

NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT: THOM WILBORN
(202) 724-0088, EXT. 251

ASSASSINATION RECORDS REVIEW BOARD ACKNOWLEDGES DONATION OF ZAPRUDER FILM COPY

The Assassination Records Review Board today acknowledged the donation by David Lifton, author of *Best Evidence: Disguise and Deception in The Assassination of John F. Kennedy*, of a 35-millimeter interpositive copy of the Abraham Zapruder film showing the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Lifton donated the copy to the Review Board for inclusion in The President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in College Park, Maryland during a Review Board public hearing conducted in Los Angeles, California on September 17, 1996. The copy is currently at Review Board offices in Washington and will soon be transferred to NARA.

"It's a timed liquid gate contact interpositive," Lifton explained in testimony before the Review Board last September. "From this archival item . . . it should be possible to make many negative positive pairs. That is, this 35-millimeter interpositive can be the progenitor of many 35-millimeter internegatives and they in turn can be used to create 35-millimeter positives, whether they be slides or motion picture film."

The Lifton copy was made in 1990 from a first generation 35-millimeter copy of the original

8-millimeter Zapruder film. The first generation technician's copy was made in 1967 by film technician Moses Weitzman of Manhattan Effects (later called EFX). The best of the 35-millimeter negatives and interpositives were given to Time-Life, then owners of the original Zapruder film.

"Operating the printer myself, I also made high quality liquid gate interpositives from the 35-millimeter negative," said Lifton. "Then I made interpositive blowup sequences directly from that same 35-millimeter interneg. Some focusing on Kennedy, some on Connally, some on the two Secret Service agents in the front of the car."

In his testimony to the Review Board, Lifton said he could not over emphasize the high quality of the original Weitzman (technician's copy) internegative. "It is certainly equal and probably better than anything made by Life for the FBI or Secret Service back in '63 and '64, and may be better than anything made today . . . depending upon what has happened to the original film over the intervening decades."

During the Review Board public hearing, Mr. Lifton also donated original oral histories of witnesses connected to the assassination story that he tape recorded in the 1960s and early 1970s. Mr. Lifton's book, *Best Evidence*, focused on the medial evidence in the assassination. He is currently writing a book about accused assassin Lee Harvey Oswald.

The Review Board was established by the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act, which was signed into law by President George Bush. The five members of the Board were appointed by President Clinton, confirmed by the U.S. Senate and sworn in on April 11, 1994. The law gives the Review Board the mandate and the authority to identify, secure and make available all records related to the assassination of President Kennedy. It is the responsibility of the Board to

determine which records are to be made public immediately and which ones will have postponed release dates.

The Review Board consists of five members:

The Honorable John R. Tunheim, Chair
United States District Court Judge for the District of Minnesota

Dr. Henry F. Graff, Professor Emeritus of History at Columbia University

Dr. Kermit L. Hall, Dean, College of Humanities, and Professor of History and Law at The Ohio State University

Dr. William L. Joyce, Associate University Librarian for Rare Books and Special Collections at Princeton University

Dr. Anna K. Nelson, Distinguished Adjunct Historian in Residence at The American University.