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August 14, 1996

Mr. Joseph Backes
9 Kaine Terrace
Albany, New York 12208-1215

Dear Mr. Backes:

Your payment for the cost to the Review Board of making a copy of the videotape has nothing to do with ownership of the film and does not bind you to do anything. The film that was donated by Ms. Janet Veazey via a Deed of Gift belongs to the National Archives.

Let me be clear. The Board was under no obligation to send you the copy of the film (the last copy we had, for the record). It was only done because I did not want to waste any more of my time on this matter when there are so many other things that the Board and staff have to accomplish in a limited amount of time. Furthermore, because you had expressed an urgency having to do with a pending trip to England and it was clear that the National Archives was not going to be able to process your request in time to meet your needs, as a courtesy, the videotape was sent to you. You did not acknowledge receipt of the film, never mind thank us for extending the courtesy. Based on your past behavior, I must say that I expected neither acknowledgment nor thanks.

It is very simple, pay your bill, if you want any information from the Board.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Samoluk
Associate Director