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Subject: Meeting with CBS News on Archival Assassination Film and Video
As you are aware, you and I are scheduled to meet with representatives of CBS News in New York on Tuesday, October 7, 1997, at 2:00 p.m. I confirmed the meeting with Al Ortiz, CBS News Washington Bureau Chief, (202) 457-4401, today. You and I will be joined by Ortiz, CBS News Vice President Linda Mason, (212) 975-6318, and a representative from the CBS News Archives Department whose name Ortiz did not know. The meeting is scheduled for: CBS News 524 West 57th Street (57th between 10th and 11th Streets) NY, NY. Ortiz will meet us in the lobby of the building. Per our plan, you and I will meet at the baggage area for my flight upon our arrival at LaGuardia. The following is my flight information: US AirFlight # 6041 Depart Boston 11:00 a.m. Arrive NY LaGuardia 11:59 a.m. Because I figured we won't get out the meeting until at least 3:00 p.m. and perhaps a little later, putting us in DC at 5:00 p.m. at the earliest, I am going to meet a friend for dinner in NY at 5:30 p.m. and take a later shuttle out of LaGuardia for DC. If you want to stick around, you are invited to join us. Background: As you know, CBS did major coverage of the assassination on the day it occurred and in the following days. In addition, they did special programs in 1964, 1967, 1975, as well as a "48 Hours" program in 1992 and a 30th anniversary special in 1993. There has been frequent discussion among researchers about the original assassination coverage, the subsequent programs and the alleged importance of outtakes from the 1964 and 1967 programs that CBS apparently still possesses. Contact With CBS News Regarding Their Assassination Archives: My first high level contact with CBS News on this matter was a telephone conversation with Ortiz in August 1997. I had previously talked to CBS Evening News producer Mary Mapes and Bernard Birnbaum, the producer from all of the shows done by CBS on the assassination. A letter that I wrote to Dan Rather, at the suggestion of Mapes, was never answered. In my August 29, 1997 telephone conversation with Ortiz, he was positive about the prospects of CBS donating material to the JFK Collection, but he thought that there were various issues that had to be worked out. (The outtakes issue was not specifically discussed and I have purposely avoided reference to it until we get into the meeting.) Ortiz said that the issue of their archival material will cut across three CBS departments, Archives, Documentaries and Legal. Relative to the Legal Department, Ortiz said that their concern would be not setting a bad legal precedent for CBS regarding archival material and copyright concerns. Basically, they do not want their prized footage airing on some other network. CBS may also ask if we have approached the other networks about archival materials. Because ABC was in its infancy with regard to this kind of news coverage at the time of the assassination, the only other relevant network is NBC. When Ortiz mentioned this to me a couple of months ago, I told him that NBC donated several hours of their original coverage to the JFK Library, as part of the Record

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