

A new review of shots

Associated Press

DALLAS — The National Academy of Sciences will fund a new study of acoustical evidence that led investigators to conclude two gunmen fired on President John F. Kennedy nearly 17 years ago, the Dallas Morning News said today.

The newspaper said the study was requested by the Justice Department and quoted a department source as saying the study is the "first preliminary step" toward reopening the investigation.

The four-month study, financed by a \$23,360 National Science Foundation grant, will be announced Monday, the Morning News reported.

The study will review the validity of findings that a recording of police radio transmissions captured the sound of four shots fired at the motorcade carrying Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963.

The Warren Commission determined in 1964 that Lee Harvey

Oswald, acting alone, fired three shots at the president from a sixth floor window in the Texas School Book Depository. Oswald himself was gunned down days later.

In 1978, the House Assassinations Committee concluded a conspiracy probably resulted in the president's assassination. The committee's conclusions were based on a recording of a Dallas police radio transmission made when the microphone on a police motorcycle apparently was left open while the shots were fired.

Acoustical experts said they were 95 percent certain the sounds were four shots. They said three came from the general area of the book depository while the other came from a grassy knoll.

Three dissenting members of the committee, Dallas police officers and former staff members of the Warren Commission have criticized the acoustical findings.

The newspaper said FBI agents last month reviewed a critical report written by Dallas Police

that killed JFK

Capt. James C. Bowles. Bowles, who wrote the report as a private citizen, was a communications supervisor at the time of the assassination and was asked to serve as a technical consultant in the Justice Department's study.

Bowles said his report "will destroy this canard they call" acoustical evidence. He told the newspaper that the high frequency of shots could not be transmitted through the "voice grade" low-frequency radio system used by the police in 1963.

The newspaper said the National Science Foundation will announce the formation of an ad hoc committee to review the methods used in evaluating the acoustical data and the reasons for the experts' conclusions.

The committee will report its findings at the end of January to the speaker of the House of Representatives and to the Justice Department, the newspaper said.

The Justice Department then will decide whether to order additional tests.