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August 20, 1971

Dr. James B. Rhoads  
Archivist of the United States  
National Archives and Records Service  
Washington, D. C. 20408

Dear Dr. Rhoads:

After receiving your letter of the 13th in response to mine of July 23 on the 17th, I went to the Archives on the 18th to examine the two new pictures and reexamine those taken earlier.

All of your photographs are as professionally competent as could be expected, and I appreciate having had the chance to study them, even if under improper and, I think, illegal restraint that is a serious inhibition of genuine scholarship. I suggest that you take time from your own busy day to compare these pictures you have taken for me with those already in your file, and I ask if you can honestly tell me, as you have in the past both stated and inferred, that the proper requirement of the contract to prevent "undignified" and "sensational" use has been met.

You must be aware that in court you avoided addressing this prerequisite. If you are not aware of your own improvisations on the meaning of this contract, I suggest that you begin by rereading your letter of April 16, 1970. It and your subsequent interpretations cannot both be true. I therefore ask you to ask yourself why you have told me and/or the court what is not true.

I am aware of that to which you did not respond and I assume that at some point and in some way you will. On the 18th I left an order I am to pick up on the 30th. I would like to add to it the picture of Commission Exhibit 843, the fragments which can, of course, remain in their container, with intersecting millimeter scales at right angles to each other, however your photographer elects to place them. My purpose is to show the dimensions of the fragments to the degree possible.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg