

Mr. Trajcia

Mr. Conrad

February 27, 1964

R. M. Stevens

LEE HARVEY OSWALD  
M - 2

Dr. Vincent P. Quinn, head of the Neutron Activation Analyzes Section of General Atomic Division, General Dynamics Corporation, San Diego, California, and his associates have been studying methods of detection of powder residues by neutron activation analysis for the past few years. They have received contracts from the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) to conduct research on this matter. Until the assassination of President Kennedy all their research work was conducted on residues left from the firing of lead weapons.

Today Dr. Vincent P. Quinn called the FBI Laboratory and spoke to SA John F. Gallagher. His call was incoming from Chicago, Illinois. He advised that since the assassination a large part of their efforts have been directed to the determination of powder residues on paraffin casts taken from the hands and cheeks of individuals who have shot a rifle similar to the one reportedly owned by Lee Harvey Oswald. He advised that there appears that triple firing of this rifle will always ~~unambiguous positive tests every time on the paraffin casts. It further appears that washing the casts with diphenylpicrylhydrazyl does remove one of the characteristic elements (barium) but such washing does not remove all of the other characteristic elements in powder residues (antimony).~~

Further he advised that the tests to date indicate that powder residues are deposited on both sides of the shooter after the rifle is fired either one time or three times.

It appears, he added, that these results can be obtained only if the paraffin casts are made at least after shooting the rifle providing that the sides of the shooter are not washed in the meantime.

- Mr. Conrad
- Mr. DeLoach
- Mr. Mohr
- Mr. Bishop
- Mr. Casper
- Mr. Callahan
- Mr. Felt
- Mr. Gale
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Sullivan
- Mr. Tavel
- Mr. Trotter
- Mr. Tele. Room
- Miss Holmes
- Miss Gandy

Memorandum to Mr. Conrad  
Re: LEE HARVEY OSWALD  
IS - W  
105-22555

He inquired if any information could be furnished him  
relative to the actual casts from Oswald. He stated he read about  
these casts in the newspapers but has no way to confirm the stories.  
SA Callaghan advised he was not at liberty to discuss this matter.  
SA [redacted] advised who in Dallas might be knowledgeable on this subject.  
He was advised that he could not be given any information relative  
to these casts at this time.

ACTION: None. For information.