

February 6, 1964

Honorable J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel
The President's Commission
200 Maryland Avenue, Northeast
Washington, D. C.

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. Branigan
- 1 - Mr. Rogge
- 1 - Mr. Stokes

FEB 6 5 32 PM '64
 READING ROOM
 FBI

Dear Mr. Rankin:

Reference is made to page 217 of the report in the Lee Harvey Oswald case of Special Agent Robert Gemberling dated January 22, 1964, at Dallas, Texas, wherein are recorded the results of the interview of Colonel J. D. Wilmoth, U. S. Army (Retired).

Colonel Wilmoth was reported to have stated that he was a member of the U. S. military forces in Mexico for two years during World War II. We have been advised that the report of Colonel Wilmoth's interview should have recorded him as stating that he served as a member of the U. S. military forces in Moscow for two years during World War II. It would be appreciated if you would note the foregoing in connection with your review of the aforementioned report.

Sincerely yours,

100-82555

162-109090

NOTE: Dallas 2/1/64 airtel notes this necessary change. Believed advisable to inform Commission of this as they may question Wilmoth's reported claim to have been with the military in Mexico. Wilmoth is a Russian language teacher who heard of Mrs. Oswald and visited with her on 11/19/63 to discuss modern Russian language. He does not know Lee Oswald and has no intention of making further contact with Mrs. Oswald. The report shows that Wilmoth claimed he learned a great deal about the Russian language during his service in Mexico. We have had numerous allegations concerning Oswald's trip to Mexico and it is possible the Commission may read something into Wilmoth's claim to have served there. Explanations being obtained from DL by separate communication.

JCS:ccm

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date January 16, 19641

Colonel J. D. WILMETH, Route 8, Box 691, 8501 Heron Drive, furnished the following information.

WILMETH retired from the U. S. Army in 1960 and obtained a Master's Degree from Texas University, majoring in the Russian language, in 1962. He has been teaching Russian at Arlington State College, Arlington, Texas, since 1962. During the early part of November, 1963, he learned that a lady from Russia was staying with a family by the name of PAINE in Irving, Texas. He called Mr. PAINE who works for Bell Helicopter, and obtained the address and telephone number of Mrs. PAINE and also obtained the name of this Russian woman as Mrs. LEE OSWALD.

On or about November 11 or 12, 1963, he telephonically contacted Mrs. PAINE and explained to her that he would like to meet Mrs. OSWALD and talk to her about the Russian language. Colonel WILMETH was a member of the U. S. Military Force in Mexico for two years during World War II. He learned a great deal about the Russian language at that time. He was interested in talking to someone who might help him in appearing before his class to discuss the modern Russian language. He made arrangements to visit PAINE and Mrs. OSWALD for Tuesday, November 19, 1963. He went to the PAINE residence and visited with Mrs. PAINE and Mrs. OSWALD for about an hour and a half on November 19, 1963. This was strictly a social visit and he talked Russian with Mrs. OSWALD and Mrs. PAINE and also made arrangements to come back for another visit on November 26, 1963. Mr. LEE OSWALD was not present and his name was not mentioned.

After the assassination occurred on November 22, 1963, he called Mrs. PAINE on November 26, 1963 and advised her that in view of present circumstances he would make no attempt to contact Mrs. OSWALD any further.

WILMETH has not seen or talked to Mrs. OSWALD any more, but did send her a Christmas card at a Post Office box in Grand Prairie. He has never seen or met LEE HARVEY OSWALD and knows nothing of the background of OSWALD or his family.

on 1-13-64 at Fort Worth, Texas File # DL 100-10461
 by Special Agent s EARLE HALEY Date dictated 1-15-64
ROBLEY D. MADLAND 217
 mvs

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DL 100-10461
WRH:mvs

A letter written in the Russian language and directed to MARINA OSWALD and signed "RUTH" (RUTH PAINE), was furnished to the Dallas FBI Office by the Dallas Office of the U. S. Secret Service on December 20, 1963. This letter has been forwarded to the FBI Laboratory for appropriate examination and retention.