

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : The Associate Director

DATE: 7/15/77

FROM : Legal Counsel *JM*

SUBJECT: HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

Assoc. Dir.	_____
Dep. AD Adm.	_____
Dep. AD Inv.	_____
Asst. Dir.:	
Adm. Serv.	_____
Crim. Inv.	_____
Ident.	_____
Intell.	_____
Laboratory	_____
Legal Coun.	_____
Plan. & Insp.	_____
Rec. Mgmt.	_____
Spec. Inv.	_____
Tech. Servs.	_____
Training	_____
Public Affs. Off.	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director's Sec'y	_____

PURPOSE:

To advise of the status of negotiations regarding a bullet fragment submitted to the FBI by Richard Harold Lester in the matter of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

DETAILS:

On 7/14/77, Mr. Robert L. Keuch, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, advised SA Danny O. Coulson, Legal Counsel Division, that he had discussed the matter of the examination of the bullet fragment recovered by Richard Harold Lester with Mr. George R. Blakey, Staff Director of captioned Committee. Mr. Blakey advised that he felt that the FBI should conduct the examination of the bullet and make the comparison with the known sample from the rifle of Lee Harvey Oswald. He requested the examination be conducted in the presence of a representative of the Archives of the United States in order to insure chain of custody of the test sample. He further requested that the examination be conducted by an FBI examiner who was not involved in the examination of the original John F. Kennedy material following the assassination. Mr. Blakey also requested that Inspector William Lee Reed of the Director's Office supervise this examination. Mr. Blakey explained that since he knows Mr. Reed personally, he can assure his staff that a personal acquaintance of his will be involved in this examination and assure them that the examination is done properly.

cc destroyed Jan 21/16/78

- 1 - Mr. Reed ^{AE}
- 1 - Mr. Adams
- 1 - Mr. Kelleher
- 1 - Mr. Fehl
- 1 - Mr. Mintz
- 1 - Mr. Lawn
- 2 - Mr. Daly
- 1 - Mr. Coulson

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23 AUG 24 1977

SEE ADDENDUM, SID, PAGE 3

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LEGAL COUNSEL



**Legal Counsel to Associate Director Memorandum
Re: House Select Committee on Assassinations**

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Laboratory Division offer its observations regarding this examination.

DM *pm*

APPROVED:	Adm. Serv. _____	Legal Coun. _____ <i>JL</i>
Director _____	Crim. Inv. _____	Plan. & Insp. _____
Assoc. Dir. _____	Fin. & Pers. _____	Rec. Mgnt. _____
Dep. AD Adm. _____	Ident. _____	Spec. Inv. _____
Dep. AD Inv. _____	Intell. _____	Tech. Servs. _____
	Laboratory <i>H/AD</i>	Training _____
		Public Affs. Off. _____

LABORATORY DIVISION ADDENDUM

H/AD **FDS:bsm 7/18/77**

Mr. Robert A. Frazier, the Firearms Examiner, who conducted the original examinations in the President Kennedy assassination has since retired. In view of this fact, a different examiner would be assigned to any new examinations.

However, the Laboratory Division objects to Mr. Blakey's request that the firearms examiner be supervised to assure that the examination is done properly. To accept this condition would impugn the integrity of this Bureau and question the validity and trustworthiness of our Laboratory examination.

APPROVED:	Adm. Serv. _____	Legal Coun. _____
Director _____	Crim. Inv. _____	Plan. & Insp. _____
Assoc. Dir. _____	Fin. & Pers. _____	Rec. Mgnt. _____
Dep. AD Adm. _____	Ident. _____	Spec. Inv. _____
Dep. AD Inv. _____ <i>pm</i>	Intell. _____	Tech. Servs. _____
	Laboratory <i>H/AD</i>	Training _____
		Public Affs. Off. _____

ADDENDUM SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION (SID) JCL:sas 7/19/77

The SID concurs with the objections set forth by the Laboratory Division.

The critical issue continues to be whether the FBI should acquiesce to the conditions set down by the HSCA, which conditions question the integrity of the FBI in general and the competence and professionalism of personnel of the Laboratory Division in particular.

The criminal jurisdiction of the Bureau in this matter is neither negotiable nor arbitrable and we should not, therefore, compromise our position in fulfilling these investigative responsibilities.

AL

J

M

pm

JM

I talked with Mr. Keuch and told him that matter was being closely supervised by me with whom Mr. Blakey is also familiar. Mr. Keuch contacted Mr. Blakey who concurred in our proposed procedure of allowing archival ref. to be present to present chain of evidence of test built from archival ref. JM