

J. Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

The Attorney General

12911

B. A. K.

Kennedy Assassination Evidence --
Letter from Harold Weisberg

Annexed is a letter of March 12, 1967, to me from Harold Weisberg, one of the authors critical of the Warren Commission Report, together with related memoranda: (1) a memorandum of March 21, 1967, from the Records Administration Office of the Department, indicating that Mr. Weisberg's reference to prior communications from the Department could not be traced; and (2) a memorandum of March 24, 1967, from the Archivist of the United States, commenting upon Mr. Weisberg's letter.

As appears most clearly from the memorandum of the Archivist, Mr. Weisberg is interested in seeing an FBI laboratory report concerning the spectrographic analysis of the assassination bullets. Apparently no such report was found in the files of the Commission turned over to the Archives, although a report was referred to in FBI testimony before the Commission, and the results of the spectrographic examination are reflected in a sentence on page 164 of the summary FBI report which is Commission Document 5. (A copy of pages 162-164 is annexed to the memorandum from the Archivist.)

The Archivist goes on to comment that some of the other laboratory reports as to which he has had inquiries were not in the files of the Commission and there was no indication that any of these reports had been received by the Commission. Finally, the Archivist notes that certain pictures and correspondence as to which inquiries have been made also are not in the files of the Commission now in possession of the Archives.

It appears that the laboratory reports referred to, if they existed as separate documents, were never turned over to the Commission because the results thereof were imparted to the Commission through the expert testimony of FBI laboratory personnel, as well as in the summary given in Commission Document 5. However, subsequent to receiving the Commission's files, the Archives has acquired other items relating to the assassination which were not before the Commission, most notably the autopsy x-rays and photographs. It would seem desirable to make available in the Archives as much of the historical record concerning the assassination as is possible, consistent with appropriate limitations based on the character of particular items of information.

I would appreciate any clarification you can give as to the existence of the various laboratory reports and other items referred to in the memorandum of the Archivist. If there are in the files of the Bureau any laboratory reports or correspondence of the sorts he describes, I would also appreciate your views as to whether there is any reason why copies should not be deposited in the Archives to be held with the Warren Commission evidence.

My understanding is that all of the pictures of the sort referred to on page 2 of the Archivist's memorandum which may have been in the possession of the FBI at one time were either turned over to the Commission or returned to their owners after copies were made for the Commission. I would also appreciate any clarification you can give on this aspect of the memorandum.

Attachments