

Memo W. A. Branigan to W. C. Sullivan
re: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
INTERNAL SECURITY-RUSSIA-CUBA
105-82555

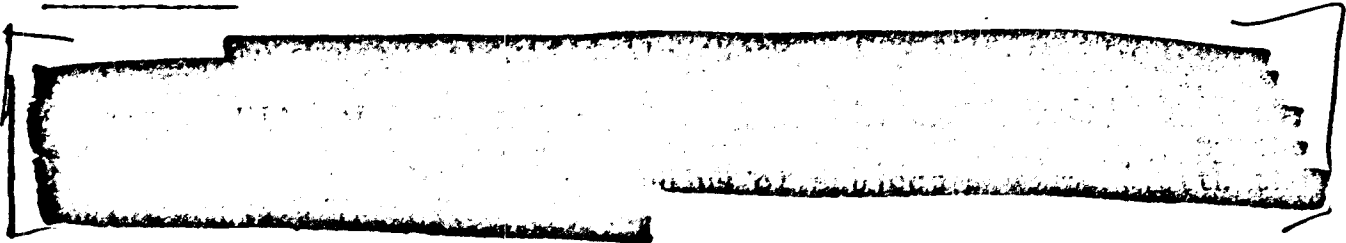
CONFIDENTIAL

At that time we obtained a summary of his Marine file and later, on 11-15-60, ONI informed us that subject had been given an undesirable discharge. U

Immediately following the assassination we again checked with ONI concerning Oswald and were furnished a copy of the Marine Corps file concerning Oswald. The only items of significance in the Marine Corps file that had not previously been obtained from Marine records concerning Oswald was information that Oswald was convicted by two Summary courts-martial hearings in 1958. The first was based on a charge that he possessed a privately-owned weapon, a .22 caliber derringer, that was not registered. The second was based on the charge that Oswald had wrongfully used provoking words to a staff non-commissioned officer. U

Subsequent to the assassination of President Kennedy we also determined that Departments of the Army and the Air Force had no information of significance on Oswald in their files prior to the assassination of President Kennedy. U

CIA Checks:



Immediately following the assassination of President Kennedy we again checked with CIA to see if they had any data in their possession not previously furnished us. CIA indicated it had no data in its possession that had not already been made available to Bureau prior to the assassination. U

INS Checks:

Prior to the assassination of the President we checked records of INS on 6-22-62. On 7-12-62 we checked INS files concerning subject's wife. No information was obtained from INS concerning subject or his wife of pertinence subsequent to the assassination of President Kennedy. U

ACTION: None. This is for information. U

Rel *Wes* *TD*
W. A. Branigan - 2 - *Wes* *TD*

CONFIDENTIAL

Date 2/7/64

Check, when submitting semiannual inventory, if no previous correspondence with Bureau.

Bufile 105-82555	Status of Case P	Submitting Office Dallas	File # 100-10401 (1215)
		Office of Origin Dallas	File #

Title and Character of Case

LEE HARVLY CSWALD aka
 IS - R - CUBA

Date Property Acquired 2/4/64	Source From Which Property Acquired, Bureau
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Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit Bulky Exhibit Files	Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same For reference use and to identify the evidence in this case, all of which is retained at the Bureau.
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Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same

One box of 8 x 10 glossy photos of evidence with inventory list numbered Item 1 through 455; A1 through A25; B1 through B23; C 1 through C220; D1 through D72; J1 through J10.

This list is dated 2/1/64, and supersedes all previous lists, and the photos supersede all previous photos.

SA WALLACE R. HEITMAN

NOT RECORDED
 3 AUG 4 1965

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and date)

FEB 1 1965 *WH*

AUG 1 1965 *WH*

[Signature]
 SOVIET SECTION

Date 2/21/64

Check, when submitting semiannual inventory, if no previous correspondence with Bureau.

Bufile 105-82555	Status of Case P	Submitting Office Dallas	File # 100-10461 (1924)
		Office of Origin Dallas	File #

Title and Character of Case

LEE HARVEY OSWALD aka
 IS - R - CURA

Date Property Acquired 2/21/64	Source From Which Property Acquired, Bureau - (Returned from Bureau by routing slip stating there is no foreseeable need for same at Bureau)
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Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit Bulky Exhibit File	Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same Being retained for future investigative assistance.
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Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same

8" x 10" photographs of the following:

- Schematic drawing of shooting scene;
- More detailed layout of shooting area;
- Panorama from sixth floor of TEBD Building;
- Picture taken seconds after shooting, showing 5th and 6th floors; with two Negroes in fifth floor window;
- Close-up photos of 6th floor window, TEBD building;
- Photographs of TEBD building showing 3rd to 7th floors;
- Photographs of rifle.

Handwritten signature/initials

Numerous miscellaneous photographs, size 4" x 5"

(The above described photographs should be maintained as long as this investigation is active.)

NOT RECORDED

3 AUG 4 1965

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and date)

FEB 1 1965

AUG 1 1965

Handwritten initials

SOVIET SECTION

5 AUG 10 1965

Date 2/25/64

Check, when submitting semiannual inventory, if no previous correspondence with Bureau.

Bufile 105-22555	Status of Case P	Submitting Office Dallas	File # 100-10461 (1D1G)
		Office of Origin Dallas	File #

Title and Character of Case

LEE HARVEY OSWALD aka
 IS - R - CUBA

Date Property Acquired 2/24/64	Source From Which Property Acquired, ROBERT L. OSWALD, 1000 Sierra, Denton, Texas
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Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit FBI Laboratory	Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same Evidence
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Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same

- 1 Duo-Lens C20 Imperial Reflex camera (DL-37)
- 1 broken black Eastman Baby Brownie box camera, size 127 (DL-33)

SA EARLEWELL D. OSUM

(To FBI Laboratory, 2/26/64)

Printed

NOT RECORDED
 3 AUG 4 1965

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and date)

FEB 1 1965 _____
 AUG 1 1965 _____

[Signature]
 SOVIET SECTION

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. W. C. Sullivan

DATE: February 3, 1964

FROM : Mr. W. A. Branigan

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. JP Mohr
- 1 - Mr. NP Callahan
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. Lenihan
- 1 - Mr. Branigan
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Bishop	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
INTERNAL SECURITY - RUSSIA - CUBA

The Director made inquiry for the facts concerning certain of the negotiations by Lee Harvey Oswald with the American Embassy in Moscow when he was seeking to return to the U. S. The following is set forth:

On 7/8/61 Oswald appeared at the American Embassy in Moscow on his own initiative. He executed under oath an application for the renewal of his U. S. passport and in connection with such application, he executed a questionnaire relating to possible expatriating acts. He claimed he never had applied for Soviet citizenship and that he took no oath to the Soviet Union and signed no papers for employment in Russia. He stated he had not joined any trade union organization; never had been called upon to make any radio, press or personal statements concerning his decision to live in Russia. He stated he had been interviewed briefly at the Metropole Hotel in Moscow on the third day after his arrival by Radio Moscow but only a few routine comments were made of no political significance.

Oswald also claimed he had never been subjected to questioning or briefing by Soviet authorities concerning his life before entering Russia and he had never provided such information to any Soviet organization. He further stated he doubted that he would have given any information acquired as a radar operator in the USMC to the Soviets despite statements made at the American Embassy 10/31/59 at which time he indicated he had offered to make the knowledge he had learned in the Marine Corps job available to Soviet officials when he became a Soviet citizen.

State Department records indicate Oswald exhibited some anxiety over possible imprisonment for his remaining in the Soviet Union and that Oswald was told informally by Embassy officials that they did not perceive on what grounds he might be prosecuted leading to lengthy imprisonment. State Department records also reveal, however, that Oswald was clearly informed Embassy officials could give him no assurances concerning prosecution and this was understood by Oswald.

During this appearance at the American Embassy 7/8/61, Oswald reported he was married 4/30/61 to Marina NIKOLAEVNA Pusakov, a dental

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WAB:ccm
(9)

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66 FEB 18 1964

Handwritten notes and signatures:
 Memo Branigan
 Sullivan
 2-10
 J.M. [unclear]
 [unclear]
 SCV [unclear]
 [unclear]

Memorandum to Mr. W. C. Sullivan
RE: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
105-82555

technician, and was arranging for his wife to join him in Moscow for the purpose of an interview concerning visa arrangements to come to the U. S. State Department records reveal Oswald's American passport was returned to him made valid only for return to the U. S. This action was for the purpose of Oswald making an application for a Soviet exist visa in Minsk.

State Department records reveal that in an Embassy communication wherein the U. S. Embassy in Moscow furnished the Department of State, Washington, D. C., details regarding Oswald's contact with the Embassy 7/8/61, the Embassy reported that 20 months of the realities of life in Russia had clearly had a maturing effect on Oswald. Further, that Oswald had stated frankly he had learned a hard lesson the hard way and that he had been completely relieved of his illusions about the Soviet Union. At the same time he acquired a new understanding and appreciation of the U. S. and the meaning of freedom. The Embassy further reported that much of the arrogance and bravado which characterized Oswald on his first visit to the Embassy 10/31/59 appeared to have left him.

*(see page 9 of
State Dept report)*

ACTION:

The above is submitted pursuant to the Director's request.

*see
105-82555-1519*

V. J. [unclear]

JS

WCS

[Signature]

*The salient material
should have been
included in the Brief
on Circumstances of
[unclear]*

[Signature]

1-Mr. Belmont - Encl.
1-Mr. Rosen - Encl.
1-Mr. Sullivan - Encl.
1-Mr. Malley - Encl.

105-32555

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REC-117

February 7, 1964

By Courier Service

Honorable J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel
The President's Commission
200 Maryland Avenue, Northeast
Washington, D. C. 20002

Stearman

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~~TEROR~~
FEB 14 1964

FEB 6 5 45 PM '64
REC'D-READING ROOM
FBI

Dear Mr. Rankin:

Reference is made to your letter of February 4, 1964, inquiring as to the basis for the conclusions with respect to the identification of the bullets and cartridge cases in this matter and concerning the metal fragments from the President's head.

Firearms identifications such as those made on the bullet and cartridge case evidence in the Oswald matter are based upon a microscopic study of the individual characteristic markings impressed in the surfaces of the bullets and cartridge cases by the mechanism of the weapon and upon a microscopic comparison of these markings with those produced on test specimens fired from the suspected weapon. Since the markings left by a weapon on a bullet or cartridge case are characteristic of that weapon, a suspected bullet or cartridge case bearing such markings, in general, can definitely be identified as having been fired from a particular weapon. These identifications are thus based on sound scientific principles which have been accepted in court for many years.

The metal fragments from the President's head are very small pieces of lead which bear no markings that could be used for identification purposes and, therefore, there is no basis on which they could definitely be associated with any weapon. It is noted in this regard that the rifle bullets involved in this matter consisted of a lead core surrounded by a copper alloy jacket; the identifying marks left by a gun barrel in such a situation appear only on the metal jacket and not on the lead core or fragments of the lead core.

- Tolson _____
- Belmont _____
- Mohr _____
- Casper _____
- Callahan _____
- Conrad _____
- DeLoach _____
- Evans _____
- Gale _____
- Rosen _____
- Sullivan _____
- Tavel _____
- Trotter _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holmes _____
- Gandy _____

BY COURIER SVC.
8 8 FEB 17 1964
COMM-FBI

[Handwritten signatures and initials]

(see note on page 3)

REC'D TELETYPE UNIT

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Honorable J. Lee Rankin

In the list of specimens on page one of your letter, it was noted that specimen Q8 was described as a cartridge case. Actually, this specimen was described in Special Agent Gemberling's report dated November 30, 1963, as a cartridge and is in fact an unfired cartridge.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

Honorable J. Lee Rankin

NOTE: The bullet found on the stretcher at the hospital, specimen Q1, and the large bullet fragments, Q2 and Q3, found in the President's automobile were identified in the Laboratory as having been fired from the Mannlicher-Carcano rifle submitted in this case and which was identified as belonging to Oswald. The three cartridge cases found in the Texas School Book Depository Building were definitely identified in the Laboratory as having been fired in the submitted rifle. Several cartridge cases recovered in connection with the shooting of Officer Tippett were identified as having been fired in the .38 Special Smith and Wesson revolver, SN V510210.

The tiny lead fragments removed from the President's head bore no markings suitable for identification purposes. To further our study in respect to these small fragments, a spectrographic examination was made of them and they were found to be composed of a bullet alloy comparable in composition to the core of the fragments from the President's automobile; however, this is not sufficient to definitely establish that they are from a bullet fired from Oswald's gun.

**PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION
ON THE
ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY**
200 Maryland Ave. NE.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20002

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Chairman
RICHARD B. RUSSELL
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ALLEN W. DULLES

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Bishop	_____
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Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
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Mr. Gale	_____
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Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

FEB 4 1964

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C. 20530

Dear Mr. Hoover:

With respect to ballistic identification of a bullet cartridge case fitting the rifle found on the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository Building on November 22, 1963, Special Agent Robert P. Gemberling's report dated November 30, 1963, at pages 162-164 sets forth in part the following information:

"Specimens:

- "Q1 Bullet from stretcher ...
- "Q2 Bullet fragment from front seat cushion
- "Q3 Bullet fragment from beside front seat ...
- "Q4 Metal fragment from the President's head
- "Q5 Metal fragment from the President's head
- "Q6 6.5 millimeter Mannlicher-Carcano cartridge case from building
- "Q7 6.5 millimeter Mannlicher-Carcano cartridge case from building
- "Q8 6.5 millimeter Mannlicher-Carcano cartridge case from rifle ...
- "K1 6.5 millimeter Mannlicher-Carcano rifle, with telescope sight No. C 2 766 ...

"Results of Examinations:

"The bullet, Q1, is a 6.5 millimeter Mannlicher-Carcano rifle bullet . . . It consists of a copper alloy jacket with a lead core.

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"Speciman Q2 is a portion of a core of a rifle bullet . . . Speciman Q3 is a portion of the base section of a copper alloy core bullet . . .

"The rifle K1 is a 6.5 millimeter Mannlicher-Carcano Italian military rifle model 91/38. Test bullets were fired from this rifle for comparison with Q1, Q2 and Q3. As a result, Q1, Q2 and Q3 were identified as having been fired from the submitted rifle.

"Specimen Q6 and Q7 are 6.5 millimeter Mannlicher-Carcano cartridge cases. . . .

"Test cartridge cases obtained from the submitted rifle were compared with specimen Q6 and Q7. As a result, specimen Q6 and Q7 were identified as having been fired in this rifle."

With respect to the same rifle the report of Special Agent Robert P. Gemberling dated December 10, 1963, at pages 333-334 in part states:

"Q48 6.5 millimeter Mannlicher-Carcano cartridge case from building.

"Results of Examination: . . .

"Q48 is a 6.5 millimeter Mannlicher-Carcano cartridge case . . . The cartridge case Q48 was compared with test cartridge cases fired in the K1 6.5 millimeter Mannlicher-Carcano rifle, serial No. C2 766. As a result Q48 was identified as having been fired in this rifle."

With respect to the revolver taken from Lee Harvey Oswald at the time of his arrest on November 22, 1963, Special Agent Robert P. Gemberling's report dated November 30, 1963, at page 162 states in part:

"K3 .38 Special Smith and Wesson revolver, serial # V510210, assembly # 65248."

In addition, Special Agent Robert P. Gemberling's report dated December 10, 1963, at page 351, in part, states:

"Specimens received:

"Q74 - Q77 four .38 special cartridge cases . . .

"Results of Examination:

"The four cartridge cases Q74 - Q77 were compared with test cartridge cases obtained from the previously submitted revolver K3. As a result, Q74 - Q77 were all identified as having been fired in K3."

It would be greatly appreciated if your laboratory would describe in some detail the evidentiary facts upon which the above-quoted ultimate conclusions are based with respect to the respective connection between the bullet, the cartridge and the cartridge cases and the corresponding weapon. I assume -- but would like to be advised if the contrary be the fact -- that no conclusion can be drawn relating Q4 and Q5, the metal fragments from the President's head, with either weapon.

I appreciate your continuing cooperation in the work of this Commission.

Sincerely,



J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel