

N. Y. TIMES. SAT.

JAN 6th, 1968.

ACCORD ON X-RAYS OF KENNEDY BARED

Archives Releases Text of Agreement Transferring Records of the Autopsy

The text of Kennedy letter
will be found on Page 15.

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5—The National Archives made public today the text of the agreement under which autopsy photographs and X-rays of President Kennedy's body will be held secret until Oct. 29, 1971.

Robert H. Bahmer, director of the Archives, released the text of the agreement under which the Kennedy family turned the autopsy material over to the Archives.

Persons who have seen the 65 X-rays, black-and-white photographs and color transparencies that were taken during the autopsy say they give strong support to the Warren Commission's conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in killing President Kennedy.

Given to Family

They were given to the Kennedy family by the Secret Service immediately after the autopsy and for reasons of taste were not included among the Warren Commission's evidence.

The agreement, dated Oct. 29, 1966, provides that only official Government investigative bodies and private experts approved by the Kennedy family can see the material for the first five years.

After that period, "any recognized expert in the field of pathology or related areas of science or technology, for serious purposes relevant to the investigation of matters relating to the death of the late President" may see the 65 photographs and X-rays.

The agreement specifies that

a representative of the Kennedy family will determine which researchers have "suitable qualifications and serious purposes."

Dr. Bahmer said in an interview that it was understood between the Archives and the Kennedy family that the decision as to who shall see the

Continued on Page 15, Column 1

KENNEDY X-RAYS SECRET TILL 1971

Continued From Page 1, Col. 2

material would be made without discrimination. Unless there are special circumstances, he said, any qualified pathologist who is studying the assassination will be allowed to see the items.

Burke Marshall, who is acting as the Kennedy family's representative, confirmed this interpretation in a telephone interview.

Mr. Marshall, who is general counsel for the International Business Machines Corporation in New York, said, however, that after the material had been available to experts for some time and their findings had been made public, the Kennedy family could possibly reject some requests on the ground that it believed the applicants' motive was not a "serious purpose" but just morbid curiosity.

Jibes with Description

The text of the agreement and the interpretations given today jibe with the description of the document that was given by Justice Department spokesmen when they announced the arrangement on Nov. 1, 1966.

However, the exact wording of the agreement was not made public until today, and some critics of the Warren Commission's findings had implied that the autopsy material would be kept from scholars for many years.

The agreement was drawn by Mr. Marshall in a letter to Lawson B. Knott Jr., Administrator of the General Services Administration, the Government agen-

cy responsible for the maintenance of records and property.

It provides that a successor representative of President Kennedy's family may be named by Mrs. John F. Kennedy. In the event of the death or disability of Mrs. Kennedy, a successor may be designated by the President's brother, Senator Robert F. Kennedy, Democrat of New York.

The succession continues through another brother, Senator Edward M. Kennedy. Should all three die or be disabled, the designation of a representative shall be made by any adult child of the late President or by any of his sisters with the advice of other members of the family.

Book Scores Report

In a recently published book that criticizes the Warren report, "Accessories After the Act," Sylvia Meagher, the author, charged that "the terms of the transfer of this evidence to the Archives were such that the photographs and X-

RAY'S WILL NOT BE MADE AVAILABLE

RAY'S WILL NOT BE MADE AVAILABLE TO ANY INDIVIDUAL OR ORGANIZATION EXCEPT A NEW GOVERNMENTAL INVESTIGATORY BODY, IF ONE IS APPOINTED TO FURTHER INVESTIGATE THE ASSASSINATION."

The X-rays and photographs were delivered to the Archives on Oct. 30, 1966, together with articles of the President's clothing that he was wearing when he was killed.

Under the terms of the agreement, none of the items will be placed on public display during the lives of the President's widow, children, parents, brothers and sisters.

Although Government investigators and persons approved by the Kennedy family could have been permitted to see the autopsy during the first five years, Dr. Bahmer said no one had in fact seen them. No Government agencies have asked, he said, and Mr. Marshall said he would not authorize any private persons to see them until Oct. 29, 1971.

Even after that time, scholars will not be permitted to reproduce the items. They will be allowed only to examine them and take notes.