

September 16, 1997

Mr. Charles Glaws
Mr. Dominick J. Porto and Associates
107 East 37th Street
New York, New York 10016

Re: Status of Alleged Autopsy Photos Provided by Robert Groden

Dear Mr. Glaws:

I am writing regarding your request for information on the status of photographic prints, allegedly representing the autopsy of President John F. Kennedy, that are now in the possession of the Assassination Records Review Board. As you may know, the Assassination Records Review Board is an independent Federal agency established pursuant to the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act, 44 U.S.C. § 2107 (Supp. V. 1994) ("JFK Act"). The Review Board is charged with the responsibility of collecting records and information related to the assassination of President Kennedy. The Review Board is not seeking to reach any conclusions regarding the assassination but primarily is concerned with identifying, clarifying, locating and making available assassination records.

In order for the Review Board to fulfill its statutory mandate, the JFK Act provides that the Board may "request the Attorney General to subpoena private persons to compel testimony, records, and other information relevant to its responsibilities under this Act" Sect. 7(j)(c)(iii). Pursuant to this power, the Review Board requested the Attorney General to issue a subpoena duces tecum to Robert Groden, compelling him to produce any original or earliest generation images in his possession of the autopsy performed on President Kennedy at Bethesda Naval Hospital. Mr. Groden responded to this subpoena by producing the following images:

five 8 inch x 10 inch color prints
eight 8 inch x 10 inch black & white prints.

The Review Board currently must retain possession of these prints in order to assist our efforts to locate and clarify additional assassination records.

I hope this brief explanation clarifies the current status of the prints provided by Mr. Groden. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

T. Jeremy Gunn
General Counsel