

FBI rules out 2d gunman in JFK

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WASHINGTON — Chances appear dim the Justice Department will reopen its investigation into the 1963 assassination of John F. Kennedy now that the FBI has rejected acoustical reports of a second gunman.

FBI laboratory experts said yesterday they had concluded that a tape recording from a police motorcycle transmitter — passed to the bureau by the House Assassination Committee — failed to prove a

fourth gunshot was fired at Kennedy from a grassy knoll in Dallas' Dealey Plaza.

In a report to the Justice Department, the bureau said some of the "impulsive sounds" on the recording may not have come from the vicinity of Dealey Plaza, and there was no evidence the impulses represented four separate shots.

The FBI provided support for its earlier conclusion, accepted by the Warren Commission, that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in killing the

President on Nov. 22, 1963, and fired three shots.

Officials said privately the finding weakened chances the Justice Department will order a reopening of the 17-year-old case, a move requested by the now-defunct House panel, which spent \$5.5 million probing the assassination.

But Justice Department spokesman Dean St. Dennis stressed that the National Academy of Sciences, in a separate study funded by the de-

case; chance for new probe dim

partment, still is examining the tape and it would be "premature" to make a decision on reopening the probe.

Rep. Louis Stokes (D-Ohio), who served as chairman of the assassinations panel, said he was disappointed the FBI did not conduct its own scientific analysis of the recording.

In a divided vote 16 months ago, Stokes' committee concluded that the findings of a group of private consultants showed there was a "95

percent probability" a second gunman fired at Kennedy.

Stokes said he had asked the committee's scientists to review the FBI report, and, "Meanwhile, I will put my faith and credit by whatever report is made by the National Academy of Sciences. . . . I'll rely on that."

Stokes complained the FBI did an analysis of recordings of the 1979 Greensboro, N.C. shootings involving several communists and members of the Ku Klux Klan and Nazi

party, but refused to do so in a presidential assassination.

The bureau said it has expertise to conduct a full review of the acoustical evidence in Dealey Plaza, but recommended no testing because it would cost more than \$1 million, require 10 to 12 man-years of work and have only a "remote possibility" of producing valid results. Justice Department officials estimated such testing actually would cost less than \$500,000.