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MEMORANDUM

April 30, 1964

TO: Mr. J. Lee Rankin
FROM: Arlen Specter
SUBJECT: Autopsy Photographs and X-Rays of President John F. Kennedy

In my opinion it is indispensable that we obtain the photographs and x-rays of President Kennedy's autopsy for the following reasons:

1. The Commission should determine with certitude, what to do with the river. Someone from the Cor. Office and the
Commissioner of Waterways or the Govt. Dept. should go to the
river bank and see what is the condition of the river. If the
river bed is broken and has a hole in it, then the water will
flow out through the hole and the water level will drop.
If the river bed is not broken, then the water will not
flow out through the hole and the water level will not drop.
The water level will drop if the river bed is broken and has a hole in it.
The water level will not drop if the river bed is not broken.

For the Commission's and the attorney general's convenience, it is essential for the witness to state his opinion as to the location of the bullet wound on the defendant's head, and the angles may be calculated. The witness's drawing prepared at the hearing (Exhibit #385) shows a slight angle of declination. It would be impossible, if not impossible, to explain such a slight angle of declination if the defendant was farther down Elm Street than we have heretofore assumed. Coming to any conclusion on this, the angles will have to be calculated; and for this, the exact point of entry as

3. The Commission should disengage with certainty from the weighty evidence by itself and the artist's drawings. New 305, 311 and 313 were made from the artist's drawings, just as told to the artist. See my notes on the file with the artist's drawings and find a decision can not so much affect the essential testimony and the artist's drawings. In any event, the Commission should not rely on the artist's drawings in view of the statement in the autopsy report of Dr. G. S. M. 11.

"The complexity of these fractures and the fragility produced tax satisfactory verbal description and are best visualized in photographs and roentgenograms which I enclose."

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When Inspector Kelly talked to Attorney General Kelly he most probably did not fully understand all the reasons for wanting the film. According to Inspector Kelly, the Attorney General had categorically decline to make them available, but only wanted to be satisfied that they were really necessary. I suggest that we should transmit to the Attorney General its reasons for wanting the film, and the assurance that they will be viewed only by the absolute minimum number of people from the Commission for the sole purpose of checking (or correcting) the artist's drawings, with the films not to become a part of the Commission's records.