

Appendix

The Milteer Documents

In the final chapter of my book *Oswald in New Orleans* ("Preliminary Postscript from Miami?"), I reported what was then (winter of 1966-1967) known of an intercepted threat against President Kennedy two weeks before his assassination. That threat was taped by the Miami police, who gave copies to both the FBI and the Secret Service on November 10, 1963. Stringent measures were taken to protect the President in Miami, including elimination of a planned motorcade. The files of the Warren Commission contain neither the tape nor a transcript, nor, in fact, any reference to either—which surely makes sense, considering that they were investigating his assassination and this material amounted to a blueprint of what is officially alleged to have happened. The National Archives also assured me that its files contained no reference to Joseph Adams Milteer, the Georgia functionary of the National States Rights Party who discussed the threat and the man who was planning that assassination and was doing more—attempting to kill King. The manner of King's murder—not by that man, who died before he could pull it—is exactly as set forth in the tape, which is printed here for the first time (in toto, with no changes made in the transcription, and with the addition of some necessary background material). With some effort, I did obtain at least some of the "non-existent" FBI Milteer reports. This also is the first publication of those that I could obtain.

Not only because these dedicated wrong of the extreme of the right extreme plotted the murder of the murdered King are the suppressed tape and reports relevant. The facts that NSRP chieftain Stoner alone got to see Ray, in September 1968, when others could not; that he became Ray's counsel when Judge Battle failed to appoint a lawyer, as Ray requested (and wasted many of Ray's legal possibilities); and that King hung in effigy in the NSRP headquarters, give added point to this account of NSRP ambition.

Informant: Now we are going to, you are going to have to take. Kenney, what do you call his last name?

Subject: Kenneth Adams. [Adams has had his own share of headlines and heroics. In 1956, he leaped onto a Birmingham stage to attack the late Nat "King" Cole, popular Negro musician. Five years later, he was implicated in the burning of a "Freedom Riders" bus. He was found not guilty by a directed verdict. Other charges laid to him include the shotgunning of Negro homes and churches. After deliberating 11 hours, an all-white jury, on November 21, 1966, acquitted him of a charge of receiving Army explosives. The stolen items included blocks and sticks of explosives, phosphorus bombs, hand grenades, and three boxes of .50-caliber ammunition, which is not for handguns. Because of Adams's acquittal, the judge said he would not jail the man who had already confessed the theft.]

Informant: Yeah, you are going to take him in, he is supposed to be one of the hard core of the underground, are you going to invite him into that, too? What about Brown, now, are you going to invite

Brown in? You are going to have Brown in it? [Believed to be Jack H. Brown who, like Adams, had been extremely active in the Klans. He operated a gas station in a Chattanooga suburb. He has been reported to be "contact man" for the United White Party; to have arranged for the Klan to be entered in the Chattanooga softball series; to have been an NSRP presidential elector; to believe the Klan needed a flag and to have offered to design it; to have died of a heart attack in 1965.]

Subject: Yeah.

Informant: Now, I will tell you between me and you, because we are talking, we aren't going to talk to everybody like we are talking here. Now, you know this, I like Brown, he is a good fellow, you know him, now here is something, when we was in his house, now, he knows me and you, but he didn't know Lee McCloud, well I think he done too much talking in front of a man he didn't know. Brown trusts a lot of people, he figures everybody is good.

Subject: Yeah.

Informant: And you know when he was telling her [or him, not legible] about blowing up all those churches and, you know, I don't think he should have said all that in front of McCloud.

Subject: That is exactly the way I feel about it, too. And I didn't talk about it any more after we left there.

Informant: No, I see you didn't, you see, these things come to my mind, I don't know McCloud well, and Brown never seen him before in his life, ti at I know of, now you seen this boy, Jackie, didn't open his mouth, he just sit there and listened. Jack Caulk [phonetic] he is a very quiet boy. Brown it just seems, well, he, I guess he has gotten by with so much he just don't care. He come out with all that about going over to Atlanta carrying that stuff, and showing them how to operate, I didn't want to say anything to him, but I don't think it is a good idea for people to discuss things like that in front of strangers. What do you think about it?

Subject: No, I—He should operate that, the same as he does the rest of it.

Informant: That's right, damn right that is right. Now you take like the Birmingham . . . [Subject breaks in]

Subject: Any conclusion they come up with, that's them, not him.

Informant: That is true.

Subject: He didn't give them anything.

Informant: Well, he didn't give them nothing.

Subject: Just like me at home there folks want to know, "Joe, where do you get all of your information?" "Well, I get it, that is all you are interested in," and that is as far as it goes, see. And the same guy will turn around and give me some information, but he doesn't

know where I am getting my information. The same guy who asks me where I get my information, will turn around and give me information.

Informant: Well, sure, of course, I realize that.

Subject: That is the way you have got to operate.

Informant: Well, that is what I say, if you are going to take Brown and Brown is going to be one of the head men, the man behind you, then you have got to talk to Brown a little bit, and tell him, you know. "You have got to be a little more conscientious, especially on these bombings, and killings," after all he comes right out with it.

Subject: We have got to let him understand, that, that is his operation, and not ours.

Informant: Yeah, that is true. We don't care, if he wants to go to Birmingham and blow up a church, let him.

Subject: If he wants to blow up the National Capital, that is alright with me. I will go with him, but not as a party though, as an individual.

Informant: Well, if you want to go with him and help him blow it out, that is not the party, it is an individual, you are going to have to make him understand that.

Subject: There is a party movement, and there is also an individual movement.

Informant: Yeah, that is right.

Subject: And they are distinct and separate.

Informant: Well, you are going to have to make him understand that. Right there, he didn't exactly admit it, but Jesus Christ, he

indicated, he indicated right there, he backed the bombings of killing the negroes in Birmingham, well, you know damn well we don't want nobody talking like that.

Subject: Can't afford it.

Informant: Well, you know damn well that is bad talk especially somebody he don't know. He could have said that to me, and you could have been alright, it would have been between you and me then.

Subject: That is true.

Informant: But to go ahead and say it in front of Lee McCloud, that that hell [Subject breaks in]

Subject: Well, I think he thought that he would [not] have been with us, if he had not have been alright. But that is still not enough.

Informant: No, hell no, that is no good, at least before he made those statements, he should have called you outside, or consulted about this man a little bit.

Subject: You have to have reservations, you know.

Informant: That is right. Hell, he didn't say these things in any way to try to get us in trouble, because the only one who could be in trouble would be him, he was confessing on his damn self, he wasn't

confessing on us, because we hadn't done a damn thing.

Subject: You and I would not get up there on the stand and say that he told us a cotton picking thing either.

Informant: Well, he knows that, but how about the other man.

Subject: Well, that is what I say.

Informant: Yeah, hell yes. I tell you something, you take Kenneth Adams over there, he is a mean damn man, like Brown was saying, the guy he was sending him to, well Kenneth is real mean, and the way Brown indicated they [not legible] the negroes, well, we don't care anything about that. I would rather he wouldn't tell us those stories.

Subject: You sure can't repeat them.

Informant: Yeah. That is the set-up we are in now. I mean, we have to work with them, but let them operate their grillings [phonetic], like you say, if you want to go with them, that is your opinion, you go with him up to Washington and blow with him, if you want to go [Subject breaks in].

Subject: I have a man who is the head of his underground of his own up there in Delaware, and since I worked on the Supreme Court, he wanted me to give him the lay-out there so they could go over there and do some things there, you know. But he called it off. I don't know why. I didn't even ask him why. That was his affair, but he called it off. But I was ready to go with him. I gave him the damn information he wanted.

Informant: You worked on the Supreme Court.

Subject: Yeah, three and a half years.

Informant: Well, that is why he wanted you to go, then, well, them things have got to be done, but outside the Party, we have got to be mighty careful who the hell we let know anything. Now, here is one thing you have got to realize, transporting dynamite across the state line is a federal offense, well you better let them know that.

Subject: Well, there is a way to beat that, you know. All you have to do is pull up to the state line, unload it there, slide it across the line, get in the car and load it again, and they can't accuse you of transporting it then, because you didn't do it. I have done the same thing with a woman. I had one, then I had a woman frame me on it. I got to the state line, and I said, "Listen, Toots, this is the state line, get out, and I will meet you over there," she got out, walked across the line, got in my car in the other state, I didn't transport her, there wasn't a fucking thing she could do about it, I had her ass for a long time.

Informant: I was talking to a boy yesterday, and he was in Athens, Georgia, and he told me, that they had two colored people working in that drug store, and that them, uh, they went into the basement, and tapped them small pipes, I guess that they are copper together, and

let that thing accumulate, and blowed that drug store up. He told me that yesterday, do you think that is right?

Subject: It could have happened that way.

Informant: Well, that is what he told me, and he is in town right now.

Subject: Does he know who did it? Do they think these negroes did it?

Informant: Oh, no, they killed the negroes, because they had two negroes working in the place, that is what he told me. He is in town now, he is from Chattanooga. He knows Brown, he knows all of them, his uncle is in the Klan there. He is a young boy, he has been in the Marines, and he really knows his business. He went there, he went down and looked, and he told me that is what happened. So he has been involved in quite a little bit of stuff, according to his story about Nashville, Chattanooga, and Georgia. I have no reason not to believe him, because he told me too much about Brown's operation, that is the reason I [not legible].

Subject: Yeah. You take this boy, Connor McGintis [phonetic] [reference is probably to an old-time northern racist, Conde McGinley], boy up there in Union, N.J., of course he doesn't go to anything like that, but he is on our side, he is the one that puts out that *Common Sense*. He is an ex-Marine. He is all man, too.

Informant: Now, you see, we will talk to these other people, you have made up your mind that you are going to use the Constitutional Party as a front.

Subject: Yeah, Constitutional Party States Rights.

Informant: Yeah, and it will strictly secret, and nobody will be exposed except you.

Subject: Yeah.

Informant: Because when we talk to them today, you want to know exactly what to tell them, how it operates.

Subject: Yeah, and we have got to set up a little fund there to get it operating.

Informant: Oh, yeah, sure.

Subject: And I am going to devote my time to it, I don't have any idea of getting elected to that City Commission, but I am just making it cost them bastards, it cost them as it is, it cost them between \$1,500 and \$2,000 to beat me before, so I want to make it cost them another couple of thousand dollars. If they want to get rid of me, they can buy my fucking property, and I will get out of the damn town. In other words, they will save money. I am going to put that out in one of the damn bulletins there, see. We put, the way I operate, put out these little bulletins, like a typewriter page, eight and a half by eleven.

472

and brother don't you think they ain't waiting for them, when I don't put them out, "Joe, where is the bulletin?" Bill, that could go all over the country the same way. That was just a trial proposition, if it will work in a little stinking town like that, it will work anywhere.

Informant: I don't know. I think Kennedy is coming here on the 18th, or something like that to make some kind of speech. I don't know what it is, but I imagine it will be on the TV, and you can be on the look for that, I think it is the 18th that he is suppose to be here. I don't know what it is suppose to be about.

Subject: You can bet your bottom dollar he is going to have a lot to say about the Cubans, there are so many of them here.

Informant: Yeah, well he will have a thousand bodyguards, don't worry about that.

Subject: The more bodyguards he has, the easier it is to get him.

Informant: What?

Subject: The more bodyguards he has the more easier it is to get him.

Informant: Well how in the hell do you figure would be the best way to get him?

Subject: From an office building with a high powered rifle, how many people [room noise—tape not legible] does he have going around who look just like him? Do you know about that?

Informant: No, I never heard that he had anybody.

Subject: He has got them.

Informant: He has?

Subject: He has about fifteen. Whenever he goes any place they [not legible] he knows he is a marked man.

Informant: You think he knows he is a marked man?

Subject: Sure he does.

Informant: They are really going to try to kill him?

Subject: Oh, yeah, it is in the working. Brown himself, Brown is just as likely to get him as anybody. He hasn't said so, but he tried to get Martin Luther King.

Informant: He did.

Subject: Oh yes, he followed him for miles and miles, and couldn't get close enough to him.

Informant: You know exactly where it is in Atlanta don't you?

Subject: Martin Luther King, yeah.

Informant: Bustus Street [phonetic].

Subject: Yeah 530.

Informant: Oh Brown tried to get him huh?

Subject: Yeah.

Informant: Well, he will damn sure do it, I will tell you that. Well, that is why, look, you see, well, that is why we have to be so

473

careful, you know that Brown is operating strong.

Subject: He ain't going for play you know.

Informant: That is right.

Subject: He is going for broke.

Informant: I never asked Brown about his business or anything, you know just what he told me, told us, you know. But after the conversation, and the way he talked to us, there is no question in my mind about who knocked the church off in Birmingham, you can believe that, that is the way I figured it.

Subject: That is right, it is about the only way you can figure it.

Informant: That is right.

Subject: Not being there, not knowing anything.

Informant: But just from his conversation, as you and me know him, but if they did, it is their business, like you say [Subject breaks in].

Subject: It is up to the individual.

Informant: That is right. They are individual operators, we don't want that within the party. Hitting this Kennedy is going to be a, a hard proposition, I tell you. I believe, you may have figured out a way to get him, you may have figured out the office building, and all that. I don't know how them Secret Service agents cover all them office buildings, or anywhere he is going, do you know whether they do that or not?

Subject: Well, if they have any suspicion they do that of course. But without suspicion chances are that they wouldn't. You take there in Washington, of course it is the wrong time of the year, but you take pleasant weather, he comes out on the veranda, and somebody could be in a hotel room across the way there, and pick him off just like [fades out].

Informant: Is that right?

Subject: Sure, disassemble a gun, you don't have to take a gun up there, you can take it up in pieces, all those guns come knock down, you can take them apart.

Informant: They have got a damn, this boy was telling me yesterday about, they have got an explosive that you get out of the army, it is suppose to be like putty or something, you stick it up, and use a small fuse, you just stick it like that, he told me, and I think that is what happened in the church in Birmingham, they stuck this stuff, somebody stuck it under the steps with a short fuse, and went on home.

Informant: This boy is pretty smart, demolition is that what you call it?

Subject: Demolition, that is right.

Informant: I am going to talk with him some more.

474

Subject: Yeah I would.

Informant: I am going to talk with him some more, and find out a lot more about his operation, because he knows a hell of a lot.

Subject: You need a guy like that around, too. Where we can put our finger on him, when we want him.

Informant: Yeah, well, you have got somebody up there in that country now, if you need him.

Subject: Well, we are going to have to get nasty first [not legible].

Informant: Yeah, get nasty.

Subject: We have got to be ready, we have got to be sitting on go, too.

Informant: Yeah, that is right.

Subject: There ain't any count down to it, we have just got to be sitting on go. Count down they can move in on you, and on go they can't. Count down is alright for a slow prepared operation, but in an emergency operation, you have got to be sitting on go.

Informant: Boy, if that Kennedy gets shot, we have got to know where we are at. Because you know that will be a real shake, if they do that.

Subject: They wouldn't leave any stone unturned there no way. They will pick up somebody within hours afterwards, if anything like that would happen just to throw the public off.

Informant: Oh, somebody is going to have to go to jail, if he gets killed.

Subject: Just like that Bruno Hauptman in the Lindberg case you know. [Dials telephone.]

Informant: "Hello, is Jim there?" "Has he gone to the office?" "Uh, huh, well, is he coming back home?" "Alright, I will do that, thank you." He has gone out to one of his apartment houses, and he will be back later. We will go see *wharamacallit*, he closes at 1:00 o'clock. We will go up and see Andrew, and we will double back to Jim's [room noise].

Subject: Actually the only man we are interested in up at that place [room noise—not legible—door closes].

475

Re: Threat to Kill President
KENNEDY by J. A. MILTEER,
Miami, Florida
November 9, 1963

On November 10, 1963, a source who has furnished reliable information in the past and in addition has furnished some information that could not be verified or corroborated, advised SA LEONARD C. PETERSON that J. A. MILTEER on November 9, 1963, at Miami, Florida, made a statement that plans were in the making to kill President JOHN F. KENNEDY at some future date; that MILTEER suggested one JACK BROWN of Chattanooga, Tennessee, as the man who could do the job and that he (MILTEER) would be willing to help. MILTEER reportedly said that he was familiar with Washington and that the job could be done from an office or hotel in the vicinity of the White House using a high-powered rifle.

U. S. Secret Service was advised of the foregoing information.

119

The FBI's titling of this report, page 119 of Warren Commission File (CD) 1347, is unequivocal. It is a serious "Threat to Kill President KENNEDY," by one Joseph Adams Milteer, of the NSRP. These reports exactly coincide with the Miami tape, here also reproduced, and with the cancellation of the scheduled motorcade when the President addressed the Inter-American Press Association, in Miami. The "source who has furnished reliable information in the past" may be the informant or the Miami police, which gave dubs of the tape to both the FBI and the Secret Service. (The man had also been an FBI informant.)

Re: THREAT TO KILL PRESIDENT KENNEDY
BY J. A. MILTEER, MIAMI, FLORIDA,
NOVEMBER 9, 1963

On November 26, 1963, a source who has furnished reliable information in the past and in addition has furnished some information that could not be verified or corroborated, advised SA PETERSON as follows:

On November 23, 1963, J. A. MILTEER was in the Union Train Station, Jacksonville, Florida, and at about 4:25 P.M. on that date stated he was very jubilant over the death of President KENNEDY. MILTEER stated, "Everything ran true to form. I guess you thought I was kidding you when I said he would be killed from a window with a high-powered rifle." When questioned as to whether he was guessing when he originally made the threat regarding President KENNEDY, MILTEER is quoted as saying, "I don't do any guessing."

On the evening of November 23, 1963, MILTEER departed Jacksonville, Florida, by automobile en route to Columbia, South Carolina. During this trip, MILTEER stated that he had been in Houston, Ft. Worth and Dallas, Texas, as well as New Orleans, Louisiana, Biloxi and Jackson, Mississippi, and Tuscaloosa, Alabama. MILTEER said he was acquainted with one R. E. DAVIS of Dallas, Texas, whom he described as a "good man," but did not indicate he was personally acquainted with DAVIS. MILTEER did not indicate on what dates he was in the above cities, except for Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

MILTEER related that he was in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and contacted ROBERT SHELTON of the United Klans of America, Inc., Knights of the Ku Klux Klan (United Klans), on the evening prior to the bombing of the

120

Having blueprinted the JFK assassination in advance, NSRPer Milteer here took credit for it. What better reason for total suppression--after Oswald was officially ordained assassin? R. E. Davis also figures in an also-suppressed Secret Service investigation (the copies of which I have) of a suspected Minuteman involvement. Neither investigative agency made this correlation for the Commission.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has requested that certain pages of this document not be disclosed. This request was incorporated in a letter of August 13, 1965, to Dr. Wayne C. Grover, Archivist of the United States from Norbert A. Schlei, Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legal Counsel, Department of Justice.

Commission Document Number: 1347

Pages Withheld: 121

From the file index (the FBI slipped up, not editing their indexes to hide what they were suppressing), it is apparent that what is suppressed here deals (like the Miami tape, pp. 468-475) with the November, 15, 1963 bombing of a Birmingham, Alabama, church in which innocent black children were murdered. (Names mentioned on the suppressed page are: "Association of South Carolina Klans; Baptist Church, Birmingham, Alabama; Bolen, A. O.; Hendricks, Jack; Kennedy, Robert; King, Martin Luther; Knights of Ku Klux Klan [United Klans]; Melton, Belton; Ulmer, Will; United Klans of America, Inc.; Wade Hampton Hotel, Columbia, S. C.") This National Archives form proves the FBI is directly responsible for the suppressions - not, as Hoover pretends, the Department of Justice. (In almost every case that I have been able to check - by getting what was suppressed by the FBI - what is withheld deals with the extreme of the radical right or is designed to prevent embarrassment to the government. *Defamatory material should be withheld*, but I have found *no single case* where defamations of those even slightly liberal or anti-war were withheld.)

GD-1347

MM 89-35
3.

A characterization of the Association of South Carolina Klans follows. Sources therein have furnished reliable information in the past.

After their arrival, MILTEER stated that there was no point in discussing President KENNEDY, and again stated, "We must now concentrate on the Jews." MILTEER advised that he was preparing a pamphlet which he wanted to disseminate throughout the country. Prior to concluding their discussion, information was received that JACK RUBY had killed LEE HARVEY OSWALD. In view of this, MILTEER said he would have to alter the information he was setting out in his pamphlet.

The source advised that based on his contact with MILTEER, he could not definitely state whether MILTEER was acquainted with either RUBY or OSWALD.

122

121 in withheld from name. ER 1347

The handwritten note was made by the Archives staff. It may help the reader's understanding to know that, passionately as the NSRPs hate blacks, they hate Jews even more.

CD 1347

Re: Threat to Kill President KENNEDY
by J. A. MILTEER, Miami, Florida,
November 9, 1963

J. A. MILTEER is also known as JOSEPH ADAMS MILTEER. He was born February 26, 1902, at Quitman, Georgia, and lives at Quitman and Valdosta, Georgia. He reportedly is a wealthy bachelor who inherited an estimated \$200,000 from his father. He is reported to have no family, no employment and to spend a great deal of time traveling throughout the Southeastern United States. He has been unsuccessful in city politics in Quitman and publishes a weekly pamphlet criticizing the operation of the Quitman City Government. MILTEER has associated himself with the Constitutional Party of the United States and attended a convention of this party held at Indianapolis, Indiana, during October, 1963. He was reprimanded by this party for describing himself as being the party regional chairman for the Southeastern states. MILTEER reportedly became disillusioned with the Constitutional Party of the United States and has attempted to form a party known as the Constitutional American Parties of the United States. MILTEER allegedly intends to use the Constitutional American Parties of the United States as a front to form a hard core underground for possible violence in combating integration.

123

DL 89-43
PBM/28

The interview of JOSEPH ADAMS MILTEER, as well as additional information regarding him, is contained on pages 24-26 of the report of Special Agent CHARLES S. BARDING, Atlanta, Georgia, dated December 1, 1963, in the case entitled "LEE HARVEY OSWALD; INTERNAL SECURITY - RUSSIA".

124

File 124 in serial for reference.

What a filing system, what FBI logic: reports on a murderous native fascist (p. 124) under "Oswald" and "Russia"! The note on withholding is by the Archives staff.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date December 1, 1963

JOSEPH ADAMS MILTEER, Quitman, Georgia, was interviewed November 27, 1963, at which time he advised that during April, 1963, he attended a national meeting of the Congress of Freedom, New Orleans, Louisiana. He described this organization as one that believed in Americanism and he attended this meeting as the result of an invitation by a Mr. THOMAS, Chairman of the organization, Omaha, Nebraska. He stated during this meeting neither he nor anyone in his presence discussed the assassination of President KENNEDY.

MILTEER stated further that in June, 1963, he went to Dallas, Texas, to attempt to persuade DAN SMOOT, author of the "Dan Smoot Report" to run as Vice-President of the Constitutional Party ticket in the election in November, 1964. He stated he had no other business in Dallas.

MILTEER further stated that on October 18-20, 1963, he traveled to Indianapolis, Indiana, with BRUCE SOMERSET of Miami, Florida, and LEE McCLOUD of Atlanta, Georgia. They attended the National Convention of the Constitutional Party. He stated he attended this meeting as the result of an invitation by CURTIS B. DALL, former son-in-law of the late President FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

MILTEER described himself as a non-dues-paying member of the White Citizens Council of Atlanta, Georgia, the Congress of Freedom and the Constitution Party.

MILTEER emphatically denies ever making threats to assassinate President KENNEDY or participating in any such assassination. He stated he has never heard anyone make such threats. He also denied making threats against anyone subsequent to the assassination of President KENNEDY. He stated he does not know, nor has he ever been in the presence of LEE HARVEY OSWALD or JACK RUBY to his knowledge.

MILTEER denied any knowledge of the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, on November 15, 1963.

- 24 -

On 11/27/63 at Quitman, Georgia File # Atlanta 105-3193
by SAs KENNETH A. WILLIAMS and DONALD A. ADAMS :CD Date dictated 12/1/63

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

With Milteer's voice on tape blueprinting the assassination for which he later took credit, the FBI here reports his denial dead-pan, and keeps secret the fact that it had a dub of precisely these threats in Milteer's own voice! The last sentence of this page pretty clearly relates to the suppressed page of the FBI report printed on p. 468ff.