

December 24, 1997

Dr. Vincent J.M. Di Maio  
Chief Medical Examiner  
Bexar County Forensic Science Center  
7337 Louis Pasteur Drive  
San Antonio, Texas 78229

Dear Dr. Di Maio:

On behalf of the Assassination Records Review Board, I am writing to request your assistance in examining materials related to the assassination and autopsy of President John F. Kennedy. The Review Board will be pleased to cover the cost of your transportation and lodging, and we also will be able to provide a modest government *per diem*.

The Assassination Records Review Board is an independent Federal agency that was created by the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992, 44 U.S.C. § 2107. It is our mission to collect and declassify records related to the assassination. In some instances, as in the case of the autopsy, we also are attempting to clarify the record to the extent reasonably possible.

As I mentioned to you and Dr. Lee today by telephone, we have recently obtained significantly enhanced photographs from the autopsy of President Kennedy.<sup>1</sup> We are requesting that you come to Washington and examine the images for the limited purpose of making a recommendation as to whether the enhanced images contain sufficient additional information that would warrant the convening of a panel of experts to review and report on the autopsy materials. If you were to recommend that a panel be convened, we also would very much appreciate your suggestions as to the names of experts who might participate and the appropriate scope of the examination.

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<sup>1</sup>The original autopsy photographs and all official reproductions are under the control of the National Archives and have never been shown to anyone other than those who have been specifically authorized to view the materials. We will obtain permission for you to observe the materials.

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It is very important to us that you approach the examination of the materials with objectivity and with an open mind.

In our conversation today we planned for you to come to Washington on January 22 and to visit the National Archives on January 23. The travel and lodging arrangements will be made by Ms. Tracy Shycoff, Associate Director for Administration. Please have the appropriate person at your office contact her as soon as possible at 202-724-0088 so that she may make the arrangements for you.

Finally, as we discussed, I would very much appreciate your keeping your involvement with this project confidential for the short term. Although the results of your work ultimately will be made public, we believe that at this time it would be helpful to avoid publicity.

Let me thank you again for your willingness to help us in this important matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or if I may be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Dr. T. Jeremy Gunn  
Executive Director