

Dr. James B. Rhoads, Archivist
National Archives
Wash., D.C. 20408

10/3/78

Dear Dr. Rhoads,

A month ago there was public showing of President Kennedy's clothing and of autopsy material that was denied me 12 years ago. In this month I had hope that I would hear from you with regard to providing me with copies of what you permitted to be shown in public and other evidence now in the public domain. I desire 8x10 glossy prints of this material and herewith renew my request for it.

During this month other information denied me was also made public. This information relates to Nosenko and other defectors. I believe that this requires you to reconsider your previous denials and I ask it.

Not having seen the transcript of the Warren Commission executive session of May 19, 1964 I cannot be certain but from what is known of it I am led to believe that its content also was discussed in public before the House assassins committee. I therefore ask reconsideration of the withholding of this transcript also.

More than a decade ago you wrote me that you keep a list of denied requests and provide this denied information to those who requested it when it is made available. I regret you have not followed this practise and I ask that you please examine this list and provide me with copies of the information that you denied me and since have made available to others.

It is my recollection that the letter agreement covering the JFK materials in question precludes any public showing under any circumstances of any of the autopsy materials and of the clothing. If this contract was amended you have not provided me with any copy of the amended contract. If there is an amended contract I ask for a copy of it. If it was not amended I ask by what authority you violated it and by what authority you can do this selectively. You denied permission for copies of photographs of the clothing to be included in a court record in my C.A. 75-226 when I was taking depositions by order of that court. (This renewed request includes prints of those photographs you made for me and denied me copies of in my C.A. 2569-70. I also desire a negative of each.)

Under the new executive order I believe review of classified material is required to determine whether basis for classification exists. While this is not required prior to December it is permitted under special circumstances. Because of my age, health and unique position now recognized by the courts and the Department of Justice and because this is a matter that in part is presently before the courts I believe I meet the requirements for the earlier classification review and I ask it.

You withheld executive session transcripts from me because the CIA so directed. One of those responsible for this has since retired. He also has spoken with a reporter. He was explicit in telling this reporter that while the transcripts could not properly be withheld as classified this claim was hoked up so that there could be withholding the CIA desired for entirely different purposes. You personally are a classification authority. I therefore now ask that you personally review these transcripts that are withheld on claim to classification to determine if that claim is warranted. In this regard I remind you that there soon will be oral argument on this matter before the court of appeals.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg