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U.S. Archives Gets Photos of JFK Autops

The Justice Department closed last night that pictures and X-rays of the autopsy performed on President John Kennedy have been given to the National Archives under terms worked out with the Kennedy family.

Responding to repeated inquiries from newsmen, the Department confirmed officially for the first time that the family had this material in its possession.

Much of the controversy over the adequacy of the Warren Commission investigation resulted from the fact that neither the Commission nor its staff actually saw the photographs. It relied on testimony of the doctors.

Some experts believe that

the photographs and X-rays, taken at Bethesda Naval Hospital shortly after the assassination in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963, could go far toward confirming the Commission's conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald alone murdered the President.

If the photographs are consistent with the pathologist's official autopsy report, they will bolster the conclusion

that the fatal rifle shots came from behind the presidential limousine despite testimony of witnesses who thought they heard shooting from other directions.

This would dispel much of the dual- or multiple-assassin theories of some critics of the Commission's report.

Strict terms governing access to the materials were laid down in a letter written

for the Kennedys by Burke Marshall, who headed the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division when Sen. Robert F. Kennedy (D-N.Y.) was Attorney General.

Marshall's agreement with the General Services Administration, parent body of the National Archives, prohibits public display of the materials—14 X-rays, 25 black and white negatives and 26 color transparencies.

Official Federal investigating bodies will have unlimited access to the materials, but no one outside the Government may view them unless Marshall approves.

Others May Have Access

The agreement stipulates that Marshall or any other designated family representative may be more liberal in granting access after 1971 to qualified pathologists or other scientists who demonstrate a "serious purpose," with the family passing on the applicants' qualifications.

The agreement, which Government lawyers said was a familiar one for certain donations of personal effects of public figures, is to last during the lifetimes of the late President's immediate family—his widow, brothers and sisters, parents and children.

The Justice Department's

announcement of the donation came after publication in the Federal Register of an order by Acting Attorney General Ramsey Clark giving the Government title to about 10,000 pieces of evidence actually considered by the Warren Commission. This material also will be preserved in the National Archives.

The Department was meeting a one-year deadline set by a law signed Nov. 2, 1965, for specifying what items should belong to the United States. The law allows an additional year for individuals claiming ownership of specific items to file claims for compensation. **Already Delivered**

Clark's order prompted renewed inquiries about the much-discussed photographic materials. The Justice Department then revealed that they had already been delivered to the Archives.

It was clear that the sensitivities of the late President's family were a prime factor in negotiations that lasted several weeks. Government spokesmen said the government's principal concern was the completeness of the historical record but admitted that criticism of the Warren

Commission "may have had something to do with it."

The agreement itself remained a secret last night. So delicate were the negotiations that Government spokesmen at first refused even to identify Marshall as the family representative.

One prominent critic of the Commission, Edward Jay Epstein, author of the book, "Inquest," said last night that the restrictions sounded "very reasonable" to him. He said it was in good taste to screen out the curious public and laymen who could not interpret the photographs.

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- DeLoach _____
- Mohr _____
- Wick _____
- Casper _____
- Callahan _____
- Conrad _____
- Felt _____
- Gale _____
- Rosen ✓
- Sullivan _____
- Tavel _____
- Trotter _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holmes _____
- Gandy _____

McGowan
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ASSASSINATION OF
PRESIDENT JOHN F.
KENNEDY

- The Washington Post and Times Herald 11/2/66
- The Washington Daily News _____
- The Washington Evening Star _____
- New York Daily News _____
- New York Herald Tribune _____
- New York Post _____
- The New York Times _____
- New York World Journal _____
- New York World _____
- Journal Tribune _____
- The Baltimore Sun _____
- The Worker _____
- The New Leader _____
- The Wall Street Journal _____
- The National Observer _____
- People's World _____
- Date _____

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Assassination of
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