

[Date]

[Name]

[Acting] Archivist of the United States
National Archives and Records Administration
Washington, D.C. 20408

Dear [name]:

It has come to the attention of the Assassination Records Review Board that certain questions have been raised regarding the status of the original 8mm film taken by Abraham Zapruder showing the assassination of President John F. Kennedy on November 22, 1963. The original film has been in secure preservation storage, at the request of the Zapruder family, at the National Archives since 1978.

The *President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992* (ARCA) establishes “a collection of records to be known as the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection.” 44 U.S.C. 2107 note § 4(a)(1). The ARCA further provides that “[t]he Collection shall include all assassination records that have been transmitted to the National Archives or disclosed to the public in an unredacted form prior to the date of enactment of this Act” and “that are required to be transmitted to the National Archives.” *Id.* at §4(a)(2)(I), (ii). Congress further defined “assassination record” to include “a record that is related to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, that was created or made available for use by, obtained by, or otherwise came into the possession of the Commission to Investigate the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy (the “Warren Commission”).” *Id.* at §3(2)(A). In addition, the published records of the Warren Commission unequivocally indicate that this original film was made available to and used by Warren Commission in the course of its deliberations. See *Hearings Before the President’s Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy, Testimony of Lyndal L. Shaneyfelt* (testifying that the original of the Zapruder film was made available and reviewed by Warren Commission representatives in the Commission building).

Given the clear language of the ARCA as enacted by Congress and the relevant historical circumstances, it was plainly Congress’s intent that under the ARCA the original of the Zapruder film is part of the Kennedy Assassination Records Collection and was so deemed as of the date of the statute’s enactment in 1992. The National Archives should therefore, if it has not already done so, proceed to prepare the appropriate identification aids and other materials as directed by the ARCA.

Sincerely,

John Tunheim, Chair
Assassination Records Review Board

cc: Henry Zapruder