Sincerely yours,
John F. Kennedy

[Signature]
NOTES ON THE KENNEDY (& John) PHOTOGRAPH

I was in Washington, D.C. for several days in September, 1959, mainly to do two films at the Capitol, one with JFK and the other with Massachusetts Senator, Leverett Saltonstall. The films were used in 1959 - 60 for my series on WGBH - TV on the evolution and practice of United States foreign policy.

My appointment with JFK was at the Capitol film room for about 1:00 p.m. on September 18th. I was late! USSR Chairman Khrushchev arrived in town on the 18th and he was met at the airport by President Eisenhower. As I wanted to see the parade through Washington, I positioned myself at 14th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue to see the two most powerful leaders in the world en route to the White House. They were late but a sight to behold when they came by. Eisenhower was staring straight ahead and Khrushchev was waving. The crowd was almost silent. They passed by and then I got a taxi to the Capitol.

JFK was waiting and not too happy. I apologized but said I wanted to see Khrushchev. He was most interested in my reactions as he was to meet the Soviet leader the next day as a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. We talked a bit about Khrushchev within the context of the film we were about to do. On that day, the two men had a brief interchange and Khrushchev records that he told JFK, "I've heard a lot about you...people say you have a great future before you." (KHRUSHCHEV REMEMBERS: THE LAST TESTAMENT. New York: Bantum, 1974, p. 556 & a paperback in my library.) For whatever value it may have, I was the first person to relate Khrushchev to JFK.

The film speaks for itself and the photo was taken from our discussion toward the end of the film. The excerpt below is from a letter from JFK to me of August 7, 1957, which is in my JFK files. I do not think it was inappropriate to attach the copy of JFK's signature & "PS" the photo as I have a number of letters from JFK which have some interesting and familiar exchanges. And so it goes.

John S. Gibson
October 8, 1996