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January 29, 1972

Professor Burke Marshall
Yale University School of Law
New Haven, Connecticut 06520

Dear Professor Marshall:

Dean Ronald R. Davenport of Duquesne University School of Law has apprised me of the fact that he spoke with you by phone on Monday, January 24, 1972, concerning the request that I have pending before you for permission to examine the various materials at the National Archives relevant to the post-mortem examination performed on President John F. Kennedy at Bethesda Naval Hospital on November 22, 1963. It is my understanding from Dean Davenport that you inquired into my reasons for submitting this request, and I certainly can appreciate your concern in this regard.

It is difficult for me to answer this question in a more precise and succinct fashion than I did in my letter of 4 November 1971. Perhaps because my comments concerning that particular aspect of my request were set forth near the end of the letter, they may not have been properly highlighted or brought to your attention. I should like to repeat those paragraphs in this letter.

My purpose in requesting permission to make an examination of these autopsy materials is to determine what they may reveal regarding President Kennedy's wounds, the trajectories of the missiles that struck him, the presence of metallic fragments and other foreign materials, the exact anatomical sites of bullet entrance and exit wounds, the gross and microscopic findings in the brain and other body organs, and various other aspects of the autopsy examination.

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If, on the basis of my examination of the x-rays, photographs, and other materials, it becomes possible to reconcile various previously published conflicting descriptions of their contents, and also to eliminate certain ambiguities in the physical evidence, I would hope to publish my analysis in one or more professional journals, such as the Journal of the American Medical Association and the Journal of Forensic Sciences. It would be my intention to write these articles with the highest possible standards of scientific objectivity and professional ethics.

In essence, my sole purpose would be to serve the medical, legal, and historical records by making an in-depth, qualified determination.

As a forensic scientist who is vitally concerned with his reputation and stature among his professional colleagues, I can assure you that I would pursue this matter with the greatest possible degree of sensitivity and scientific propriety.

I do hope that you will once again review and consider my background, as set forth in the Curriculum Vitae that I mailed to you previously, and that you will find it possible to approve my request to examine these materials at the National Archives within the near future.

Should you have any questions concerning my comments, or should you desire any additional information from me, please let me know.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Very truly yours,

Cyril H. Wecht, M.D., J.D.

CHW/mg