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Subject: Copying of Z-Film Frames at NARA

To: David Marwell/ARRB, Jeremy Gunn/ARRBcc: Dave Montague/ARRB From: Douglas Horne/ARRB Date: 03/14/97 05:55:03 PMSubject: Copying of Z-Film Frames at NARA I spent Wednesday, Thursday and most of today at NARA acting as an independent third party ARRB observer of LMH Company's photographic copying of Zapruder film frames at Archives II. When I left at 3:15 P.M. today, they were at frame 243...about half finished. The first day and a half was consumed by set-up and exposure & color-balance testing. Each frame is being photographed 3 times using 4" X 5" color positive transparencies (Ektachrome E6) as the medium. It is a very labor-intensive, and therefore time-consuming process--the alignment of each frame for each shoot is manual, and the film often has to be realigned with the frame numbers, which are laser-printed onto clear acetate film stock, prior to each shoot. Initial set-up each day takes additional time, as do the daily "reshoots" of frames improperly shot the previous day. At least one NARA employee was always in the room while the Z-film was in the lab. Each night it is locked-up again in the vault in a Moseler safe, requiring about one hour of set-up each morning. The film company is being extremely careful with the film and I am not concerned about its safety--NARA is watching closely and monitoring all handling. Because NARA was only willing to allow a half day's work on Saturday, and it had become clear by this afternoon that the photographers could not finish in half a day, NARA suggested to Jamie Silverberg, and he agreed, that they should not come in Saturday, and should instead finish on Monday, March 17. I estimate they will need all day Monday to finish the job. I see no need for an ARRB representative to monitor the remainder of the copying effort. END

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