

March 18, 1970

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"Memorandum of transfer" of Materials Relating to the Autopsy of President Kennedy.

To: L (Mr. Robert J. Yock)

The Secret Service has sent us electrostatic copies of certain documents relating to the autopsy of President Kennedy, probably as a result of letters addressed to the Secret Service by Mr. Harold Weisberg, who has been requesting copies of these documents. Enclosed are copies of the Secret Service transmittal letter and attachments. The last two pages of the attachments consist of a list of the documents, X-rays, photographs, and other material transferred by Dr. Burkley on April 26, 1965, to Mrs. Evelyn Lincoln as a representative of the Kennedy family. This document is the Government copy of the "memorandum of transfer" of the autopsy material which is referred to in the report of the panel of doctors who examined the autopsy X-rays and photographs in 1968.

At the time of Mr. Weisberg's request for a copy of this "memorandum of transfer" last year, Mr. Van Cleve consulted Mr. Burke Marshall, the legal representative of the Kennedy family. As a result we withheld the "memorandum of transfer" from research on the ground that the copy of the memorandum referred to in the report of the panel of doctors was the property of the Kennedy family. Enclosed are copies of Mr. Van Cleve's memorandum and the letter we sent to Mr. Weisberg.

I wish to inquire whether there is any legal basis for withholding the Government copy of the "memorandum of transfer" from research, as distinguished from the copy which is the property of the Kennedy family. The memorandum lists some materials which were not transferred back to the Government by the Kennedy family. Mr. Weisberg and others will promptly raise questions concerning this material if the memorandum is made public.

The remainder of the documents sent us by the Secret Service can be made available for research. Enclosed is a proposed draft of a letter to Mr. Weisberg to be used if the "memorandum of transfer" is made available for research.

*Herbert E. Angel*

HERBERT E. ANGEL  
Acting Archivist  
of the United States

Enclosures

cc: Official file- NND ✓  
Reading file - NNDC  
Day file - N MJohnson/mm

NND

NN *J.P.*

*Copy*  
~~March 10, 1970~~

Mr. Harold Weisberg  
Cox & Co Press  
Route 8  
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

I enclosed one copy of a letter dated March 6, 1970, that we have received from Assistant Director Thomas J. Kelley of the Secret Service, as well as the attachments listed in the letter consisting of electrostatic copies of documents relating to the autopsy of President Kennedy. You have requested copies of this material.

The list headed "Transferred to Mrs. Lincoln, National Archives, April 26, 1965" among these documents is the Government copy of the "Memorandum of transfer" referred to in the Report of the 1968 Panel Review of Photographs, X-ray Films, Documents, and Other Evidence Pertaining to the Fatal Wounding of President John F. Kennedy on November 22, 1963, in Dallas, Texas.

Sincerely,

HERBERT E. ANSEL  
Acting Archivist  
of the United States

Enclosures

cc: Official file - NED  
Reading file - NEDC  
Day file - N

*h5* MJohnson/AMM

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