

OSWALD

105. 82555

SECTION 135

COPY 8

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE NEW YORK	OFFICE OF ORIGIN DALLAS	DATE 4/9/64	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 2/25 - 3/24/64
TITLE OF CASE LEE HARVEY OSWALD		REPORT MADE BY JOHN JAMES O'FLAHERTY	TYPED BY es
		CHARACTER OF CASE IS - R - CUBA	

REFERENCES

Report of SA JOHN JAMES O'FLAHERTY, 2/18/64 at New York.

- P -

ADMINISTRATIVE

For the information of the Bureau and Dallas, the data herein reflected in instant report has previously been submitted to the Bureau and Dallas in letterhead memo form, with the exception of the following:

Interview of MARTIN ISAACS, Assistant Supervisor, New York City Department of Welfare on 3/4/64.

Interview of Mr. VUKADIN CAKICH, Serbian Literary Association, 448 North Barry, Chicago, Ill.

Interview of SLOBODAN DRASKOVICH on 4/1/64 at Traverse City, Mich.

APPROVED <i>[Signature]</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW				
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Dissemination Record of Attached Report					
Agency	Request Recd.	Date Fwd.	How Fwd.	By	COPIES DESTROYED
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51 MAY 20 1964

ADMINISTRATIVE

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Investigation conducted on 3/24/64 in connection with anonymous letter bearing I.Y.C. return address.

The information previously submitted in letterhead memorandum form is being restated herein in compliance with the reporting instructions pertaining to the assassination and related cases as set forth in Dallas airtel to Director on 3/17/64.

Information copies being furnished to the Chicago and Detroit Offices in view of their interest in results of investigation herein set forth.

FREDERICK TILNEY, referred to herein, is identical with New York file 62-11335 and Bufile 62-100656, captioned "GOVERNMENTAL STATISTICAL CORPORATION, 138 PEARL STREET, NEW YORK CITY, NY; MISCELLANEOUS, INFORMATION CONCERNING".

INFORMANTS

Confidential source referred to herein as furnishing information on 3/2/64 is [REDACTED] was interviewed by SAs WALTER A. WANGENHEIM and JAMES O. INGRAM.

The source referred to herein as being of unknown reliability is [REDACTED] who made the information available to SA MERLE E. NELSON of the Minneapolis Office on 2/27/64. [REDACTED] requested his identity be concealed.

LEAD

NEW YORK:

AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK: Will continue to conduct investigation regarding subject based on information received from Bureau, office of origin Dallas, and other offices.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of: JOHN JAMES O'FLAHERTY
Date: April 9, 1964

Office: NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Field Office File #: New York 105-38431

Bureau File #: 105-82555

Title: LEE HARVEY OSWALD

Character: INTERNAL SECURITY - R - CUBA

Synopsis:

MECISLOVAS RAZGAITIS, Brooklyn, N. Y., interviewed re his allegation subject in New York during summer of 1960 and same set forth. Former Vice-President RICHARD M. NIXON contacted on 2/28/64 and results set forth. Interview of FREDERICK TILNEY, JR. re MARINA OSWALD set out herein. Confidential source furnished information regarding nature of conversation between JOHN MARTINO, author of book, "I was Castro's Prisoner" and acquaintances, which conversation pertained to the subject. On 4/1/64, SLOBODAN M. DRASKOVICH, publisher of "Serbian Struggle" and member of John Birch Society, advised could not recall making statement "Oswald studied sharpshooting in Kiev". Investigation, conducted in effort to locate writer of anonymous letter bearing NYC return address, disclosed address to be non-existent. Information received from INS, NYC re ALBERT OSBORNE, also known as John Howard Bowen, and same set forth.

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DETAILS:

On February 25, 1964, MECISLOVAS RAZGAITIS, 1225 Bushwick Avenue, Brooklyn, New York, was contacted by SAs ROGER H. LEE and JAMES O. INGRAM. He explained that he came to the United States on May 18, 1949 and he became a U. S. citizen on March 8, 1955. He was born on March 7, 1918 in Lithuania.

Mr. RAZGAITIS made available a copy of a letter dated February 10, 1964, sent to the Honorable ROBERT KENNEDY, the Attorney General of the U. S., Washington, D. C. The letter is as follows:

"Mr. M. Razgaitis
1225 Bushwick Ave.
Brooklyn 21, N.Y.

"The Honorable Robert Kennedy
Attorney General
Washington D.C.

"February 10, 1964

"Dear Mr. Attorney General:

"During Soviet Union Exhibition in New York in summer 1960 I meet Lee Oswald before Coliseum in three consecutive days who fought the distributors of anti-communist literature. Therefore, I am asking you kindly if the presence of Lee Oswald in New York and his cooperation with Soviet Union Exhibition people is known to you. At that time he was strong fighter for Soviet Union anti communism.

"If it is necessary I can this testify.

"Very truly yours /s/ M Razgaitis"

He explained that during the summer of 1960, around June or July, he, RAZGAITIS, went to the New York Coliseum at Columbus Circle in New York City, where the Soviet Union had an exhibition. He explained he is against all forms of Communism and, therefore, he went

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to the Coliseum to pass out anti-Communist pamphlets entitled "Soviet Russia (The Twentieth Century Barbarians) No. 1 Enemy of the United States of America and the Free World." This pamphlet, according to RAZGAITIS, explains how Russia has enslaved the European people.

He went to the Coliseum for three consecutive days distributing anti-Communist literature. On the first day, he recalls handing a pamphlet to a young male described as 6' 1", skinny, with light complexion, who immediately ripped the pamphlet from RAZGAITIS' hand, and threw the pamphlet to the ground. This individual immediately called RAZGAITIS a "Nazi Fascist bastard" and he began speaking to RAZGAITIS in the Russian language. This individual then hurried into the Soviet Union Exhibition.

He explained that he saw this individual on the three consecutive days he was stationed at the Coliseum, and he believes this person was an American instead of a Russian working at the exhibition. He explained he has no basis or facts, but he believes this person was LEE HARVEY OSWALD. He indicated he is well aware that it has been widely published in the press that OSWALD was in the Soviet Union in 1960, but he wanted to make this information available in the event that OSWALD could have been a spy for Russia during 1960 and sent to the U. S.

He reiterated that he has no facts and it is only his opinion that this person could have been OSWALD, but in view of the fact he has a deep hatred for Russia and their form of government, he wanted to bring this to the attention of the United States Government.

On February 28, 1964, the Honorable RICHARD M. NIXON, former Vice-President of the U. S., was contacted by Assistant Director in Charge of the New York Office, JOHN F. MALONE, and furnished the following information:

Mr. NIXON advised that the only time he was in Dallas, Texas during 1963 was two days prior to the assassination of President JOHN F. KENNEDY. He vaguely thought there

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was some invitation extended during the early part of 1963, probably in April, for him to come to Dallas, but that it never materialized, nor did he give any consideration to going there. Mr. NIXON could not even recall the circumstances surrounding the invitation, but did observe that conceivably there could have been some publicity indicating that he had been invited to come to Dallas. Mr. NIXON said that if anything more concrete comes to his mind or after his secretary checks his records which would indicate the circumstances surrounding this, he would immediately notify the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). He did say positively that he had no intention of visiting Dallas during April, 1963.

On March 2, 1964, FREDERICK TILNEY, JR., Center Island, Oyster Bay, N. Y., was interviewed at his office, Room 4710, 70 Pine Street, New York, N. Y., by SAs DONALD E. HALTER and JAMES O. INGRAM. Mr. TILNEY is the President of the Governmental Statistical Corporation.

He advised that on Sunday, February 23, 1964, he and JOSEPH GWYER, who resides in Washington, D. C., were having a long-distance telephone conversation. He explained that GWYER is employed by the Library of Congress in Washington, D. C., and he believes he is in charge of research concerning the Soviet Union. He and GWYER, who have been friends for many years, began to discuss LEE HARVEY OSWALD and his wife, MARINA OSWALD. He said since GWYER is an expert in the field of research in the Russian field and he, TILNEY, deals in statistics, they began to discuss the age and background of MARINA OSWALD. GWYER brought up the subject and related that MARINA must be older than 22 years of age, which she claims, in view of her education and background. GWYER indicated MARINA has had several years of education and during this period was able to marry LEE HARVEY OSWALD and have two children. Her parents are deceased and, according to GWYER, very little is known about her background. He and GWYER both came to the conclusion that she looked much older than 22 years of age in view of the lines in her neck and face, which actually make her appear much older than she claims.

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He said there are many questions which have not been answered in the press and from what he has read concerning LEE HARVEY OSWALD, it seems unbelievable that he would not discuss some of his plans with his wife, MARINA. It is pure speculation on his part, but he feels she must know more than what has been disclosed to the public. He also said that surely MARINA OSWALD had some knowledge of OSWALD's intention to assassinate the President, but he has no facts for his statements.

TILNEY related that he was associated with G-2 as an intelligence officer during World War II and he has always been alert to certain things he reads in the press. According to his calculations, if MARINA had prior knowledge of her husband's plans to assassinate President KENNEDY, she is guilty and could be tried for murder. Again, he indicated he has no basis for these statements, but these are only his opinions.

On March 2, 1964, a confidential source was contacted by the FBI and furnished the following information:

Cuba
From December 30, 1963 through January 8, 1964, the source was a house guest in the home of NATHANIEL and SYLVIA WEYL at 4201 South Ocean Boulevard, Delray Beach, Florida. While there the source met JOHN MARTINO, the author of a book on Cuba entitled, "I was Castro's Prisoner". MARTINO was imprisoned by FIDEL CASTRO in Cuba for about three years and according to the source, the book is extremely interesting. MARTINO and NATHANIEL WEYL are co-authors of the book and the book was released in November, 1963.

The source stated that during MARTINO's visit they discussed many subjects and MARTINO appeared well informed on Cuba. During the evening MARTINO and the WEYLS discussed LEE HARVEY OSWALD and his wife, MARINA. NATHANIEL made the statement that he has no basis for his beliefs but thinks that MARGUERITE OSWALD, OSWALD's mother, is probably an old line Communist. He added he could not prove his belief.

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He stated MARINA is probably politically involved but he could not furnish facts to prove this belief. When questioned why and how MARINA was politically involved, WEYL indicated the Communist Party (CP) and other groups may attempt to use her statements to their advantage.

Concerning LEE HARVEY OSWALD, the source received a letter dated January 22, 1964, from NATHANIEL WEYL from his residence in Florida. The portion of the letter dealing with OSWALD is as follows:

"When you see Vic Lasky you can tell him the Cubans have been quite restrained about Oswald. They know the circumstances under which Oswald contacted the Cuban G-2 (military intelligence) by telephone from a private house in Miami, but they told the man who had the facts to give it to the FBI and then forget about it. It seems fairly definite that Ruby went to Havana to make some shady deal with a creature called Brasikin who works with the Communists and is also tied up with call girls. A friend of mine who ran for President of Cuba in 1958 will testify to this shortly for the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee --- though this item may be confidential, I know about it because J. Sauerwein of the Committee contacted me to get him."

From this letter and from discussions with WEYL and MARTINO, the source does not know the informant or source but no doubt it is MARTINO since he claims to be close to Cuban aliens in Miami. The source has no information concerning the circumstances under which OSWALD allegedly contacted the Cuban G-2. The name of the individual who ran for the President of Cuba in 1958 is unknown to the source.

On the occasion the source met MARTINO and the WEYLS in the WEYLS' home, MARTINO and NATHANIEL discussed the rumors that OSWALD had been refused a visa to the Soviet Union and he made a quick trip from Mississippi to Cuba.

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OSWALD returned from this trip with a sum of money, amount not mentioned, and purchased a car. The circumstances surrounding the purchase of the car were not disclosed. According to NATHANIEL, the information of OSWALD's trip to Cuba was reported by a girl in Miami whom OSWALD "shacked up with". This girl is reported to be from Mexico or Miami but any additional information in this matter would have to be obtained from NATHANIEL.

NATHANIEL also made a statement, according to the source, that he is convinced that JACK RUBY is a dope pusher and he will definitely be used by the Communists.

The source stated that the basis of the above information is definitely based upon conversations with the WEYLS and MARTINO and the source does not know if the statements are true or just gossip on the part of the above individuals.

It is to be noted that VICTOR LASKY is a reporter on the staff of the "New York Journal American".

In 1953, the FBI conducted an inquiry entitled "SYLVIA WEYL, nee Castleton, aka Mrs. Nathaniel Weyl, Sylvia Van Der Horst, Mrs. Adriaan Van Ier Horst, Mrs. Bernardo Antonio Bianchetti, Sylvia Bianchetti, Applicant, Pan American Union, Washington, I.C.; LOYALTY OF THE EMPLOYEES OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS - IR". In her application she indicated she had been a member of the CP of the U. S. from 1931 to 1937. She stated she became disillusioned because of the increasing awareness of Russian control and broke definitely with the Party in 1939.

FRANK MEYER, Woodstock, N. Y., a self-admitted former member of the CP, was interviewed as a reference in 1953, and stated that the WEYLS broke with the CP sometime between 1937-1939. He indicated the WEYLS have made public statements concerning their past activities and present feelings and he feels they are both strongly, clearly and deeply anti-Communist.

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On February 27, 1964, a source advised a Special Agent of the FBI that on February 13, 1964, while at the Winnipeg International Airport, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, he overheard a conversation between two unknown individuals, which conversation, according to the source, seemed to pertain to OSWALD. Source stated that during this conversation the two individuals referred to the name ISAACS several times and that source received the impression that the name ISAACS was connected in some way with the assassination of President JOHN F. KENNEDY.

Investigation previously conducted by the New York Office of the FBI indicated that one MARTIN ISAACS, Assistant Supervisor, New York City Department of Welfare, 42 Franklin Street, New York, while in his official capacity, had assisted subject and his family in 1962, upon their entry into the U. S.

In an effort to determine if the name ISAACS as overheard by source was identical with MARTIN ISAACS, the latter was recontacted by SAs DONALD E. HALTER and JAMES O. INGRAM on March 4, 1964, and furnished the following information:

He stated that he is 59 years of age; has resided in the New York City area for most of his life and has been employed by the New York City Department of Welfare for thirty years. Mr. ISAACS advised that he has never been in the State of Texas and added that on November 22, 1963, the date President KENNEDY was assassinated, he was working at the Department of Welfare.

He stated that he is not acquainted with any individuals named HOFFMAN or HAUCHTMAN (phonetic), which names source also overheard in the conversation, nor could he, based on descriptive data related by source, furnish any information regarding the identity of the two unknown individuals at the Winnipeg International Airport. He remarked that he has never been at this airport.

Mr. ISAACS was unable to furnish any information which would assist in resolving the situation concerning the identities and conversation as related by source.

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On March 10, 1964, Mr. WALLY DONNER, salesman, Brauser Motors, Central Islip, New York, advised SA DANIEL F. O'CONNOR that about two weeks ago a young man came into their showroom to take a chance on a prize offered by the Rambler Dealers. He stated that this individual left his wallet behind and has never returned to claim it. An examination of the wallet indicated it to be the property of ROBERT TURNER SOWERS, III, and a birth certificate contained therein and issued by the Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, reflected SOWERS' birth date as December 7, 1946 at Bryan, County of Brazos, Texas. SOWERS' parents were listed as ROBERT TURNER SOWERS, JR., born in Texas, and LORRAINE SHIRLEY ANTON, born in New York.

SOWERS' wallet also contained an identification and privilege card issued by P. J. KENNEDY, Ens MSC USN at USNH, St. Albans, New York, #N7,144,635, on February 4, 1963, to ROBERT SOWERS, and contains SOWERS' description as 6' 2 1/2", 240 pounds, brown hair, blue eyes. The grade and name of SOWERS' sponsor was reflected as MIC JAMES A. MILLIRON, USN/Ret., service number 2504603.

An examination of the wallet also disclosed a 3 x 5 card bearing printed notation, "Oswald studied sharpshooting in Kiev". There was also a small printed gummed label which read, "Communism killed Kennedy".

There was no residence address for SOWERS contained in the wallet; however, the Suffolk County, N. Y. telephone directory reflected a listing for ROBERT T. SOWERS, 91 Richard Avenue, Islip Terrace.

On March 10, 1964, a Mrs. JAMES MILLIRON at the above address, identified herself as the mother of ROBERT SOWERS and stated that he is a student at East Islip High School. She explained that Mr. MILLIRON is the stepfather of SOWERS and a Navy veteran. She remarked that the identification card found in the wallet is a courtesy card issued to SOWERS as the son of a retired veteran.

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On March 10, 1964, ROBERT SOWERS was interviewed by SA DANIEL F. O'CONNOR and advised that he is a member of the John Birch Society. He stated that during a meeting in a private home some time ago, one of the speakers, (FNU) DRASKOVICH, a resident of Chicago, and an officer of the John Birch Society, made the statement that OSWALD studied sharpshooting in Kiev (Russia). SOWERS commented that he had never read or heard of this before and made a note of it. He explained that the sticker "Communism killed Kennedy" was obtained from the John Birch Society.

On March 20, 1964, Mr. VUKADIN CAKICH of the Serbian Literary Association, 448 North Barry, Chicago, advised SA ROBERT E. WILLIAMS that DRASKOVICH is presently someplace in Michigan, exact address unknown and is not expected to return to Chicago for approximately two weeks.

4/2/64

Date

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Mr. SLOBODAN M. DRASKOVICH, 448 Barry Avenue, Chicago 14, Illinois, was contacted at Route #2, Traverse City, Michigan, and he advised SA THEODORE S. KRAMER of the following information:

He was born April 18, 1910, in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, and his present occupation is that of a lecturer and publisher of a weekly Serbian newspaper named "Serbian Struggle". He is also one of the 27 members of the Council of the John Birch Society.

In regard to the statement "Oswald studied sharpshooting in Kiev", DRASKOVICH said that he could not recall making such a statement in any of his talks, but if he did the information would have had to come from a public source such as a newspaper. He said the only information that he possessed concerning OSWALD came from reading newspapers, periodicals and magazines.

On 4/1/64 at Traverse City, Michigan File # Detroit 100-31965
 by SA THEODORE S. KRAMER/cc Date dictated 4/2/64

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

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The following individuals were interviewed concerning LEE HARVEY OSWALD, inasmuch as they departed from Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, on October 3, 1963, the same date as OSWALD:

On March 12, 1964, Mrs. EMMA GOERITY FRANK, 150 West 95th Street, New York City, advised that she re-entered the U. S. from Mexico via railroad on October 3, 1963; however, she was unable to furnish any information concerning subject.

On March 12, 1964, Mrs. R. M. RATZ, 211 Hollywood Avenue, Valley Stream, N. Y., advised that she is related to PATRICIA and VICTOR KIMM and added that VICTOR KIMM is employed as an engineer by the American International Development Corporation. She stated that they are both presently residing at 20 Noviembre #90, Morelia, Mich., Mexico.

On March 13, 1964, a review of the New York City telephone directories for all five boroughs failed to reflect any listing for a Mrs. RAY FOK or a Mrs. RAY FOX, which individual also reportedly departed from Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, on October 3, 1963.

On March 13, 1964, G. MICHAEL HANRAHAN, Attorney, 1 Wolf's Lane, Pelham, New York, advised a Special Agent of the FBI on March 13, 1964, that one of his clients, JAMES PORCELLY, JR., was a private investigator. PORCELLY, while working for a credit investigation firm in New York City, had been assigned by the firm to conduct checks on one BERNARD WEISSMAN.

He was told by PORCELLY that he, PORCELLY, had noticed a coincidence in the news reports that BERNARD WEISSMAN was mentioned in a Dallas, Texas, newspaper as having resided in East Dallas with a landlady named ROBERTS. He also noticed that in a recent article in "Life" Magazine that LEE HARVEY OSWALD had resided in East Dallas in the home of a landlady named ROBERTS.

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HANRAHAN said his client, Mr. PORCELLY, resides at 35 Fifth Street, Pelham, N. Y., and PORCELLY has no pertinent information concerning WEISSMAN or LEE HARVEY OSWALD.

HANRAHAN mentioned that WEISSMAN was reportedly one of the signers of the anti-President advertisement which appeared in a Dallas, Texas newspaper early in 1963.

JAMES PORCELLY, JR., 35 Fifth Street, Pelham, N. Y., advised a Special Agent of the FBI on March 13, 1964, he had previously been employed by Retail Credit Investigations as an investigator, but he terminated his employment on March 13, 1964, to accept a position with the General Foods Company.

During his employment with Retail Credit Investigations, he was assigned to conduct some checks on one BERNARD WEISSMAN. He said WEISSMAN was employed by a company on Long Island which had heard of his activities and had requested an investigation be conducted on his entire background. He pointed out that his portion of the investigation touched only on WEISSMAN's residence on South Columbus Avenue, Mount Vernon, N. Y.

He recalled that WEISSMAN had two mailing addresses in Mount Vernon and although WEISSMAN was married, he was residing with another woman named Mrs. DORIS E. CLIFFOLETTI, 203 South Columbus Avenue.

During the course of his inquiry, he reviewed "The New York Times" Index and he noted the similarity in the account in "Life" Magazine and a newspaper article to the effect that BERNARD WEISSMAN and LEE HARVEY OSWALD had resided in East Dallas in a rooming house with a landlady named ROBERTS. This is the only reference he could recall concerning WEISSMAN and OSWALD. The article in "Life" Magazine was in a recent issue and he believes the newspaper article was around December 17, 1963, in "The New York Times".

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During his limited inquiry concerning WEISSMAN, he obtained no additional information concerning LEE HARVEY OSWALD.

BERNARD WILLIAM WEISSMAN, 439 South Columbus Avenue, Mount Vernon, N. Y., was interviewed by Special Agents of the FBI on December 5, 1963, at which time he stated he arrived in Dallas, Texas, on November 4, 1963. He left Dallas on November 27, 1963, and he returned to New York City. While in Dallas, he resided at 4618 Reiger Street, Dallas, Texas. He was employed by the Carpet Engineers in Dallas as a salesman.

WEISSMAN stated he did not know LEE HARVEY OSWALD and to his knowledge, never met OSWALD.

MILTON BURLEY, III, was interviewed by Special Agents of the FBI in December, 1963, in Denver, Colorado, and he advised he and BERNARD WEISSMAN traveled together to Dallas, Texas, arriving in Dallas on November 4, 1963. They spent the night of November 4, 1963 with LARRY SCHMIDT, 5735 East Gaston Street, Dallas, and on November 5, 1963, they obtained an apartment at 4618 Reiger Street, Dallas, until November 27, 1963. They obtained employment on November 6, 1963, at Carpet Engineers Company, 2000 block South Beckley Street, Dallas. They left Dallas on November 27, 1963.

A review of "Life" Magazine, February 21, 1964 issue, reveals that a photograph of LEE HARVEY OSWALD is on the cover of the magazine. On page 68A is an article entitled, "THE EVOLUTION OF AN ASSASSIN" by "Life" reporter DONALD JACKSON. On page 76, last paragraph, it is set forth that on Monday, October 14, 1963, OSWALD presented himself to Mrs. A. C. JOHNSON who ran a rooming house at 1026 North Beckley Avenue, in the Oak Cliff section of Dallas. He registered as O. H. LEE.

On page 80 of this article there is a statement that Mrs. EARLENE ROBERTS, housekeeper, observed OSWALD at 1026 North Beckley Avenue, on the day the President was assassinated.

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The article was reviewed on March 19, 1964, and BERNARD WEISSMAN is not mentioned in this article.

A review of the Morgue records of "The New York Times" on March 19, 1964, revealed no articles pertaining to BERNARD WEISSMAN residing in East Dallas in a rooming house with a landlady named ROBERTS.

"The New York Times" issue dated December 17, 1963, page 30, in an article entitled, "Anti-Kennedy Ad in Dallas Still Draws Mail, Mostly Critical of Right Wing", sets forth information concerning BERNARD WEISSMAN, a 26-year-old unemployed salesman. The article pertains to WEISSMAN and the committee who ran a full-page newspaper advertisement criticizing President KENNEDY the morning before he was assassinated.

The article contained no information pertaining to WEISSMAN's residence in Dallas or OSWALD's residence.

The article on December 17, 1963, was dated December 16, 1963, at Dallas, Texas, and was "Special to 'The New York Times'".

The following investigation was conducted by the New York Office of the FBI in connection with the receipt by the Dallas Police Department, Dallas, Texas, of an anonymous letter, which letter was dated February 22, 1964, and bore return address 660 West 39th Street, New York City, N. Y. and wherein the writer asserted that he was an acquaintance of subject's and that he had information about the assassination of President KENNEDY:

On March 24, 1964, physical observation at and in the vicinity of the 600 block, West 39th Street, New York City, N. Y., reflected that there is no such address as 660 West 39th Street.

On March 24, 1964, Sergeant R. P. SORRELL, Security Police, Yale Express System, 450 12th Avenue, New York City, which is located at the corner of the 600 block on West 39th Street, advised SAs JAMES O. INGRAM and JOHN JAMES O'FLAHERTY that there is no one employed at 450 12th Avenue with the name SAM GANTRY.

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It is to be noted that the name SAM GANTRY appeared as the signature on another letter received by the Dallas Police Department, which letter was dated February 24, 1964, and postmarked Chicago, Illinois. The New York Office of the FBI, in conducting the investigation reflected above, specifically inquired regarding SAM GANTRY in view of the possibility that GANTRY was also the writer of the letter bearing the New York City return address.

MISCELLANEOUS

Investigation Concerning Activities of ALBERT OSBORNE, Also Known As John Howard Bowen

On February 27, 1964, SIDNEY A. DAVIS, Assistant Chief, Records Administration and Information Section, Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), 20 West Broadway, New York City, advised SA WILLIAM F. MARTIN, that a review of INS records disclose that ALBERT OSBORNE, born November 12, 1888, Grimsby, England, home address 1441 Drummond Street, Montreal, Canada, entered the U. S. on December 5, 1963, at New York, aboard the Loftleidir - Icelandic Airlines Flight 621. The records reflect that OSBORNE boarded the flight at Luxembourg, but his destination was not indicated. Mr. DAVIS advised that OSBORNE is categorized as a non-controlled class alien, which means that he neither has to indicate his destination, nor can he be controlled regarding his travel in the U. S.

INS records did not reflect any additional addresses for OSBORNE other than address referred to above.



UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

New York, New York

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

April 9, 1964

Title Lee Harvey Oswald

Character Internal Security - R - Cuba

Reference is made to report of Special Agent John James O'Flaherty dated and captioned as above at New York.

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

Insufficient contact to evaluate reliability of source referred to on page 8. However, as indicated on page 8, source was in a position to obtain information reported.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

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THIS SERIAL HAS BEEN REFERRED TO
ANOTHER AGENCY AND IS IN A PENDING STATUS:

FILE NO. 105-82555

SERIAL NO. NR April 10, 1964 Legat Rome memo - BU

PAGE NO. 1

NO. OF PAGES 1

SECTION NO.

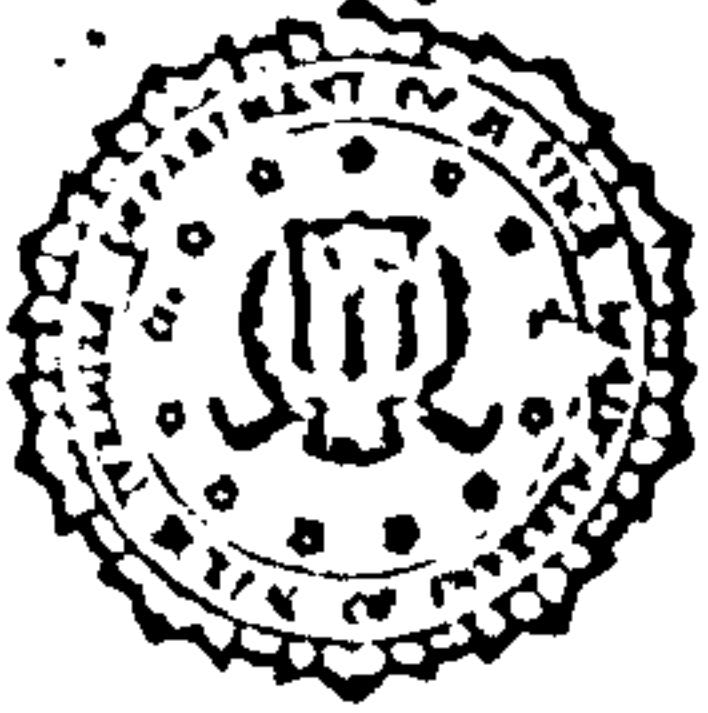
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CIA

REFERRAL

Rome is requesting [redacted] to discreetly determine any pertinent information there may be concerning the identity of the sender of the cablegram and concerning the reference made to a "job".

[redacted] has also been requested to furnish any pertinent information which it may develop concerning the activities, contacts, and travel of the subject.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

April 21, 1964

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

MARK LANE

The March 23, 1964, issue of "L'Unita," Italian-language newspaper, organ of the Communist Party of Italy, carried an article, portions of which are set out below:

"Attorney Mark Lane talks to Radio Prague

"I have 20 Proofs of the Innocence of Oswald

"But in the United States all Declarations of the Lawyer are stifled by the Press and Authorities

"By our correspondent — Prague, 22

"Mark Lane, defense attorney of Oswald, was interviewed by Karel Kyncl, correspondent of Radio Czechoslovakia at New York. During the interview, the most interesting parts of which are reproduced, the attorney demolished many of the accusations made against the alleged assassin of Kennedy.

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"Lane explained at the beginning of the interview how the Warren Commission refused to allow him to assume the defense of Oswald with the plausible reason that he would not appear in court and, therefore, would not need a defense attorney. Subsequently, however, the Commission appointed another lawyer, not requested by the family, who is the President of the American Bar Association, and Lane was called only as a witness.

... Commenting on the fact that the American newspapers have not talked about this, Attorney Lane added: 'I am interviewed by everyone. But no one publishes one word of what I say. They have asked questions, have taken notes, but nothing is published. I said I was coming here to make this broadcast because, I said, this time I succeeded in arriving and someone will at last hear and report on the facts of the Dallas affair. They said: "Really? Where?" I replied: "Radio Prague. When all this is finished, I will go to try to break this iron chain and see if I can get a broadcast on Radio New York, that which seems much more difficult."'

The April 6, 1964, issue of "L'Unita" carried the following article set out in its entirety:

"Margherita Oswald's Lawyer

"Attorney Lane at Rome Today

"Speaking Yesterday at the Congress of Democratic Jurists in Budapest, he Declared: 'I have proof that the Assassins of Kennedy are free.'

"Our service - Budapest, 5

"Attorney Mark Lane will arrive in Rome tomorrow, where in the next few days he will hold a conference on the investigation which he is conducting to demonstrate the lack of complicity on the part of Oswald with the assassination of President Kennedy. Today, in the meantime, taking the floor at the Congress of the Association of Democratic Jurists, he declared that the assassins of Kennedy 'are still free and that Harvey Lee Oswald, the alleged killer, was not in any way involved' in the sensational crime of last November.

"Mark Lane, who was warmly applauded, declared himself to be ready 'to appear before an international commission of jurors to submit all the proof in his possession,' in the end demonstrating that the tragic crime at Dallas, which cost the life of the youngest President of the United States, is still far from being clear and resolved.

"'No proof has been collected on the connection of Harvey Lee Oswald with the brutal assassination of President Kennedy,' said the 37-year-old attorney.

"Lane said that the 'discovery of the real assassin or assassins of Kennedy can assume a significance of great importance provided you consider the political atmosphere of Dallas in the wake of the crime.'

"On this subject, the New York attorney, who is not a member of the Association and came to Budapest as a guest, showed to the audience the famous poster with the photograph of President Kennedy and the caption 'Wanted for treason for having supported the communist conspiracy.'

"'Hundreds of these posters,' said the speaker, 'were distributed by citizens of Dallas before the President arrived in their city. After the crime, not one American newspaper published a photographic reproduction of the anti-Kennedy placard.'

"Continuing with his denunciation, Lane accused the 'Federal Bureau of Investigation' and the District Attorney of Dallas of having been 'inconsistent' in the presentation of their evidence regarding the crime.

"The evidence was falsified by the Public Prosecutor," added the attorney. "On the part of the FBI, the only direct stand which it took was that Oswald was to be considered as the lone assassin, without any direct accomplices."

"The attorney indicated he was in possession of depositions from eight witnesses who claimed to have seen the fatal shots fired against the automobile of President Kennedy come, not from the book depository in Dallas, but from behind a wall built on an overpass, a hundred meters from the moving target."

The April 7, 1964, issue of "Il Tempo," a rightist Rome daily newspaper, carried the following article, set out in its entirety:

"Returning from Budapest the Defender of Oswald

"Passing through Rome he held a Press conference to set forth a Complicated Argument on the Murder of Kennedy

"New York Attorney Mark Lane, who has assumed the task of defending the memory of Lee Harvey Oswald, assassin of Kennedy, stopped briefly in Rome yesterday on his return to the United States.

"During a press conference, Attorney Lane stated that he was still substantially convinced of the complete innocence of Oswald and of the lack of complicity on the part of Oswald with the Dallas crime. He added that he based this conviction on the lack of facts and of evidence which would show Oswald to be the actual perpetrator of the crime. Oswald, said Attorney Lane, was only a scapegoat, already chosen by those responsible for the plot against Kennedy even before the attack.

"The complicated argument on which Attorney Lane had dwelled at length becomes understandable if you consider that Lane was returning from Budapest where he took part in the 'Congress of Democratic Jurists,' giving a report on the facts of Dallas: a report which could have been officially welcomed in a communist-ruled country. Nevertheless he stressed that he was not a communist, but of the 'liberal' wing of the American Democratic Party. As it is known, this is exactly the label displayed by crypto-communists in the United States in order to be able to work openly, with a less irritating qualification for public opinion. For similar reasons, international meetings organized in communist countries always call themselves 'democratic.'"

The April 7, 1964, issue of "L'Unita" carried the following article, set out in part:

"Oswald: Victim of Anti-Kennedy Plot

"Oswald was only a scapegoat, already chosen by the conspiracy against President Kennedy even before the attack" -- so said Attorney Mark Lane, defender of the memory of the alleged assassin of the President of the United States. Lane was passing through Rome on his return from Budapest where he participated, as a guest, at the Congress of Democratic Jurists, giving a report on the Dallas crime. He added that he is convinced of the innocence of Oswald and of the complete lack of complicity on his part with the events which led to the death of John Fitzgerald Kennedy.

" . . . Finally, Lane termed as senseless the rumors that Oswald's mother had 'discharged him from his assignment. I have no assignment,' he said. 'More precisely, the only one I have is that of President of the

Citizen's Committee of Inquiry, a representative group of various classes of the American population, which was set up to shed light on the death of Kennedy. And this is an assignment which Oswald's mother cannot take from me."

The following article, set out in its entirety, appeared in the April 9, 1964, issue of "Il Tempo."

"During a Press Conference at Rome

"Defender of Lee Oswald did not Hide his Pro-communist Connections

- "Mark Lane stated that there is more freedom in Hungary than in America and that the real iron curtain is that which was lowered on the investigations regarding the assassination of Kennedy

"Attorney Mark Lane, who refused the assignment of Oswald's mother to defend the memory of her son, but instead accepted the assignment from a better-qualified 'Citizens Committee of Inquiry,' an organization with extreme leftist influence, with offices at 156 Fifth Avenue, New York, stated last night in a Rome hotel that the real iron curtain 'today is that which was lowered like an impenetrable curtain around the events which led to the arrest, to the accusation, and to the death of Lee Oswald.'

"Attorney Mark Lane is apparently a sincere person, deeply and personally interested in racial integration in the United States. He feels sorrow in the bottom of his heart for the Negroes' lot, particularly in the South, and has expressed his anguish in an

anxious search for the 'actual one responsible' for the death of Kennedy, in the hopes that an accurate investigation would lay responsibility on rightist movements which in Texas are identified with segregationists.

"I am firmly convinced," said the attorney, "that if we were to bring the Oswald case to court he would be found innocent of the assassination of Kennedy, the wounding of Connally, and the killing of Tippit."

"In support of this conviction, Attorney Lane cited the fact that the U. S. Secret Service, the FBI, and the Dallas Police had at first described as being a German Mauser 6.75 calibre the weapon with which the President was killed; that they had also stated that a ballistics examination had indicated Kennedy died as the result of a wound from a 6.75 calibre bullet. 'But twenty-four hours later,' Lane said, 'the terms of the accusation were changed.' The FBI had ascertained that in March, under the name of Aidan, Oswald had obtained a 6.5 calibre Italian carbine and at one point the public prosecution affirmed that the President had been killed by a 6.5 calibre bullet rather than one of 6.75 calibre. In short, a change of calibre in 24 hours. 'Yet, the Italian carbine has the 6.5 calibre written on the barrel,' added Lane. 'I know because I have one.' To our joking question as to whether he used his gun on last November 22nd, he said, 'I am sure I did not touch it that day.'

"According to Attorney Lane, the gunshot which killed Kennedy was not fired from the book depository, the building where Oswald was at the time of the assassination of the President, but from the opposite direction, that is, from the overpass or from the nearby cement wall toward which the presidential procession was headed. The attorney deduced this from the fact that

the three young doctors who happened to be on duty at Parkland Memorial Hospital, where Kennedy was brought, while examining the President's wounds in the confusion of the first moments, stated that the bullet hole in his throat was the one through which the bullet had entered. The experts who conducted the official autopsy ascertained instead that this was the exit hole, and this was the version accepted by the FBI. 'Yet,' Lane said with resentment, 'in Texas they are experts on firearm wounds. It is often that you have several in a day.' But evidently the American security services are also aware that the official experts too are not lacking in experience in this field.

"According to Lane, the FBI prohibited one Helen Markham, whom it claimed to be the only witness to the killing of Tippit, from talking about the event. According to the attorney, she described Tippit's killer as 'a white man, rather short, heavy, with a full head of hair,' whereas it is known that Oswald was thin, blond, with thinning hair.

"But apart from these rather controversial details regarding the death of Kennedy, a very interesting aspect of Lane's statements pertain to his European trip. He said he had been invited to Budapest to explain his version of the death of Kennedy and that his presence was very much appreciated. He said he wanted to continue his European trip 'because I noticed right away that there is much more freedom outside of the United States.' After this strange remark, made right at Budapest, Lane planned, however, to go to Copenhagen.'

On April 10, 1964, a confidential source abroad advised as follows concerning Lane:

The American attorney, Mark Lane, held a press conference on April 9, 1964, from 6 p.m. to about 8:30 p.m. at the Hotel Pace Elvezia in Rome. During the course of this conference, he explained the factors which, in his judgment, questioned the guilt of the late Lee Oswald for the assassination of President Kennedy.

Present at the conference were 18 Italian and foreign newsmen.

According to Lane, no court could convict Oswald on the "evidence" so far produced by the public prosecution. The inquiries made present serious contradictions but, in spite of that, the public prosecution and various police groups in the United States continue to consider Oswald as guilty.

Lane displayed, in support of his arguments, photostatic copies of statements of witnesses, tape recordings, and topographic maps of the area of the crime.

Lane arrived in Rome on April 6, 1964, from Budapest. He was born in New York, February 24, 1927, and at the Hotel Pace Elvezia he exhibited Passport No. E-067352, issued March 25, 1964, at Washington.

Pertaining to his European trip, Lane said he had been invited to Budapest to give his version, in the Hungarian capital, of the death of Kennedy.

He added that he intended to continue his European trip because he realized that "there is much more freedom outside the United States."

Actually, Lane went to Budapest to take part in the congress of the International Association of Democratic Jurists which was held there earlier in April. The Italian section of the congress was presided over by communist senator Umberto Terracini.

The hotel expenses for Lane were assumed by Gianfranco Corsini, well-known journalist of "Paese Sera."

Lane departed from Rome April 10, 1964, at 6:45 from Fiumicino Airport on KLM Flight 832 en route to Amsterdam, from where he was to continue to Copenhagen on KLM Flight 173.

A confidential source abroad has advised that "Paese Sera" is a publication of the Communist Party of Italy.

DO-8
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

March 16, 1964

The attached publication was sent
to the Director from the American
Security Council, 123 North Wacker,
Chicago, Illinois.

Reference is made to the FBI on
page 11.

L. R. B. D.

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MR. TOLSON _____
MR. BELMONT _____
MR. MOHR _____
MR. CASPER _____
MR. CALLAHAN _____
MR. CONRAD _____
MR. DELOACH _____
MR. EVANS _____
MR. GALE _____
MR. ROSEN _____
MR. SULLIVAN _____
MR. TAVEL _____
MR. TROTTER _____
MR. JONES _____
TELE. ROOM _____
MISS HOLMES _____
MRS. METCALF _____
MISS GANDY _____

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

Washington, March 16, 1964

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BACKGROUND FOR ASSASSINATION

Four months have now passed into the swift stream of history since the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. The people of the United States are emerging, still somewhat dazed, from a deep sense of personal loss. Their feeling was as real and deep in most of those who opposed the President's political views as in those who shared them. Because it is the nature of American politics, good and reasonable men are expected to differ with one another and from this very divergence, our strength is drawn and our system flourishes. So it was that, while political assassinations seem to occur as a matter of course in many parts of the world, Americans were stunned, not only by the great human tragedy but by the ultimate affront to the Constitution of the United States and the orderly processes of government we have come to expect.

The facts, thoroughly aired in newspapers around the world, indicate the guilt of Lee Harvey Oswald, to a moral certainty. However, if there were a chance that Oswald might reveal his motive, it died with him and, as a consequence, Americans are asking questions and propounding theories about the act and the man.

When first notified that President Kennedy was dead, the President's brother, John, immediately considered the possibility that his assassination might have been part of a plan of attack against our country and its leaders. The wish that news of Mr. Kennedy's death be withheld a few minutes so he could get to Love Field at a more secure location with immediate access to transportation and communications. He thus first thought of political assassination in the traditional sense. In the light of historic Soviet use of assassination, the President's reaction was both logical and wise.

The Nature of Political Assassination

Americans are aware that murders occur, as acts of individual passion or premeditation, as acts of mob violence, as the calculated acts of crime syndicates. At the same time, because for many centuries they have had a real

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part in Anglo-American political traditions, political assassinations seem far more unreal to most Americans. They have, however, always played an integral part in revolutionary states and movements. The agencies which plot and execute these crimes are frequently efficient enough to deceive and outmaneuver the hostile police. For example, the complete stories of the Sarajevo assassination and the murder of Jean Jaures -- political crimes which brought about World War I -- have never been fully elucidated. None the less, total efficiency is impossible. By force of circumstances and by the nature of the act, the political crime is bound to leave tracks.

Lenin did not believe in murder as a chief revolutionary method, but he agreed that "killing is no murder." He insisted that Communists must be able and willing to use all weapons, including murder, depending on necessity. In conformity with the twenty-one conditions for entrance into the Communist International, written by Lenin, secret apparatuses were formed. For example, in the German party which was the most important one outside Russia, the M (military), the N (intelligence), the Z (infiltration) and the T (terror) groups were organized. A German Communist, Hugo Eberlein, a protegee of Lenin and the husband of a girl whom Lenin considered to be almost his stepdaughter, was in charge of an early T-group.

There are some well authenticated and corroborated accounts of the early beginnings of the Communist T-groups in Germany. The function of these groups was to punish traitors and to murder anti-Communist political and military leaders as ordered by the party.

The T-groups were not overly successful but some of their characteristics became manifest: a command line which was independent from the party and often opposed to it; conflicts between the Russian secret service people and the German political leaders; frequent objections by political leaders to assassinations but also a certain willingness to use the T-groups to solve intra-party differences and there were others. For example, one Russian party leader, Zinoviev, ordered the assassination of General Hans von Seeckt, commander of the Reichswehr while another leader, Karl Radek, countermanded the order; the conflict was based on a cleavage in policy, "world revolution versus the building of socialism in the Soviet Union." Seeckt was willing to have military cooperation with the Red army but he also was the officer most likely to suppress a planned Communist rebellion. His elimination thus would have served the left radicals within the party on the two counts that the military cooperation was precluded and an uprising facilitated. "Solving political problems by terror was already a favorite method among the men of the secret apparatus," wrote Ruth Fischer, then a leader of the German Communist Party.

The T-groups found it difficult to recruit reliable and suitable personnel and, thus, by necessity included unstable individuals who often acted contrary to orders and who sometimes compromised the party and the Russian "advisors" by acts such as seeking sanctuary at offices of Soviet missions. Nevertheless, operations were usually planned with care. Locations and ambush possibilities

were carefully reconnoitered, attempts were made to obtain the most suitable weapons, special weapons were designed, the operation was rehearsed, escapes were properly prepared, etc.

To throw off the police, there were diversionary plans. Terrorists who were caught were, as a matter of routine, denounced by the party as dissidents, crackpots, or agents provocateurs; furthermore, false testimony was fed into the police system. In one instance, a terrorist was indicted for murder but clear-cut evidence exonerating him was withheld until after the trial had begun. Thus, the whole accusation of terrorism was discredited, and the real culprit was never caught.

The Communists also used their infiltration capabilities to great advantage. Thus, pictures of suspected terrorists were stolen from the files, and once, after the chief of a T-group was arrested, an unsuccessful attempt was made to murder him.

It appears that there has not been much of a change in standard operating procedures except that efficiency and know-how have been improved. We know that the terror technique has not been abandoned. To give merely two examples: a Soviet agent by the name of Khokhlov was ordered to murder a Russian refugee politician in Germany. Instead he defected, told his story, and turned over to the West a whole arsenal of Soviet weapons especially designed for assassination purposes. In 1959, Stepan Bandera, Ukrainian leader, was murdered by means of a gas pistol that simulated a heart attack. The murderer, Bodgan Stashynsky, confessed and was convicted. The German Federal Republic, on April 23, 1963, lodged a formal protest in Moscow and stated that his and the 1957 assassination of another Ukrainian politician "were committed upon instructions of official Soviet organs." In other words: there are T-groups or M-agencies. It is a fact which should be clearly recognized in the United States. It is significant that on his own admission during the trial in Karlsruhe, Germany in October 1962, Stashynsky let it be known that after the Bandera murder he was slated to be trained at an assassin's school in the USSR for assignment later on the North American continent.

A political murder instigated by an intelligence service will be planned to approximate the "perfect crime". Every suitable deception and concealment technique will be used. If "imperceptible murder" is not feasible or desirable, one of the following methods is used: a) The assassin is given a cover story or "legend." b) The assassin, unless he can be reliably hidden, will be destroyed, preferably in such a way that his second murder cannot be traced back to the organizations (for example, he will be slugged by an infuriated cell mate). c) The assassin will be described as a "loner" and a "psychopath" whose deed was not politically motivated: perhaps he was seeking personal revenge. In many of these undertakings, including the fabrication of "legends" and the manipulation of operatives, the murderer himself may be unaware that he is being maneuvered.

Despite the most perfect planning, things usually do not go as intended. Individuals who may be suitable to carry out complicated and daring assassinations are not usually easy to deal with, and in most cases do display psychopathological tendencies. Hence they will do things which they should not have done. This danger can be minimized only if extremely well-trained, fully disciplined secret agents are employed to carry out cover operations.

The greatest danger is that the murderer will be caught and his nationality discovered. Hence nationals of the country where the crime is to be perpetrated must be used and this creates additional difficulties, among them the possibility that the assassin's political beliefs may be disclosed. On the other hand, the use of natives who are unstable, offers the advantage that it permits the branding of the murderer as "insane." The recruitment of a would-be murderer from a hostile party usually does not work, hence a good cover story to confuse the assassin's political loyalty is required. It usually is easy to assert that the man was expelled from the party.

With this background, let us examine Oswald's stay in the Soviet Union.

The Passport

Lee Harvey Oswald joined the Marine Corps late in October 1956, when he just had turned 17. At some time prior to his entry into the service, he became interested in Communism. On or shortly after September 1, 1959, he applied for inactive duty, claiming that his mother needed him, obtained an American passport and a Russian visa, and departed from New Orleans, arriving in Moscow on October 13, 1959.

He was released from the Marine Corps on September 11, and joined his mother for the one night he spent with her in Fort Worth. He would then have been free to make his preparations to leave the country from September 12 onward. By September 19 he was able to write his mother from New Orleans that he had "booked passage on a ship to Europe." Starting by ship, the trip would have taken something like fifteen days. Thus to have reached Moscow by October 1, Oswald must have left New Orleans no later than October 1, and may have left as early as September 26. Thus, we can assume that to prepare his trip, he had the time span of September 12 to 30 at his disposal. September 12 was a Saturday. [Oswald had obtained his passport on September 10.] The Russian embassy at Washington, therefore, could not have received his passport with visa application earlier than September 11.

Oswald may have applied for his visa to enter the Soviet Union either before or after receipt of his passport. In either case, the handling must have been unusual to say the least. As a matter of routine procedure, every application for a visa to enter the Soviet Union is processed through a central file in Moscow known familiarly by U.S. agencies as "the black box." In 1959, this procedure required at least 30 days and, in most cases, 60 to 90 days. In almost every

case the application for visa is made after a passport has been issued. However, had Oswald waited until receiving his passport to apply for his visa, it would have been at best only 2 1/2 weeks for processing the application and returning the passport and visa to him, in other words, no more than 12 working days for the Embassy. Even if Oswald had applied 10 days earlier, while still in the Marine Corps, the Embassy must have acted with enormous dispatch. Oswald could have applied for a visa at an even earlier date, without a passport and, perhaps, not have applied for his "hardship" release or for his passport till after he had learned that the visa had been granted. Had he applied for a visa that early, however, he would have had to consider the possibility that the Marine Corps would not grant him a "hardship" discharge if they learned he was considering travel to the USSR.

Regardless of the time element involved, the chances are that the application for visa was channeled to the highest level because a few Soviet policy decisions were involved. Not the least of these was a determination of whether Oswald was bona fide.

We are therefore faced with the only two possible conclusions (1) that Oswald received his visa while still on active duty in the Marine Corps or (2) that his application was processed and approved almost immediately on receipt. In either case, something more than ordinary information must have been available to Soviet authorities to enable them to "clear" him. This gives rise to the probability that Oswald must have had prior contacts with one or more Soviet agents, who briefed him about the most expeditious manner of carrying out the manifold formalities incident to taking up residence in the Soviet Union. It is not unlikely that such a contact might have been established while Oswald was serving in Japan. At his Moscow press conference late in October, 1959, Oswald stated: "For two years now I have been waiting to do this one thing: to dissolve my American citizenship and become a citizen of the Soviet Union." This would date his mental defection back to 1957. Thus for at least two years in the Marine Corps he was a Communist. He told the U.S. Embassy that he was planning to tell Soviet officials everything he had learned in the Marine Corps.

Oswald in Russia

On October 15, just two days after his arrival, Oswald petitioned the Supreme Soviet for Soviet citizenship. This is remarkable, not just because it confirms a commitment of long standing, but because two days in an entirely new milieu and in an unknown gigantic city is really less than a minimum of time. To submit his petition, Oswald must have known to whom it was to be addressed. Someone must have helped him in preparing the Russian text, and there must have been a typewriter. Hence he was being chaperoned by somebody.

At this point, there is a gap of two weeks. On October 30, Oswald appeared at the U.S. Embassy and stated that he had applied for Soviet citizenship. He told

ed with his mother on the telephone but hung up on her. On October 31, he held a press conference at the Hotel Metropole, and explained his defection. In Moscow, 20-year old boys do not arrange press conferences on their own initiative. This conference must have been arranged for him and somebody else, in addition to granting authorization, must have taken care of the bill. Yet, unlike the cases of other defectors, this press conference was given no publicity on the Soviet radio.

To understand this turn of events, we must ask ourselves: what benefit could the Soviets draw from Oswald? A 20-year old Marine might have been significant as a source of intelligence, but a Marine who embraced Communism must have been a potential propaganda sensation. Accordingly, when the Soviets learned about him, the propagandists would have been interested. Presumably, they decided to build him up as a defector. This explains why Mme. Furtseva was handling his passport arrangements at the ministerial level, and also explains why he was rushed to apply for his citizenship.

After Oswald arrived in Moscow, we may be sure that he was interrogated by the Commissariat on State Security (KGB) and the military intelligence. The initial interviews and his own work preferences may have speedily convinced the intelligence officers that this man's value did not lie in a short-lived propaganda stunt but in entirely different fields. If, for example, he was to be used for intelligence purposes, then his renunciation of U.S. citizenship was stupid.

As soon as Oswald's potential intelligence usefulness became apparent, one of those disputes must have arisen, typical for the secret services of all countries, between the propagandists and the secret operators. While this struggle was being resolved, Oswald was left hanging in the air.

It is possible that while the matter was being considered, Oswald lost his nerve and attempted suicide, as was reported, or perhaps feigned a suicide attempt. This attempt supposedly took place at the Hotel Metropole late in October. For a schizoid type like Oswald, this is not really likely. It has been said that he experienced financial troubles, yet, upon his release from the Marines, he had \$1,600, of which he gave his mother \$80. The trip to Moscow hardly cost more than \$500. Living costs would have hardly run over \$500, and were presumably far less, especially if, as is probable indeed, his hotel bill in Moscow was being paid for him. Thus, he had at least \$500 left and no emergency existed. It is likely that he just was waiting and spent his time sight-seeing.

The Soviet authorities, of course, knew that Oswald had visited the Embassy on October 30. This may have warned them about the danger of a redefection. The propaganda people who undoubtedly still were in control, saw a chance to make their claim stick, and the press conference was hastily convened. Two days later, on November 2, a Monday, Oswald turned his passport over to the U.S. Embassy and wrote an affidavit affirming that his "allegiance" was to the

Soviet Union. Thus he did precisely the opposite of what he should have done if he were to be used for covert rather than overt purposes.

This must have brought the inter-service dispute to a boil, and the intelligence people obviously won. Their first step was to suppress all publicity about Oswald, his defection and the press conference. The second step probably was to inform him that citizenship would not be granted formally and have Oswald, or somebody else, tip off the Embassy that he would not be made a Soviet citizen. On November 14, Oswald disclosed that he had been refused Soviet citizenship (surely a speed record for processing a citizenship application) but asserted that he was a Marxist and "through" with the U.S.

The third step was to get Oswald out of Moscow. Insofar as the Soviet intelligence service was concerned, the job now was to get every particle of information out of Oswald, not merely on electronics and call signs, but also on Marine Corps procedures, officer personalities, on fellow Marines and their possible utilization as agents, on exact plans of military installations, and many other subjects, -- a job of interrogation which could easily take months, especially if Oswald had been alert and had used his years in the Marine Corps to prepare himself for this series of interrogations.

It is inconceivable that such interrogations did not take place. The argument that the Soviet authorities recognized Oswald to be an unstable character and therefore refused to grant him citizenship, does not hold water. In the first place, Oswald was far less unstable than many of the typical left intellectuals who frequently pester the Soviets. Second, they have not in the past objected to, but on the contrary, have recruited schizoid personalities. Third, Oswald's character defects, if any, could hardly have become known under the conditions of his early interviews and initial interrogations. Fourth, if the Soviets did not like him, they could have, after prolonged interrogations, simply gotten rid of him: he could have died of "pneumonia". Finally, they might have expelled him, irrespective of whether he was interrogated or not. But to refuse him citizenship, and still allow him to stay and work in Russia, and then two and a half years later permit him to depart with a Russian wife and child, is utterly contrary to fundamental Soviet procedure. No case remotely similar exists before or after Oswald.

Life In Minsk

According to all available information, Oswald dropped out of sight shortly after his press conference. Allegedly, he went to Minsk where he was given a job in the sheet metal shop of a radio plant. His salary supposedly was 30 rubles (\$88.80) a month. This just cannot be true. In the first place, there is no doubt that Oswald would have been "debriefed" for quite a long time, perhaps for three months. It is entirely possible that for deception purposes, he was given a so-called job in industry. In fact, such a procedure would be logical since the U.S. Embassy might be interested in his whereabouts and activities. He did not know anything about sheet metal working but he did have knowledge that may have qualified

fied him as a specialist. Even if he just qualified as unskilled labor, it is inconceivable that the Soviets would have paid him a salary which is far below minimum income and on which he clearly could not live. Despite this extreme poverty, which would not have allowed him to eat, we learn that he posed for portrait photography, made a trip to Kiev, travelled in the country side around Minsk, enjoyed a social life, and even enjoyed a great deal of recreation -- yet with that salary one would expect him to concentrate on "moonlighting."

The puzzle may be explained in a simple way: 80 rubles was just his pocket money. His room, board, laundry, etc. were being paid for -- in other words, he was living in some sort of a community. There are clues about the type of community this may have been.

While in the Soviet Union, Oswald is reported to have joined a rifle club and practiced marksmanship. Now, there are no amateur "rifle clubs" in the sporting sense in the Soviet Union. It has now been established, however, that Oswald did belong to a hunter's sovkhos, membership in which is normally reserved to those who are hunters by profession. While participating in this group, he did not use a rifle but was permitted to use some other type of weapon.

In July, 1960, Oswald wrote the Marine Corps asking to be discharged as a reservist so that he could accept Soviet citizenship. This fact requires a little re-interpretation. It makes the story less pat but more realistic.

The incident shows that in November 1959, the Soviets had not rejected Oswald's application for citizenship forever. They probably told him that as soon as he proved himself, they would consider the case seriously. If they wanted to pump him for his information and obtain full co-operation, this would be a logical procedure.

Assuming Oswald's debriefing was over by March or April, the chances are that the intelligence people were debating what to do with him. They may have kept him in a safe house or they might have told him to prove his proletarian convictions and go to work: this may have been the period when he was working in the sheet metal shop.

As this period of no-decision continued, Oswald probably felt that he should force events. The letter to the Marine Corps probably was to impress the Soviets authorities with his devotion to the Soviet Union.

From the point of view of the intelligence service, the letter was a mistake because it reduced Oswald's potential usefulness as a spy. Oswald may not have realized this. If Oswald was to be developed as a sleeper, this step probably strengthened the group within Soviet intelligence who opposed the plan, if only because Oswald's temperament did not qualify him for assignments with long periods of inaction.

The Exit Visa

On January 2, 1962, Oswald wrote to his mother that he had "pretty good news: he and his wife would receive their visas about the middle of February 1962 and would arrive in the U.S. by March 1, "give or take a month or so." In this letter he instructed his mother to contact an international rescue committee in order to obtain \$800 for transportation. "Do not, of course, take any loan, only gift. And don't send your own money." Oswald enclosed a letter from the U.S. Embassy which his mother was to use in her efforts.

Several points stand out: (1) He did have a letter from the Embassy which meant that he must have contacted them about his return trip some time before he wrote his mother. (2) He had, in fact, written his mother as early as August 19, 1961, saying he expected an exit visa soon and had been to Moscow to go to the Embassy. (3) Later, he obtained only \$435.71 from the Embassy, hence he must have had another \$400 or so to pay passage for his wife. (4) He was remarkably well informed about rescue committees which information he may have obtained from the Embassy but more likely from other quarters. The fact is that for years the U.S. Embassy did not provide this type of information, for the simple reason: many of those committees had been branded as espionage organizations by the Soviets.

With respect to timing, it seems that the letter was written after two other letters. In the August 19th letter, he talked about mushroom picking with his wife at the not inconsiderable distance of 50 miles from Minsk: "everybody goes in the fall." In the other letter, he announced the news that he was "going to be a papa." Presumably he could have made this announcement as early as August 1961 but this letter was actually dated November 1.

In the November 1 letter, he referred to his mother's intent to come to the Soviet Union. He did not recommend this step, adding "in my case." And this particular phrase may have indicated that the plan to return to the U.S. had been firmed up.

Subsequently on January 2, he announced that the exit visas would be granted by the middle of February, and implied that he was to leave as soon as he got the visas.

This raises a most important question: why would the Soviet authorities announce to him a month and a half in advance that they will grant him a visa? If they intended him to go, why not let him go right away? There is no precedent that Soviet authorities ever provided such advance notices, and indeed what would be the purpose? If a visa was promised some time in late December or early January for mid-February, some sort of assignment was involved which Oswald was to complete before leaving. It was hardly a matter of sheet metal working, but precise pre-dating would make a lot of sense if it was anticipated that Oswald would be completing a course preparing him for his return to the United States.

Interestingly enough, late in January 1962, i. e. after he knew that he could get

his visa, he wrote to Senator Tower beseeching him to intercede so that the visa be granted. He told Senator Tower that he had been trying to get an exit visa since July 1960. There was no above board reason to write this letter which was followed by a letter of January 30, 1962, to the Secretary of the Navy asking for reconsideration of his undesirable discharge. These requests and their timing made sense only if Oswald knew he was about to return. Both letters fit the pattern of conventional "legend" building for espionage assignments. [Indeed any other interpretation seems improbable: an American defector living in Minsk would not dare contact the U.S. Navy without prior Soviet clearance for fear he would be accused of attempted espionage against the Soviet Union.]

In May, 1961, Oswald married Marina Nikolayevna Prusakova. The most notable thing about Oswald's marriage is the exit visa given Marina Oswald and her child. Soviet authorities have, on occasion, allowed Soviet wives of foreigners to leave the country. In practically every case the husband was a person of mark (e. g. a diplomat, an Olympic athlete or a foreign correspondent) and also in practically every case it took a great deal of doing to obtain the visa, including in many instances intercessions, at well-timed opportunities, by ambassadors or ministers of state, or even heads of state. Exit visas usually are given by Soviet authorities only when they feel the need to demonstrate their willingness to co-exit peacefully.

Oswald's wife was young, she was a specialist (a pharmacist), and she had a Russian child. In most other instances, exit visas were granted either to older women who could not make an economic or demographic contribution to Russia's strength or to females who would be counted upon to influence their husbands in favor of the Soviet Union. Cases are known where highly placed Americans had to work for several years to get an exit visa for a mother-in-law in her late seventies.

Now, Oswald has been presented as less than a nobody. Even according to Russian standards he could not make a living. But worse: he was the scum of the earth - a defector who had renounced U.S. citizenship but now wanted to re-defect. True, Soviet citizenship might have been refused. But if he were a genuine Communist, his job was to prove himself, to apply samokritika, to sacrifice himself in the interest of the fatherland of the workers, and to re-apply for citizenship. On the face of it, he was deserting the Communist cause.

There is no reason for the Soviet authorities to help a Communist deserter. If they really had considered Oswald to be a "Trotsky-ite", as they claimed, they would have refused the exit visa to Marina. If they did not think he was a Trotsky-ite, why then did they label him? Oswald also was described as an "enemy of the people" and stories were picked up from the American press suggesting that he was a U.S. agent. If the Soviets really had any suspicions along that line, or even slight indications of oppositional leanings, Oswald would have gone to jail, Marina would not have been allowed to marry him, and she certainly would not have been given her exit visa. There was, of course, some delay, but not only did she get the visa, she received it with a minimum of red tape that is truly unique in Soviet history.

The expeditious handling might have occurred if the Soviets just had made this sort of a decision: "Oh, well, Oswald is no good, let him go, good riddance. His wife should not have married him, but let her go, too." Soviet authorities do not decide in this manner. Any such decision based on humanitarian grounds would have taken several years. Since the exit visa was forthcoming rather promptly, the Soviet authorities must have wanted Marina to accompany Oswald. It was their decision that she go.

Whether Marina herself was indoctrinated and assigned a specific mission, is of course, conjectural. Her limited ability to speak English, might suggest that her training had not been completed or that the Soviets planned to use her in an "innocent status." At any rate, since the assassination, she has not been reluctant to give a public impression that she, for one, seems certain that Lee Oswald was the killer of President Kennedy.

We can assume that the FBI treated Oswald as a potential espionage agent on his return to the United States. The press has reported that by November 22, the Bureau had determined that he was not potentially dangerous as a spy or saboteur and, therefore, they were not keeping close tabs on him. Yet, the report that Oswald was in a hunters' sovkhos, though not a professional hunter, indicates that he received some sort of special consideration or training.

The Soviets have made almost desperate efforts to shed themselves of Oswald. The Communist Party, U.S.A. almost immediately issued a formal statement denying that Oswald had ever had any connection with the C.P., U.S.A. (and this is apparently quite true.) But the Communist Party seemed stuck with Oswald's self-identification with Marxism. They then made great efforts to cast serious doubts on Oswald's guilt but despite great liberties with both fact and logic, particularly in the Communist-oriented National Guardian, these efforts were crushed beneath the weight of scientific evidence. The Soviets, meanwhile variously charged that Oswald has really been an American spy, an agent of the State Department or the CIA. The Soviet Army publication, Red Star, even went so far as to charge the President's assassination to "Marxism, Leninism, incorporated." Now the Communist and front group publications are hinting darkly that Oswald was really an FBI informant.

The President's assassination itself and Oswald's background in Russia bear some of the earmarks of the traditional Soviet style political murder yet, while there must still be a great deal of speculation and conjecture, the evidence does not imply that Lee Oswald shot President Kennedy on Soviet orders nor does it tend in any way to disprove the likelihood that Oswald acted completely on his own. Indeed, the evidence presented to date tends to confirm this likelihood. While it is quite possible that the Soviets intended to use Oswald some day as an assassin or terrorist, there is no reason for assuming that they expected to profit from the assassination of President Kennedy at this particular moment in history. Still, his deed was a product of the Cold War. Lee Harvey Oswald would not have assassinated the President of the United States except for the mental conditioning of revolutionary communism.

While we may speculate about many of the facts in the Oswald case, one fact is clear: Oswald received uniquely special treatment from the Soviets all along the line. Oswald, in fact, never would have returned to the United States if the Soviet intelligence agencies did not plan to use him, in one way or another, against the country of his birth.

President Johnson has promised the American people that the facts surrounding the case will be fully disclosed to the public and, even if he had not made the promise, the public interest would require that this be done. Lately, there have been hints that some parts of the story might never be told for reasons of national security. Naturally, this sort of statement gives rise to grave questions as to whether the facts thus far disclosed are, in fact, accurate and reliable since there seemed to be at least to the public eye, no possible security implications in a crime apparently so lacking in reason. At the same time, reports persist to the effect that the Warren Commission is split over the timing of its report -- that is, whether it should be released before or after the political conventions and national elections.

We must hope that the Warren Commission has not confused political considerations with national security. There are undoubtedly those who would like to run political capital out of the facts surrounding the assassination. Most Americans, however, would, if necessary, be quite willing to wait until after the election for a complete detailed report. Now they want only the assurance that their questions will be answered and their doubts resolved. The public is entitled to this unqualified assurance.

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AMERICAN SECURITY COUNCIL

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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Mohr	
Casper	
Callahan	
Conrad	
Felt	
Gale	
Rosen	
Sullivan	
Tavel	
Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Holmes	
Gandy	

TO : Mr. Conrad *JWC*

DATE: 4/21/64

FROM : W. D. Griffith *W.D.G.*

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY
REQUEST OF THE COMMISSION

Attached is a letter received from the Commission requesting SA Lyndal L. Shaneyfelt for testimony as an expert witness on Thursday, 4/23/64 at 9:00 a.m. Mr. Melvin Eisenberg has been telephonically advised that SA Shaneyfelt is available and will appear at the Commission as requested.

The testimony of SA Shaneyfelt concerns the identification of one of the photographs of Oswald holding the rifle as having been taken with the camera recovered from the Payne residence which is reported to be the camera of Marina Oswald. The photograph of Oswald holding the rifle is one that was recovered in the search of Oswald's possessions. This picture is a similar pose to that photograph that was widely publicized, including the front cover of Life magazine. The photograph that appeared on Life magazine was not identified with the camera because the negative for this photograph was not recovered and is an essential basis for the examination.

RECOMMENDATION: None. For information.

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan (Mr. Lenihan)
- 1 - Mr. Rosen (Mr. Malley)

105-82555

Enclosure
LLS:emh (8)

EX-117

REC-3

3282

ENCLOSURE

SEVEN

66 APR 27 1964

PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION
ON THE
ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

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

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HALE BOGGS
GERALD R. FORD
JOHN J. MCCLOY
ALLEN W. DULLES

J. LEE RANKIN,
General Counsel

APR 22 1964

[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten initials]

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director, Federal Bureau
of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

If his schedule permits, we would appreciate having
Mr. Lyndal L. Shaneyfelt available to testify as an expert
witness on Thursday, April 23, 1964, at 9:00 a.m.

Sincerely,

J. Lee Rankin

J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel

98-APR-20-1964

EXP. PROC.

ENCLOSURE

EX-114

REC-3

3282

*Miss. Shaneyfelt
Counsel H 2/1/64*

[Handwritten initials]

- 1 - Belmont
- 1 - Mohr
- 1 - DeLoach

REC-2 105-82555-3283
EX-117

April 15, 1964

BY COURIER SERVICE

- 1 - Sullivan
- 1 - Malley
- 1 - Branigan
- 1 - Fogge
- 1 - Lenihan
- 1 - Anderson

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

Dear Mr. Rankin:

Reference is made to my letter dated March 30, 1964, furnishing you with the results of our inquiry into the allegation of Mark Lane before the President's Commission. Lane stated that a week prior to the assassination of President Kennedy a meeting took place at the Carousel Club in Dallas, Texas, which was attended by Mr. Bernard Weissman, Dallas police officer, J. D. Tippit, and Mr. Jack Ruby.

On March 26, 1964, a confidential source of our New York Office, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that Vincent Theodore Lee, former Director of the National Office of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee (FPCC), had related similar statements that President Kennedy was actually assassinated by Dallas police officer, Tippit, and that one week before the assassination Tippit, the head of the John Birch Society in Dallas, and an unnamed third party, possibly Oswald, were together in Jack Ruby's night club. Lee reportedly obtained his information from other individuals previously active in the FPCC. Lee further stated that while Oswald was an advocate of the FPCC he had also joined a number of anti-Castro movements and was, therefore, in a position to know everything on both sides of the issues involved.

Vincent Theodore Lee was contacted by a representative of this Bureau on April 9, 1964, at which time he stated he could furnish no additional information to the FBI regarding

(12)

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

BY COURIER SVC

APR 15

COMM-FBI

- Tolson
- DeLoach
- Evans
- Gale
- Rosen
- Sullivan
- Tavel
- Trotter
- Tele. Room
- Holmes
- Gandy

APR 23 1964

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APR 15 9 31 AM '64

Honorable J. Lee Rankin

Lee Harvey Oswald. He stated that he knew nothing of an evidentiary nature regarding stories being circulated to the effect that Patrolman Tippit of the Dallas Police Department, Jack Ruby, and the John Birch Society were involved in the assassination of President Kennedy. He stated that in his opinion the John Birch Society could have been involved but that his opinion was based solely on his feelings and not on facts in his possession. Specifically, he stated he had no information concerning any meeting between Mr. Bernard Weissman, Officer Tippit, and Jack Ruby.

Sincerely yours,

D. Edgar Hoover.

NOTE:

Lee, following assassination of President Kennedy, made available to FBI through his attorney, certain correspondence between FPCC and Oswald, which data has been furnished to the President's Commission. He subsequently, however, has refused to be interviewed. Following receipt of the above unsupported allegation it was felt Lee should be recontacted and given an opportunity to put up or shut up in view of his past position and influence as head of FPCC. Results incorporated as above in letter to Commission.

Previous investigation mentioned above developed no information indicating that such a meeting ever took place or was ever likely.

FBI

Date: 4/9/64

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (105-82555)

FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (105-38431)

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
IS - R - CUBA

4/6/64. Re NY airtel to Bureau 4/1/64, and Buairtel to NY,

Enclosed for the Bureau are 10 copies of an LHM suitable for dissemination, setting forth the results of an interview of VINCENT THEODORE LEE on 4/9/64. In view of past difficulty in locating LEE, he was contacted telephonically in order to attempt to arrange an interview. He was unwilling to be interviewed, but the interviewing agent solicited the information set out in enclosed LHM while discussing with LEE the possibility of his furnishing additional information in the captioned matter.

- 3-Bureau (105-82555) (Encs. 10) (RM)
- 2-Dallas (100-10461) (Encs. 2) (RM)
- 1-New York (105-46848) (V.T. LEE)
- 1-New York (105-38431)

JNK:EG

(8)

105-82555

6 APR 12 1964

3283

REC-2

*Letter to Rankin
4-11-64
JNK:EG*

*See find-out
ICC-645RB*

Approved: _____

Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____

M

Per _____



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

New York, New York

April 9, 1964

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Lee Harvey Oswald
Internal Security - R - Cuba

On April 9, 1964, Vincent Theodore Lee, 37½ St. Marks Place, New York City, stated that he could not furnish any additional information to the FBI regarding Lee Harvey Oswald. He stated that he knew nothing of an evidenciary nature regarding stories being circulated to the effect that Patrolman Tippit of the Dallas Police Department, Jack Ruby, and the John Birch Society were involved in the assassination of President Kennedy. He stated that in his opinion, the John Birch Society could have been involved, but that his opinion was based solely on his feelings and not any facts in his possession.

Lee further stated that he did not have any information pertaining to an alleged meeting that took place at the Carousel Club in Dallas, Texas a week prior to the assassination, which meeting reportedly was attended by Mr. Bernard Weissman, Officer Tippit, and Jack Ruby.

It is to be noted that Vincent Theodore Lee is the former Director of the National Office of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee.

4 COPIES DESTROYED

FEB 23 1963

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

- Sullivan
- Trotter
- Branigan
- Stewart

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

TO : W. C. Sullivan

DATE: 4-13-64

FROM : A. Branigan

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
IS - R - CUBA

In connection with the investigation of subject's trip to Mexico City on 9-26-63, we have identified Albert Osborne as the passenger sitting next to the subject. Thereafter, in connection with the investigation of Albert Osborne, aka John Howard Bowen, we established that Albert Osborne was born 11-12-88 at Grimsby, England; he entered the U.S. in 1914 and proceeded to Canada in 1916, returning to the U.S. in 1919. He adopted the name of John Howard Bowen in 1916 reportedly to obtain a more Americanized name to assist in obtaining American citizenship which he never did obtain.

Attached is a copy of an FBI identification record #777 364 E pertaining to John Howard Bowen, who was arrested 12-11-63 in Houston, Texas, for investigation. Page 3 of this identification record reveals that John Howard Bowen was fingerprinted 2-8-64 for civil identification purposes by the FBI in Birmingham, Alabama. The identification record at present does not indicate that Albert Osborne is the real name for John Howard Bowen and that Osborne was born on 11-12-88 at Grimsby, England. Birth data appearing on page 2 of this identification record relating to Bowen is fictitious.

The above data is being set out so that the Identification Division may bring FBI record #777 364 E up to date with current information.

Page 27 of the report of SA Emory L. Horton dated 3-11-64 at Dallas, Texas, re Lee Harvey Oswald indicates that Albert Osborne was photographed and fingerprinted by Special Agents of the Birmingham Office on 2-8-64, at which time Osborne claimed he was John Howard Bowen. On page 41 of this report Osborne, during an interview with Special Agents of the Knoxville Office on 3-3-64, admitted his true identity and that he had adopted the name of John Howard Bowen. Photos of Albert Osborne taken 2-8-64 are attached along with one taken in 10-63 for a Canadian passport.

Enc. ...
105-82555
WDS:mhw (6)

REC-3

3284

ENCLOSURE
APR 22 1964

12 APR 21 1964
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

Memo Branigan to Sullivan
re: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
IS - R - CUBA
105-82555

RECOMMENDATION:

That this memorandum be referred to the Identification Division so that FBI record #777 364 E can be brought up to date to include above-mentioned data re Osborne.

WPD