

# Memorandum

TO : Carl Eardley  
Acting Assistant Attorney General

DATE: May 29, 1967

FROM : Cliff Sessions  
Director of Public Information

SUBJECT:

Please ask Dr. Humes to follow, in essence, the attached statement.

However, we should not insist that he read it. If he chooses, he might want to do it in question and answer form. He might display Exhibit #397 to make his point.

There is no reason for Dr. Humes to go into great detail. CBS would like answers to the following four questions and I am sure Dr. Humes will want to provide the answers:

- (1) How many bullet wounds were there?
- (2) Were they both fired from the rear?
- (3) What is the explanation of Exhibit #397?
- (4) Have the pictures been examined and do they confirm the autopsy report?

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I am Dr. James J. Humes, a certified pathologist and Director of Laboratories at the Naval Medical Hospital in Bethesda, Maryland. I was in charge of the autopsy performed on the body of President Kennedy the night of November 22, 1963. Two other certified pathologists assisted me.

We found that two bullets struck the President, both from the rear. One entered the back of the skull and exited through the right front. The other entered the back of the neck and exited through the throat. Some public confusion about the location of the neck wound has resulted from a drawing prepared for the Warren Commission. This free-hand drawing shows the wound to be lower than it was. However, the location of the wound was accurately described in a notation on the margin of the drawing as "14 centimetres below the tip of the right mastoid process, and 14 centimetres from the right acromion." There were no other bullet wounds.

A large number of photographs and x-rays taken during the autopsy. These pictures are now in possession of the National Archives and Records Service. I have thoroughly examined them. I can report that they support, in every detail, our autopsy findings which were reported to the Warren Commission.

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