

James H. Lesar, President
Assassination Archives and Research Center
918 F Street N.W., Suite 510
Washington, D.C. 20004
(202) 393-1917

June 16, 1993

The Honorable Janet Reno
United States Attorney General
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D.C.

Dear Attorney General Reno:

We write concerning a sensitive, but urgent matter of tremendous public importance -- yesterday's death of Texas Governor John Connally.

When President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dealey Plaza, Governor Connally was seriously wounded. For the rest of his life, John Connally retained bullet fragments in his wrist and in his thigh. These fragments constitute critical evidence in the assassination of President Kennedy. The Warren Commission decided that a single bullet traversed President Kennedy's neck, then transited Governor Connally's chest and smashed his wrist before embedding, in virtually pristine condition, in his thigh. It is conceded on all sides of the assassination debate that if this single bullet did not cause these seven wounds in both men, then more than one assassin must have fired on the President. Governor Connally himself testified to the Warren Commission, and consistently stated thereafter, that he did not believe that he and President Kennedy were struck by the same bullet.

Subjected to neutron activation analysis and other scientific procedures, these fragments may be able to resolve the controversy as to whether President Kennedy was assassinated as the result of a conspiracy. Unlike many other items of evidence in the assassination, including the so-called "magic bullet" itself, the bona fides of these fragments are beyond question since there is a clear chain of possession.

Given these circumstances, we feel it is your obligation to see that this crucial evidence is properly preserved and that all appropriate scientific tests and procedures be performed. We recognize that this request may seem inappropriate to the bereaved family and friends of Governor Connally. Nevertheless, we believe that the public interest in resolving the controversy about the assassination of President Kennedy is paramount, and we strongly urge you to adhere to your duty to recover evidence of a crime and insure that it is properly analyzed and preserved. Because time is of the essence, it is imperative that you take immediate action in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

James H. Lesar President, AARC

I am joined in this letter by: Dr. Gary Aguilar, Dr. David Mantik, Dr. Doug DeSalles, Dr. Cyril Wecht, Dr. Randy Robertson, Dr. Paul Langer Robertson, Dr. Paul Langer