

May 15, 1998

BY TELECOPIER

James L. Silverberg, Esq.  
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918 16th Street, N.W. Suite 400  
Washington, D.C. 20006

Re: Copy of the Abraham Zapruder Film Depicting the Assassination of President Kennedy

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Dear Jamie:

I appreciate your getting back to me so promptly.

As I mentioned to you, we believe that you, on behalf of LMH, likely have custody of one of the three first-day copies of Abraham Zapruder's film depicting the assassination of President Kennedy. We also believe that the National Archives has custody of the other two copies. I requested your permission to let us borrow your copy and transport it to the National Archives so that all first-day versions may be compared and so that the edge markings may be properly recorded and documented. Our purpose in making this request is to help us document issues surrounding the processing of the original and first-day copies of the film. We have been aided in our efforts by a retired Kodak official, Rollie Zavada, who is preparing a written report on this topic that will attempt to explain as much as possible about the condition of the film and the processing.

In our conversation I promised, and I reiterate by this letter, that our sole purpose in examining your copy of the film is to help authenticate and document the films. We are willing to make any reasonable arrangements to provide assurance to you in this regard. If you prefer, we would be pleased to have you or your representative retain custody of the film when it travels to the Archives and ensure that it returns to your offices. We also are perfectly willing to take responsibility for transporting and returning the film. By this letter, I represent that we will not attempt to "take" or to otherwise deprive you or LMH of any property interest in the copy. If you would prefer some other form of written guarantee, I will do my best to oblige.

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I also inquired into the possibility of Mr. Zavada's taking photographs of the assembled films at the Archives. Although this request no doubt raises copyright issues, the purpose of making the photographs would be for the purpose of documenting the condition of the films and preparing a scientific analysis rather than exploiting the images for any commercial purpose. Mr. Zavada believes that it would be very helpful if he were to be able to make such images and I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this matter. Although you are more expert than I on such issues, I would imagine that a carefully documented study by Mr. Zavada, one of the world's leading authorities on Kodachrome film, would be likely to enhance the prestige and value of your copy -- and perhaps the original as well.

Although we both understand the differences our clients may have with respect to the proper disposition of the original film, I do believe that the exercise that I am outlining in this letter is to the advantage of all parties as well as to the American people. I hope that you and your clients will agree.

Again, let me acknowledge my appreciation for the professional and courteous way in which you have always handled our discussions. I would be happy to provide additional information if that would be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,

T. Jeremy Gunn  
Executive Director and  
General Counsel