FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

1111 SW 16th Ave., Apt. 156
Gainesville, Fla. 32601

January 17, 1977

Robert O. Goff
Freedom of Information/Privacy Act Officer
Office of Administration
Department of the Treasury
United States Secret Service
Washington, D.C. 20223

Dear Mr. Goff:

This is my request under the Freedom of Information Act for all records in the files of the Secret Service or the Treasury Department that relate in any manner to the photographs and X rays taken during the autopsy of President Kennedy and during subsequent related examinations, to any notes or diagrams prepared during or in conjunction with the autopsy, and any subsequent transfers or examinations of any such materials.

I realize that this is a broad request. It is intended to be comprehensive, although I believe the above description satisfies the statutory requirement of reasonably identified records. Without intending to in any way limit the scope of my request, I can refer you to specific documents included within my request, and specific transactions, that may help to guide your own search of the files.

Thus, my request includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Copies of the following documents listed in a memorandum of transfer dated April 26, 1965, a copy of which is attached:

   a. Office Memorandum from James K. Fox to SAIC Bouck dated November 29, 1963, conerning the processing of film in the presence of Lt. V. Madonia USN (orig. & 2 ccs).
   b. Original memo from Lt. Madonia to J.K. Fox, U.S. Secret Service, White House, Special Officer, dated Nov. 29, 1963, concerning receipt of certain films and prints and the processing thereof (Orig, & 1 cc).
   c. 1 cc of letter dated Dec. 5, 1963, from SAIC Bouck to Capt. J.H. Stover, Jr., MC, USN, concerning graphic film holders.

2. Documents relating in any way to requests by the Warren Commission, its members, or its staff, to view or copy, or to have others view or copy the autopsy photographs and X rays. In this connection I note that it has been reported that in 1964, Mr. Thomas J. Kelley of the Secret Service exhibited the X rays to members of the Warren Commission's legal staff. This account is based on a conversation between Mr. Kelley and Harold Weisberg and is published in Mr. Weisberg's book Post Mortem (1975) at p. 275. My request includes any records relating to this incident, how it came about, when and where the exhibition was conducted, who was in attendance, how long it lasted, what comments were made, etc.

3. Mr. Arlen Specter, who served as a staff lawyer for the Warren Commission, was quoted in the October 10, 1966 issue of

U.S. News & World Report to the effect that he was shown, in Dallas, a picture of the back of President Kennedy depicting the back wound. Mr. Weisberg reports at page 275 of Post Mortem that Mr. KELley showed this picture to Mr. Specter. I would like all records relating to this incident, why Mr. Kelley showed Mr. Specter this picture, who else saw it, whether others were shown, who requested that it be shown, why it was taken to Dallas, etc.

4. By letter of April 22, 1965, Robert Kennedy purported to "authorize" Vice Adm. George G. Burkley "to release to my custody all of the material of President Kennedy, of which you have personal knowledge, and now being held by the Secret Service." Accordingly, on April 26, 1965, Dr. Burkley transferred to the National Archives for the custody of Mrs. Evelyn Lincoln the materials described in the attached memorandum of transfer of that date. I would like copies of all records relating to the transfer of this material to Dr. Burkley from the Secret Service. This would include, but is not limited to, any receipts signed by Dr. Burkley or others for this material, correspondence relating to the transfer, memoranda describing the transfer or preparations for it, and efforts by the Secret Service to determine the legality of the transfer and the authority to Robert Kennedy to authorize it.

5. Enclosed is a copy of page 555 of Mr. Weisberg's Post Mortem. On that page is reproduced a copy of a Secret Service Statement on the photographs and X rays given to Mr. Paul Hoch on June 21, 1966. I would like a copy of this statement as well as any records indicating who prepared it, when and why it was prepared, who was consulted in its preparation, etc.

6. In the July 11, 1966 issue of The Nation, Mr. Jacob Cohen wrote that he had written to David Acheson of the Treasury Department to find out about the whereabouts of the photographs and X rays. Mr. Cohen stated that Mr. Acheson responded in "a tart note" which included the following: "X-ray films were made available to the Commission and were in fact used in briefing the Commission staff on the autopsy procedures and results." This letter was probably written between March and July of 1966. I would like a copy of Mr. Cohen's and Mr. Acheson's letter. If you feel that Mr. Cohen's name should be masked to protect his privacy, I still wish a copy of the correspondence, although I would prefer a full copy if possible. I would also like any other correspondence relating to the photographs and X rays.

7. On page 283 of Mr. Weisberg's Post Mortem, it is reported that Mr. David Acheson had three conversations with Mr. Richard Whalen, a reporter, on November 1, 1966. These conversations related to the photographs and X rays. I would like all records relating to these and any other conversations between Mr. Acheson and Mr. Whalen. I would also like copies of any relevant correspondence between theseetwo men.

I realize that some of the records I seek may no longer be in the files of the Secret Service but may have been transfered to

other agencies or departments. Where this is the case I would like copies of the records relating to such transfers, such as routing slips, requests, receipts, etc. I would also appreciate it if you could forward my request to the appropriate office where the records I seek are no longer in the files of the Secret Service.

If any of the records I seek have been destroyed, I would like all records relating to their destruction.

Please be assured that I seek these records for purposes of serious scholarship. I have no intention to sensationalize or use these records for undignified purposes. I have long been a researcher on the subject of the assassination, and have written a book dealing with the Warren Commission. The records I request areoof considerable importance to my research and I need them at the soonest possible time. Therefore, it is of the utmost importance to me that my request be complied with within the statutory time period.

I appreciate your troubles in this matter.

Sincerely,

Howard Roffman

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