

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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TO : Mr. Moore *Mr*

DATE: 2-3-76

FROM : J. H. Campbell *JH*

SUBJECT: BOOK REGARDING ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY BEING WRITTEN FOR "READER'S DIGEST" BY EDWARD JAY EPSTEIN

430 EAST 81st
11.4

BACKGROUND:

By memorandum dated January 20, 1976, I advised that Kenneth O. Gilmore, Managing Editor of the "Reader's Digest," had telephoned to advise that the "Reader's Digest" had contracted with author Edward Jay Epstein to write a book concerning the November, 1963, assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Gilmore advised that Epstein would be coming to Washington and that the "Readers Digest" would appreciate the Bureau's (1) seeing him while he was in the city, (2) furnishing him copies of previously issued statements or press releases regarding the assassination, and (3) giving consideration to requests Epstein might make for other data.

VISIT BY EPSTEIN TO FBIHQ:

Epstein arrived at FBIHQ on January 27, 1976, at which time he met with you and also discussed his plans to write the book about the assassination with SA [redacted] of the Research Section and SA [redacted] of the General Investigative Division. Miss Pam Butler, a research assistant at the "Reader's Digest" who has been assigned to assist Epstein, accompanied him.

EX-115 REC-69

During his visit, it was obvious that both Epstein and Miss Butler have read a number of books, articles, and other publications concerning the assassination. They are familiar with the many theories, as well as the rumors and the conjecture, that continue to surround the assassination; and

- 1 - Mr. Moore
- 1 - Mr. Gallagher
- 1 - Mr. Mintz
- 1 - Mr. Wannall
- 1 - [redacted]

SEE ADDENDUM, LEGAL COUNSEL DIVISION, PAGE 3.

CONTINUED OVER

See memo to Director of Office of Public Information dated 2/11/76

GWG:slr (9)

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Section 185

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J. H. Campbell to Mr. Moore memorandum
RE: BOOK REGARDING ASSASSINATION
OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

Epstein intends to "take issue with" a number of these--probably in the Appendix to his book. In this connection, he was given a copy of Deputy Associate Director Adams' October 21, 1975, statement before the House Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights--which statement deals with (1) the note that Lee Harvey Oswald left at the Dallas Field Office in November, 1963, (2) the question of whether Jack Ruby was a paid FBI informant, and (3) the teletype warning of a possible assassination attempt that a former clerical employee of the New Orleans Office, William S. Walter, claims was sent from FBIHQ in November, 1963.

Epstein said that his book will be devoted primarily to Lee Harvey Oswald and will attempt to trace all phases of his life and his whereabouts from birth to death. He hopes to interview Oswald's widow, Marina, and he also is soliciting cooperation of CIA and the State Department in an effort to separate truth from fiction with regard to Oswald's activities in Russia and Mexico.

Epstein has asked questions regarding the late former SAC Guy Banister, the identities of other Americans who defected to Russia at approximately the same time as Oswald, employments of Oswald in the United States and possible fingerprint and/or name check requests the FBI may have received in connection with these jobs, as well as other questions.

To the extent possible, proposed answers to Epstein's questions will be compiled and submitted for approval.

Epstein advised that his address is 430 East 86th Street, New York, New York 10028, and his telephone number is 212-288-6861.

RECOMMENDATION:

For information. We will continue to follow this matter closely.

Memo Mr. Campbell to Mr. Moore, 2/3/76
Re: BOOK REGARDING ASSASSINATION OF
PRESIDENT KENNEDY BEING WRITTEN
FOR "READER'S DIGEST" BY EDWARD JAY EPSTEIN

ADDENDUM, LEGAL COUNSEL DIVISION, JCF:mtm, 2/9/76:

Mr. Feeney has advised that no problems are raised concerning the FOIA in cooperating with Mr. Epstein, but raises the question as to whether Departmental clearance is required. Upon checking with Deputy Assistant Director Homer Boynton, External Affairs Division, it was determined that we would not usually obtain Departmental clearance for such a cooperative effort. However, it is the opinion of the Legal Counsel Division, that since we are responding to inquiries from the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence on this specific matter, it would be appropriate merely to advise the Department that we are cooperating with Mr. Epstein in the preparation of a book regarding the assassination of former President Kennedy.

Done. See Memo to
Director of Office of Public
Information, with copy to
Assistant Attorney General of
Criminal Division dated 2/9/76.
GWS