

MEMORANDUM

030970

TO: File
FROM: Andy Purdy
DATE: August 17, 1977
RE: Search for missing autopsy materials

I spoke with DR. JACK C. HARPER on August 8th (office: 214/942-2878), the uncle of the pre-medical student who found the skull fragment in Dealey Plaza. DR. HARPER presumes the skull fragment is with the other skull fragments and said that his nephew gave it to the FBI. DR. HARPER saw the fragment on the Sunday following the assassination and took it to Methodist Hospital on Monday at which time he contacted the FBI.

DR. HARPER said the consensus of the doctors who viewed the skull fragment was that it was part of the occipital region. DR. HARPER said he retained a photo of the skull fragment for about a year at which time the FBI took it from him. He says he believes his nephew still has such a photograph. DR. HARPER said the skull fragment had relatively fresh blood on it.

I spoke with DR. A. B. CAIRNS on August 9, 1977, regarding the HARPER skull fragment. DR. CAIRNS has retired from his position as Chief of Pathology at Methodist Hospital and is now living at 2303 Post Oak Road

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DR. HUMES speaks very very highly of ARLEN SPECTER. DR. HUMES said he stops in to see MR. SPECTER whenever he is in the Philadelphia area. He indicated that he went to Jefferson Medical School in Philadelphia and that he lived awhile in Upper Darby, Pennsylvania. It should be noted that he was very willing to talk to us and was surprised that he hadn't heard from us sooner. His attitude was much friendlier than his wife's had been. She indicated, without solicitation, that her husband and her family had been hounded with numerous questions and contacts over the years from people interested in this case and many who were critical of the job her husband did. DR. HUMES was very concerned that we not interrupt his vacation for our work. He indicated that he has lived with the after shocks of his participation in the autopsy all of his life.

Jim Kelly and I talked by telephone with JOHN THOMAS STRINGER, JR., the autopsy photographer, on August 12th.

MR. STRINGER said that he had been director of medical photography at the Naval Medical School. He said the head of the school at that time was CAPTAIN STOVER.

MR. STRINGER was called by DR. HUMES, the Director of Pathology, around dinner time on November 22, 1963, to come in to work. STRINGER assumed that the nature of the assign-

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ined negative #19 which he said was a real negative (as opposed to one made from a color transparency). He said in the general autopsy, he only took color photographs.

STRINGER says that during the examination of the brain he "faintly recalls the doctors taking a little square like piece" from the brain. He says he left while the doctors were still working. STRINGER gave the film he took of the brain to DR. HUMES.

Regarding the possibility that he took interior chest photographs, STRINGER said "...I believe some pictures were taken of the body cavity..." He indicated that he "...exposed a film holder" of that area. He said the KELLERMAN receipt indicated that there were "...one or two empty film holders" which KELLERMAN received. STRINGER explained that the film in the film holders were silver on the one side when the picture was unexposed and was black when exposed. He remembers explicitly that when the film holders were turned over, both sides were black. He said he did not personally examine the film holders to see if there was actually film within them. In other words, the fact that both sides were black while indicating the exposure was made, did not speak to the question of whether or not there was film in there. STRINGER remembers taking "at least two exposures of the body cavity."

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