

October 30, 1997

BY FACSIMILE & FIRST-CLASS MAIL

Mr. Michael G. Rhode
Archivist
Otis Historical Archives
National Museum of Health & Medicine
Armed Forces Institute of Pathology
Walter Reed Army Medical Center
Washington, D.C. 20306-6000

Re: Armed Forces Institute of Pathology Compliance with the JFK Assassination Records Collection Act, 44 U.S.C. § 2107

Dear Mr. Rhode:

Thank you for submitting your Final Declaration of Compliance for the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology ("AFIP") (dated June 12, 1997), which sets forth AFIP's final, sworn statement regarding its compliance with the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992 ("JFK Act").

We have reviewed AFIP's Final Declaration of Compliance and have concluded that AFIP's work under the JFK Act is complete. Furthermore, we do not anticipate conducting a compliance deposition of AFIP. The Review Board might request that AFIP conduct additional record searches if we acquire information suggesting that AFIP might have additional records relating to the assassination of President Kennedy. Should AFIP locate any additional records relating to the assassination, please transmit those records to the Chief of the JFK Assassination Records Collection ("JFK Collection") at the National Archives and Records Administration ("NARA") in College Park, Maryland.

As reported in your compliance statement, AFIP has identified the following assassination-related records for transmission to the JFK Collection: (1) Dr. Pierre Finck's "Personal Notes on the Assassination of President Kennedy," dated February 1, 1965; (2) Dr. Finck's "The Autopsy of

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President Kennedy. SUMMARY," dated January 1965; (3) LCDR Charles Stahl's Trip Report for the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, dated February 24-26, 1966, which discusses the Warren Commission Report; and (4) a March 11, 1969 Memorandum of Dr. Finck regarding his testimony at the Clay Shaw trial.

In addition to these materials, AFIP submitted with its Final Declaration of Compliance copies of documents relating to FOIA requests directed to AFIP for JFK autopsy-related materials, as well as a 1992 AFIP oral history interview of Dr. Robert F. Karnei, Jr. (most of the interview relates to Dr. Karnei's work at AFIP with only a brief discussion of Dr. Karnei's role at the JFK autopsy). With respect to Dr. Karnei's interview, we will forward the transcript and video to the JFK Collection at NARA. With respect to the FOIA documentation, these need not be formally designated as assassination records. This FOIA documentation will become publicly available with the eventual release of AFIP's Final Declaration of Compliance.

Please contact me if you have any further questions, and thank you again for your cooperation in meeting the requirements of the Review Board's compliance program under the JFK Act.

Sincerely,

T. Jeremy Gunn
Executive Director

cc: Steven D. Tilley, Chief, JFK Assassination Records Collection,
NARA