

FBI: Gov's body may hold clue to JFK murder

REUTERS

WASHINGTON — Recovering bullet fragments from the body of Texas Gov. John Connally could finally resolve the lingering question of whether more than one gunman assassinated President John F. Kennedy, the FBI said yesterday.

Connally was wounded while riding in Kennedy's motorcade when the President was shot and killed in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963. Connally died Tuesday from lung disease at age 76 and was buried yesterday in Austin, Tex.

FBI and Justice Department officials said Attorney General Janet Reno has authorized contacting the family for permission to remove the fragments from Connally's body.

There would be no known way to force retrieval of the fragments over the family's objections, officials said.

Oliver Revell, the agent who runs the FBI's Dallas office, which is responsible for the Kennedy case, supports a postmortem recovery of the bullet fragments because, his office said, "it would quell the voices speculating there was more than one bullet."

The request to retrieve the fragments came to Reno from a nonprofit group called the Assassination Archives and Research Center, which contends that Lee Harvey Oswald, himself murdered shortly after his 1963 arrest, did not act alone in killing Kennedy. The group believes the Connally fragments could show he was struck by a bullet not from Oswald's rifle.