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BC-USA-KENNEDY (EMBARGOED)

KENNEDY PATHOLOGIST DISMISSES CONSPIRACY THEORY
(EDS: RELEASE AT 1600 GMT MONDAY OCT 5)

CHICAGO, OCT 5, REUTER - A PATHOLOGIST WHO PERFORMED AN
AUTOPSY ON JOHN F. KENNEDY DISMISSED CONSPIRACY THEORIES ON
MONDAY, SAYING HE AGREED WITH TWO COLLEAGUES THAT THE PRESIDENT
WAS KILLED BY TWO BULLETS FIRED FROM ABOVE AND BEHIND.

SINCE KENNEDY'S DEATH ON NOVEMBER 22, 1963, PEOPLE HAVE
SPECULATED MORE THAN ONE GUNMAN MAY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED AND HE
WAS SHOT FROM BOTH THE FRONT AND REAR. SUCH THEORIES HAVE BEEN
MOST RECENTLY FUELLED BY THE FILM
JFK.::

BUT IN AN INTERVIEW IN THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
JOURNAL, PIERRE FINCK SAYS:
WE GOT IT RIGHT IN 1963 AND IT
STILL STANDS IN 1992...THERE WERE TWO BULLETS STRIKING FROM
BEHIND, AND THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF ANY WOUNDS FROM THE FRONT.::

THE SWISS-BORN FINCK WAS A U.S. ARMY LIEUTENANT COLONEL AT
THE TIME OF KENNEDY'S ASSASSINATION. HE PARTICIPATED IN THE
AUTOPSY AT THE U.S. NAVAL MEDICAL CENTRE IN BETHESDA, MARYLAND,
WITH U.S. NAVY PATHOLOGISTS JAMES HUMES AND THORNTON BOSWELL.

FINCK'S REMARKS TALLY WITH THE WARREN COMMISSION WHICH
INVESTIGATED THE SHOOTING AND WITH HUMES AND BOSWELL, WHO BROKE
A 24-YEAR SILENCE IN AN INTERVIEW IN THE SAME JOURNAL LAST MAY.

THE AMA SAID IT DID NOT INTERVIEW FINCK THEN.

FINCK, WHO NOW LIVES IN GENEVA, SAID:

I EXAMINED THE
WOUNDS WITH MY OWN EYES. THE FATAL WOUND WAS FRIGHTENING -- 13
CENTIMETRES ACROSS AT ITS WIDEST. IT WAS VERY OBVIOUS THAT IT
CAME FROM THE BACK AND EXITED THE FRONT.::

FINCK SAID HE HAD NOT SEEN
JFK.:: BUT HE UNDERSTOOD THE
FILM GOT ONLY TWO THINGS RIGHT -- THE DATE AND THE VICTIM.
ALL THESE FANTASIES AND ADD-ONS CREATE FICTION, NOT
HISTORY. THE DANGER IS THAT THE FICTION WILL BE MISTAKEN FOR
HISTORY,:: HE SAID.

GEORGE LUNDBERG, EDITOR OF THE JOURNAL, SAID IN AN EDITORIAL
THE COMMENTS OF THE THREE PATHOLOGISTS SHOULD CLOSE THE DOOR ON
THE WOUND DISCUSSION.

I CAN STATE WITHOUT RESERVATION THAT JOHN F. KENNEDY WAS
STRUCK AND KILLED BY TWO AND ONLY TWO BULLETS FIRED FROM ONE
HIGH-VELOCITY RIFLE,:: HE SAID.

THE AMA JOURNAL ALSO SAID IT COULD NOW BE OFFICIALLY STATED
KENNEDY SUFFERED FROM ADDISON'S DISEASE, A POTENTIALLY FATAL
THOUGH TREATABLE CONDITION THAT MIGHT HAVE HAD A BIG IMPACT ON
KENNEDY'S CLOSE ELECTION VICTORY IN 1960 HAD VOTERS BEEN TOLD.

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