

0322/0420

Dear Jim,

11/24/82

I'm in accord with Henry Zapruder's modifications of the proposed agreement and I've signed it and return it herewith. He is correct, the modifications are consistent and they present no problem at all.

If it can be done when the film is copied, I'd prefer that the copyright notice be incorporated in the film itself so that it would be visible when the film is projected. Perhaps immediately after the leader, which precedes the film itself. Please raise this with the FBI when you discuss this with them. Also, please ask them to include the FD340 or any other similar records, which reflect the chain of possession, etc. And if they can provide a suitable container, it can hold both the film identification and an additional copyright notice. I do want this copy to be distinguished from the numerous bootleg copies.

Because the 8mm size of the film in 1963 is obsolete, the copy can perhaps best be 16mm. However, if this presents any problem, the present 8mm size, which used to be known as Super-8, is OK.

I do not desire to possess the original at all or to remove it from wherever he has it. I had heard that he had it at the Archives, but perhaps that is not correct. All I desire to do is make individual 35mm slides from each frame. Maybe 4x5 transparencies, if that works out better. Either requires only photographing the frames and that can be done wherever the film is, without any danger to it at all.

Perhaps Mr. Zapruder is not aware of it, but when motion-picture film is exposed, an image is preserved on the entire film. However, when the film is projected to be seen, all of the exposed film in the area of the sprocket holes by which the film is moved is masked and is not seen on projection. This not only can hold significant intelligence - it does. An example is in my 1966 writing, based on the unclear individual frames published by the Commission. It is possible, by means of the sprocket-hole material, to pinpoint exactly when Phil Willis took the picture that shows the President and the car immediately after the first shot was fired. But in the film as projected, Willis isn't even visible in some of those frames. This represents the kind of study I plan with stills of the individual frames. And, obviously, it cannot be done any other way. Moreover, when the film was copied with the automatic machines, this same sprocket-hole material was automatically masked out. So it should not exist on any of the known original copies.

I would also arrange for a skilled technician to make the copies of the frames. Here Mr. Zapruder's and my interests coincide: we both want great care exercised. If he should want someone present to observe, that will be fine with me.

If you have not already done so, please explain the limitations imposed by my age and health.

If he wants any additional explanations, please let me know.

Best wishes,

2