

NR_key_name: 0F6EACFFBD7F8C8685256548007C5DC0

SendTo: Tom

CopyTo:

DisplayBlindCopyTo:

BlindCopyTo: Bellardo Letter

From: CN=Tom Samoluk/O=ARRB

DisplayFromDomain:

DisplayDate: 11/07/1997

DisplayDate_Time: 5:38:25 PM

ComposedDate: 11/07/1997

ComposedDate_Time: 5:38:25 PM

Subject: Bellardo
NOVEMBER 10, 1997/WM. LEW BELLARDODeputy DirectorNational Archives and Records AdministrationAdeipm
RoadCollege Park, MDDear Mr. Bellardo:I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for taking the time
out of your busy schedule to discuss the very important issue regarding limited testing of Commission Exhibit
567 (CE 567). The meeting was very useful and I am confident will prove to have been an important step
towards achieving our goal of completing and clarifying the record of the assassination relative to this
matter.Please allow me to restate the position of the Review Board on why the additional limited testing of CE
567 is desirable and necessary. First, First, the Firearms Examination Panel of the House Select Committee on
Assassinations recommended the analysis nearly 19 years ago and for unknown reasons the recommendation
of the Firearms Examination Panel was deleted from the Committee's Final Report;Second, the analysis that is
being discussed is limited and defined in scope. The bullet fragment and adhering fiber will be altered, but will
not be destroyed in testing. Comprehensive microphotography of CE 567, prior to testing, will ensure that its
present condition is documented. Documentation of the testing procedures would also become an important
part of the historical record; and Third, according to the FBI, the artifact is deteriorating. The opportunity to
clarify what the substance is that is adhering to CE 567 could be lost forever if it is not undertaken now. Please
be assured that The Review Board appreciates the mission of the National Archives and the concerns raised
at our meeting. However, the limited testing being proposed on CE 567 is not unprecedented and, in fact, is
less intrusive than what the National Archives allowed the House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA)
to do in their testing of the ballistic evidence in the late 1970's, testing that included CE 567. As you can see
from the attached excerpt from the report of Dr. Vincent Guinn, who conducted the neutron activation
analysis for the HSCA, samples had to be taken from various bullet fragments in order to conduct the tests. In
a chart on page x contained in Dr. Guinn's report to the HSCA he notes that CE 567 "had a piece snipped off"
and CE 399, the so-called "single bullet" that allegedly hit both President Kennedy and Governor Connolly and
is perhaps the most important evidence in the case had "samples dug from the base of the bullet." In addition,
CE xx had "quote from report" in order to subject a sample to neutron activation analysis.As I know you are
aware, they type of limited testing that the Review Board is requesting requires no alteration whatsoever of the
bullet fragment itself. According to the information that we have been provided by the FBI, the first step of
the testing would require removal of the fiber from the bullet fragment. Through microscopic testing, it would
be determined if the fiber is organic or man-made. what we agreed on respective staffs working together and
moving expeditiously on the following:another entityalternative testing not requiring removalidentify
Body:
recstat: Record
DeliveryPriority: N
DeliveryReport: B
ReturnReceipt:
Categories: