January 25, 1996
(Hand Delivered)

Stewart F. Aly, Esq
Associate Deputy General Counsel
Office of the General Counsel
Department of Defense
1600 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1600

Re: US Army Photos of 1967 Reinterment of President Kennedy

Dear Mr. Aly:

Staff members for the Assassination Records Review Board recently discovered several documents in the National Archives indicating that the US Army had two photographers present for the March 14, 1967 reinterment of President Kennedy at Arlington National Cemetery. These two individuals were there on the instructions of then-Army General Counsel Alfred B. Fitt, who ordered them to photograph this event (which was closed to the general public) and deliver to him all prints and negatives the following day. According to other documents, forty-eight prints and negatives were in fact made and turned over to Fitt on March 15, 1967. The current whereabouts of those photos is unknown.

Any photos of the reinterment constitute assassination-related materials under the criteria set forth in the John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act, 44 U.S.C. §#2107, and should be turned over to the National Archives for inclusion in the JFK Collection.

We request that you undertake whatever actions are necessary to determine where these photos are presently located and have them delivered either to the Review Board or to Mr. Steve Tilley, curator of the Archives' JFK Collection. In either case, we request that you keep us apprised of your efforts and progress. To assist you in your search, I am enclosing copies of four documents that establish the earlier existence of these photos and their last-known location in the custody of former Department of the Army General Counsel Alfred B. Fitt.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this action, please contact Colonel (ret.) Timothy A. Wray, our Chief Analyst for Military Records.

Sincerely yours,

David G. Marwell
Executive Director

Enclosures:

1. Memorandum for Record dated March 1, 1967, re: "Reinterment of President John F. Kennedy." [Page 4, item 4a: "It is recommended that official photographs be made of the reinterment. These photographs would provide a historical record that would be valuable to the national interest. The film should be classified with the utmost care."]

2. Memorandum dated March 7, 1967 from Alfred B. Fitt to Major General Frank Sackton, Secretary to the General Staff. [Item 2: "An Army photographer should be present and active from 1700 until the event is complete. One set of prints only is to be made, and all prints and negatives should be delivered to me the following day in a sealed package. . ."]

3. Certificate dated March 14, 1967, signed by Major General Curtis J. Herrick, USA, affirming that "on the occasion of the reinterment at the Kennedy gravesite, forty-eight (48) Polaroid prints were made and the same number of negatives processed for permanent use."

4. Receipt dated March 15, 1967 signed by Alfred B. Fitt acknowledging receipt of a sealed package containing forty-eight Polaroid prints and negatives of the reinterment.