

Memorandum

- Dep. AD Adm. _____
- Dep. AD Inv. _____
- Asst. Dir.:
- Adm. _____
- Comp. Syst. _____
- Ext. Affairs _____
- Files & Com. _____
- Gen. Inv. _____
- Ident. _____
- Inspection _____
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- Plan. & Eval. _____
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- Training _____
- Legal Coun. _____
- Telephone Rm. _____
- Director Sec'y _____

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TO : Mr. Gebhardt

DATE: February 19, 1975

FROM : J. E. O'Connell

- 1 - Mr. Gebhardt
- 1 - Mr. O'Connell
- 1 - Mr. Long
- 1 - Mr. Nettles
- 1 - Mr. Mintz
- 1 - Mr. Moore
- 1 - Mr. Wannall

SUBJECT: COMMISSION ON CIA ACTIVITIES
WITHIN THE UNITED STATES
REQUEST FROM DAVID W. BELIN,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COMMISSION

Reference is made to the Legal Counsel memorandum of 2/13/75 to Mr. J. B. Adams pertaining to the 2/5/75 written request of the Commission On CIA Activities Within the United States for information pertaining to the relationship, if any, of E. Howard Hunt and Frank Sturgis to the events surrounding the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

This possible connection has come to the attention of the FBI from several different sources and centers around a series of photographs taken in Dallas, Texas, on the day of the assassination. These photographs show three Caucasian males in the custody of Dallas Police Officers in the vicinity of the Texas School Book Depository (TSBD). The allegations have been that the three individuals are E. Howard Hunt, Frank Sturgis, and Thomas Arthur Vallee of Chicago, Illinois.

The photographs have been compared by the FBI Laboratory with known photographs of Hunt, Sturgis and Vallee, with a conclusion being reached that they are not the persons in the photographs.

The Dallas Police Officer leading the three individuals in the photographs has been identified as Bill Bass. He has advised that he and officers Roy Vaughn and Marvin Wise found the three men in a boxcar about a mile from the TSBD, took them to the Dallas County Sheriff's Office and turned them over to an unknown Deputy Sheriff. Bass did not know the names of the individuals and did not know if they were booked. Officers Vaughn and Wise advised likewise.

Investigation determined that on the day of the assassination a screening office was set up at the Sheriff's Office. Numerous persons were brought in, interviewed, and released without being booked. The jackets

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O'Connell to Gerhardt Memorandum
RE: COMMISSION ON CIA ACTIVITIES

and photographs of the Identification Division of the Sheriff's Office were checked on each person booked on 11/22/63. No record was found of anyone bearing a resemblance to the three individuals.

Dallas Police Captain Will Fritz (now retired), who was the local officer in charge of the assassination investigation, has no recollection of the three individuals. Additionally, upon viewing known photographs of Hunt and Sturgis, he advised he had no recollection of ever seeing or talking to either of them. Vallee's name was not familiar to him.

The records of the Dallas FBI Office contain no information identifiable with the three individuals.

E. Howard Hunt on 10/17/74 advised that he recalls hearing about the assassination on his car radio immediately after leaving a Chinese grocery store in the area of 9th and H Streets, N. W., Washington, D. C., on 11/22/63. He was with his wife, Dorothy, who is now deceased. Before returning home, they picked up their daughter, Kevan, at Sidwell Friends School, Wisconsin Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C. He could recall no contact on that date with anyone, other than possibly a former neighbor. He advised that any personal records he may have had pertaining to 11/22/63 were destroyed several years ago.

Hunt stated he was not involved in any way with the Kennedy Assassination, and in this regard, had filed a suit against the "National Tattler" claiming he was libeled in an article by that paper on 3/31/74 which stated Hunt was at Dallas, Texas, on 11/22/63.

Leave and travel records of Hunt have been checked at the CIA. They reveal that for the four week pay period ending 11/23/63 Mr. Hunt took 11 hours sick leave and no annual leave. For the following four week pay period he took 3 hours sick leave and 27 hours annual leave. CIA is unable to further identify the times and dates of leave as specific Time and Attendance records were routinely destroyed three years after they were audited. Travel records reflected that Mr. Hunt conducted no official travel during November, 1963.

In 1963, Frank Sturgis was living in Miami, Florida, using the name Frank Fiorini. By his own admission, at that time he had been involved in Cuban revolutionary matters since 1958 and was at that time heading an anti-Castro organization called the Anti-Communist International Brigade.

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RE: COMMISSION ON CIA ACTIVITIES

On 11/26/63, an article appeared in the Pompano Beach, Florida, "Sun Sentinel" which stated that Frank Fiorini had said that Lee Harvey Oswald had telephone conversations with the Cuban government G-2 Intelligence during November, 1962. Fiorini was also quoted as saying that Oswald had contacted Miami-based supporters of Fidel Castro, had handed out pro-Castro literature in Miami in November 1962, and had tried to infiltrate Cuban anti-Castro organizations in Miami. Fiorini (Sturgis) advised FBI Agents on 11/27/63 that he had no such information. He said he had been misquoted regarding some off-hand comments he had made. He said his comments were guesses, speculation and rumor based on information about Oswald carried in the press.

Other investigation was negative regarding any activity or presence of Oswald in Miami.

Sturgis was not interviewed regarding the Dallas photographs as he was on bond pending appeal of his sentence in the Watergate case and it was felt he might try to use any involvement with the FBI to attempt to mitigate that sentence.

Regarding Thomas Arthur Vallee, about three days prior to 11/2/63 the U. S. Secret Service (USSS) in Chicago, Illinois, received information that Vallee was in possession of large amounts of rifle ammunition, along with a collection of guns. In view of the fact that President Kennedy was due in Chicago for the Army - Air Force game on 11/2/63, USSS Agents conducted additional investigation and determined that he possessed two M-1 rifles, a .22 caliber revolver and an assortment of ammunition. On 11/2/63, Vallee was stopped by Chicago Police Officers for a traffic offense. A knife was found in his possession and he was charged with Assault With a Deadly Weapon. 300 rounds of ammunition were found in the trunk of his vehicle. Chicago Police Officers subsequently searched Vallee's home, 4614 North Paulina, Chicago, and found additional ammunition.

Subsequent investigation by USSS verified that on 11/22/63 Vallee was at work at IPP Printing Company, 625 Jackson, Chicago, during the entire day. At that time and prior thereto, he had been working both days and nights rather diligently.

On 2/18/75, Supervisor Leon F. Schwartz, Liaison, Intelligence Division, obtained permission from CIA Director of Security to disseminate information set forth in this memorandum pertaining to E. Howard Hunt's leave and travel records. Permission was obtained to paraphrase the information and to disseminate, if necessary, the CIA memorandum of 10/29/74, which contains the information.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

In accordance with instructions in referenced Legal Counsel memorandum, this information is being made available for consideration by the Director in discussing this matter with the Attorney General.

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