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Subject: ARRB Interviewed Dr. Richard L. Davis
CALL REPORT. PUBLIC DOCUMENT. S. Author: Douglas Horne/ARRB Date Created: 03/06/97 The players who initiated the call? Review Board's representative in the call: Douglas Horne; David Marwell; Jeremy Gunn; Dave Montague; Phil Golrick; Tom Samoluk Witnesses/Consultants's representative in the call: Dr. Richard L. Davis Description of the Call Date: 03/05/97 Subject: ARRB Interviewed Dr. Richard L. Davis Summary of the Call: As previously agreed, ARRB staff called Dr. Richard Davis and interviewed him by telephone; Doug Horne conducted the interview. The interview was audiotaped, and lasted about 15 minutes. Professional Background Dr. Davis is currently a Professor of Pathology, and Director of Neuropathology, at the University of California, San Francisco medical school; he said he has been at U.C. San Francisco for the past 17 years. He said he graduated from the University of Minnesota medical school in 1956, then interned at Bellevue in New York, and following that returned to the University of Minnesota from 1957-60 to study pathology and neuropathology. Afterwards he said he went to the AFIP (Armed Forces Institute of Pathology) under an NIH (National Institutes of Health) Fellowship. He said he served on active duty in the U.S. Navy Medical Corps from 1961-1965. In 1963, he said he was a LCDR, MC, USN, and was Assistant Chief of Neuropathology at AFIP. Involvement in Events of November 22-23, 1963 Dr. Davis said he learned about the assassination about "12 noon" or so while in the office of Dr. Ed Smith (Chief of Hematopathology at AFIP), after which he went to the office of the Chief of Pathology at Walter Reed Hospital, since this was the location of one of the few T.V. sets in the AFIP/Walter Reed complex. He and others listened to news reports and watched film clips from Dallas on the T.V. set in the Chief of Pathology's office. He said he was not involved in any events related to the autopsy on President Kennedy which took place on November 22-23, 1963. He did say, however, that they were "prepared to be," in the event they had been called upon. Specifically, he said that he, Brigadier General Joe Blumberg (Head of AFIP), and Ken Earl had "consulted" with each other, and had then prepared to be available if called upon, once they found out from T.V. that President Kennedy had been shot in the head. Assuming that the autopsy would be at either Walter Reed or Bethesda, they set up a "kit," i.e., camera and flash equipment, and dissection equipment, but were never called upon to assist with the President's autopsy. Supplemental Brain Examination When asked if he was present at any medical or pathological procedures related to President Kennedy's body tissue or organs subsequent to the autopsy on November 22-23, 1963, Dr. Davis said that he was not. When directly asked whether he witnessed, or participated in, a supplemental examination of President Kennedy's brain, he said that he did not. I informed him that during Dr. Boswell's February 1996 deposition, Dr. Boswell had stated with some degree of certainty that he thought Dr.
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