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Subject: Meeting with CBS News on Archival Assassination Film and Video
TO: JEREMY GUNN/ARRBCC. FROM: TOM SAMOLUK/ARRB DATE: 10/06/97 12:26:00 PMSUBJECT: MEETING WITH CBS
News on Archival Assassination Film and VideoIntroductionAs 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 News524 West 57th
Street (57th between 10th and 11th Streets)NY, NYOrtiz 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 # 6041Depart 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. BackgroundAs 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 ArchivesMy 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
Record
Body:
recstat:
DeliveryPriority: N
DeliveryReport: B
ReturnReceipt:
Categories: