

Deputy Attorney General
Director, FBI

December 27, 1970

- 1 - Mr. O'Keefe
- 1 - Mr. Schroder
- 1 - Mr. Schutz
- 1 - Mr. C. D. Brennan
- 1 - Mr. Conrad

DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION ACT -
THOMAS WEISBERG

Assignment of [unclear] John F. Kennedy

Your letter dated December 21, 1970, enclosing a letter from Mr. Harold Weisberg, dated December 7, 1970, has been received. In his letter, Mr. Weisberg refers to a statement reportedly made by former Attorney General Ramsey Clark and requests information concerning any sworn statements furnished by the FBI experts who performed the photographs and X-rays obtained during the autopsy of the late President Kennedy.

It appears that this matter involves a panel review of X-ray and photographic material of the type described above conducted in 1963 on the instructions of former Attorney General Clark. The files of this Bureau contain a copy of a document dated January 13, 1969, captioned "Statement of Burke Marshall," a true copy of which is enclosed for your information. Inasmuch as the material relating to this panel review is apparently contained in the Department's files, this Bureau is unable to make any comment on the statement reportedly made by former Attorney General Clark.

The original of Mr. Weisberg's letter to you is returned herewith for whatever action deemed appropriate by the Department.

Enclosures (2)

NOTE: See Page 2

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The Deputy Attorney General

NOTE: Harold Weisberg, a Frederick, Maryland, poultry farmer, has written several books highly critical of the Warren Commission report on the assassination of President Kennedy. He has also been critical of this Bureau. He has a suit pending against the Government for disallowing his claim under the Freedom of Information Act for information concerning the assassination. Weisberg is a former State Department employee who was discharged because of suspicion of his being a communist or having communist sympathies. He was later allowed to resign without prejudice. Weisberg has been the subject of numerous items of correspondence with the Department over his requests for information concerning the assassination. His current letter indicates he is aware of the findings by the Panel Review Board of 1968 concerning studies of X-rays and photographs of the late President Kennedy's body by four medical experts. He has challenged former Attorney General Clark's reported statement regarding sworn statements by medical examiners. It is possible these examiners did furnish sworn statements to the Department. However, limited information in our files does not indicate such statements were under oath. It does not appear we should furnish further comment concerning this matter. A copy of Weisberg's letter is being retained in our files.

TRUE COPY

January 16, 1969

Statement of Durke Marshall

Since October 1966 I have acted on behalf of the Kennedy family as their representative in dealing with all matters and inquiries regarding the Letter Agreement of October 23, 1966 and the X-ray and photograph material relating to the autopsy of the late President Kennedy.

Last year, the Attorney General informed me that he had ordered the 1968 Panel Review and that it had been conducted. He described the contents of the panel's report.

I concluded that the report simply confirmed the autopsy report and saw no reason to concern members of the Kennedy family, and did not do so.

I have advised the Attorney General, in response to an inquiry from him, that I see no basis to object to the release of the report and no reason to do so.

I have since informed Mrs. Onassis and Senator Edward Kennedy of this matter and they have both asked me to say that they will have no comment to make on the report or its release.

*See 62-109060
Vol. 166 serial 6686
and encls Serial 1 file*

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ENCLOSURE