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SCIENTIST SAYS HIS ANALYSIS SHOWS KENNEDY WAS SHOT FROM THE REAR
NARRAGANSETT, RHODE ISLAND, JAN 2, REUTER - THE HOME MOVIE
OF THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F KENNEDY REVEALS THAT HE
WAS SHOT IN THE HEAD FROM THE REAR -- NOT FROM THE FRONT -- AS
SEVERAL ASSASSINATION THEORIES CLAIM, A SCIENTIST SAID ON
SATURDAY.

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND CHEMIST KENNETH RAHN SAID HE
ANALYSED THE DRAMATIC FILM BY ABRAHAM ZAPRUDER AND FOUND THAT AT
THE INSTANT KENNEDY WAS HIT -- A MOMENT MARKED BY THE CLOUD OF
BLOOD THAT APPEARS AROUND THE FACE -- THE PRESIDENT'S HEAD
SNAPPED FORWARD 2
INCHES (5.4 CM).

IT IS NOT UNTIL A FRACTION OF A SECOND LATER, AFTER THE
BULLET PASSED THROUGH KENNEDY'S SKULL, THAT THE PRESIDENT BEGAN
TO LURCH BACKWARDS AND TO THE RIGHT, HE SAID.

THAT MOVEMENT HAS CONVINCED MANY PEOPLE THAT THE FATAL SHOT
MUST HAVE COME FROM A GRASSY KNOLL TO KENNEDY'S RIGHT.

BUT RAHN, WHO USUALLY STUDIES THE PATH OF POLLUTION
PARTICLES IN THE ATMOSPHERE, SAID THE LAWS OF PHYSICS MAKE IT
IMPOSSIBLE FOR A BULLET TO MOVE A TARGET AFTER IT HAS FINISHED
PASSING THROUGH.

KENNEDY'S BACKWARD LURCH DOESN'T BEGIN UNTIL ABOUT A 10TH OF
A SECOND AFTER THE BULLET PASSED THROUGH, RAHN SAID, A DELAY
CONSISTENT WITH THE TIME IT WOULD TAKE FOR REFLEXES TO MAKE HIS
BODY JUMP BACK INVOLUNTARILY.

RAHN BECAME INTRIGUED BY THE ASSASSINATION MOVIE AFTER
WATCHING DIRECTOR OLIVER STONE'S CONTROVERSIAL FILM

J.F.K.,:

THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT OLIVER STONE BELIEVES: THAT THE
FATAL SHOT CAME FROM THE FRONT: AND NOW THERE'S NO DOUBT HE
BLEW IT. BIG TIME,: SAID RAHN.

A SPOKESWOMAN SAID THE FILMMAKER WAS TIED UP WITH A NEW
PROJECT AND DECLINED TO COMMENT.

KENNEDY, WAS KILLED IN DALLAS ON NOVEMBER 22, 1963, WAS ALSO
STRUCK IN THE THROAT BEFORE BEING SHOT IN THE HEAD.

ZAHN'S THEORY IS CONSISTENT WITH THE WARREN COMMISSION'S
FINDINGS, WHICH SAID THE SHOT THAT HIT KENNEDY IN THE HEAD CAME
FROM ABOVE AND TO THE REAR. THE COMMISSION CONCLUDED THAT
KENNEDY WAS KILLED BY A LONE GUNMAN, LEE HARVEY OSWALD.

MANY CONSPIRACY THEORIES ASSERT THAT KENNEDY WAS KILLED BY A
SHOT FROM THE FRONT, BUT RAHN SAID THE FORWARD SNAP OF KENNEDY'S
HEAD, SEEN ON FRAMES 312 AND 313 OF THE ZAPRUDER FILM, DESTROYS
MOST OF THESE THEORIES.

RAHN SAID IT IS STILL POSSIBLE THERE WAS MORE THAN ONE
ASSASSIN. BUT IF OTHER ASSASSINS PULLED THE TRIGGER, HE SAID.

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THERE IS NO CONVINCING EVIDENCE THEIR SHOTS MADE ANY DIFFERENCE.

RAHN SAID HIS ANALYSIS REQUIRED LITTLE MORE THAN A BASIC
BACKGROUND IN PHYSICS, A LASERDISK VERSION OF
J.F.K.: -

WHICH PERMITTED THE DETAILED, FRAME-BY-FRAME ANALYSIS OF THE
ZAPRUDER FILM -- AND TRACING PAPER TO COMPARE THE MOTION OF
KENNEDY'S HEAD TO IMMOBILE OBJECTS IN THE SCENE.

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