

316

Throughout the plane trip, Mrs. Kennedy sat in the vicinity of the coffin talking to Mr. O'Donnell and various close members of the party. During the course of the flight, determination of the immediate action on arrival in Washington was made to assure complete compliance with Mrs. Kennedy's wishes. I spoke to her while kneeling on the floor so I would be at the level of her face rather than leaning forward, and expressed complete desire of all of us and especially of myself to comply with her wishes, stating that it was necessary that the President be taken to a hospital prior to going to the White House. She questioned why and I stated it must be determined, if possible, the type of bullet used and compare this with future material found. I stated firmly that I had no preference, that it could be any hospital, but that I did feel that, if possible, it should be a military hospital for security measures. The question was answered by her stating that she wanted the President taken to Bethesda Naval Hospital. Arrangements were made on the ground for departure to Walter Reed Army Hospital or Bethesda Naval Hospital, as the case may be.

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Mrs. Kennedy decided that she would accompany the body to Bethesda Naval Hospital and ride in the ambulance. I assured Mrs. Kennedy at this point that I would remain with the President until he was returned to the White House. The

*Commission exhibit
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