UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

July 15, 1977

Mr. Emory L. Brown, Jr.
82 Squankum Road
Howell, New Jersey 07731

Dear Mr. Brown:

Reference is made to your letters of December 16 and December 23, 1976, to Clarence M. Kelley and your letter of February 28, 1977, to Attorney General Griffin B. Bell which was referred to the FBI for answer.

A review of pertinent files indicates that specimen Q15 was examined by emission spectroscopy. As you are aware, the minute amount of metal deposited on glass when a bullet strikes it makes analysis by any method very difficult. The existence of the page with the designation "Q15" on it could indicate that an attempt was made to examine Q15 by Neutron Activation Analysis (NAA) but that the very small mass prevented the production of adequate radioactivity.

Among the 57 pages of NAA data furnished you is a page containing information concerning a specimen designated as Q3 and weighing 0.023 milligram. A facsimile of a portion of this page appears in Post Mortem by Harold Weisberg. As a point of information, it is possible to remove the lead core of a jacketed bullet and leave behind a fragment of lead weighing on the order of 0.02 milligram. Again, such a small mass of lead would not produce adequate radioactivity upon activation in a nuclear reactor. An FBI Laboratory report furnished to the Warren Commission describes Q3 as follows: "Specimen Q3 weighs 21.0 grains and is composed of a section of the jacket from which the lead core is missing."

Assuming that your term "ballistical evidence" refers to the examination of bullet fragments, please be advised that you have been furnished the "NAA results" concerning them.

Mr. Emory L. Brown, Jr.

The "laboratory comparison samples (bullets)" used in the spectrographic analysis of the "whole bullets and bullet fragments" are commercially available lead standards the analysis of which follows:

Std	Type	Sb (%)	Sn (%)	As (%)	Ni (%)
A101	Chemical Lead	0.00886	None	0.0035	0.00038

Fe (%)	Cu (%)	Ag (%)	Bi (%)
0.00037	0.0415	0.0055	0.05

Std	Type	Sb (%)	Sn (%)	As (%)	Ni (%)
A104	Soft Lead	0.0087	0.0008	0.0007	trace

Fe (%)	Cu (%)	Ag (%)	Bi (%)
0.0009	0.0018	0.0049	0.032

Bullets were not used as spectrographic standards.

I trust this information will be of value to you.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas F. Kelleher, Jr.

Thomas F. Kelleher, Jr.
Acting Assistant Director
Laboratory Division