

MEMORANDUM FOR FILE

April 22, 1998 (Revised)

Written by: Doug Horne

Subj: Resolution of Questions Posed by Apparent Anomalies in the Digitized Version of Autopsy Photograph No. 43

On Friday, January 23, 1998, Jeremy Gunn and Doug Horne of the ARRB staff, ARRB Chair John Tunheim, NARA staff members Steven Tilley and Steve Hamilton, and the ARRB's two *pro bono* medical and forensic consultants, Dr. Vincent J. M. Di Maio, and Dr. Henry Lee, met with a team of National Imagery and Mapping Agency (NIMA) professionals in Rosslyn, Virginia to examine digitized autopsy images from President Kennedy's autopsy that were created from the film originals at Kodak in Rochester, N.Y. during the first week in November, 1997.

The purpose of the image examinations was to determine, by studying enhancements and magnifications on NIMA equipment (from base digitizations made in Rochester), whether in their view it would be useful for the ARRB to convene a Forensic Pathology Panel (such as the HSCA did) to re-examine the medical evidence in the assassination of President Kennedy. [Eventually, they did not recommend that a panel be convened by the ARRB, inasmuch as they felt any additional visual information now available was not sufficient that a panel would be able to reach any conclusions with a sufficient degree of scientific certainty.]

During their examinations of the digitized autopsy images, our two consultants pointed out to others in the room the presence of what appeared to be two vertical lines, or photographic "discontinuities," between the back of the right ear and the back of the head, in Kodak digitized image no. K43.01 (corresponding to autopsy image no. 43 in the November 10, 1966 inventory signed by Humes, Boswell, Ebersole, and Stringer). It was unclear on January 23, 1998 whether these two vertical lines were artifacts created by imperfect scanning during the digitization process, or whether they represented apparent anomalies in the original photographic image.

Subsequently, in approximately February 1998, I examined the "original" (color positive transparency) image of photo no. 43 in the National Archives at College Park, in the presence of Steve Tilley, and I determined that the "vertical lines" seen in the digitized version of autopsy image no. 43 are *not* present on the color positive transparency. A magnifying glass was used during my examination. END

Horne e:\wp-docs\Photo43.wpd
File: (JFK Medical) and 4.0.2 (Kodak/Photographic Issues)