

Mr. Conrad

1/9/64

Call^u ✓

R. H. Jevons

LEE HARVEY OSWALD, AKA.
IS - R - CUBA

A letter dated 1/7/64, has been received from Honorable J. Lee Rankin, General Counsel, the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy, requesting advice concerning the feasibility and desirability of applying nuclear activation techniques to specimens of evidence in the Lee Harvey Oswald case. This request was prompted by Dr. Paul C. Aebersold's letter to Assistant Attorney General Herbert J. Miller which was forwarded by Mr. Miller to the President's Commission.

Work is already in progress applying the techniques of neutron activation analysis to certain phases of the current investigation. Based on my memorandum of 11/27/63, approval was given to make arrangements with the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) to utilize its related facilities for the purpose of employing such nuclear analytical procedures on certain items in the instant investigation. On 12/6/63, Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg, Chairman of the AEC, offered complete and confidential cooperation in this matter. Dr. Spofford G. English, Assistant General Manager for Research and Development of AEC, was assigned to coordinate all aspects of this work. Dr. English advised that the AEC personnel who would know of this matter would be kept to an absolute minimum. In particular, he advised that Dr. Paul C. Aebersold, Director, Division of Isotopes Development, and author of the letter forwarded to Mr. Rankin by the Assistant Attorney General, would not be advised of the neutron activation analyses being conducted in this case even though he is presently the head of the division at AEC which fostered the contract work relating to the research on this matter.

Preliminary tests have been going on at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, Tennessee. On 1/14/64, it is planned that the actual processing of the casts from Lee Harvey Oswald's hands and cheek will commence.

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- 1-Mr. Belmont - enclosure
- 1-Mr. Mohr - enclosure
- 1-Mr. Rosen - enclosure
- 1-Mr. DeLoach - enclosure
- 1-Mr. Sullivan - enclosure
- 1-Mr. Malley, Room 5710 - enclosure
- 1-Mr. Rogge, Room 5713 - enclosure
- 1-Mr. O'Connor, Room 845 R.B. - enclosure

Enclosure

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Memorandum to Mr. Conrad
Re: LEE HARVEY OSWALD, AKA.
IS - R - CUBA
105-82555

These paraffin casts will be studied by neutron activation analysis to determine if they bear any trace deposits characteristic of powder residues.

On 1/7/64, in response to an inquiry from Chief Justice Earl Warren, Chairman of the President's Commission, Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg advised Chief Justice Warren that the AEC was cooperating on a confidential basis with the FBI "investigating the possibility of whether a very sensitive method of trace element analysis (the so-called 'activation analysis technique') may be of any value in further corroborating evidence already in hand by the Federal Bureau of Investigation."

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the attached letter be forwarded to Honorable J. Lee Rankin in answer to the request in his letter dated 1/7/64.