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Subject: Reuters Story
Copyright 1996 Reuters Ltd. All rights reserved. The following news report may not be republished or redistributed, in whole or in part, without the prior written consent of Reuters Ltd. By Kieran Murray DALLAS (Reuter) - Long-lost television footage of scenes before and after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy has been unearthed and offers intriguing new evidence on the case, experts said Tuesday. The 45 minutes of black-and-white film has unique footage of Kennedy's convicted killer and poignant images of the president and first lady Jacqueline Kennedy holding hands shortly before his death. But it does not catch Kennedy's motorcade coming under fire as it drove through downtown Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963, and does not find a "smoking gun" in the case that has spawned countless conspiracy theories. "Does it point to a second gunman? Not that I know of," said Gary Mack, an expert on the Kennedy assassination and archivist at the Dallas County Historical Foundation. He said he first saw the film about 15 years ago but was unable to get a copy. He took another look at it Sunday after a Dallas woman came forward with the film clips, which had been buried under a house for years. "It doesn't significantly change history ... but it does give extra insights and new details on what happened that day," Mack told Reuters. The footage shows police taking several initial suspects and witnesses into custody and assassin Lee Harvey Oswald at the Dallas police station after his arrest. In another section, police and witnesses are seen running toward a nearby rail yard to search for an assassin immediately after the shooting. The footage also shows Oswald's killer, Jack Ruby, at a news conference with Oswald on the night of the assassination. Ruby shot Oswald to death two days later. The Kennedys are seen holding hands in a rare public show of affection before stepping into the convertible that took them on the fateful ride through the city center. The 16 mm footage was secretly rescued from a wastebasket at a local TV station hours after the assassination by a news photographer named Roy Cooper, who kept the original and made a copy for his best friend, Eli Sturges. They tried unsuccessfully to sell it secretly and the copy was stashed under Sturges' home for years. Sturges died in 1986 and Cooper died this year. Sturges' stepdaughter, Janet Veazey, came forward with the film this month after the Dallas Morning News ran a story about an independent federal board's search for pictures and records related to the assassination. She was eight years old at the time of the assassination and told the newspaper she remembers being bored when her stepfather and his friend would close the curtains tight and watch the film. A representative for the Assassination Records Review Board flew from Washington to Dallas last week to pick up the film. The newspaper said the footage has been transferred to videotape at the National Archives, where it will be added to the JFK Collection and made accessible to researchers and the public. Officials at the Record

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