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BlindCopyTo: CN=R ecord/O=ARRB
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DisplayDate: 09/10/1997
DisplayDate_Time: 6:52:24 PM
ComposedDate: 09/10/1997
ComposedDate_Time: 6:31:11 PM
Subject: Sibert and O'Neill Depositions

Time/Place: Steve Tilley's Conference Room on the 6th floor. Sibert: Thursday at 12:45 (show time)--Official Start Time is 1:00--better to show up early because we might start early. O'Neill: Friday at 10:45 (show time)--Official Start Time is at 11:00---show up early in case we start early. VERY IMPORTANT: Steve Tilley (Curator, JFK Collection) found out today that you folks will be attending the depositions--he thinks that is a good idea and welcomes your presence during the interview portions of the depositions. However, he says that based upon the way he interprets the Kennedy family Deed-of-Gift, he cannot allow you to remain in the room toward the end of each deposition when we ask the agents to view and comment on the autopsy photographs and x-rays. His rationale is that if he allows someone not directly involved in our medical effort to view the materials, then he must allow EVERYONE on the staff to view the materials, and he says that, in his view, that would constitute a NARA violation of the Deed-of-Gift between NARA and the Kennedy family. While this is a debatable point--it's a matter of how one interprets the wording in the Deed-of-Gift--I was not the person to be debating it with him today when I took the exhibits up to NARA. He was quite adamant about the matter and made it clear that his decision was final, unless he was over-ruled by higher authority. I know this must be disappointing to you, but I still encourage you to come to the depositions to which you have been invited. They are only happening once, they are historically important events, and should be quite interesting. (The autopsy photos are all in Groden's coffee table book and Lifton's book, and Livingstone's first two books, anyway. The originals look exactly the same--except that they are in better focus. The comments the former FBI agents make about the photos and x-rays will be available when the deposition transcripts are published, anyway.) If you want to study the photos before you go up to NARA, Manuel has a copy of Best Evidence, and Michelle has High Treason 2. The way to handle this discretely is to simply quietly get up and "fade away" when Steve Tilley wheels in the evidence cart late in the depositions when Jeremy says "now we will look at the autopsy materials." I am sorry to be the messenger of disappointing news, but someone had to tell you. "Be there, be square," and have a good time anyway. END

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