ongoing efforts at ARRB. He then proceeded to give me a lead regarding the Knudsen matter which I believe ARRB has not yet received. Dr. Robertson said that a physician friend of his knows a resident of Nashville, Tennessee named Joe O'Donnell who was a White House photographer in 1963. Although Dr. Robertson has not yet spoken himself with Joe O'Donnell, the hearsay from his friend which he relayed to me is that:-Joe O'Donnell has reportedly said that Robert Knudsen showed him some autopsy photographs of President Kennedy, and that one showed a photograph of the President's head with a hole evident, and another showed a photograph of the President's head without a hole evident. Reportedly, Joe O'Donnell has specific recollections of what some of the autopsy photographs portrayed. (In light of allegations of missing autopsy photographs, Dr. Robertson felt these recollections may be of interest to the ARRB.) O'Donnell has reportedly vouched for the credibility of Robert Knudsen.-Joe O'Donnell has reportedly said that he was the person who showed the Zapruder film to Jacqueline Kennedy; reportedly, he has said that she told him she was not trying to escape from the car, but rather was trying to retrieve part of the President's head from the trunk of the limousine. Further hearsay reportedly recounted by Mr. O'Donnell is that JBK did not want people to see the President's head explode, and as a result O'Donnell has reportedly stated that he removed part of the film. (This part of the hearsay is particularly vague, and I emphasize that it is hearsay.) Dr. Robertson indicated it is unclear whether O'Donnell claims he removed frames only from the copy she was watching, or from all versions of the Zapruder film.The critical point Dr. Robertson was making about Joe O'Donnell was that he personally spoke with Robert Knudsen about autopsy photos (and viewed same), and he personally projected the Zapruder film for Jacqueline Kennedy, and spoke with her about that piece of film. If desired, ARRB could interview him regarding his interactions with these two people regarding film issues.Dr. Robertson does not know Joe O'Donnell's phone number or address, only that he lives in Nashville (and is currently travelling in Japan). Dr. Robertson said that Joe O'Donnell photographed atomic bomb victims in
Body:
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