

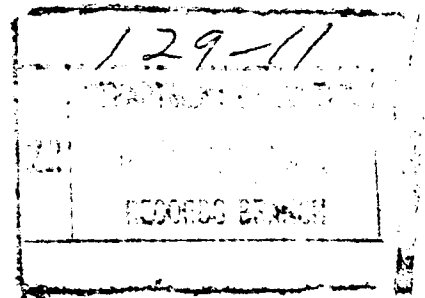
President by the President's Commission on the
Assassination of President Kennedy.

(b) Transfer custody of all property, so
required, to the Administrator of the General
Services Administration for deposit with the
National Archives of the United States for con-
tinued preservation by the United States.

3. The United States District Court for the District
of Columbia shall have jurisdiction over any proceedings for
the condemnation of any property authorized by this Act.

4. There is authorized to be appropriated for carrying
out the purpose of this Act such sums as the Congress may from
time to time determine.

Items of Evidence
Pertaining to the
Assassination of President Kennedy
which should be retained
permanently by the
U. S. Government



Physical exhibits of Lee Harvey Oswald which the Commission wishes to retain:

- 1 6.5 mm Mannlicher-Carcano rifle, with telescopic sight, Serial No. C2766 (CE 139)
- 2 6.5 mm Mannlicher-Carcano cartridge from building (CE 141)
- 3 .38 Special Smith and Wesson revolver, Serial No. V510210, Assembly No. 65248 (CE 143)
- 4 Brown leather holster (CE 144)
- 5 Two .38 Special cartridges obtained from Secret Service (CE 145)
- 6 Suspect's shirt (CE 150)
- 7 Gray jacket (CE 162)
- 8 Blue jacket from depository identified by Mrs. Marina Oswald as being property of Lee Harvey Oswald (CE 163)
- 9 Replica of sack (CE 364)
- 10 Bracelet inscribed "Lee" (CE 383)
- 11 Bullet from stretcher (CE 399)
- 12 Four .38 Special cartridges (CE 518)
- 13 Barrel cast of Oswald's rifle (CE 540)
- 14 6.5 mm Mannlicher-Carcano Italian military rifle, Serial No. UC 5209, with telescopic sight (CE 542)
- 15 6.5 mm. Mannlicher-Carcano cartridge case from Texas School Book Depository Building (CE 543)
- 16 6.5 mm. Mannlicher-Carcano cartridge case from Texas School Book Depository Building (CE 544)
- 17 6.5 mm. Mannlicher-Carcano cartridge case from Texas School Book Depository Building (CE 545)
- 18 Bullet fragment from President's car (CE 567)
- 19 Bullet fragment from President's car (CE 569)
- 20 Shim from under front end of telescopic mount (CE 576)

- ✓1 Shim from over telescopic sight at rear (CE 577)
- ✓2 Shim from under telescopic sight at front clamp (CE 578)
- ✓3 .38 S & W Western cartridge (CE 587)
- ✓4 Components of a .38 S & W Western cartridge (CE 588)
- ✓5 .38 S & W Remington-Peters cartridge and components of similar cartridge (CE 589)
- ✓6 .38 Special Western cartridge and components of similar cartridge (CE 590)
- ✓7 .38 Special Remington-Peters cartridge and components of similar cartridge (CE 591)
- ✓8 Five cartridges from Oswald's pocket (CE 592)
- ✓9 Four .38 Special cartridge cases from Tippit murder scene (CE 594)
- ✓0 Text cartridge cases from Oswald's revolver (CE 595)
- ✓1 Bullet from Officer Tippit's body along with button from his uniform (CE 602)
- ✓2 Bullet from Officer Tippit's body (CE 603)
- ✓3 Bullet from Officer Tippit's body (CE 604)
- ✓4 Bullet from Officer Tippit's body (CE 605)
- ✓5 Test bullets from Oswald's revolver (CE 606)
- ✓6 Cardboard box from Texas School Book Depository Building (CE 648)
- ✓7 Cardboard box from Texas School Book Depository Building (CE 653)
- ✓8 Cardboard box from Texas School Book Depository Building (CE 654)
- ✓9 Three small lead particles found on rug underneath left jump seat of President's car (CE 840)
- ✓0 Lead residue found on inside surface of glass of windshield (CE 841)
- ✓1 Small fragment of metal from wrist of Governor Connally (CE 842)
- ✓2 Two metal fragments removed from the President's head at time of autopsy (CE 843)

- 43 Brown billfold with Marine group photograph (FBI No. 114)
- 44 Wallet belonging to Lee Harvey Oswald containing: (FBI No. B1)
 - 1. Social Security card #433-54-3937
 - 2. Selective Service Notice of Classification SSN 41-114-39-532
 - 3. Department of Defense Service ID card #4, 271,617 USMC #1653230
 - 4. USMC Certificate of Service
 - 5. Fair Play for Cuba Committee Ident. card, National Card
 - 6. Selective Service Registration Certificate
 - 7. Hotel card
 - 8. FPCC Membership card, New Orleans Chapter
 - 9. ID card, US Forces in Japan
 - 10. Dallas Public Library card
 - 11. Three photographs
 - 12. Slip of paper with three addresses, The Worke, The Worker and Russian Embassy
- 45 Bus transfer, bracelet inscribed "Lee," key, ring, narrow black belt with buckle and property receipt (FBI No. D35)
- 46 Mail order coupon in name of A. J. Hidell used to order .38 caliber gun from Los Angeles (CE 135)
- 47 "Tag Repair" #18374 for "Oswald" obtained from Irving Sports Shop, Irving, Texas (FBI No. D148)
- 48 Blanket (CE 140)
- 49 Test bullets from Oswald's rifle (CE 572)
- 50 Bullet from General Walker's home (CE 573)

President Kennedy's possessions

- CE No.
✓ 393 President's coat
✓ 394 President's shirt
✓ 395 President's tie

HJM:JJC:bf
129-11

Typed: 3/15/65

March 16, 1965

3-16-65

Mrs. Marina Oswald
629 Belt Line Road
Richardson, Texas

Dear Mrs. Oswald:

The Attorney General has referred to this Division for appropriate attention your letter of January 24, 1965 requesting the return of certain exhibits to the Final Report of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy.

Pursuant to your request, certified copies of the following three exhibits are attached:

- (1) Exhibit 129, Birth Certificate of Marina Oswald.
- (2) Exhibit 1111, Soviet Marriage Certificate of Lee Harvey Oswald and Marina Oswald.
- (3) Exhibit 1112, Soviet Birth Certificate of June Lee Oswald.

Matters pertaining to the disposition of the originals of the above exhibits as well as of all other exhibits and physical objects considered by the Commission are receiving attention by the Department.

With respect to your request for the return of Exhibits 1776 and 2656 to the Final Report these Exhibits constitute one and the same document having been given two numbers by the Commission.

A visa surrendered by an arriving immigrant becomes a record of entry and, as such, is retained as part of the permanent records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Accordingly, this document will not be returned.

CC:
Records
Chrono
Cella

Sincerely,

INSPTD AND MAILED
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAR 16 1965 UH

HERBERT J. MILLER, Jr.
Assistant Attorney General

Encls

Handwritten notes on left margin:
3/15/65
JJC
3-15
KAC
CWS
3/15/65

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Belcher

TO : Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division

FROM : Commissioner
Immigration and Naturalization Service

SUBJECT: Marina Oswald Request for Document

DATE: March 1, 1965

ATTENTION: Mr. Stuart Pollak

Reference is made to the request by Marina Oswald that she be furnished a copy of her visa for publication as part of a book she is writing. This document was published as Exhibit 1776 and again as Exhibit 2656 in the Reported Hearings of the Warren Commission.

While this Service does make available to any individual copies of documents which he has submitted to this Service, such as the application for a visa, it would not do so in the case of an internal document or report. The visa, issued by the Department of State and furnished to this Service in connection with an entry is in the latter category.

Mrs. Oswald may be advised that the document will not be furnished her.

*Rec'd
11:30 am
3-4-65
994*

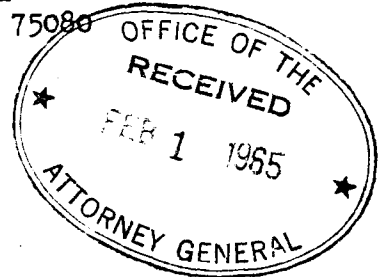
129-11	
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
30	MAR 16 1965
RECORDS BRANCH	
CRIMINAL-GEN. CRIME SEC.	



Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

629 Belt Line Road
Richardson, Texas 75080

January 24, 1965



Mr. Nicholas deB. Katzenbach, Attorney General
Department of Justice
Constitution Avenue and 10th Street N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20530

Dear Sir:

Recently, I requested the return of certain personal property from the local office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. This office informed me that this property had been turned over to the President's Commission On The Assassination, and that when the Commission terminated its work all the exhibits were deposited in the National Archives and that the Commission had requested an opinion from the Attorney General regarding the disposition of these exhibits. Also, it was suggested that I write to the Attorney General asking for the return of this property.

RECEIVED
FEB 2 1965
CRIMINAL DIVISION

The specific exhibits which I need now and the immediate return of which I now request are as follows:

Commission Exhibit Number	Description
2 B I, 129	Marina Oswald's birth certificate.
" 1111	Soviet marriage certificate of Marina and Lee Harvey Oswald.
" 1112	Soviet birth certificate of June Lee Oswald, born February 15, 1962.
1776	Immigration visa and alien registration issued on May 24, 1962 for Marina Oswald.
2656	Immigration visa and alien registration for Marina Oswald dated June 13, 1962.

ABR 2
Vol 3
P 11
Vol 26

Jim Muller

2nd line 6-13
date on 1

MSE don't
look at

Anna

Regarding all the personal property of mine and that of my late husband, Lee Harvey Oswald, a request for its return to me was made to the Commission on June 11, 1964 by William A. McKenzie, my attorney at that time. This request is quoted on page 419 of Volume V of The Hearings Before The President's Commission. I repeated this request in a letter to Mr. J. Lee Rankin, Chief Counsel for the Commission on September 20, 1964. As yet I have not received an answer to these requests.

-NR

Respectfully yours,

X Mrs. Marina Oswald

Mrs. Marina Oswald

CERTIFIED 048761

FEB 1 1965

REGISTERED

129-11

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE		RECORDS
40	FEB 1 1965	
RECORDS BRANCH		D
CRIMINAL-GEN. CRIME SEC.		

Mr. Williams

Form 100-213-617

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
ROUTING SLIP

TO	
NAME	BUILDING AND ROOM
<i>McClure</i>	

- SIGNATURE
- APPROVAL
- SEE ME
- RECOMMENDATION
- ANSWER OR ACKNOWLEDGE ON OR BEFORE
- PREPARE REPLY FOR THE SIGNATURE OF
- COMMENT
- NECESSARY ACTION
- NOTE AND RETURN
- CALL ME
- PER CONVERSATION
- AS REQUESTED
- NOTE AND FILE
- YOUR INFORMATION

REMARKS

*Drafted statute to be
gone to Mr. Wilkins -
let's pay little to
Oswald as soon as
possible*

Wes
WJ

FROM			
NAME	BUILDING	ROOM	DATE

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Bullock

TO : Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division

FROM : Commissioner
Immigration and Naturalization Service

SUBJECT: Warren Commission Reports and Working Papers

ATTENTION: Mr. Stuart Pollak

DATE: March 1, 1965

R.F.F.

In connection with the Oswald investigation three documents were removed from her official records of this Service pertaining to Marina Oswald and furnished to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. These documents were:

- Application for Immigrant Visa and Alien Registration
- Application for a new alien registration receipt card
- Fingerprint Chart

The Bureau was asked to return the documents to this Service for retention in Mrs. Oswald's file. I have been advised that the question of the disposition of these and other documents in the files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation Laboratory has been referred to your office.

It is recommended that these original documents be returned to this Service.

129-11	
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
22	APR 7 1965
RECORDS BRANCH	

*Rec'd
3-15-65
JK*

129-11

file JK



Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Memorandum

7-10-65

TO : Howard P. Willens, First Assistant
Criminal Division

DATE: February 25, 1965

FROM *JP*: Stuart R. Pollak
Staff Assistant

SRP:lrr

129-11 N.S.

SUBJECT:

I am returning the attached certified copies of the three Commission Exhibits (CE 129, CE 1111, CE 1112) which we requested from the F.B.I. to forward to Marina Oswald. These can be sent to her with the explanation that consideration is being given to the appropriate disposition of the originals of these three documents.

Before a letter to Marina can be prepared, however, it will be necessary to await a letter from the INS regarding the other document(s) (CE 1776, CE 2656) which she requested. It appears that both of these exhibits are in fact the same documents, given two exhibit numbers by the Commission. The document is a form which Marina gave INS officials when she entered the country at New York in 1962; the document belongs in the INS files and under normal circumstances would never be returned to Marina. I have been discussing this matter with a Mr. Wack of INS who has promised a letter setting forth this information. (Mr. Wack says that the original is in fact in the possession of the FBI and he would like the Department to approve the return of this document to the INS; however, the Bureau has previously advised that they do not have the original of this document.) Hence, after we receive the letter from INS we should inform Marina Oswald at the same time that we send her the above three certified copies, that she is not entitled to the return of the Immigration document which she seeks.

Attachments

(129-11)

*file
94*

<i>129-11</i>	
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
30	APR 8 1965
RECORDS BRANCH	

Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

February 11, 1965

Robert J. Miller, Esq., Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division

Washington, D.C.

RECORDED

Reference is made to the copies of three affidavits in support of the petition for habeas corpus of the respondent, Franklin D. Murphy.

It is understood that the F.B.I. presently has possession of the originals of the following three documents, copy copies, which were obtained from Marina Oswald in connection with the investigation into the assassination of President Kennedy:

- (1) Commission Exhibit 109, Marina Oswald's Birth Certificate.
- (2) Commission Exhibit 1111, Soviet Marriage Certificate of Lee Harvey Oswald and Marina Oswald (F.B.I. Exhibit 434).
- (3) Commission Exhibit 1112, Soviet Birth Certificate of John Lee Oswald (F.B.I. Exhibit 344).

As you know, consideration is now being given to the appropriate disposition of these documents. At this time however, would you please prepare certified copies of the above three documents and send them to me, so that they may be forwarded to Marina Oswald.

*165
Sent
2/11/65*

cc: Records
Chron
Mr. Pollak (2)
Mrs. Rosen (2)
Mr. Miller, Jr.

John Miller

SENT BY MESSENGER
COMMUNICATIONS SEC.
FEB 11 1965 *UM*



Handwritten notes and markings at the top of the page, including a large 'A' and some illegible scribbles.

Main body of the document containing several paragraphs of extremely faint and illegible text.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
FEB 10 1965

Faint text at the bottom of the page, possibly a stamp or footer.

Handwritten markings at the bottom of the page, including the numbers '10/10' and '1/1'.

Mr. John W. Douglas, Assistant Attorney
General, Civil Division

February 5, 1965

Herbert J. Miller, Jr., Assistant Attorney
General, Criminal Division

HUM-HPY-AL

Retention of Property acquired by the
President's Commission on the Assassination
of President Kennedy

129-1

Attached are several communications and memoranda
accumulated by this Division with regard to the disposition of
personal property transferred to the National Archives by the
President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy.

The letter of February 2, 1965, from Kilgore and
Kilgore of Dallas, Texas, makes demand for the surrender of
the possession of the assassination rifle and the revolver used
in the Tippit slaying to their client, a Mr. John J. King, who
has apparently purchased these weapons from Marina Oswald.
The National Archives intends to inform Kilgore and Kilgore
that the two weapons in question are in the possession of the
Federal Bureau of Investigation and that the matter is, therefore,
one for decision by the Department of Justice. The Department's
immediate problem, therefore, is to decide whether or not to
institute forfeiture proceedings or take other legal action to
protect the government's interest in the retention of these exhibits.
We have scheduled a meeting on this specific problem with Treasury
representatives in Mr. Willens' office (Room 2107) on Monday,
February 8 at 10:30 a. m.

INDEXED ON

Index Name

Evidence F.W.W.

Exhibits

Property - Personal

Marina Oswald

President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy

A second matter for prompt decision is presented by
a letter dated January 24, 1965 from Marina Oswald to the Acting
Attorney General. This letter requests the immediate return of
several specific exhibits turned over to the National Archives by
the President's Commission. In this letter Mrs. Oswald repeats
her general request for the return of all personal property
belonging to her and her late husband.

cc: Records
Chron
Mr. Willens
Mr. Miller

F.W.W. F.W.W.

129-11

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
72	FEB 10 1965
RECORDS DIV.	
CIVIL ADMINISTRATIVE	
CRIMINAL ADMINISTRATIVE	

ORIGINAL

The various memoranda and communications were prepared in order to formulate a general Department policy in response to the request made by the Communications & General Council. It is suggested by Mr. Jones in Acting Attorney General's memorandum dated 10/20/66, that the memoranda reflect a variety of considerations and views as to how to proceed. It would appear to be a rather novel legal question, and it would be desirable to have an official decision on this subject. It would be desirable to have an official decision on this subject.

It is noted that it is likely possible that one or another of the memoranda will eventually end up in the Federal Courts. The Department is responsible for your Division to assume responsibility for this subject. This Division is willing to help in any way possible.

Assistant Attorney General
Lands Division

T. March 9, 1965

March 15, 1965

Mr. J. H. Miller, Jr.,
Assistant Attorney General,
Lands Division

RECEIVED
MAR 11 1965

2-3-65

RE: Application for the Registration of Deed of Conveyance of
Property of the State of Texas

Reference is made to a deed filed for records for the purpose of conveying to the State of Texas property of the President of the United States, James Earl Ray, in a deed of conveyance which the Commission on the Status of the Property of the President of the United States has determined should be permanently retained in the custody of the Government.

However, consideration has been given to the nature of disposing of these exhibits and we have concluded that the public interest would best be served by seeking legislation. Mr. Ray's law furnished the names of the personal property he sold to that of Mr. John Johnson, Jim Harry Oswald. In making these demands, Mr. Oswald had expressed the wish that the FBI be to bill the President because the property of the Government. However, the Department recently received a communication, by reference from the Archivist, wherein it states that the State requests delivery of the FBI's and the revolver involved in the killing of Officer Flight to one John J. King, a gun collector, who is held to have purchased these weapons from Mr. Oswald.

It will appreciate receiving your comments respecting the suggested legislation.

Records
Checked
Mr. Cella
H. E. Miller, Jr.
Att. Office of Legal Counsel
John King name

DIRECT FROM MAIL ROOM
MAIL DIVISION
3-15-65
DATE

*W/S
3/11/65
3/11/65
3/11/65
3/11/65
3/11/65*

ALL ACTS

To provide for the preservation of exhibits to the
Final Report of the President's Commission on the Assassination
of President Kennedy.

and that it is in the national interest
to preserve permanently and the exhibits to the Final Report
submitted to the President by the President's Commission on
the Assassination of President Kennedy as subjects of national
significance for the benefit of the people of the United States.

1. The Attorney General, for the purpose of effectuating
the policy expressed in Section 1 of this Act, shall have the
following powers and perform the following duties and functions:

- (a) Acquire in the name of the United States by
gift, purchase, contribution, or otherwise, all or
any part of the documentary evidence or physical
objects of any interest therein, which constitute
the exhibits to the Final Report submitted to the

129-11-59

President by the President's Commission on the
Assassination of President Kennedy.

By the President's Commission on the
Assassination of President Kennedy, the
President's Commission on the Assassination of
President Kennedy, the President's Commission on
the Assassination of President Kennedy, the
President's Commission on the Assassination of
President Kennedy, the President's Commission on
the Assassination of President Kennedy.

The United States District Court for the District
of Columbia shall have jurisdiction over any proceeding for
the condemnation of any property authorized by this Act.

1. There is authorized to be appropriated for carrying
out the purpose of this Act such sums as the Congress may from
time to time determine.

Form No. DJ-96a
(Rev. 4-13-61)

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
ROUTING SLIP

TO	
NAME	BUILDING AND ROOM
<i>Mr. Tolson</i>	

<input type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PER CONVERSATION
<input type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL	<input type="checkbox"/> NECESSARY ACTION	<input type="checkbox"/> AS REQUESTED
<input type="checkbox"/> SEE ME	<input type="checkbox"/> NOTE AND RETURN	<input type="checkbox"/> NOTE AND FILE
<input type="checkbox"/> RECOMMENDATION	<input type="checkbox"/> CALL ME	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATION
<input type="checkbox"/> ANSWER OR ACKNOWLEDGE ON OR BEFORE		
<input type="checkbox"/> PREPARE REPLY FOR THE SIGNATURE OF		

REMARKS

*These were going
Ordination route by leg.
Seemed well to get views
of lands — and perhaps
etc —*

*Ans. to Atty is attached
Ans. to Mrs Oswald is
awaiting Ans of IN's which boy
left them but not arrived here*

FROM		DATE
NAME	BUILDING, ROOM, EXT.	<i>Walt 7/4</i>

Re T/ March 12, 1965

HJH:JJC:mtg
129-11
C. C.

MARCH 15, 1965

Mr. William C. Barrett
Kilgore and Kilgore
21th Floor Adams Tower
Dallas, Texas

Dear Mr. Barrett:

The Archivist has forwarded to this Department a copy of your letter of February 2, 1965 requesting delivery of the rifle used in the slaying of President Kennedy and the revolver involved in the fatal shooting of Officer Tippit to your client, Mr. John F. King.

Matters pertaining to the disposition of the exhibits to the Final Report of the President's Commission are receiving consideration in the Department and I am not in a position to furnish you further information at this time.

Sincerely,

HERBERT J. MILLER, Jr.
Assistant Attorney General

Records
Chrono
Mr. Callahan

REPTD AND MAILED
COMMUNICATIONS SEC.
MAR 15 1965

Handwritten notes:
JFK
3-11
UH
2/12
Mr. Callahan

Memorandum

TO : Carl W. Belcher, Chief
General Crimes Section
Criminal Division

DATE: March 8, 1965

JJC:bf

Handwritten initials and date:
JJC
3-8-65

FROM : Joseph J. Cella

SUBJECT: President's Commission on the
Assassination of President Kennedy;
disposition of exhibits.

Following is a draft bill with only slight changes suggested from "Alternative 1" by Mr. Pollak under date of February 11, 1965.

An Act

To provide for the preservation of exhibits to the Final Report by the President's Commission on the assassination of President Kennedy.

1. It is declared that it is in the national interest to preserve for public use the exhibits to the Final Report submitted to the President by the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy as objects of national significance for the benefit of the people of the United States.

policy

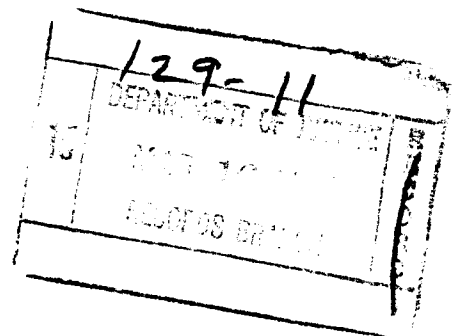
2. The Attorney General, for the purpose of effectuating the ~~policy~~ expressed in Section 1 of this Act, shall have the following powers and perform the following duties and functions:

or any part of the

(a) Acquire in the name of the United States by gift, purchase, condemnation, or otherwise, all documentary evidence or physical objects, or any interest therein, which constitute the exhibits to the Final Report submitted to the President by the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy.

(b) Transfer custody of all property, so required, to the Administrator of the General Services Administration for deposit with the National Archives of the United States for continued preservation by the United States.

Handwritten notes:
1/10
2/15/65



3. The United States District Court for the District of Columbia shall have jurisdiction over any proceedings for the condemnation of any property authorized by this Act.

4. There is authorized to be appropriated for carrying out the purpose of this Act such sums as the Congress may from time to time determine.

Comments

Mr. Pollak's Section 1 and Section 2(a) describes the objects as "documents and physical objects that were considered as exhibits to the Report," etc. I am not certain what this means. Either these documents and physical objects are exhibits or they aren't. It would seem to make no difference whether they were "considered" as exhibits or not.

Section 2(b) of Mr. Pollak's draft would transfer the property to the Archivist of the United States. It would probably be more accurate to transfer the property to the Administrator of General Services. Cf. sections 391 and 397, Title 44, U.S.C.

Section 3 of Mr. Pollak's draft directs that condemnation proceedings, instituted by the Attorney General, shall be conducted in the District Court for the District of Columbia. Wouldn't it be more appropriate to confer jurisdiction on that Court?

Section 3 of Mr. Pollak's draft also would make applicable Rule 71A of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure. That Rule would automatically apply. Perhaps it was included so as to permit the exception with reference to the commission of three persons, appointed by the President. With respect to the suggested finality of the Commission's decision on compensation, I think it is established beyond question that the amount of compensation in a condemnation proceeding is a judicial question. Further, I don't think this situation calls for any special reference to a Commission. If the Court should feel that one is necessary, Rule 71A itself makes provision for the same. Cf. United States v. Merz, 376 U.S. 192 (1964).

As I understand it, commissions are used only in large governmental projects so as to relieve the burden on the time of the Courts. Determination of the issues in any proceeding authorized by this Bill would be far from complex or time-consuming. In addition, we might desire to appeal, too.

Section 1 of Mr. Pollak's "alternative 2" goes into more detail concerning the public use. It seems to me that the phrase "the examination of which may be necessary adequately to appraise the conclusions", etc. ~~The statement~~ is a little less than positive and I doubt if it adds much to the Bill.

Section 2 of "alternative 2" would give the President's Commission power to determine which objects should be acquired. I assume we'd want to keep all exhibits. If not, we would have the power under "alternative 1" but wouldn't have to exercise it as regards every item. So, there may be some doubt whether Section 2 of "alternative 2" would serve any useful purpose. Further, publishing a list of the property in the Federal Register seems unnecessary. The Rules make provision for service by personal service or by publication.

Mr. Pollak raises some questions under "additional considerations." (p. 3)

1. I do not know whether there are materials other than exhibits which we wish to condemn. Mr. Rankin's letter would seem to indicate not.

2. I don't see the necessity for regulations regarding the manner of preserving the property. I have added, "for continued preservation by the United States." If they are turned over to the Administrator the normal procedures of the Archives would follow without more.

3. If a Commission provision ⁱas to be included I don't see what necessity there is for departing from the present procedure under Rule 71A(h) whereby the Court appoints the Commission.

Judicial review would follow whether or not we make provision for the same.

4. If the Commission proposal is used and the President appoints the Commission, I suppose some provision should be made for remuneration of the members.

5. It seems to me all that is necessary is to give Congress the authority to appropriate funds to pay for the items, if necessary. In that case, all this Department would have to do is include an item covering such expenditures in its request for appropriations.

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION



National Archives and Records Service
Washington 25, D.C.

February 4, 1965

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Mr. William G. Garrett
Attorney at Law
Kilgore and Kilgore
26th Floor Adolphus Tower
Dallas 2, Texas

RECEIVED
FEB 8 1965
CRIMINAL DIVISION

Dear Mr. Garrett:

This will acknowledge your letter of February 2, 1965.

As the items about which you write are in the possession of the Department of Justice, I have referred your letter to that agency for reply.

Sincerely yours,

Wayne C. Grover
Wayne C. Grover
Archivist of the United States

cc:
Honorable Nicholas de B. Katzenbach
Attorney General

129-11

48	DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	R
	FEB 8 1965	REC'D
	RECORDS BRANCH	CRIM. DIV.
CRIMINAL GEN. CRIME SEC.		

LAW OFFICES
KILGORE & KILGORE
24TH FLOOR ADOLPHUS TOWER
DALLAS 2, TEXAS

February 2, 1965

AREA CODE 214
RIVERSIDE 1-6784
CABLE ADDRESS: KILGORE

RECEIVED
ww
FEB - 3 1965

Mr. Wayne C. Grover
Archivist of the United States
National Archives and Records Service
8th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Re: Certain Weapons Included among
Warren Commission Exhibits

Dear Sir:

I am writing on behalf of our client Mr. John J. King. Mr. King is the present owner of the following two weapons and related equipment which were exhibits in the Warren Commission hearings:

RIFLE: Caliber 6.5 mm. Mannlicher-Carcano Italian military rifle, Model 91/38, serial number C2766, with attached 4-power telescopic sight stamped "Ordnance Optics Inc.," "Hollywood California," together with two-piece sling strap and cartridge clip marked "SMI" "952," as more fully described on pages 553 through 555 of Appendix X, Report of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy, and identified as Exhibit #139 of that Commission.

REVOLVER: Caliber .38 Special Smith & Wesson Victory Model revolver, serial number V510210, as more fully described on pages 558 and 559 of Appendix X, Report of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy, and identified as Exhibit #143 of that Commission, together with the holster for said revolver.

129-11
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
15 FEB 19 1965
RECORDS BRANCH

KILGORE & KILGORE

Mr. Wayne C. Grover
February 2, 1965
page 2

Mr. King desires to obtain delivery of his above-described property, and he has seen press reports indicating that your office has possession of such property. Mr. King acquired ownership by purchase from Mrs. Marina N. Oswald, community survivor of Lee Harvey Oswald. He is, of course, willing to furnish all necessary documentation of his ownership, including instructions from Mrs. Oswald.

In connection with his acquisition of this property, Mr. King agreed not to cause or permit public exhibition or display of the same during the lifetime of Marina N. Oswald, and he further agreed to use his best efforts to prevent such exhibition or display by others. Accordingly, he requests assurance from you that this property will not be publicly displayed pending delivery to him.

Mr. King is a gun collector and not in any way a public figure, and he would appreciate this matter being handled without publicity.

Would you kindly let us know when and where Mr. King may receive delivery of this property and inform us as to any requirements you may have with respect to his proof of ownership?

Very truly yours,



William C. Garrett

WCG/rm

cc: The Honorable Nicholas de B. Katzenbach
Attorney General of the United States
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Mr. John J. King
The Cortez Oil Company
1700 Broadway
Denver, Colorado

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Memorandum

TO : Carl W. Belcher

DATE:

JJC:pem
129-11

FROM : Joseph J. Cella

JJC

SUBJECT: Disposition of Weapons Included
Among Warren Commission Exhibits

Attached is the letter of February 2, 1965, from Kilgore & Kilgore of Dallas, Texas, to the Archivist of the United States in which this law firm makes demand for the surrender of the possession of the rifle and revolver to their client one Mr. John J. King, who apparently has acquired ownership of the weapons through purchase from Mrs. Oswald.

In the early stages of this matter I discussed disposition of these weapons with Mr. George Adams of Alcohol and Tobacco Tax particularly with reference to the proposition that they are forfeitable to the United States under the Federal Firearms Act, 15 U.S.C. 905(b). Mr. Adams at that time, I believe, had secured the approval of Mr. Ritter to proceed along these lines. The theory would be this; Section 905(b) provides that any firearm involved in any violation of the provisions of the Federal Firearm Act or any rules or regulations promulgated thereunder is subject to seizure and forfeiture.

Under 26 C.F.R. 117.51, each licensed dealer in firearms must maintain a complete and adequate account of his records reflecting the disposition of firearms disposed of in the course of his business. Entrées in such records must be made at the time of each transaction and these records must be retained on his premises for a period of not less than ten years. The records must include the disposition made of each firearm including the name and address of each person to whom sold and the date of disposition.

file
JJC

Since the pistol and rifle were purchased by Oswald in the assumed name of A. J. Hidell, Oswald caused the fictitious entries or entries to be made on the records of the dealer. Therefore, the pistol and rifle were involved in a violation of the regulations and are subject to seizure and forfeiture. The procedure would include the following:

(1) The Internal Revenue would have to take at least constructive possession of the weapons.

(2) The weapons must be returned to Dallas, the district in which they were seized (the Bureau could maintain actual physical possession at all times).

(3) The Internal Revenue would institute administrative forfeiture proceedings under the Federal Firearms Act giving notice by advertisement that such proceedings had commenced and any claimant could within 30 days file a claim.

(4) Any claimant could come in within 30 days and file a claim and cost bond whereupon the matter would go over to the United States District Court.

(5) If the matter is transferred to the United States District Court a liable would be filed by the United States Attorney.

(6) The only issue involved before the District Court would be that of forfeitability.

(7) The District Court would not have the power to remit the forfeiture. Only the Attorney General of the United States would be authorized to do so.

I discussed this matter with Mr. John McCarron of Alcohol and Tobacco Tax on this date (Mr. Adams has reassumed his prior duties) and Mr. McCarron advised me that he will take the matter up again with Mr. Ritter. They will wait to hear what our further wishes are. Mr. McCarron presumes that a conference will be necessary. He further stated that this would be a case of first impression but feels reasonably certain that we would prevail particularly if the matter is presented to Judge ~~HUGHES~~ ~~Hoyes~~ of the United States District Court in Dallas. Mr. McCarron also stressed the necessity for prompt action.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Memorandum

TO : Carl W. Belcher

DATE: January 21, 1965

129-11

FROM : Joseph J. Cella

SUBJECT: Disposition of Personal Property
now held by President's Commission

file
JJC

I have read Mr. Weinreb's memorandum of December 11, 1964 and must confess that into my life more than a little rain has fallen.

What the memorandum says on the first two pages can be accepted as gospel truth. The principles there expounded have been recognized since earliest times. See, e.g. Lewis, Law of Eminent Domain, 2nd ed., Vol. I (1909); Mills, Eminent Domain, 2nd ed., 1888. And, of course, real estate is not the only property subject to condemnation under the power of eminent domain. 1/ But I can find no instance where items of personal property, unconnected with land condemnation or having to do 2/ with the exercise of the war power, etc. have been condemned. I suppose, and there is broad language in the decisions to that effect, that the sovereign has a right to take anything provided just compensation is paid and provided the taking is for a public use. And I suppose further that if the Government can condemn land for historic-site purposes it does not make too much sense to say it cannot do the same with respect to personal items of historic value.

If public use and purpose are one and the same thing, there should not be any problem about condemnation here. The public use would be to preserve these significant items of personal property so that the history of a dark day in the life of this country would be preserved.

1/ United States v. New River Collieries Co., 262 U.S. 341 (Navy requisitioned coal under a war time Act); United States v. Buffalo Pitts Co., 234 U.S. 228 (traction engine used on a reclamation project); West River Bridge Co. v. Dix, 47 U.S. 507 (bridges taken as part of a public road); Dillon v. United States, 230 F. Supp. 487 (lawyer's services); Smith, Inc. v. United States, 145 F. Supp. 216 (Ct. cl.) (trucks); Daily v. United States, 90 F. Supp. 659 (Ct. cl.) (Crops of squash on land in construction of air-port).

129-11
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
JAN 31 1965

On the other hand, no public use would be made of these articles in the sense that the term "use" is employed in all other instances. I imagine the articles would be placed in the Archives of the United States. If so kept, the public would hardly be entitled to the "use" of the same either by display or otherwise.

But what is most troublesome is whether it is worth it to ask Congress to enact a law in this respect. 3/ Congress may or may not pass such an Act. 4/ But the whole issue and every item of personality involved will be fully paraded before the public.

Mr. Weinreb states that he is not delighted with the idea of Tippit's button and Marino's bracelet finding a permanent place in the Statutes at Large as well as the Archives. Assuming Congress would authorize the condemnation of these articles without specifically naming them--and there wouldn't seem to be too much difficulty about that--the Government would still have to condemn the same with the result that the reported decisions would forever carry a case entitled, "United States v. One Button and One Bracelet, etc." with the full facts set out in the pleadings, at least.

2/ It was once thought the state had an original and absolute ownership of the whole property possessed by the individual members of it, antedating their possession of it, and that their possession and enjoyment being later derived from a grant by its sovereign, it is held subject to a tacit agreement that it may be resumed, and all individual rights to it extinguished by an exertion of the sovereign power. This thought, now discarded, would not apply at all to personal property which, in most cases, is entirely the creation of its individual owners.

3/ Under the Historic Sites Act (16 USC 461 et. seq.) the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to acquire by gift, purchase, "or otherwise" any property, personal or real, etc. This Act, of course, does not authorize condemnation of personal property although it has been held that the authority to acquire real estate conferred by the enactment of a statute after the Act of August 1, 1888 (40 USC 257), the general condemnation statute, carries with it power to condemn. Barnidge v. United States, 101 F.2d 295, 297 (C.A. 8, 1939).

What we are really concerned about are some nineteen (19) items listed at page 8 of Mr. Weinreb's memorandum. I still think the Commission, the Government and all concerned would be better advised to turn these items over to Archives for the purpose of preserving the same as a part of the investigative record which can be and, indeed has been, brought into question from various sources. It is not beyond the realm of possibility that after-discovered evidence might spell out a conspiracy which, of course, would not terminate so long as the conspirators are taking any action to conceal the conspiracy. Rules of evidence change as men change, procedures change and no one living today can say with any assurance that our whole system of criminal jurisprudence won't change.

I think, too, that we are better off following this procedure for the reason that should the owner of any item of the personal property involved desire to contest our action, the burden would be on him or her and the controversy would involve one or two items instead of numerous ones if we should condemn them. Frankly, I can't conceive that the Bank Depository, for example, would bring an action to recover these cardboard boxes and even if it did we are no worse off than before. We would have a valid defense, we could ask a court to impound the articles and, as a last resort, we could seek legislation.

With the guns administratively forfeited, as heretofore suggested, there isn't too much left for anyone to expend much effort on. 5/

In short, I believe it would be a waste of time and effort to have legislation enacted.

A suggested response to Mr. Rankin is attached.

4/ Most articles of this nature are acquired by the Government through gifts, bequests, etc. The Government lost a quiet little suit to a portion of the Lewis and Clark papers. First Trust Co. v. Minnesota Historical Society, 146 F. Supp. 652 (D. Minn., 1956), aff'd 251 F.2d 686 (C.A. 8, 1959). The Government there claimed ownership of the papers, however.

5/ Mr. Weinreb suggests the Internal Revenue be contacted regarding the forfeiture of the guns. This was done on many occasions. In fact, the suggested procedure originated with A & TT.

Attachment

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 19, 1965

Howard Willens:

As per our conversation,
attached is a copy of our
reply to Mayor Robert Johnson
of Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

GC
Gordon Chase

129-11

31	DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	R E C D
	JUN 21 1965	<i>[Signature]</i>
	R.A.O.	D

125

File
HPW

June 19, 1965

Dear Mr. Mayor:

The President has asked me to thank you for your
letter of January 6, regarding the availability of the
FBI files on the Warren Commission. The Government is now
in the process of taking a hard look at it.
Very truly yours,

Sincerely,

Richard Nixon
President of the United States

31 DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
JUN 21 1965
CRIMINAL-GEN. CRIME SECT.
RECORDS

File
HPW

NOT SENT

Honorable Robert M. L. Johnson
Mayor of Cedar Rapids
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Dear Mayor Johnson:

Thank you for writing me concerning the records of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy which have now been deposited with the National Archives of the United States.

The Commission's Report of its findings and conclusions and the 26 additional volumes containing the testimony, depositions, affidavits, copies of investigative reports and of the documentary and photographic exhibits on which the findings were based, contain the relevant facts concerning the assassination of President Kennedy. No pertinent facts have been withheld and none are now cloaked with secrecy. Since no transcript was made of "off the record" testimony, publication of this evidence is, of course, impossible.

The Commission records in the National Archives will be administered under the same laws, executive orders and regulations that apply to other Government archives. Restrictions on use of any unpublished records of the Commission are not necessarily imposed because of considerations of national security. As in the case of all such investigations, numerous innocent persons having no connection with the subject of the investigation are involved in the reports. It would be quite improper to release information of this nature that would needlessly embarrass or damage innocent third parties. For this reason, as well as the fact that the

129-11
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
31 JUN 21 1955

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HPW

techniques and sources of investigatory agencies must be protected, reports of investigation and similar materials are withheld from use, except with the permission of the originating agency, for a period of 75 years.

The application of this policy to the records of the Commission appears to me to be required by the public interest.

File
HPW

ACTION

USIA*8

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

Pol 6 US

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AF	REP	AF
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A-406

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HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : DEPARTMENT OF STATE

555 JAN 12 AM 11 43

INFO: Amembassy/USIS LONDON
Amembassy/USIS PARIS

ANALYSIS & DISTRIBUTION BRANCH

FROM : AMEMBASSY, COPENHAGEN

DATE: January 10, 1965

SUBJECT: Mark Lane in Denmark.

REF : USIA CA-1817, December 31, 1964; ~~10~~
USIS Copenhagen Field Message 23, April 14, 1964.

JOINT STATE-USIA MESSAGE

Mark Lane, former counsel for Mrs. Marguerite Oswald, has married a Danish girl named Annelise Dabelsteen, whom he met on the occasion of his first appearance in Copenhagen in April, 1964, when he lectured before the Students Association (Studentforeningen). (Miss Dabelsteen is the bearer of a valid U.S. non-immigrant visa issued on July 23, 1964. She is required to apply for an immigrant visa should she return to the United States to take up residence.)

The Danish newspapers Politiken (Radical Liberal) and Aktuelt (Social-Democratic) both reported Mark Lane's marriage on December 30 to Miss Dabelsteen in her hometown at Nykøbing, Falster. Among the wedding guests was Bertrand Russell's secretary, Ralph Schiömann. Aktuelt states that the bridal pair in the beginning of the new year will visit a number of countries in which Mark Lane's new book, "Rush to Judgment", will appear, and that later the couple intends to settle in Paris. Politiken states that they are still trying to decide whether they should settle in Paris or in Denmark. Politiken adds that Lane likes life here in Denmark, where he met his wife as a "lady escort" (selskabsdame) along with some other young Danish girls with whom Mark Lane and a number of his friends were shown around in Denmark during his first visit to this country. According to Politiken, after Mark Lane had proposed to Annelise they

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By

W.J. Kramer, Public Affairs Officer

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FORM 4-62 DS-323

Drawn by W.J. Kramer:ahm

Contents and Classification Approved by: SSCarpenter

Clearances: POL: - ER Cook
CONS: - E. Inaah

JAN 15 1965

2 CRIMINAL-GEN. CRIME SEC.

REGISTERED

83741

Mr. Williams

HPW

traveled in the United States together while he was on a lecture tour.

Ekstrabladet, the sensational tabloid which originally sponsored Lane in Denmark, gave even heavier coverage to the wedding and dramatized the fact that the bridegroom's automobile slid into a ditch during a snowstorm and that the first passing motorist jumped out with a shovel to help. "This would never happen in the United States," said Mark Lane during his speech at the wedding banquet. Ekstrabladet further indicates that the Lanes will depart on a honeymoon tour to Africa, where the lawyer will talk about the Kennedy assassination at various universities. First, however, according to Ekstrabladet, he is completing his book which will be printed in the United States, England, Germany and, reportedly, also in France, Italy and Denmark.

Lane lectured at a Copenhagen restaurant on the evening of January 6 and received a double-page spread in Ekstrabladet. (This paper also recently carried three full-page articles in Danish translation by Hugh Trevor-Roper.) The Ekstrabladet report on Lane's January 6th lecture is headlined: "Warren Report stands on Feet of Clay - Photographs of President Kennedy's Wounds hidden by FBI--even from the Warren Commission." The article further states that Jørgen Jacobsen, a lawyer and chairman of the Danish Mark Lane Committee, will bring a rifle similar to the assassination weapon to Denmark and will construct a tower and shooting range for a reconstruction of the President's murder. Mark Lane, during his talk, reiterated his familiar accusations about the Warren Report, the Dallas police, and American news media. He accused the latter of maintaining total silence about the Warren Report. He said that he had discussed the assassination before 4000 people in New York without receiving a line in any newspaper. According to Ekstrabladet of Thursday, January 7, Mark Lane said that in New York's airport, when he last arrived from Europe, it was made clear that his name had been put into the black book of the passport controllers under the provisions of Directive G 5, which requires the passport control to instantly inform the FBI whenever Mark Lane enters or leaves the USA. "The novel of the future in '1984' seems already to have become a reality in USA," the article concluded.

Comments and Conclusions:

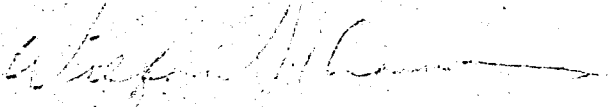
Ekstrabladet has a circulation of about 80,000 daily and is well-known for its "yellow journalism". The independent

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Information, which carried the Buchanan report and coverage on Mark Lane's initial appearance here, also printed on January 7 a relatively restrained news report on his appearance on January 6. Information notes that he spoke for four hours. Information and other Danish papers have carried very little in recent weeks about the assassination, and USIS distribution of the Warren Report may have contributed to this. The only coverage of the Trevor-Roper articles to appear in Denmark outside Ekstrabladet was a straight, factual news summary of the articles picked up by Conservative Jyllands-Posten's London correspondent and given straight newsplay on an inside page.

Although past experience with Ekstrabladet suggests that no direct rebuttal or protest would be productive, Embassy-USIS is grateful for the information contained in the referenced USIA circular airgram and for the materials supplied by USIS London. Every effort will be made to discreetly employ these materials in countering and preventing any significant resurgence of credibility in the theories and speculations put forth by Mark Lane and his small band of adherents.

For the Ambassador:


Wilford J. Kramer
Public Affairs Officer

Enclosures: 

Tearsheets and clippings from Danish press regarding Mark Lane's activities (in duplicate). Also tearsheets on Hugh Trevor-Roper articles in Ekstrabladet.

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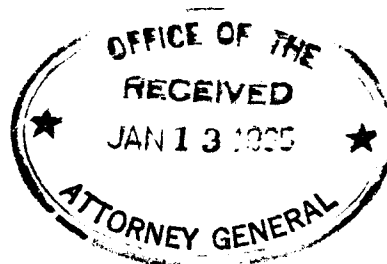
THE
EPW



Address Reply to the
Division Indicated
and Refer to Initials and Number

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20530
12 January 1965



The Honorable Nicholas deB. Katzenbach
Office of the Attorney General
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Acting Attorney General:

Thank you for your letter referring to my work on the staff of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy. I am sure you appreciate how much such a letter adds to my satisfaction with the work that I did for the Commission.

Sincerely,

Lloyd L. Weinreb
Lloyd L. Weinreb

*File
WLB*

Lloyd L. Weinreb
Room 2257
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20530

129-11	
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
22	MAR 3 1965
RECORDS BRANCH	

ASSASSINATION

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION



National Archives and Records Service

Washington, D.C. 20408

January 4, 1965

IN REPLY REFER TO:
HJM:CWB:kg

Mr. Herbert J. Miller, Jr.
Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20530

Attention: Mr. Carl W. Belcher
Chief, General Crimes Section

Dear Mr. Miller:

This is in reply to your letter of December 28, 1964.

It is my understanding that Mr. Herman Kahn of this agency has discussed with Mr. Carl Belcher the questions raised in your letter. There are enclosed electrostatic copies of the documents from our files that Mr. Belcher has requested.

The list entitled, "Items of Evidence, etc." was prepared by Dr. Alfred Goldberg, formerly of the staff of the Warren Commission.

Sincerely yours,

Wayne C. Grover
Wayne C. Grover
Archivist of the United States

Enclosures *X*

RECEIVED
JAN 7 1965
CRIMINAL DIVISION

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129-11	
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
22	JAN 6 1965
RECORDS BRANCH	
CRIMINAL-GEN. CRIME SEC.	

NOV 12 1964

Honorable J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel
President's Commission on the
Assassination of President Kennedy
200 Maryland Avenue, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

Dear Mr. Rankin:

This will acknowledge your letter of October 30, 1964, concerning the pending transfer to the National Archives of the records of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy.

I have been informed that in accordance with the suggestion contained in your letter you have already been visited by Mr. Herman Kahn of this agency, who will cooperate with you in the transfer of the Commission's records to the National Archives and in the performance by the National Archives of the duties that will arise as the result of this transfer.

I am sure you know that we are anxious to help the Commission in any way that we can in the liquidation of its work.

Sincerely yours,
BERNARD L. BOUTIN
Administrator

cc:
Official file - NL ✓
A
B
Day file - N
Reading file - NL

Frank
Herman Kahn
N W.C. Grover

PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION
ON THE
ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

200 Maryland Ave. N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002
Telephone 543-1400

EARL WARREN,
Chairman
RICHARD B. RUSSELL
JOHN SHERMAN COOPER
HALE BOGGS
GERALD R. FORD
JOHN J. McCLOY
ALLEN W. DULLES

J. LEE RANKIN,
General Counsel

OCT 30 1964

To:	✓	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For Action	<input type="checkbox"/> For Info.	
Prepare Reply for signature of		A
Furnish Copy of Reply to		
Copy also sent to		
✓ A	B	

Honorable Bernard L. Boutin
Administrator, General Services
Administration
Washington, D. C. 20405

Dear Mr. Boutin:

Acknowledge within 48 hours
or Reply By 11-10-64

As you know, the Commission to report upon the assassination of President John F. Kennedy has reported its findings and conclusions to President Johnson. The Commission's report was released to the public on September 27, 1964; release of the twenty-six volumes of hearings in November is now planned. I intend to close the Commission's Washington offices about November 15.

I am concerned about the manner of handling inquiries from the Congress, the press, and the public regarding the report and hearings after the Commission's offices are closed. I will of course be available on the telephone to answer questions after my return to New York. However, it would seem very desirable to designate an informed person here in Washington to handle the inquiries and coordinate responses thereto.

Since I understand that the Commission's records will be transferred to the National Archives, it occurred to me that an Archives staff member might serve as the focal point for handling such inquiries. If you agree, it would be desirable to have this individual spend some time with me and Commission staff during the next few weeks so that he might obtain necessary background information on the report and hearings. I would be glad to discuss this matter further with you or the members of your staff.

Sincerely,

J. Lee Rankin
J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION



The Warren Commission
Veterans of Foreign Wars Building
200 Maryland Avenue, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

Attention: J. Lee Rankin, Esq.

Dear Mr. Rankin:

Pursuant to our discussions on Wednesday
telephone conversation on October 1, 1964,
posture that GSA will take with regard
ing access to the Commission's files.

Enclosure

Response to Press Inquiry re
Warren Commission Files

The working papers and files of the Warren Commission comprise two principal categories: (1) reports submitted by various agencies of the Government, including the U. S. Secret Service and the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and (2) transcripts of testimony taken by the Commission.

The Commission staff is now completing the work of preparing the testimony for publication. All testimony taken by the Commission is to be published.

Since the reports submitted by various agencies of the Government may disclose investigative and intelligence sources, techniques and procedures to the detriment of the best interest of the United States and the national security, no final decision will be made as to their availability to the public until the various contributing Government agencies have had an opportunity to review and appraise the effect of disclosure on Presidential and national security. It should also be pointed out that investigative reports which often contain "raw data" have been generally restricted to use within Government.

All materials ultimately transferred to the National Archives by the Commission will be kept intact exactly as received from the Commission and subject to such restrictions as to use and availability as are imposed by Federal Law, Executive Orders, and Regulations. Since considerable time will be required by the Commission Staff to wind up its work and properly organize the files, transfer of the records to the National Archives is not expected for several weeks.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 24, 1964

Dear Mr. Rankin:

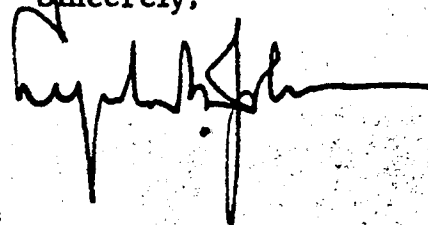
I have today received the report of the Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy, thus bringing to completion the careful study which was initiated on November 29, 1963.

While the work of the Commission has now been completed, there remains the task of winding up its affairs, preserving essential records, and bringing administrative matters to an orderly conclusion.

I appreciate very much your willingness to continue for a short period to work with the Administrator of General Services to accomplish this task, and by this letter I authorize whatever help and support may be necessary for this purpose.

In my letter to Chief Justice Warren I have tried to express something of the debt which I think all Americans have to the Commission, and to all those who assisted in its work. Let me now send a word of personal thanks to you for your own great contribution to the successful completion of this heavy task.

Sincerely,



The Honorable J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel
President's Commission on the
Assassination of President Kennedy
200 Maryland Avenue, N. E.
Washington, D. C.

NN 3

**PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION
ON THE
ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY**

20 Maryland Ave. N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002
Telephone: ME-1400

EARL WARREN,
Chairman
RICHARD S. RUSSELL
JOHN SHERMAN COOPER
HALE BOGGS
GERALD R. FORD
ALLEN W. DULLES
JOHN J. MCCLOY

September 24, 1964

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

Your Commission to investigate the assassination of President Kennedy on November 22, 1963, having completed its assignment in accordance with Executive Order No. 11130 of November 29, 1963, herewith submits its final report.

Respectfully,

Earl Warren

Richard S. Russell

John Sherman Cooper

Hale Boggs

Gerald R. Ford

Allen W. Dulles

John J. McCloy

John Sherman Cooper

Gerald R. Ford

Allen W. Dulles

John J. McCloy

REPORT OF

THE PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION ON THE
ASSASSINATION OF

President John F. Kennedy



UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.