

FBI

Date: 5/4/76

Transmit the following in (Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL

(Precedence)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM : SAC, ALBUQUERQUE

LEE HARVEY OSWALD

Enclosed for the Bureau are five copies of a blind memorandum from former SA SAM J. PAPICH concerning his recent interview by JAY EPSTEIN and PAUL BUTLER of Reader's Digest, regarding a book EPSTEIN is writing on the subject of LEE HARVEY OSWALD.

N. MEX. EMPLOYE

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1 - Albuquerque
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ENCLOSURE

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7 MAY 7 1976

FIVE - LEE

XEROX
MAY 17 1976

74-3-4-221-122-4

Approved: 55 JUN 1 1976

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

Per

GPO: 1975 O-300-00

Section 238

RE:

JAY EPSTEIN;
PAM BUTLER;
READER'S DIGEST

EPSTEIN and BUTLER came to Albuquerque, New Mexico, on April 29, 1976, to meet with me.

EPSTEIN advised he is collecting material for a book on LEE HARVEY OSWALD. He and BUTLER are traveling throughout the country interviewing various individuals. EPSTEIN advised that because of my past assignment in the Bureau, I might be able to answer some questions. Throughout, he did not express any animosity towards the Bureau or the intelligence community as such. He did not ask any questions concerning government personalities. He gave every indication that he has talked to JAMES ANGLETON, former CIA official; DEKE DE LOACH; and other CIA officials not identified. He advised he would be contacting Director KELLEY and CIA Director BUSH. He has also talked to TOM FOX, former DIA official and now with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). He indicated that he might endeavor to interview A. J. BELMONT, and I strongly recommended that he not do so. I emphasized that BELMONT was very ill and that any attempt to interview him could be prejudicial to the man's health. I did get the impression that EPSTEIN was sympathetic to my recommendation and that he did not plan to seek out BELMONT. He did comment that he might give consideration to interviewing W. C. SULLIVAN but did specifically state that he did not think it would be wise to do so.

He has interviewed [redacted] apparently on several occasions, and he did imply that he would be talking to [redacted] again. EPSTEIN plans to travel to Russia and interview people who might be made available to him by the Soviet government. He is currently waiting for his visa. During the course of the conversation, he indicated he was trying to locate a CIA employee named [redacted] who apparently was a CIA employee assigned in Dallas at the time of the JFK assassination.

EPSTEIN asked several questions, to which I replied negatively because I had no direct knowledge of the particular subject; and if I did, I was not going to comment on any of my past assignments. I had explained this to him in the beginning. He brought up the subject of bona fides of defectors, and I commented that this has been a subject which has received

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ENCLOSURE

JAY EPSTEIN;
PAM BUTLER;
READER'S DIGEST

considerable attention over the years. He referred to the bonafides of [redacted] and I told him that I could not speak on that subject with any authority. He asked if I had any knowledge concerning OSWALD's association with Cubans, and I referred him to what has appeared in the press--pointing out that I had never been involved in any investigation on that particular subject.

EPSTEIN is very much interested in OSWALD's activities during the time he was in Mexico City. He apparently has conducted some investigation at the hotel where OSWALD stayed. He is trying to identify individuals who may have been in the hotel at the same time. He has been in contact with Cuban officials.

He asked for my comments on allegations that OSWALD may have been either a CIA or FBI informant. I told him that in my opinion he was spinning his wheels on this particular subject.

He plans to interview MANN who was U. S. Ambassador to Mexico at the time of the JFK assassination. He was also seeking somebody in Santa Fe, New Mexico, but never volunteered the identity of the person.

On or about April 28, 1976, he did interview the mother of LEE HARVEY OSWALD, MARINA OSWALD, and MARINA's current husband. EPSTEIN commented that he received little or no information of value and the aforementioned were only interested in furnishing information if they could be substantially remunerated. Mrs. OSWALD spent most of her time trying to sell souvenirs, pamphlets, etc.

He brought up the matter of the report produced by Senator CHURCH's committee, and I stated that in my opinion it was most destructive to the intelligence capabilities of the country. He did not differ with me on this subject.

With regard to his desire to talk to Mr. KELLEY and Mr. BUSH, I got the impression that he is looking for access to other Agents or officers and possibly reports which could be made available to him. At one point he indicated he wants to make certain that he has a complete list of all of the aliases that were utilized by OSWALD.

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Moore

DATE: 2-27-76

FROM : J. H. Campbell

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

BACKGROUND:

By memorandum dated February 3, 1976, I advised you that Edward Jay Epstein had visited the Bureau to discuss his plans to write a book about the assassination of President Kennedy and that Epstein stated his book would be devoted primarily to Lee Harvey Oswald. My memorandum of February 3rd pointed out that Epstein had asked questions concerning former SAC Guy Banister, civilian employments Oswald had held which might have required "clearances," and the identities of other Americans who defected to the Soviet Union about the same time (1959-62) as Oswald.

ACTION TAKEN:

In response to Epstein's requests, he has been advised that former SAC Banister entered on duty in November, 1934, and retired in December, 1954 -- at which time he was SAC at Chicago. Epstein has been told that Banister was Assistant Superintendent of Police in New Orleans from 1955 to 1957 and that he subsequently operated Guy Banister Associates, Inc., in New Orleans until he died in June, 1964. Epstein plans to visit New Orleans, and it has been pointed out to him that the morgues of New Orleans-area newspapers should contain a large number of clippings regarding Banister's activities in that city from 1955 to 1964.

With regard to Epstein's request for the identities of other defectors to the Soviet Union, he was told that extensive publicity has been given to the defection to Russia and subsequent return to America of Robert Edward Webster of Ohio, Nicholas Petrulli of New York, and Libero Riccardelli of Massachusetts -- in the 1959-62 period.

- 1 - Mr. Moore
- 1 - Mr. Callaghan
- 1 - Mr. Wannall
- 1 - W. B. Nettles

GWG:slr (8)

CONTINUED OVER

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- Director's Sec'y

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Campbell to Moore memo
RE: BOOK REGARDING ASSASSINATION
OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

In response to his inquiry concerning civilian employments which Oswald held, it was pointed out to Epstein that Oswald did not hold any type of position which would have resulted in his being the subject of an applicant-type investigation of the FBI -- nor did it appear that another Federal agency would have conducted an applicant-type investigation of him. Whereas Epstein thought a "clearance" might have been required for the job which Oswald held for a period in 1962-63 at a company in Dallas (Jaggars-Chiles-Stovall) which had contracts with the Army, testimony on page 191 of Volume X of the Warren Commission Report shows that the department in which Oswald was employed had no contact or connection with the Army contract work -- and this testimony has been brought to Epstein's attention.

RECOMMENDATION:

For information and record purposes. As Epstein's work on this book continues, more inquiries and requests for assistance undoubtedly will be received from him.

*TJ
MP*

pu *M/R*

Jan