

April 10, 2017

Mr. James K. Toner
Laboratory Head, Imaging Science Resources Lab
Imaging Science Division, Eastman Kodak Company
1700 Dewey Avenue
Rochester, New York 14650-1925

Re: Forthcoming Examination of Selected JFK Autopsy X-Rays for the ARRB

Dear Jim:

As you will recall, there was agreement at the ARRB-Kodak meeting on August 21, 1997 that Kodak would provide in-house experts on x-ray film to conduct an examination, and answer questions, regarding selected autopsy x-rays of President Kennedy. The goal of this exercise is ultimately to render judgements on authenticity, or to answer technical questions about x-ray films which will allow others to better render judgements about authenticity. At the time of our meeting, it was agreed that ARRB would bring the selected x-rays to Rochester along with the other materials discussed at our meeting.

Subsequently, we decided to invite you to come to Washington to view the Zapruder film original with Mr. Zavada on September 8 and 9, prior to our visit to Rochester later this fall. Since you will be here at the Archives where the autopsy materials are located, we feel it would be useful to take advantage of that opportunity to give you (and one or two selected x-ray film experts whom you may choose to bring with you) an advance opportunity to view the entire collection of President Kennedy's autopsy x-rays, a total of 14 in number. We had in mind possibly conducting this examination the second day you are in Washington, namely on Tuesday, September 9, 1997, since I believe it is safe to say that it will require all day on Monday to conduct the Zapruder film edge print examination and photography. The Review Board is willing to fund the additional travel of one or two x-ray technologists or chemists, if you and Mr. Milch feel bringing them with you for an initial examination of all 14 x-rays would be useful. [Data which could be recorded and examined would include film type and identifying numbers on individual films, which reportedly are present on some films and not on others.]

We have enclosed with this letter a videotape of two lectures given (in October 1994 and October

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1995) by an independent researcher who has been given access to the JFK autopsy materials by the Kennedy family, Dr. David Mantik; he holds a doctorate in physics, and is a board-certified radiologist who practices radiation oncology. You will note that he has developed a hypothesis that the 3 existing JFK head x-rays are "forged composites," i.e., copy films of authentic autopsy cranial x-rays, with what he has decided are "artifacts" and "anomalies" present on the resulting copy film that were not present on the original (unaltered) x-rays. He has reached his conclusions based upon his own optical density measurements of the original autopsy x-rays, coupled with his understanding of the optical properties of the Kodak x-ray film used at the autopsy.

We forward these two lectures to you without critical comment either in favor of, or against, his hypothesis. We are unsure whether or not a valid scientific methodology (i.e., applying optical densitometry to x-rays to render judgements on authenticity) has been employed by Dr. Mantik, but we have noted that he has provided a wealth of empirical data to study, and has been very open (and very specific) about the assumptions he has made, and about his methodology. (He has always welcomed peer review.) We felt that reviewing this tape yourself, and showing it to one or two x-ray film experts who were to have been included in the ARRB project later this fall, would help you decide whether it would be advantageous to allow us to fund travel for one or two additional people to Washington for a preliminary viewing of the x-rays on Tuesday, September 9th. [Additional enclosures provided are a listing of all of the autopsy x-rays, and four photocopied x-ray images which were published in volume 7 of the HSCA's investigation.]

Should you and Mr. Milch wish for us to arrange travel for one or two additional people to Washington, please call me immediately with their names and SSNs so that we can prepare travel orders and obtain tickets and get them in the mail promptly. You may call me collect at (202) 724-0088. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Douglas P. Horne
Supervisory Analyst

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Jim Milch, Director, Imaging Science Division (via FAX)

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