

March 6, 1996

Dr. Robert F. Karnei, Jr., MD  
105 Hickory Lane  
Wytheville, VA 24382

Dear Dr. Karnei:

I am writing you on behalf of the Assassination Records Review Board, an independent Federal Agency established pursuant to the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act, 44 U.S.C. § 2107 (Supp. V 1994). The Review Board, whose members are appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate, is charged with collecting records related to the assassination of President Kennedy. The Review Board is not seeking to reach any conclusions regarding the assassination, but is primarily concerned with identifying, clarifying, locating, and making available assassination records. I am enclosing some explanatory material about the Review Board and its mandate.

We are aware of your role on November 22, 1963 as duty pathologist for the Medical School at NNMC Bethesda, and that in this capacity you assisted the prosecutors as they conducted the autopsy on President Kennedy.

After reviewing the House Select Committee on Assassinations interview report summarizing your conversation with HSCA staff members Andy Purdy and Jim Kelley, and after reviewing much of the remainder of the medical evidence, some unanswered questions remain about events and procedures during the night of the autopsy on President Kennedy. It is our desire to obtain any records you may have relating to the autopsy on President Kennedy (such as personal notes or possibly even diary entries, if they exist) for inclusion in the JFK Collection at the National Archives.

We would also very much like to discuss with you your own involvement in the autopsy on President Kennedy, and your recollection of the events of that evening.

Your cooperation in completing the record of the President's autopsy, to the fullest extent possible, would be greatly appreciated. Please contact either Mr. Tim Wray, our

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Military Records Team Leader, or Mr. Douglas Horne, a Military Records Team Staff Analyst, by telephone so that we may schedule a telephone interview with you at a time of mutual convenience. Our telephone number is (202) 724-0088. Please feel free to call collect. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

David G. Marwell  
Executive Director

Enclosure