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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Electronic Communication

Title: (U) RFK Tape review**Date:** 10/25/2012**To:** DP-FAVI
[REDACTED]**From:** LOS ANGELES
LA-C-1**Contact:** [REDACTED]**Approved By:** SSA [REDACTED]**Drafted By:** [REDACTED]**Case ID #:** 89-LA-0-ASSESS_A (U) ASSESSMENT ZERO FILE**Synopsis:** (U) To send audio tape to FAVIAU to examine.**Enclosure(s):** Enclosed are the following items:

1. (U) FBI Reports regarding Stus Pruszyński tape
2. (U) Request to reopen KENSALT Investigation file number LA 56-156

Details:

On October 9, 2012, FBI Los Angeles was advised of a request to re-examine evidence in the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy by his son, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. The basis of the request was a claim by Forensic Scientist and Electrical Engineer Philip Van Praag that his examination of an audio recording of the event revealed thirteen shots, not eight, were fired during Senator Kennedy's assassination. If true, this would necessitate a second gunman as convicted assassin Sirhan Sirhan used an eight-shot .22 caliber Ivar Johnson revolver and was unable to reload during the incident.

The tape reviewed by Van Praag was a tape made by Stus Pruszyński, a reporter for Harper and Row Limited, Publishers, London. Van Praag obtained a copy of this tape from the State of California Archives in Sacramento, California. Van Praag used a scientific procedure for gun

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shot analysis, Frequency Selective Integrated Loudness Envelope Analysis, which he developed. Van Praag claims this method has undergone peer review and satisfies the Daubert Rule regarding the admissibility of scientific evidence in court proceedings. Based on this analysis, Van Praag claims 13 shots were fired from two opposing locations. The tape in the State of California Archives was provided by Los Angeles Police Department ("LAPD.")

FBI Los Angeles located and reviewed the case file for Senator Kennedy's assassination, LA 56-156, titled KENSALT. A review of this file revealed that evidentiary item 1B84 is one copy of a magnetic tape recording from Pruznski provided to the FBI by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police hereafter referred to as "RCMP Tape") and two filtered copies of the RCMP Tape made by FBI Laboratory. A physical review of the items reveals the RCMP Tape appears to be a copy of the original. The case of "RCMP TAPE" to contains the typed-label

N.B. Originally recorded on battery portable "Cosset
Telephonken."

Duplicated on "Huer" 4000 Model, tape recorder at
1 7/8 or 3 1/4 IPS.

Currently, evidentiary item 1B84 contains the RCMP Tape and one copy. The case file indicates that the second copy was provided to LAPD. It is unknown if the copy provided to LAPD is the same copy Van Praag had reviewed or if LAPD provided the State of California Archives a copy of the tape FBI provided to LAPD.

FBI Laboratory reports, Lab number E-767-KB, state that the RCMP Tape was recorded at non-standard speed on a 1/2-track recorder and contained an interfering hum. FBI Laboratory copied the RCMP Tape "on a variable speed recorder adjusting the speed for a natural sound and equalizing the frequency response to enhance the intelligibility." FBI Laboratory noted that a portion near the middle of the RCMP Tape

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appears to either be part of a prior recording that was not recorded over or a recording made over the original recording as it appears unrelated to Senator Kennedy's assassination.

FBI Laboratory is requested to review evidentiary item 1B 4 from case file LA 56-156 to determine if an enhancement of the recording using court-approved techniques would provide admissible evidence that more than eight shots were fired during the assassination of Senator Kennedy.

FBI Los Angeles is requested to ship evidentiary item 1B 4 from case file LA 56-156 to Operational Technology Divisions, Forensic Audio, Video, and Image Analysis Unit. In shipping evidentiary item 1B84, FBI Los Angeles is requested to include a copy of the chain of custody for the evidentiary item. The above-listed items should be shipped via F dEx to the following address:

FBI- Electronic Research Facility

Attn: FAVIAU Evidence

Building #27958A

Quantico, VA 22135

Due to the age of the case, the serials of case file LA 56-156 were never entered into ACS. ACS, however, does contain all 1B items for LA 56-156. While ACS indicates that the case was migrated into Sentinel, in actuality it was not migrated. Attempts are being made to correct this situation. At this time, this request is being made in 89A-LA-0 file. All correspondence regarding this matter will be made to the above-captioned case file until LA 56-156 can be migrated to Sentinel, or, in the alternative, a new case is opened in Sentinel due to migration failure and a determination re-investigation is warranted.

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