

# MEMORANDUM

October 18, 1995

To: Jeremy Gunn

cc: Mary McAuliffe  
Anne Buttimer  
David Marwell

From: Doug Horne

Subj: NPIC Review of Zapruder Film

1. Responding to my request of October 5, 1995, researcher Paul Hoch mailed me a copy of "CIA document 450" and related documents, all pertaining to the CIA's National Photographic Interpretation Center (NPIC) analysis of the Zapruder film. Here is a summary of what Paul mailed to me:

<u>Document Number</u>	<u>Description/Remarks</u>
1641-450 most of the analyzing the Zapruder film in terms of "frames on which shots occur" and	9 pages total, containing a total of 6 redactions;  document consists of handwritten notes  "seconds between shots"
1634-1088 Hoch, with Zapruder film by the CIA training	A two-page excerpt (pgs. 19-20) provided by Paul  7 redactions, discussing use of the for
1629-1083 for training,	One page, discussing use of the film by the CIA  with 13 redactions
1627-1085 for training,	One page, discussing use of the film by the CIA  with 11 redactions
1628-1084 for training,	One page, discussing use of the film by the CIA  with one redaction

According to Paul Hoch, the first item, #1641-450, was first released in 1976 following a FOIA class-action lawsuit, and at that time was simply called "CIA document 450", and had more redactions than it does now. The version Paul has given us (1641-450) was provided to him in 1982 as part of the CIA's "Batch G" release. The additional five pages cited above, all of which refer to use of the Zapruder film by the CIA for unspecified training, were also part of the 1982 "Batch G" release.

Horne e:\wp-docs\Z-film.wpd  
File: 4.20.3

2. As I see them, the issues surrounding the NPIC's review of the Zapruder film are:

A. Different researchers, for different reasons, feel that the Zapruder film may have been altered either by removing frames, adding repetitive frames, or by altering the images in some of the frames. The most common allegation regarding altered frames centers around the physical appearance of the President's head wound(s) in the Zapruder film. As one independent researcher has pointed out<sup>1</sup>, the number of copies made at NPIC (namely, "print test", followed by "make 3 prints") equals 4 total, which is the same number emanating from Dallas in official explanations of the film's history (i.e., Zapruder's original and 3 copies). Unfortunately, CIA document 450 is undated.

B. There are two clues, however, as to when the NPIC analysis was done:

(1) Page 9 of the NPIC analysis has a data column titled "Life Magazine", and in the data column the following phrases appear in quotation marks when describing frames on which shots occur: "74 frames later", and "48 frames after that". This wording, which appears in quotes on the CIA document, is identical to wording which appears on page 52F of the December 6, 1963 issue of Life magazine in Paul Mandel's article about the assassination, strongly suggesting (but not proving) that NPIC did its analysis after December 6, 1963.

(2) An independent researcher writes<sup>2</sup> that a congressional investigation in 1975 (without specifying which one) shook loose some CIA files (without specifying which files or documents) "...related to a Secret Service request of the CIA's laboratory at the NPIC to analyze the Zapruder film...though the released documents are inconclusive as to when this examination took place other than in late 1963, internal evidence does point to its being performed after November 29 and probably before mid-December. Secret Service agents were apparently present during the analysis

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<sup>1</sup>See Best Evidence, by David Lifton, Pages 556-7 of Carroll & Graf edition (pages 647-8 of Signet edition).

<sup>2</sup>See Pictures of the Pain, by Richard Trask, page 107

and took the film back when it was completed.”

C. Neither the purpose nor end use of the NPIC analysis can be gleaned by studying CIA document 1641-450. What is clear, however, is that the analyst was unsure whether Zapruder’s camera operated at 16 or 18 frames per second. (Note: the FBI lab report which reported average speed was 18.3 frames per second was prepared on December 20, 1963.<sup>3</sup>) One other assumption of the study was that only 3 shots were fired. One last data point all 3 NPIC scenarios have in common is that frame 312 on the Zapruder film represents a single shot to the head; each of the three scenarios postulates a different starting point for the first shot striking an occupant of the limousine.

D. The NPIC study surfaces in the first place because of a May 14, 1975 CIA letter which forwards it to the Rockefeller Commission. This letter, which is page 1 of CIA document 450, does confirm that the NPIC analysis was indeed provided to the Secret Service, and was the “only textual material involved.” However, page 3 of document 450 indicates that NPIC found the handwritten analysis notes with “the four photo briefing boards made from the Zapruder film.” The point here is that there were four photo briefing boards prepared for someone (presumably the Secret Service), which to my knowledge are not in the published official records of either the Warren Commission or the HSCA.

E. The training issue: the last 4 documents provided by Paul Hoch, which are cited in paragraph 1 above, collectively indicate that the CIA obtained a copy of the Zapruder film from Time, Inc. in 1965 which was used for some type of unspecified training from 1965-1969. Each of these CIA documents contains at least one redaction, which appears to be related to either chain-of-custody of the training film, or who received the training, or both.

### 3. Recommendations:

A. ARRB should immediately request of the CIA the original, unredacted documents listed above in paragraph one, for purposes of a board determination and possible release in accordance with the JFK Act.

B. ARRB should request of the Secret Service, if not already released, the U.S. Secret Service document requesting that NPIC conduct its analysis of the Zapruder film, and all related documentation.

C. ARRB should request of the CIA the four photo briefing boards originally associated with the NPIC analysis, as well as all correspondence with the Secret Service concerning this issue.

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<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, page 98

D. A thorough study should be done of the Zapruder Film's convoluted chain-of-custody. Different accounts appear in the literature of the research community. These accounts should all be compared with each other, and with official documents, in an attempt to determine the role of the NPIC analysis in the film's verifiable history and chain-of-custody. I intend to pursue this project myself, unless otherwise directed.

END