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7 USA-JFK

8 SCIENTIST SAYS KENNEDY SHOT FROM THE REAR

9 Narragansett, Rhode Island, Jan 2, Reuter -- The home movie of the  
10 assassination of President John F Kennedy reveals that he was shot in the back  
11 from the rear -- not from the front -- as several assassination theories claim  
12 a scientist said on Saturday.

13 University of Rhode Island chemist Kenneth Rahn said he analysed the  
14 dramatic film by Abraham Zapruder and found that at the instant Kennedy was hit  
15 -- a moment marked by the cloud of blood that appears around the face -- the  
16 president's head snapped forward 6.4cm.

17 It is not until a fraction of a second later, after the bullet passed  
18 through Kennedy's skull, that the president began to lurch backwards and to the  
19 right, he said.

20 That movement has convinced many people that the fatal shot must have come  
21 from a grassy knoll to Kennedy's right.

22 But Rahn, who usually studies the path of pollution particles in the  
23 atmosphere, said the laws of physics made it impossible for a bullet to move  
24 backward after it had finished passing through.

25 Kennedy's backward lurch doesn't begin until about a 10th of a second after  
26 the bullet passed through, Rahn said, a delay consistent with the time it would  
27 take for reflexes to make his body jump back involuntarily.

28 Rahn became intrigued by the assassination movie after watching director  
29 Oliver Stone's controversial film JFK.

30 "There's no doubt that Oliver Stone believes that the fatal shot came from  
31 the front and now there's no doubt he blew it his time," Rahn said.

32 A spokeswoman said the filmmaker was tied up with a new project and  
33 declined to comment.

34 Kennedy, killed in Dallas on November 22, 1963, was also struck in the  
35 throat before being shot in the head.

36 Rahn's theory is consistent with the Warren Commission's findings, which  
37 said the shot that hit Kennedy in the head came from above and to the rear. The  
38 commission concluded that Kennedy was killed by a lone gunman, Lee Harvey  
39 Oswald.

40 Many conspiracy theories assert that Kennedy was killed by a shot from the  
41 front but Rahn said the forward snap of Kennedy's head, seen on frames 312 and  
42 313 of the Zapruder film, destroyed most of these theories.

43 Rahn said it was still possible there was more than one assassin. But if  
44 other assassins pulled the trigger, he said, there was no convincing evidence  
45 their shots made any difference.

46 Rahn said his analysis required little more than a basic background in  
47 physics, a laserdisk version of JFK -- which permitted the detailed, frame-by-  
48 frame analysis of the Zapruder film -- and tracing paper to compare the motion  
49 of Kennedy's head to immobile objects in the scene.

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