

November 14, 1969

John Edgar Hoover  
United States Department of Justice  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I am writing this letter at the suggestion of Mr. Mark G. Eckhoff, Director of the Records Division of the National Archives, in relation to the assassination of President Kennedy. This letter specifically concerns the shirt worn by the late President when he was killed.

I had been examining photographs of two overlapping slits in the front collar region of the shirt for any damage associated with the passage of a missile. In regard to my study, I wrote the Archives requesting that they examine the shirt slits for certain features. On October 28, 1969, I received a reply from Mr. Eckhoff that I would have to make arrangements with the Federal Bureau of Investigation for the FBI Laboratory to examine the slits. The Archives did not feel that they should make the examination.

I am now formally requesting that you allow the FBI Laboratory to examine the shirt slits. Mr. Eckhoff has assured me that the Archives would make the shirt available to the lab for this purpose. I am particularly interested in certain features of the slits which are not illustrated in existing photos and not mentioned in the testimony of Robert Frazier. These concern discoloration around the margins of the slits on either side, arrangement and distribution of fibers at the margins, the exact length in millimeters of each slit, the characteristics of the fiber ends at the margins, and the amount of shirt material missing at the slits, if any. Basically, are there any features of these slits which can be associated with the passage of a missile. I would like the results of the examination, made available to me.

I certainly appreciate all the help you have given to me on past matters. I hope that you will be able to comply with this request for it would be of great value to my continuing work on the assassination.

Thanking you in advance for your troubles, I remain

Sincerely,

*Howard Koffman*  
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