

OUTLINE OF TOPICS OF INTEREST FOR DISCUSSION WITH
DR. ROBERT F. KARNEI, JR.
(Scheduled for Tuesday, May 21 at about 1:30 P.M.)

(As of May 18, 1996)

- I. Introductions
 - ARRB charter and goals
 - Ask about Dr. Karnei's career and qualifications
- II. Participation in Autopsy of President John F. Kennedy
 - notification
 - time arrived at morgue
 - role/duties
- III. Oath of Silence
 - Who first administered? When?
 - Reasons given?
 - Stover Letter (we have copy)
 - Comments to HSCA (about 10-year and 15-year time limits)
 - Any restrictions still in effect?
- IV. Beginning of Autopsy
 - Time first saw body
 - Casket/Wrapping
 - Who was present? (VADM Kenney? RADM Galloway? CAPT Canada? CAPT Osborne? CAPT Stover?)
- V. Procedures at Autopsy Proper (not embalming)
 - Any restrictions placed on autopsy? Type/by whom?
 - Who took notes? Who made drawings?
 - Which medical procedures carried out that night, and in what sequence?
 - Roles of Humes, Boswell, Finck, and Burkley

- Which procedures had already been carried out when Finck arrived? (What was condition of body when Finck arrived?)
- Which (if any) procedures not done that night which would have been normally done?
- Brain (did you see it removed? Condition?)
- Probes (which wounds probed? How many probes used? Photographed or X-Rayed? Note: in his HSCA Interview of 8/29/77 he reportedly said that body photographed with probes inserted.)
- Did you see any bullets or bullet fragments at autopsy? From where in the body were they removed?
- Skull fragments:
 - Any brought into room after body? When? By whom?
 - How many? Type of bone/from where in head?
- Photography (When begin? End? Duration? No. of cameras? Type(s)? No. of different photographers? Different photographers that night, either simultaneously or in sequence? Type of equipment? Which views of body shot? Who directed photography?)
- X-Rays (When begin? End? Duration? Who directed, Humes, or Ebersole, or someone else? Who took X-Rays, Custer & Reed, or Ebersole? How many taken of head of President Kennedy--how many "series" taken of head, and how many individual X-Rays taken of head? Do you remember interpretation of any of the X-Rays? Discussions?)
- Were firm conclusions reached that night by the prosecutors? What were they?
- When did autopsy proper end? Did you remain for embalming?

VI. Embalming/Reconstruction

- When did embalming start? Reconstruction of head? (Which was first?)
- Describe reconstruction of head (including any missing bone and scalp upon completion)
- Who conducted embalming? Name of Firm? Where from (Washington DC or New York?) How many embalmers?
- Did any Navy/Army personnel assist?
- Was there any photographs or X-Rays taken during embalming or reconstruction of head? If so, same photographer/X-Ray tech as previously, or different?
- When completed?
- Did you see body leave? Describe.

VII. Departure from Morgue

- When did you leave?
- Who was still present?

VIII. President's Wounds

- Head (pre-and-post embalming)
- Body (pre-and-post embalming)
- Diagrams (Grant's Anatomy)

IX. Standard Autopsy Procedures

- Ask what standard written references were in 1963;
- Show him joint autopsy manual, and ask about its relevance at Bethesda.
- Any other guidelines/references ARRB should be aware of?
- Normal autopsy histology/serology:
 - explain tissue slide preparation for normal autopsy vs. JFK
 - explain serology for normal autopsy vs. JFK
 - Which personnel at Bethesda in 1963 responsible for tissue work?
 - Chief Boyers?
 - Mr. Benson?
 - Chief Mason?