

## MEMORANDUM

October 22, 1997

TO: Mr. Roland J. Zavada

FROM: Doug Horne

CC: Jeremy Gunn  
Tom Samoluk

SUBJECT: Your Questions Regarding 16 mm Print of Zapruder Film Examined Previously By You On September 11, 1996

1. In a recent telephone call you asked me to ascertain whether the 16 mm format copy of the Zapruder film which you examined in September 1996 during your visit to Washington was a true 16 mm print, or an unslit "double 8" film.<sup>1</sup>
2. I checked my contemporaneous notes from your visit to Washington, and ascertained that we examined the original (8 mm) Zapruder film, Secret Service copy no. 2 (also 8 mm), and various materials loaned to the Review Board for examination by Mr. Robert Groden in response to a Federal Subpoena issued to him by the Justice Department at the request of the ARRB. Among the materials he provided in response to subpoena were two 16 mm copies of the Zapruder film. I specifically remember that you examined a 16 mm copy of the Zapruder film on a gray-colored reel, and it is my recollection that it was a copy of the film loaned to the ARRB by Mr. Groden for our examination. No FBI films were broken out for examination on that day.
3. Accordingly, yesterday, on October 21, 1997, while at the National Archives, I examined both

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<sup>1</sup>In your official follow-up report dated December 19, 1996 (forwarded to us by a letter from James R. Milch, Director of Kodak's Imaging Science Division, dated January 7, 1996), this is the film written about by you on pages 3-5 as a poor quality, unslit 8 mm Secret Service or FBI film (*i.e.*, 16 mm wide) with a date code indicating it was manufactured in 1959 or 1979.

of Robert Groden's 16 mm copies of the Zapruder film on loan to the ARRB. One was indeed in a gray-colored reel, and the other is on a yellow-colored core. I made the following observations:

- A. The 16 mm Zapruder film on the gray reel has the words "Zapruder 1st generation Ektachrome projection print" written on the leader with grease pencil. It is double-perforated, and is indeed a 16 mm format film, and not an unslit double 8 film. I examined every inch of the film, and I can verify that it contains only repeats of the Elm Street portions of Zapruder's movie; it does not contain any of the "home movie," nor does it contain any printed-through perforated numbers such as "0186" or "0183." The image quality is very poor, with a marked blue tint to all frames and a washed-out appearance.
- B. The 16 mm Zapruder film on the yellow core has the words "Secret Service Zapruder Ektamaster" written on the leader with grease pencil. Following the initial leader, the words "HEAD Z . SS EKTAMASTER" are also written in grease pencil, and at the tail end of the film the words "TAIL EFX PO # 15723" are written in grease pencil. This also is a double-perforated, true 16 mm film containing only the Elm Street (assassination) portions of Zapruder's movie; it is not an unslit double 8 film, nor are any numbers such as "0186" or "0183" found printed through onto the copy. The image quality of this film is worse than the one on the gray reel--it is actually tinted a purplish color.

4. I therefore conclude that the 16 mm Zapruder film you examined in September, 1996, with the date code of 1959 or 1979, was a true 16 mm format Ektachrome projection print exposed in 1979 from one of the two first-generation Secret Service films, or from a copy of one of those films. You definitely could not have examined an FBI film (since none were broken out that day), and since the entire box of Groden materials *was* in the examining room that day, and since I did not request that NARA break out any of their own 16 mm films that day, and only requested that they break out the 8 mm original Zapruder film and the two 8 mm Secret Service copies, I am sure that my recollection of you examining one of Mr. Groden's 16 mm prints is correct. Summarizing, you could *not* have examined an unslit double 8 film on September 11, 1996.

5. I hope this helps to clarify the matter for you. I am quite sure that any mention of the perforated number "0186" in your notes refers to your observations of Secret Service copy no. 2, which we did examine that day, which does exhibit that perforated number, and which is an 8 mm film.

6. Please contact me should you have any additional questions.