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**Subject:** Re: ARRB and Z-FILM

Jan: Your commentary on the Zapruder film issues is appreciated. With regard to preservation, it is true that methods have advanced. We need to be cautious, however, in applying what we know about 35mm and 70mm films that have been preserved, to an 8mm film. In the first place, the 8mm format is no longer in use, having been superseded shortly after the assassination (mid-60s) by Super 8, so compatible equipment is more difficult to access. Secondly, the film surface of each frame is much smaller, which makes work more difficult. A VERY IMPORTANT POINT that has been overlooked in recent discussions of the film and its acquisition was reported by the Associated Press on November 14, 1994: The Zapruder film was the first amateur film to be placed in the Library of Congress' registry of American film; among 25 added at that time to the list. It joined with "The African Queen," "E.T." and "Meet Me in St. Louis," "The Manchurian Candidate," and "Taxi Driver," among others. It thus became one among only 150 films so designated. "The registry was established in 1988 to preserve film deemed culturally, historically or esthetically important." The Z film fits the first two categories to a "T". It was described as "the most famous amateur film of all time," chosen "to represent the whole body of amateur film which is important to our heritage." "Once a film is listed on the registry, the library tries to get the best print or negative of the work...The film is then preserved in vaults at the Library of Congress." The National Film Preservation Board was involved in selecting the films. It would certainly seem that the ARRB and the Library of Congress could work together to make certain the Zapruder film receives the best possible preservation. Martin

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