MEMORANDUM

093070

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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he believed they were different versions of the autopsy report and that we should explore the changing of the wording of the autopsy report which alternately deleted and put in the word "puncture." MR. WEISBERG said he believed that DR. BOSWELL had made the notations on the autopsy face sheet.

MR. WEISBERG said he believed he knows a "weak link" in the chain of those people involved in the autopsy but refused to disclose who that person was. MR. WEISBERG said that the sections of his book Whitewash entitled "Number of Shots" and "Doctors in Dallas" should be thoroughly studied in addition to his book Postmortem.

I attempted to contact DR. (ADMIRAL) GEORGE BURKLEY at his temporary residence in California (213/816-1416) and reached his daughter or daughter-in-law who indicated that he was staying at the Jonathan Club in Los Angeles and that he could be reached at 213/624-0881. I reached him at approximately 9:50 p.m. He indicated any correspondence to him can be sent to 2798 McConnell Drive, Los Angeles, California 90064. DR. BURKLEY said there were no photographs taken of the interior of the chest. He indicated that he had possession of the brain and the tissue sections at the White House and that he took them to the National Archives. He said the only thing of interest among the materials was

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the tissue sections (which were taken of every major organ). He expressed grave concern about the misuse of these materials, particularly the adrenal glands. He said he felt the tissue sections of the wounds would be permissible to be examined.

DR. BURKLEY said the doctors didn't section the brain and that if it had been done, it might be possible to prove whether or not there were two bullets. DR. B RKLEY thinks there was one but concedes the possibility of there having been two. Says he was responsible for saving the brain after it was fixed in formalin. B RKLEY decided to keep the brain rather than put it back in the body as DR. HUMES wanted to do. DR. BURKLEY said he thought they could do serial sections of the brain of both the damaged and undamaged portions. He was particularly interested in examining the normal portions because he thought the President was of exceptional intelligence and that this might be reflected in the extra development of the brain. DR. B RKLEY then indicated that he had all of this material in the Executive Office Building.

DR. BURKLEY said he took the brain and tissue sections (and presumably the paraffin blocks) to the National Archives and personally gave them to EYELYN LINCOLN. She mentioned without explanation that GIORDANO who is currently working at the Capitol as a doorkeeper, was working under MRS. LINCOLN's

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