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**Subject:** Bellardo  
NOVEMBER 13, 1997 AM. LEW BELLARDO Deputy Director NATIONAL ARCHIVES and RECORDS ADMINISTRATION Adelphi  
Road College Park, MD Dear Mr. Bellardo: Thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedule on Friday, November 7, 1997 to discuss the Assassination Records Review Board's request that limited testing of Commission Exhibit 567 (CE 567) be allowed by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). The meeting with you and members of your staff was very useful and I am confident that it will prove to have been an important step towards achieving the Board's goal of completing and clarifying the record of the assassination of President Kennedy relative to this matter. Please allow me to restate the position of the Review Board on why the additional limited testing of CE 567 is desirable and necessary. First, the Firearms Examination Panel of the House Select Committee on Assassinations recommended the analysis more than 19 years ago and for unknown reasons the recommendation of the Firearms Examination Panel was deleted from the Committee's Final Report. Second, the analysis that is being discussed is limited and defined in scope. The bullet fragment and adhering fiber will be altered, but will not be destroyed in testing. Comprehensive microphotography of CE 567, prior to testing, will ensure that its present condition is documented. Documentation of the testing procedures would also become an important part of the historical record. Third, according to the FBI, the artifact is deteriorating. The opportunity to clarify what the substance is that is adhering to CE 567 could be lost forever if it is not undertaken now. Please be assured that the Review Board appreciates the mission of the National Archives and the concerns raised at our meeting. However, the limited testing being proposed on CE 567 is not unprecedented and, in fact, is less intrusive than what NARA allowed the House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA) to do in their testing of the ballistic evidence in the late 1970's, testing that included CE 567. As you can see from the attached excerpt from the report of Dr. Vincent P. Guinn, who conducted the neutron activation analysis for the HSCA, samples had to be taken from various bullet fragments in order to conduct the tests. In a chart that describes the samples taken for analysis on page 517 of Dr. Guinn's report to the HSCA he notes that "piece cut from large fragment" of CE 567. In addition, with regard to CE 399, the so-called "single bullet" that allegedly hit both President Kennedy and Governor Connolly and is perhaps the most important evidence in the case the chart notes "drillings from bullet." In addition, there are several other relevant references on pages 516 and 517 to of Dr. Guinn's report to specimens being "cut off" or "drilled out" in order to subject a sample to neutron activation analysis. Unlike the previous testing done on CE 567 by the HSCA's experts, the type of limited testing that the Review Board is requesting requires no alteration whatsoever of the bullet fragment itself. According to the information that we

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