TO: House Subcommittee on Government Information and
   Individual Rights
   Attn: Mr. Timothy H. Ingram, Staff Director

FROM: Donovan L. Gay, Analyst
       Government Division
       (Kenneth E. Gray, Division Chief)

SUBJECT: Chronology of the custodianship, transfer, and events related
to autopsy data and "autopsy material" of President John F.
Kennedy

This memorandum is in response to your request for a definitive
chronology of the custodianship, transfer, and events related to the
autopsy data and autopsy materials of President John F. Kennedy.

According to Warren Commission documents and recent interviews with
Burke Marshall, Esq., the representative for the Kennedy family in these
matters, and Mrs. Evelyn Lincoln, President Kennedy's former secretary
and others, I report the following:

NOVEMBER 22, 1963

1. Upon completion of the autopsy performed on President John F.
   Kennedy, at Bethesda Naval Medical Center, Secret Service agents
   requested and received from Navy Corpsmen all photographs, X-rays,
   and all other related "autopsy material."

   NOTE: In a telephone conversation with Lt. Cmdr. Reeves, Chief of
   Patient Affairs, Bethesda Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Md., on
   11/5/75, "...normally all autopsy information, or any other evidence,
   would remain in the government's custody...and would be sent to
   St. Louis, Missouri for future storage..."

2. This "autopsy material" was delivered to Roy H. Kellerman, Assistant
   Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Secret Service, who in turn, delivered
   these "autopsy materials" to:

3. Robert I. Bueck, U.S. Secret Service, at the Executive Offices Building,
   Washington, D.C.
ON OR ABOUT NOVEMBER 27, 1963

4. On or about November 27, 1963, Bouck delivered unexposed film and undeveloped X-rays to James K. Fox, a Secret Service employee, who delivered them to the:

5. U.S. Navy Photographic Laboratory for developing by Lt. V. Madonia, U.S. Navy. Fox remained with the film during processing, and upon returning to the Executive Offices Building, returned them to:

6. Bouck, who then locked them in a safe.

NOTE: Independent investigations have yet to determine if in fact all X-rays, all film, all medical evidence, and all other related autopsy materials remained in the custody of the Secret Service from about November 27, 1963 to April 22, 1965; or if during this period, a "transfer of custody" was made from the Secret Service to Vice Admiral George G. Burkley, The White House Physician.

APRIL 22, 1965

7. In a letter from Robert F. Kennedy (attached) to Vice Admiral George G. Burkley, Physician to The White House, Burkley was authorized to transfer the "autopsy materials" to Mrs. Evelyn Lincoln, President Kennedy's former personal secretary, at the National Archives where Mrs. Lincoln had been working on the Presidential Papers.

NOTE: According to Mrs. Lincoln (telephone interview on 11/6/75), she was on the staff at the time of the Kennedy Presidential Library which is under the auspices of the National Archives. Assistant Archivist, Marion Johnson, insists however that "...we never had (the autopsy materials). They were only in courtesy storage." (Meeting with Johnson, Mark Eckhoff, Chief, Legislative, Fiscal, and Judicial Division within Civil Archives Division, and Subcommittee staff, 10/7/75)

In a letter to the Subcommittee dated October 17, 1975, Acting Archivist James E. O'Neill, states, "Mrs. Lincoln was not a member of the staff of the National Archives and had no authority to accession research materials for the National Archives."

APRIL 25, 1965

8. In a "letter of gift" signed by Mrs. Jacqueline B. Kennedy, Robert F. Kennedy, and Edward M. Kennedy, executors, dated 4/25/65, a transfer of custody, control, and title to the Presidential historical materials of John F. Kennedy was made to the United States Government. This "letter of gift" is now in the possession of the Office of Presidential Libraries.
According to correspondence from Acting Archivist James E. O'Neill to this Subcommittee, dated October 17, 1975, "The letter of gift is a general legal instrument and, together with related correspondence, reflects a generalized transfer of property. There is no specific reference to access by Mrs. Evelyn Lincoln to any portions of these materials. We have asked the archival staff at the Kennedy Library to examine finding aids and pertinent files among their holdings, and they have reported that they are unable to identify any documentation there relating to the transfer of personal effects and autopsy materials of the late President, access by Mrs. Lincoln, or correspondence relating to the transfer of items from Mrs. Lincoln to Miss Novello, Robert Kennedy's former secretary."

APRIL 26, 1965

9. Vice Admiral Burkley in a letter to Mrs. Evelyn Lincoln (attached) transferred all "...the items (on the attached list) relating to the autopsy of the late President John F. Kennedy," Pursuant to the instructions of Robert F. Kennedy (see attached).

10. Mrs. Evelyn Lincoln received a footlocker of autopsy records, data, and related materials at the National Archives in Room 409 (see attached) from Admiral Burkley and Robert Bouck.

NOTE: On August 27, 1972, in an article by Fred Graham"...Mrs. Lincoln...said that Admiral Burkley delivered a locked chest to her at the Archives and that a few days later Angie Nevele (sic), Robert Kennedy's secretary, arrived and took it away. Mrs. Lincoln said that she had not looked inside the chest or read Admiral Burkley's inventory."

In a telephone interview with Mrs. Lincoln (11/6/75) she said that she is certain there was a "letter of transfer" mentioning Ms. Angie Novello, and that this letter should be at Archives.

OCTOBER 29, 1966

11. On October 29, 1966, a letter signed by Burke Marshall, Esq., the Kennedy's representative, addressed to the Honorable Lawson B. Knott, Jr., Administrator of General Services, the parent body of the National Archives, states: "...that the personal effects of the late President which were gathered as evidence by the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy, as well as certain other materials relating to the assassination, should be deposited, safeguarded and preserved in the Archives of the United States as material of historical importance."

In a telephone interview with Mr. Marshall on November 5, 1975, he said that this "letter of transfer" was not initiated by him or by the
Kennedy family, and neither was it drafted by him or the Kennedy family, but rather it was initiated and drafted by the General Services Administration and National Archives.

NOVEMBER 1, 1966

12. On November 1, 1966, a "Report of Inspection" by Naval Medical Staff at the National Archives of all X-rays and photographs of the autopsy of President John F. Kennedy was conducted.

"...the undersigned individuals jointly examined the items of photographic material described below which were represented to us by Dr. James B. Rhoads, Deputy Archivist of the United States, to be the material listed in Appendix B of a letter dated October 29, 1966 from Burke Marshall..." (see attached)

NOTE: The article "Rules For X-Rays of Kennedy Given: Archives Releases Text of Agreement Transferring Records of the Autopsy," appeared in the New York Times 1/6/68, and listed only (7) seven paragraphs of materials related to the autopsy, whereas, in the inventory of autopsy material signed by Mrs. Evelyn Lincoln, there are (9) nine paragraphs listed. (see attached)
April 22, 1965

Dear Dr. Burkley:

This will authorize you to release to my custody all of the material of President Kennedy, of which you have personal knowledge, and now being held by the Secret Service.

I would appreciate it if you would accompany this material personally and turn it over for safekeeping to Mrs. Evelyn Lincoln at the National Archives.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Mrs. Lincoln with instructions that this material is not to be released to anyone without my written permission and approval.

Sincerely,

Robert F. Kennedy

Vice Adm. George G. Burkley
Physician to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

cc/Mrs. Evelyn Lincoln
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 26, 1965

Mrs. Evelyn Lincoln
National Archives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Lincoln:

In accordance with authorization dated April 22, 1965 from Senator Robert F. Kennedy, the items on the attached list relating to the autopsy of the late President John F. Kennedy are herewith transferred to the Archives for your custody, and in accordance with the instructions contained in Senator Kennedy's letter.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]
George C. Burkley
Vice Admiral, MC, USN
Physician to the President

Witnesses:

[Signature]
Ralph J. Bunke
Director of Medical Services

[Signature]
Elizabeth Duncan
1. One broken casket handle

2. Envelopes numbered 1 to 10 containing black and white negatives of photographs taken at time of autopsy

3. 7 envelopes containing 4 x 5 negatives of autopsy material

4. 5 envelopes containing 4 x 5 exposed film containing no image

5. 1 roll of exposed film from a color camera entirely black with no image apparent

6. Envelope containing 8 X-ray negatives 14" x 17"; 6 X-ray negatives 10" x 12"; 12 black and white prints 11" x 14"; 17 black and white prints 14" x 17"; all negatives and prints pertaining to X-rays that were taken at the autopsy

7. 36 6" x 10" black and white prints - autopsy photos

37 3 1/2" x 4 1/2" black and white prints - autopsy photos

27 color positive transparencies 4" x 5"

1 unexposed piece of color film

8. 27 4" x 5" color negatives of autopsy photographs

55 8" x 10" color prints of autopsy photographs

9. 1 plastic box 9" x 6 1/2" x 1" containing paraffin blocks of tissue sections

1 plastic box containing paraffin blocks of tissue sections plus 35 slides

A third box containing 84 slides

1 stainless steel container 7" in diameter x 8" containing gross material

3 wooden boxes, each 7" x 5 1/2" x 1 1/4", containing 56 slides:

Blood smears taken at various times during life

Complete autopsy protocol of President Kennedy (orig. 5 7 cc's) - Original signed by Dr. Humes, pathologist

Letter of transmittal of autopsy report (orig. 6 1 cc)

Office Memorandum from James E. Fox to SAIC Dcuk Nov. 29, 1963, concerning the processing of film in the presence of Lt. (Jg) V. Nacodin, USN (orig. 5 2 cc's)

Orig. memo from Lt. Macdonia to J. E. Fox, U. S. Secret Service, White House, Special Officer, dated Nov. 28, 1963, concerning receipt of certain films and prints and the processing thereof (Orig. 5 1 cc)
Certificate of destruction of preliminary draft notes on protocol of autopsy (1 cc signed by Dr. J. J. Lewis)


Thermofax reproduction of memo from Francis X. O'Neill Jr., Agent FBI, and James W. Sibert, to Capt. J. H. Stover, Commanding Officer, USN Medical School, regarding receipt of missile, dated 11-22-63.


2 page memo from Captain Stover, H.C., USN, Nov. 22, 1963 to Roy H. Kellerman concerning receipt of photographic material.

George F. Bunchby
Vice Admiral, H.C., USN
Physician to the President

Witnesses:

Robert J. Buck
Charles J. Mcgillen
Edward C. Butterworth

Received April 30, 1965 in Room 407, National Archives, Washington, D.C. from Dr. Buckley and Robert Bouch.
The Letter on Kennedy Autopsy Photos

Burke Marshall, the seated president of the Kennedy family, wrote a letter on January 6, 1968, condemning the press's coverage of the Kennedy autopsy.

As a result of the press coverage, the Kennedy family became concerned about the dissemination of information about the autopsy. The family's concern was that the public had not been notified of the autopsy's importance, and that the press's coverage was not accurate or respectful.

Burke Marshall wrote to the full Senate, expressing his concern to the press and stated: "I feel that the United States Government should be more careful about the dissemination of information about the Kennedy autopsy. The press has not been notified of its importance, and its coverage has been inaccurate and disrespectful. I hope that the press will be more careful in the future."
RULES FOR X-RAYS OF KENNEDY GIVEN

ARCHIVES RELEASE TEXT OF AGREEMENT TRANSFERRING RECORDS OF THE AUTOPSY

The text of Kennedy letter will be found on Page 15, Column 1.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5.—The National Archives made public today the text of the agreement under which autopsy photographs and X-rays of President Kennedy's body will be held secret until Oct. 29, 1971.

Robert H. Bahr, director of the Archives, released the text of the agreement under which the Kennedy family named the autopsy material over to the Archives.

Persons who have seen the 43 X-rays, black-and-white photographs and color transparencies that were taken during the autopsy say they gave strong support to the Warren Commission's conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in killing President Kennedy.

The agreement, dated Oct. 22, 1966, provides that only official Government investigative bodies, primarily the Warren Commission, can see the material for the next five years.

After that period, any recognized expert in the field of pathology or related areas of science or technology, for serious purposes related to the investigation of matters relating to the death of the late President, may see the 43 photographs and X-rays.

The agreement specifies that a representative of the Kennedy family will determine whether researchers have "suitable qualifications and serious purposes."

Mr. Bahr said in an interview that it was understood between the Archives and the Kennedy family that the decision as to who shall see the

KENNEDY X-RAYS: SECRET TILL 1971

Continued From Page 1, Col. 2

material will be made with out discrimination. Unless they said, any qualified pathologist who is studying the assassination will be allowed to see the X-rays.

Burke Marshall, who is acting as the Kennedy family's representative, confirmed this interpretation on a telephone interview.

Mr. Marshall, who is general counsel for the International Business Machines Corporation in New York, said, however, that after the case had been available for expert examination for about one year, a decision would be made as to whether the X-rays would be made public.

A written request on the ground that it served an "apparent" purpose, but just now, secure.

Facts with Description

The text of the agreement and the interpretations given today by the description of the document that was given by Justice Department spokesmen, when they announced the arrangement on Nov. 1, 1966, however, the experts working on the agreement has not been public until today, and some critics of the Warren Commission's findings had implied that the autopsy material would be kept from scholars for many years.

The agreement was drawn by Mr. Marshall in a letter to Justice Department Under Secretary for the Cabinet, the agreement specifies that the Commonwealth's family may be named by Mr. Kennedy, or by his wife, Lee Radziwill, or by his children or his wife's children.

The secret agreement continues through another brother, Senator Edward M. Kennedy, to whom a third brother, President Kennedy, may also be named by Mr. Kennedy, or by his wife, or by any of his sisters with the approval of other members of the family.

Book News Report

In a recently published book that criticizes the Warren report, "The Best of the Kennedy Girls," written by Boston magazine writer Linda Baitz, President Kennedy's private secretary, John F. Kennedy, is shown to have been acting for the President's brother, Senator Robert F. Kennedy, of New York.

The book, which will be published Aug. 16, explains that a second brother, the New York City borough president, Edward M. Kennedy, was the brother of President Kennedy, who was killed on Nov. 22, 1963.

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Traveling by air, the Department of Transportation had been guided by the Department of Justice for the past three years. The division between these two departments was now clearly defined.

The department had been advised by a network of trusted advisors. These advisors had been selected for their expertise in transportation and legal matters. The division between the two departments had been a source of friction for many years. The advisors had been working to bridge the gap between the two departments.

The division had been the subject of much debate and discussion. The advisors had been working to find a solution that would satisfy both departments. The division had been a source of frustration for many years. The advisors had been working to find a solution that would satisfy both departments.
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