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Background and Questions for DI DATE

Zapruder Film

In 1975, the CIA forwarded to the Rockefeller Commission undated internal working notes from the CIA's NPIC (National Photographic Interpretation Center) then under the Directorate of Intelligence, which indicate that at one time, NPIC conducted an analysis of the Zapruder film to determine which frames could be equated with gunshots, and how many seconds had elapsed between shots. A typewritten, undated memo (presumably prepared on May 13, 1975), which forwarded these working papers within the agency, implies that the NPIC had performed the analysis at the request of the U.S. Secret Service.

My analysis of the working notes from NPIC has led me to conclude that NPIC's work was conducted approximately between December 6, and December 20, 1963. Reasoning follows: the NPIC notes reference LIFE magazine's own analysis of the shots as one of the three scenarios they considered, and quote verbatim from LIFE's December 6, 1963 issue; furthermore, the NPIC analyst is not sure whether the Zapruder film was shot at 16 or 18 frames per second--and the FBI concluded on December 20, 1963 that the operating speed of Zapruder's camera was an average of 18.3 frames per second. Thus, it is reasonable to conclude that this analysis took place between the time the December 6, 1963 issue of LIFE hit the news stands, and December 20, 1963, the date the FBI determined the operating speed of Zapruder's Bell and Howell camera.

QUESTIONS

The second-to-last page of the NPIC handwritten notes contains the following entries:

-Shoot Internegs	1.5 hr
-Proc & dry	2 hr
-Print Test	1 hr
-Make 3 prints	1 hr
-Proc & dry	1.5 hr
(Total)	7 hrs

Question #1:

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Who directed NPIC to make the 3 copies of the Zapruder film? (CIA, or an external agency?
For what stated purpose?)

Question #2:

To whom were the 3 copies delivered?

Any documents which would shed light on the above questions, including NPIC personnel rosters from December, 1963, should be made available for ARRB staff review.

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