Mr. Harold Weisberg
Coq d' Or Press
Route 8
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

This is in response to your letter of June 20, 1970 addressed to the Director of Information in regard to your appeal from the alleged denial of the National Archives and Records Service to furnish you access to certain archival materials in connection with the assassination of President Kennedy.

Your letter specifically requests four items: (1) a copy of the photograph taken by the Archives staff showing the front of the President's shirt; (2) a photograph of the knot of the President's tie; (3) photograph of the back of the President's shirt with the top of the collar included, showing the area of damage; and (5) to examine the photographs taken with CBS equipment by the Archives staff. After consultation with the NARS staff it has been determined that items 2, 3 and 4 above have never been denied to you by NARS; that item 1 has been denied to you only in terms of having a copy made for your own benefit. NARS has specifically indicated they will allow you to examine the photographs indicated in item 1 in the Archives Building. In addition, NARS has indicated a willingness to, supply you with photographic copies of items 2 and 3, and to allow you to examine item 4 photographs in the Archives Building, Consequently, an appeal at this point under the GSA regulations (41 CFR 105-60.404) is premature and inappropriate.

You have also requested in your letter that all denials by NARS for access to records be automatically treated as appealed. GSA regulations do not provide for such automatic appeal and we consequently cannot accommodate your request. The appeal channel, however, will be available to you upon request as to any denial that you feel is unjustified.

Sincerely,

Richard Vawter
Director of Information