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Subject: Meeting Report on NARA/ARRB 11/7/97 Meeting on CE 567
JEREMY - FBI. I AM WORKING ON THE JACK FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO BELLARDO AND WILL SEND IT TO YOU. IN ADDITION, I AM PULLING together excerpts on HSCA ballistics testing for our letter attachments and Steve. I have tried Sibert, but haven't gotten him yet. Tom MEETING REPORT Document's Author: Tom Samoluk/ARRB Date Created: 11/11/97 Meeting Logistics Date: 11/07/97 Agency Name: NARA - College Park Attendees: Lew Bellardo Topic: Limited Testing on Ballistics Evidence - CE 567 Summary of the Meeting 3:00 P.M. Meeting Attendees: NARA Lew Bellardo, Deputy Archivist Michael Kurtz, Assistant Archivist Elizabeth Pugh, General Counsel Steve Tilley, JFK Liaison Nancy Allard, Notetaker JFK Board Judge John R. Tunheim, Chair T. Jeremy Gunn, Executive Director Tom Samoluk, Deputy Director Bellardo began the meeting by asking Tunheim to outline what we wanted to have done relative to testing of CE 567. Tunheim outlined the Board's case for having the testing done: 1. Testing on CE 567 was recommended by the HSCA Firearms Panel nearly 20 years ago; 2. Testing would be limited and defined; the fiber will be altered, but not destroyed in testing; 3. The artifact is deteriorating; 4. Given the history of the artifact, it is important for the testing to be done. Additional information was provided by the Board staff. A description of the removal of the fiber and subsequent testing was provided, along with emphasis on clear documenting of the process, as well as the presence of an independent observer. Pugh highlighted NARA's mission to preserve artifacts and questioned if the FBI was the appropriate entity to do the testing. She also questioned whether or not testing could be done without the removal of the fiber from the bullet fragment. Pugh wondered if some entity such as a professional association dealing with fibers may have the capabilities to do testing. She emphasized that all alternatives to disturbing the artifact needed to be explored. Samoluk reiterated that the FBI had articulated the way it needed to be done and that included the removal of the fiber. Gunn said that if alternatives were presented, we would explore them. The issue of Congressional, Kennedy family and public notification or possibly a formal notice and public comment period was raised by NARA. The Review Board stated that such notification would certainly complicate the matter. Gunn noted that informal, low key notification of the relevant Congressional committees is a possibility and something the Board has done to date. It was noted that such notification would probably result in public disclosure. It was highlighted that limited testing of CE 567 was not unprecedented, since ballistics testing by the HSCA was allowed by the Archives in the late 1970's, testing that was more intrusive than what is being proposed for CE 567. The Deputy Archivist stated that he would consult with the Archivist regarding limited testing of CE 567. The Board and NARA agreed to work together in an expeditious manner to move the matter forward. NARA and Board staff will consult on the following: 1.

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