

OSWALD

105. 82555

SECTION 230

COPY 8

10/14/66

Airtel

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Wick
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Branigan
- 1 - Mr. Raupach
- 1 - Mr. Lenihan

To: SAC, New Orleans

From: Director, FBI (105-82555)

LEE HARVEY OSWALD
IS - R - CUBA

Re WFOlet 10/6/66 reporting contacts with Congressman Don Fuqua of Florida in this matter.

Enclosed for the New Orleans Office are copies of the enclosures described in referenced WFOlet. William H. Cooper appears to be identical to an individual [REDACTED]

Bureau desires that the New Orleans Office immediately contact Cooper and pin him down on the allegations he has made in connection with the assassination of the late President John F. Kennedy. Specifically determine the basis for which he alleges Oswald was part of a conspiracy to assassinate President Kennedy. Also determine the basis for his allegations that Herman G. Engelhardt, J. Russell Doiron, Bryan Clemmons, James Winfree and E. G. Partin were also involved in a conspiracy in the assassination of President Kennedy. [REDACTED]

If your interview with Cooper does not completely resolve his allegations, you should submit your recommendations to the Bureau for consideration as to additional inquiries you deem necessary to fully resolve Cooper's allegations. Upon review of your recommendations, Bureau will issue appropriate instructions to your office for further investigation in this matter.

Results of your interview with Cooper in this matter should be promptly furnished to the Bureau in a form suitable for dissemination.

Enclosures - 17

1 - Dallas (100-10461)

1 - WFO (105-37111)

REL:kas (12)

See cover memorandum Branigan to Sullivan dated 10/12/66

mentioned as above prepared by REL:kas.

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

OCT 13 1966

COMM-FBI

Tolson
DeLoach
Mohr
Wick

REC-71

5500

Handwritten notes and signatures, including "Wick" and "Sullivan".

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (105-82555)

DATE: 10/13/66

FROM : SAC, WFO (105-37111) (RUC)

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
IS - R - CUBA
(CO: DL)

RE: WILLIAM H. COOPER, aka JOE COOPER

ReWFOlet 10/6/66, setting forth info received from Congressman DON FUQUA of Florida re COOPER.

On 10/13/66, Congressman FUQUA telephonically advised SA JAMES F. MORRISSEY that he had just received a letter from COOPER; that COOPER advised him that he (COOPER) had been recently contacted by SA JAMES L. MEYENS (last name not completely clear) of ONI. The ONI agent wanted to know why COOPER was inquiring of the Navy regarding passengers on the USS Shangri-La. COOPER, according to FUQUA, did not advise the ONI agent of his interest in captioned matter and the relation of his request to it.

FUQUA stated that it is his personal desire that a representative of the FBI contact COOPER in this matter.

FUQUA was advised that his desire would be made known to the Bureau.

The above is submitted for the information and guidance of the Bureau. Relet pointed out that in view of extensive investigation in this matter, any leads such as interview of COOPER were being left to the discretion of the Bureau after appropriate analysis.

An extra copy is designated for the Bureau for administrative handling.

- 3-Bureau
- 1-Dallas (100-10461) (Info) (RM)
- 1-New Orleans (Info) (RM)
- 1-WFO

REC-11

JFM:MJB
(6)

OCT 19 1966

550



56 OCT 19 1966

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. W. C. Sullivan

FROM : Mr. W. A. Branigan

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
INTERNAL SECURITY - RUSSIA - CUBA

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Wick
- 1 - Mr. Rosen

DATE: October 13, 1966

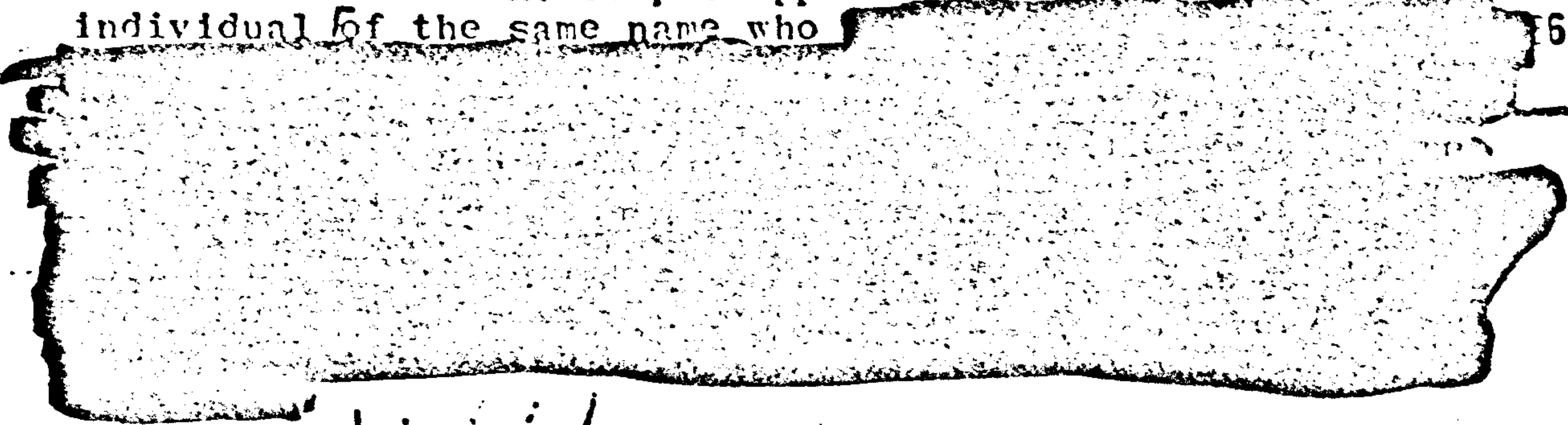
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Branigan
- 1 - Mr. Raupach
- 1 - Mr. Lenihan

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

Congressman John O. Marsh, Jr., of Virginia, who is a personal acquaintance of Assistant Director William C. Sullivan, contacted Mr. Sullivan and reported that Congressman Don Fuqua possessed information on the Lee Harvey Oswald case which might be of interest to this Bureau. Arrangements were made for a Special Agent of the Washington Field Office to contact Congressman Fuqua in this regard.

Special Agent James F. Morrissey of the Washington Field Office contacted Congressman Fuqua on this matter, at which time the Congressman made available data which had been furnished to him by Mr. William H. Cooper of New Orleans, Louisiana. Congressman Fuqua stated that Cooper alleged that Oswald was part of a conspiracy which was responsible for the assassination of the late President John F. Kennedy. Congressman Fuqua added that other members of the conspiracy allegedly were Herman G. Engelhardt, J. Russell Doiron, Bryan Clemmons, James Winfree and E. G. Partin. Cooper has alleged to Congressman Fuqua that the above individuals brainwashed Oswald into performing the actual assassination and then arranged for Oswald to be murdered by Jack Ruby. Congressman Fuqua made available correspondence he has received from Cooper containing such allegations.

William H. Cooper appears to be identical with an individual of the same name who



Enclosure
105-82555

REL:kas
(8)

CONTINUED - OVER

Handwritten signature

NOV 2 1966

100-114-1

Memorandum Branigan to Sullivan
RE: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
105-82555

At no time during our intensive investigation of Oswald or of the assassination of the late President Kennedy did Cooper or any of the other individuals mentioned herein as conspirators behind the assassination come to our attention as possessing information of value to the assassination. During our frequent contacts with Cooper during the period September, 1964, to January, 1966, he never made any allegation in connection with the assassination or Oswald. The allegations he is now making appear to be completely false. However, it is felt he should be interviewed to get the information first-hand and to be pinned down concerning his allegations before they are widely circulated and given credence by the public.

Bureau files contain no pertinent information concerning Herman G. Engelhardt, J. Russell Doiron or James Winfree. Bryan Clemmons is a sheriff in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and has held several responsible positions as a graduate of the FBI National Academy. Our relations with Clemmons have been excellent. Edward G. Partin was formerly Secretary-Treasurer of Teamsters Local Five, Baton Rouge, and was the principal Government witness against James Riddle Hoffa when Hoffa was convicted on charges of Obstruction of Justice on 3/4/64 at Chattanooga, Tennessee.

ACTION:

Attached is an airtel to the New Orleans Office instructing that Cooper be immediately interviewed and pinned down on his allegations that Oswald was involved in a conspiracy in the assassination of the late President Kennedy. We are instructing New Orleans that if its interview with Cooper does not completely resolve his allegations, New Orleans Office should submit its recommendations to the Bureau for consideration as to additional investigation deemed necessary to completely resolve this matter.

act *Wes* *11/15* *✓* *etc.*

FBI

Date: 9/16/66

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL

(Priority)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (105-82555)
FROM : SAC, CHICAGO (62-6115)
SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
IS - R - CUBA

B. J. ...
J. J. ...

Enclosed for the Bureau are six copies of a blind memorandum captioned "DISCUSSION OF WARREN COMMISSION REPORT BY MARK LANE AND ALBERT E. JENNER, JR. ON JERRY WILLIAMS SHOW, 8 P.M. TO 11:30 P.M., 9/15/66, WBBM RADIO, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS."

As noted in the memorandum, MARK LANE attempted to discredit the work of the Warren Commission and its conclusions, obviously in an effort to promote the sale of his book, "Rush to Judgment" which attacks the Warren Commission report. ALBERT E. JENNER, Jr. strongly defended the work of the Commission and was very critical of LANE's book.

For information.

cc: ...
cc: ...
cc: ...
3 - Bureau (Encl. 6) (RM)
2 - Chicago
(1 - 80-255)

HM/rms
(5)

Memo to Com. 9/16/66
ffs

REC 53

5503
14 SEP 19 1966

UNRECORDED AND SUBJECT OF ENCL FILED IN 62-109051-62

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

52 OCT 26 1966

September 16, 1966

114 DE 111
DISCUSSION OF WARREN COMMISSION
REPORT BY MARK LANE AND ALBERT
E. JENNER, JR. ON JERRY WILLIAMS
SHOW, 8 P.M. TO 11:30 P.M.,
9/15/66, WBBM RADIO, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The Jerry Williams Show is a local program regularly broadcast for about the past year on WBBM radio, Chicago, Illinois, in which the host, Jerry Williams, invites guests to appear and discuss various current and usually controversial issues. Part of the program is devoted to comments and questions from listeners who telephone the program. On September 15, 1966, Jerry Williams introduced on the Jerry Williams Show as his guest Mark Lane, author of a book, "Rush to Judgment" which Williams described as a critique of the Warren Commission inquiry into the murders of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy, Police Officer J. D. Tippett and Lee Harvey Oswald, and Chicago, Illinois attorney Albert E. Jenner, Jr. who served as a senior counsel to the Warren Commission.

Through the course of the program, Lane and Jenner disagreed concerning the validity of the Warren Commission report, Lane being critical of the report and Jenner supporting the report. Their remarks on the program included the following:

Lane said that contrary to the opinion of the Warren Commission, he felt the evidence was not conclusive that Oswald was the murderer of President Kennedy. Lane said that at one time, Oswald's mother wanted Lane to represent the deceased Oswald before the Warren Commission, but that the Warren Commission would not allow him to do so though he did appear before the Commission. His subsequent investigation into

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the circumstances of the assassination of President Kennedy led to his writing his book, "Rush to Judgment."

Jenner said that Mrs. Oswald, the mother of Lee Harvey Oswald, had refused to allow Lane to act as her attorney before the Warren Commission, and he noted also that she had no standing to name an attorney to represent Lee Harvey Oswald before the Commission. Jenner said further that Mark Lane had appeared before the Warren Commission and offered little or nothing of value and further, that Lane declined to identify certain people to whom he had referred in speeches and articles. Lane responded that he had furnished pertinent information to the Commission.

Lane referred to the work of the Warren Commission as slovenly. In this connection, he said that the Commission's opinion that the shots which killed President Kennedy had come from the Texas School Book Depository was unjustified, and that he himself felt that while possibly some shots may have come from the Depository, there was also strong evidence that shots came from behind a fence and that the Warren Commission had ignored this latter evidence.

Lane referred to photographs taken of President Kennedy as President Kennedy was being struck by the assassin's bullets. He said these photographs were taken by an amateur photographer, Abraham Zapruder. Lane said further that the Warren Commission, in publishing these photographs, mislabeled frames 314 and 315. In proof of this statement, Lane said he had a letter from J. Edgar Hoover, signed by Hoover, December 14, 1965, in which Hoover stated, in answer to someone who had written to Hoover in "our" (Lane's) behalf, that frames 314 and 315 of Commission exhibit 885 were transposed. Lane said that the Zapruder film was not in the shape it should be because four of the frames had been taken out by the FBI and the film had then been spliced. Lane said that members of the Commission and lawyers for the Commission did not know that the film had been spliced. During the program, Lane

referred several times to this film and to his allegation that the FBI had removed some of the film and then spliced it. On one occasion, in referring to the Zapruder film, Lane said that the frames between "207 and 212" were removed by the FBI and the film spliced and again said that no member of the Commission knew about this. Lane said that an attorney, Wesley Liebeler, who had assisted Jenner on the Commission, had learned of what the FBI did to the film and as a result of Liebeler's concern, Liebeler had written to J. Lee Rankin, counsel for the Warren Commission, and asked that the Warren Commission reopen its investigation because the FBI had spliced an important document, the Zapruder film.

Lane also raised the issue of the photographs and X-rays which he said had been made of the body of President Kennedy and which Lane said might show whether a wound in the President's throat was an exit or entrance wound and hence, would shed light on the direction from which the bullet came. Lane noted that "Newsweek" magazine had recently stated that its investigators could find no one in government who would admit knowing where those X-rays and photographs were.

In the matter of the location from which the assassin's bullets were fired, Jenner cited what he said was positive testimony from a number of witnesses which showed that the shots came from the Texas School Book Depository and not from anywhere else.

Lane said that a number of witnesses who might have been called by the Warren Commission were not called and further, that he believed that these witnesses were not called because their testimony might contradict pre-conceived opinions of the Warren Commission about the assassination.

When asked by Williams to comment on Lane's book, Jenner said that the book uses testimony from witnesses which is taken out of context, that the book offers no solid or fair proof for Lane's speculations about the assassination, and that the book ignores the background of Lee Harvey Oswald. Lane said

that the background of Oswald was not relevant since Oswald might well have been only a spectator at the assassination.

Lane said that he was not one of those who held that Oswald was a government agent. Lane then went on to note that such allegations had been made. He said that in the book of Congressman Gerald Ford about the assassination of President Kennedy, Ford said that Dallas, Texas, District Attorney, Henry Wade, and Texas Attorney General Waggoner Carr told Ford that Oswald was an FBI agent, that they knew the number assigned to Oswald, and that Oswald was paid \$200 a month. Lane said he does not know if those allegations were true, but he thought they merited investigation. Jenner said that the allegations that Oswald was an FBI agent or government agent had been investigated and had been proven false by the Warren Commission.

Lane mentioned a cablegram, Commission exhibit number 917, from the American Embassy in Moscow to the FBI, the CIA, the Department of State and the Commandant of the Marine Corps concerning Oswald. In this cablegram, which referred to Oswald's desire to renounce his citizenship and to his giving information about radar to the Russians, Oswald is described, according to Lane, as a former Marine and apparently further described but this latter description had been deleted from the cablegram. Lane said this deletion was of a space large enough for 43 letters, and he asked Jenner if he knew what this deletion was. Jenner said he had never seen the cablegram in any condition other than with the blank space whereupon Lane asked how then does Jenner know whether Oswald was a member of the FBI or the CIA if he did not know what had been deleted from the cablegram. Jenner said that he knew because he had seen the records of the FBI and the CIA and other government agencies.

In the course of the discussion, Lane's motivation in writing the book was discussed. Lane said he had given up his political career and his law practice while pursuing his investigation, and that he and his wife have had to borrow

money from his parents. He said he had obtained some money from lectures, but that he had contributed this money to the Citizens Committee for Inquiry, which committee sent amateur investigators into Dallas and these amateur investigators, according to Lane, turned up a lot more information than the professional investigators relied on by the Warren Commission. Jerry Williams then suggested that the publication of the book would now bring considerable money to Lane, to which Lane said he hoped people would buy the book, "Rush to Judgment." Lane noted that Jenner had said his book was a pack of lies. Lane went on to say that he, Lane, would not call the Warren Commission report a pack of lies although it was, according to Lane.

Lane also mentioned a secret meeting of the Warren Commission which was referred to by Congressman Ford in Ford's book which was concerned with allegations that Oswald was connected with the FBI. Jenner said that there was no evidence that Oswald was an FBI agent or even that Oswald was an agent of the Soviet Union.

Lane noted his differences with the Warren Commission concerning whether Oswald was as good a shot with a rifle as the Warren Commission report would indicate, and further expressed dissatisfaction with the suppression of a number of items in the government archives concerning the Warren Commission investigation which he said would not be released until the year 2039.

Lane also again made reference to what he said was the splicing of the Zapruder film by the FBI, and Jenner responded that even if the film was spliced, this would not mean that anything of significance had been deleted.

Lane also said that the Dallas Police Department prepared a transcript of its police radio broadcast during the time of the assassination, which transcript the Warren Commission felt was inaccurate with the result that an FBI agent was sent to the Dallas Police Department and there

spent four days preparing an FBI transcript of the Dallas police radio broadcast. This FBI transcript, according to Lane, was entirely different in material respects from the Dallas Police Department transcript. This police radio broadcast was significant, according to Lane, because Lane said a description of Oswald was broadcast over the police radio in Dallas before Oswald was known to be a suspect.

Lane also asked why the Warren Commission files concerning Jack Ruby were classified, and Jenner pointed out in answer that they were classified because Ruby's case was still pending in court.

Lane said there are a number of people who do not believe the conclusions in the report of the Warren Commission. Jenner said that responsible people who had reviewed the work of the Commission supported the Commission's report. Jenner said that the Commission conducted a full and fair investigation and reported that investigation fully and fairly.

Jenner departed from the program at about 11 p.m. in order to catch a plane and during the last half hour of the program, Lane replied to telephone callers who had questions concerning his earlier remarks. In answer to one of the callers, Lane said that it was not his position that the members of the Warren Commission were charlatans. Lane said that people in government, however, sometimes found it necessary to satisfy the needs of government and in this connection, Lane said that Adlai Stevenson, at the United Nations, had said that the United States was not involved in the invasion of Cuba by Cuban exiles when, in fact, the United States was definitely involved. Lane further mentioned that President Eisenhower had publicly stated that the plane of Francis Gary Powers, downed in Russia, had been a weather plane and that later, President Eisenhower publicly admitted that his earlier statement was not true and that he knew it to be untrue when he made it.

Lane, in answer to a question concerning why the Commission would issue an inaccurate or distorted report, said that the Commission had been faced with a situation in which the FBI, the Secret Service and the Dallas Police were all saying that Oswald had been the assassin. The Commission felt it necessary to settle doubts in the minds of the public by issuing a report saying that Oswald had been the assassin. Lane said that the Commission probably felt that to issue a report saying there were assassins who the Commission did not know about would have been unsettling. Lane noted that attorney Louis Nizer had said that the Commission's report was a contribution to national tranquility, and Lane said he agreed with this but Lane also said that the Commission report was a total disservice to the truth.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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

TO : Mr. Conrad *at*

DATE: 9/29/66

FROM : W. D. Griffith *W*

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
IS - R - CUBA

By airtel dated 9/16/66 the Chicago Office furnished a blind memorandum captioned "Discussion of Warren Commission Report by Mark Lane and Albert E. Jenner, Jr., on Jerry Williams Show, 8 P. M. to 11:30 P. M., 9/15/66, WBBM Radio, Chicago, Illinois." During the television program Mark Lane attempted to discredit the work of the Warren Commission and its conclusions in an obvious effort to promote the sale of his book "Rush to Judgment." Mr. Jenner strongly defended the work of the Commission and was critical of Lane's book. During the program, among other allegations Lane reportedly made erroneous references to some aspects of our examination of the amateur movie film of the assassination made by Abraham Zapruder. He reportedly stated that four of the frames had been taken out of the film by the FBI and the film had been spliced and that members of the Commission and lawyers for the Commission did not know that the film had been spliced.

This is completely in error; at no time did the FBI modify the original film in any manner. The facts are we never had custody of the original film which Zapruder sold to Life magazine. We made our original examination from copies of the film and later from slides made from each frame and furnished to us by Life magazine. At the request of the Commission, a representative of Life magazine did bring the original film to the Commission and in the presence of one of our Laboratory experts ran the film for the lawyers for the Commission. At that time and in the presence of the representative from Life magazine, an expert from the FBI was allowed to examine the original film briefly. The film was never out of the custody of

UNRECORDED COPY FILED

OCT 19 1966

105-82555

REC 53

10 - 5504

- 1 - Mr. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan (Mr. Lenihan)
- 2 - Mr. Rosen (Mr. Malley) (Mr. Raupach)
- 1 - Mr. Conrad
- 1 - Mr. Griffith
- 1 - Mr. Shaneyfelt

OCT 15 1966

CONTINUED - OVER

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105-82555-334
OCT 26 1966

Memorandum to Mr. Conrad
Re: Lee Harvey Oswald
105-82555

the representative from Life magazine during this period. We at that time noted no splice; however, subsequently when Life made slides of each frame available to us, it was determined by reference to the FBI copy of the film that certain frames were not represented in the slides and that the film from which the slides were made, now had been spliced. It is interesting to note that in the footnote on page 66 of Lane's book "Rush to Judgment" he makes reference to the fact that the film was in the custody of Life magazine and that Life was reluctant to release it to the Commission.

The initial assignment of numbers to the frames was done in the Laboratory and was based on the frames in the copy of the original that had been furnished to the FBI and this copy of the Zapruder film contained all of the frames and was made before the splicing occurred. As indicated above, we first became aware of the splices when individual slides of the pertinent frames were made by Life magazine and furnished to the FBI. These slides clearly show the splice on frame 207 and frame 212 and no slides were furnished for frames 208 through 211. It can be assumed that the splicing was done by Life magazine. The four missing frames were examined from the FBI copy previously obtained and although there is slightly less detail in the copy than in the original film, there was insufficient loss of information to be pertinent to the study of the film.

During the printing of the Warren Commission report, testimony and exhibits, two photographs representing frames from the Zapruder film were transposed resulting in mislabeling. Lane in the television program also referred to this mislabeling. This matter had been previously discovered and it had been previously established that the photographs of the frames and their numbers as furnished by the FBI Laboratory were correct, and the mislabeling in the Commission Report is apparently the result of a printing error.

RECOMMENDATION: None. For your information. ✓

J. Edgar Hoover
- 2 -
Dr. C.
W. S. G.
G. B. G.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO: Director, FBI (105-99555)

DATE: October 13, 1966

FROM: *[Signature]* Legat, Mexico City (105-3702) (RUC)

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
IS - R - CUBA

Re Mexico City letter dated 9/30/66.

[Redacted] advised on 10/10/66 that the manager of the Hotel Vermont, Vermont #29, Mexico, D. F., had located the hotel guest record for November, 1963, which disclosed that ELENA PAZ, housewife from San Luis Potosi, San Luis Potosi, Mexico, had registered at the hotel on 11/23/63, leaving 11/24/63, registering again on 11/25/63, leaving 11/27/63 and registering 11/28/63, leaving 11/30/63.

The ELENA PAZ referred to above may or may not be identical with ELENA GARRO DE PAZ referred to in the enclosure to re Mexico City letter.

Above information is being furnished to CIA, Mexico.

For information.

- 3 - Bureau
- (1 - Liaison Section)
- 1 - Mexico City
- MDC:ako
- (4)

EXP. PROC.

REC-28

105-99555-5505

EX-114

12 OCT 19 1966

51 OCT 25 1966

[Handwritten signatures and initials]

October 6, 1966

"RUSH TO JUDGMENT"

by Mark Lane

Mark Lane, an attorney, is the author of a book entitled, "Rush to Judgment." He claims it is "A Critique of the Warren Commission's Inquiry into the Murder of President John F. Kennedy, Officer J. D. Tippit, and Lee Harvey Oswald." It is considered to be a cleverly contrived piece of literature designed to discredit the President's Commission and its findings.

The American public should not be led into a state of belief by what Lane has written, as with all his criticisms and suppositions he has not established that any individual other than Lee Harvey Oswald was responsible for the assassination of President Kennedy or that a conspiracy was involved to kill our late President. The President's Commission in its report, supported by the 23 volumes of testimony and exhibits, clearly defines the investigation conducted which led to its final conclusion.

Lane, in his book, has set forth numerous irresponsible and speculative claims. In essence, his book is the result of the approach he has been assuming since the early days of the Warren Commission's inquiries and prior to the published findings of the Commission, when he appeared publicly on numerous occasions both in the United States and abroad. (100-409763-Vols. 2 and 3)

Lane states in his book, "If the Commission covered itself with shame, it also reflected shame on the Federal Government. The readiness with which its findings were accepted I believe to have been symptomatic of disease." Considering the extensiveness of the Commission's inquiry, Lane's rationale for the use of "readiness" is in itself cancerous. (page 398)

Lane traveled extensively while conducting his personal investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy. A Reuter's

KMR:eem (14)

1 - 100-409763

(D) 105-82555

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NOTE: See cover memo Rosen to DeLoach, captioned

"THE PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION (BIASED BOOKS)"

10/6/66, KMR:eem.

DEC 9 1966

ORIGINAL FILED IN

"Rush to Judgment"

press dispatch dated April 5, 1964, at Budapest, reported that Mark Lane, an attorney from New York, appeared before the Congress of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers in Budapest, at which time he asked for the creation of an international commission to be entrusted with the investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy. At this meeting he made various statements that the official theory of the assassination of the President was false. It is noted the International Association of Democratic Lawyers has been cited as an international communist-front organization in the "Guide to Subversive Organizations and Publications," revised and published December 1, 1961, by the Committee on Un-American Activities, U. S. House of Representatives, Washington, D. C. (100-409763-43)

The May 27, 1953, issue of the "Daily Worker" stated that the National Lawyers' Guild held an election of officers on May 26, 1953, and that Mark Lane was elected an ex officio member of the Board of Directors of the National Lawyers' Guild. The "Daily Worker" was an East Coast communist newspaper which is no longer published. The House Committee on Un-American Activities report number 8123, dated September 21, 1950, cited the National Lawyers' Guild as a communist-front, which "is the foremost legal bulwark of the Communist Party, its front organizations, . . ."

(100-409763-19)

The December 18, 1961, edition of "The Militant" reported that on December 8, 1961, Lane spoke at a rally sponsored by the New York Council to Abolish the House Committee on Un-American Activities and said his first official action during the coming session of the New York State Legislature would be to persuade Congress to abolish the House Committee on Un-American Activities. It is noted Lane was elected to the New York State Assembly in 1960, and in May, 1962, was defeated in an attempt to secure the nomination as candidate for the United States Congress from the 19th Congressional District of New York. (100-409763-19)

"The Militant" is a weekly newspaper of the Socialist Workers Party, which party was cited as a "subversive and communist organization which seeks to alter the form of government of the United States" ("Guide to Subversive Organizations and Publications," revised December 1, 1961).

"Rush to Judgment"

The introduction to Lane's book was written by Hugh Trevor-Roper, a historian at Oxford University in England. He contended the whole Warren Commission Report was a series of conclusions based on carefully selected evidence and that the full body of evidence does not point necessarily to the Commission's conclusions. He stated criticism should take place before judgment and that, "If the Warren Commission had allowed Mark Lane to contest their evidence before judgment, there would have been no need of his book." Newspaper articles published in England revealed Hugh Trevor-Roper was a severe critic of the findings of the President's Commission and he was taken to task by close associates for his reasoning, which was "marred by bias and blotted with inaccuracies." (62-109060-3948; 62-109090 A-1/4/65)

Lane sets forth in his book many statements and hypotheses which, under close scrutiny, are found to be inaccurate or willful distortions. For example, Lane states on Page 301, "The case against Lee Harvey Oswald was comprised essentially of evidence from two sources: Dallas police officers and Marina Oswald." The basis for such a statement is incomprehensible when reviewing the Commission's Report, the 23 volumes of hearings and exhibits, the preponderance of physical evidence, as well as interviews with hundreds of individuals, all of which contributed to the Commission's final conclusion.

In addition, one should closely examine the following statement made by Lane on Page 141 of his book: "The rules of evidence ordinarily require an intact chain of events before a physical exhibit -- such as a murder weapon -- may be associated with the defendant. The Commission failed to present evidence of such a chain linking Oswald to the Mannlicher-Carcano. The evidence presented actually raised doubts that he could have possibly come by the weapon in the fashion described by the Commission."

This is a completely irresponsible statement since the Commission's Report, beginning on Page 118, traces the rifle from Wehn's Sporting Goods Company, Chicago, Illinois, to Oswald, that the printing on the face of the money order coupon ordering the gun was that of Oswald, that the post office box to which the rifle was shipped was rented by Oswald, and finally that Oswald's palm print was located on the rifle barrel. This was established through the testimony of expert witnesses.

"Rush to Judgment"

Lane again clouds the issue by contending on Page 65, that if the FBI report of December 9, 1963, was accurate, the Commission's explanation of the throat wound in President Kennedy was inaccurate, as is the Commission's finding that a bullet entered the back of the President's neck. This report revealed "Medical examination of the President's body revealed that one of the bullets had entered just below his shoulder to the right of the spinal column at an angle of 45 to 60 degrees downward, that there was no point of exit, and that the bullet was not in the body."

This statement was accurately reported. The report reflects that the information was orally furnished to Special Agents of the FBI who attended the autopsy performed on the President at the U. S. Naval Hospital, Bethesda, Maryland. Following the autopsy of the President the FBI received the President's clothing and an examination by the FBI Laboratory determined that a slit having the characteristics of an exit hole for a projectile was located in the front of the shirt worn by the President. This information was contained in a supplemental report prepared by the FBI, dated January 13, 1964.

Commander James J. Hwaes, one of the physicians who performed the autopsy on President Kennedy, subsequent to the conclusion of the autopsy examination, concluded a bullet had passed through the President. He believed that a tracheotomy had been performed on the President at Dallas, Texas, which might have obliterated the exit wound. On the following morning, November 23, 1963, he telephonically contacted Dr. Malcolm O. Perry at Dallas, who verified there was a missile wound in the front of the President's neck and this wound had been used as the point to make the incision for the tracheotomy. (Page 83 of the Commission Report)

During the early stages of the autopsy the surgeons were unable to find a path into any large muscle in the back of the neck. When the surgeons learned that a whole bullet had been found on a stretcher at the Parkland Hospital, this led to the speculation that the bullet might have penetrated a short distance into the neck and dropped out onto the stretcher as the result of external heart massage. Further exploration during the autopsy disproved that theory. The surgeons determined that the bullet had passed between two large strap muscles and bruised them without leaving any channel since the bullet merely passed between them. (Page 88 of the Commission Report)

"Push to Judgment"

Howard L. Brennan was an eyewitness to the assassination who subsequently identified Lee Harvey Oswald. Lane has gone into great detail in order to discredit Brennan. The President's Commission set forth the testimony of Brennan, which appears on Pages 64 and 65 of the President's Commission Report. In addition, his verbatim testimony appears in Volume III, "Hearings Before the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy," Pages 161, and 181 through 183.

In this connection, Lane in attempting to support his theory of a conspiracy refers to the testimony of 18-year-old Arnold Rowland. Lane, on Page 397 of his book, states, "Rowland's testimony should have been accepted and Brennan's rejected." Rowland claimed he observed a man with a rifle on the southwest corner, sixth floor, of the Texas School Depository Building and had also seen an elderly man "hanging out that windy" on the southeast corner of the sixth floor. In commenting on Rowland's credibility, the Commission Report, on Page 251, states "The investigation showed that numerous statements by Rowland concerning matters about which he would not normally be expected to be mistaken -- such as subjects he studied in school, grades he received, whether or not he had graduated from high school, and whether or not he had been admitted to college -- were false."

Lane devotes an entire chapter (Page 114) to the initial identification of the murder weapon as being a German Mauser rather than an Italian carbine. He alludes to statements made to the press by Dallas authorities initially identifying the gun incorrectly and by inference he attempts to substantiate his theory of a conspiracy and that the Commission should have explored this discrepancy more thoroughly.

"Truth to Judgment"

Actually, the Commission conducted extensive inquiries into this phase of the investigation. Deputy Constable Seymour Weitzman, one of the first officers to observe the weapon, testified on April 1, 1964, in Dallas, Texas. His testimony is revealed in Volume VII, Pages 105 through 109 of the "Hearings Before the President's Commission." Deputy Weitzman was questioned by Mr. Joseph A. Ball, Assistant Counsel of the President's Commission. On Page 103, Mr. Ball asked Deputy Weitzman, "In the statement that you made to the Dallas Police Department that afternoon, you referred to the rifle as a 7.65 Mauser bolt action?" Deputy Weitzman replied, "In a glance, that's what it looked like." Mr. Ball then asked, "That's what it looked like - did you say that or someone else say that?" To which Mr. Weitzman replied, "No; I said that. I thought it was one." (a Mauser)

The Italian carbine was conclusively established as the murder weapon by experts who examined the bullet found on the stretcher at Fairland Hospital and that the three cartridge cases found on the sixth floor of the Texas School Depository Building were fired from the rifle. (Pages 18, 19, 84 and 85 of the Commission Report)

Lane on Page 44 states there is some evidence to "suggest" that one or more shots may have been fired from the Book Depository as the Warren Commission maintained, but "it is considerably less compelling than the evidence suggesting that shots came from behind the fence." He was referring to the fence located on a grassy knoll near the triple overpass. Lane continued by saying, "To contend, however, that shots came from the knoll is not to say that no shots were fired from elsewhere. But it is impossible to contend at one and the same time that some shots came from the fence and that a lone assassin -- Oswald -- fired from the Book Depository window. As the Commission was to remain faithful to the latter conclusion, it had first to prove that no shots came from the knoll. In attempting to do so, the Report cited evidence out of context, ignored and reshaped evidence and - which is perhaps worse - oversimplified evidence."

With reference to the above contention of Lane the Commission Report specifically states that "In contrast to the testimony of the witnesses who heard and observed shots fired from the Depository, the Commission's investigation has disclosed no credible evidence that any shots were fired from anywhere else."

10-28-66

CODE

CABLEGRAM

URGENT

1 - Mr. Cunningham
1 - Mr. Lenihan

TO LEGAT MEXICO CITY (105-3702)
FROM DIRECTOR FBI (105-82555)

LEE HARVEY OSWALD, AKA, IS - R - CUBA.

REBULET JUNE SIXTEEN, ONE NINE SIX FOUR, TRANSMITTING THE ORIGINAL EVIDENCE DESIGNATED AS [D-TWO ONE EIGHT] ADVISE BUREAU BY OCTOBER THREE ONE, NEXT, NAME OF OWNER TO WHOM YOU DELIVERED ORIGINAL EVIDENCE D-TWO ONE EIGHT AND DATE SUCH DELIVERY WAS MADE BY YOU TO OWNER.

1 - Foreign Liaison Unit (route through for review)

REL:cls (5)

NOTE: ck

D-218 consisted of passenger reservations and ticket sales lists of the Flecha Roja Bus Line in Mexico. Department is making study of all evidence furnished Warren Commission to determine what evidence should be permanently retained by Government. FBI Laboratory coordinating disposition of evidence obtained by Bureau and data requested herein necessary to respond to Department. 105-3702-5506

REC-21

18 NOV. 1 1966

VIA CABLEGRAM
OCT 28 1966
9:09 PM Jam

EX-110

NR.	145
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APPROVED BY	
TYPED BY	
INDEXED BY	

FBI - MEXICO
REC'D - ZIMTIAVH

OCT 28 4 25 PM '66

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- _____ Casper
- _____ Callahan
- _____ Conrad
- _____ Felt
- _____ Gale
- _____ Rosen
- _____ Sullivan
- _____ Tavel
- _____ Trotter
- _____ Tele. Room
- _____ Holmes

62 NOV 18 1966 TELETYPE UNIT

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WCS

AIRGRAM CABLEGRAM RADIO TELETYPE

STATE 03

VERY URGENT 10-29-66

TO DIRECTOR (105-82555)

FROM LEGAT MEXICO CITY NO. 249

LEE HARVEY OSWALD, AKA, IS-R-CUBA.

REBUCAB OCTOBER 28, LAST.

ORIGINAL EVIDENCE DESIGNATED AS D-218 WAS NOT RETURNED TO BUS LINE BUT IS STILL RETAINED IN ONE-A FILE OF CAPTIONED CASE IN THIS OFFICE.

RECEIVED: 7:25 PM EFH

*D-218 originally serial 1
 2. newly serial, original
 5-1-9-168
 105-82555-4896
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 a.d.*

105-82555-5507

18 NOV. 2 1966

cc in Penikese

BRD CC MR. BRENNAN

51 NOV 14 1966 1 214

FBI

Date: 10/28/66

Transmit the following in _____

(Type in plaintext or code)

Airtel

Airmail

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (105-82555)

FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (100-16601)

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
IS-R, CUBA

M. J. [unclear]

Re Bureau airtel to New Orleans 10/14/66.

New Orleans, to date, has been unable to locate WILLIAM H. COOPER at Baton Rouge, La. A source advised that he had seen COOPER in Baton Rouge but does not know where he is presently residing or working.

Efforts will continue in Baton Rouge to locate COOPER and interview him in this matter.

- 3 - Bureau
 - 1 - Dallas (100-0461) (RM)
 - 1 - Washington Field Office (105-37111) (RM)
 - 1 - New Orleans
- EBL:rep
(6)

71

REC-57

51 [unclear]
105-82555-5508

ST-107

NOV 2 1966

55 NOV 1966

Approved: _____

Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____

M

Per _____

RECEIVED
NOV 1 1966

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

[Handwritten initials]

Tolson	_____
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Mohr	_____
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Callahan	_____
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Sullivan	_____
Tavel	_____
Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holmes	_____
Gandy	_____

TO : Mr. Rosen *JRM*

DATE: November 3, 1966

FROM : J. R. Malley *JRM*

- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. Shroder
- 1 - Mr. Raupach
- 1 - Mr. Conrad

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

Mr. Charles Simms, Office of Legal Counsel, Department of Justice, called today and advised that the legal action pending with respect to the rifle used by Oswald, as well as the revolver used by Oswald in shooting police Officer Tippit, has been disposed of. He advised that in view of this it would now be permissible to transfer the two weapons from the Bureau to National Archives in accordance with previous correspondence with the Department.

Mr. Simms was requested to furnish the Bureau a letter setting forth the action taken relative to this matter and to put a statement in the letter that the Bureau now has the necessary authorization to transfer these weapons to Archives.

ACTION:

(1) In view of the foregoing, when the letter is received from the Department, giving the Bureau the necessary authorization, the Dallas Office should be requested to ship the two guns referred to above, as well as the holster for the Tippit murder weapon, to the Bureau so they can be transferred to Archives.

(2) Upon receipt of the weapons from Dallas the Laboratory, which has handled the transfer of all exhibits to Archives, will make the necessary arrangements for transfer of the weapons to Archives.

JRM:mpd (6)

107-80555-

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193 NOV 8 1966

NOV 8 1966

NOV 3 5 28 14 66

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SIA

NOV 17 1966 *mpd*

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FBI

Date: 11/4/66

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 Gale _____
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 Sullivan _____
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 Trotter _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Miss Holmes _____
 Miss Gandy _____

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

(Priority)

TO : Director, FBI (62-109060)
 FROM : SAC, New Orleans (89-69) (C)
 SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
 JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY
 DALLAS, TEXAS, 11/22/63
 MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING
 (OO: Dallas)

SAM DEPINO, WVUE-TV, New Orleans, La., telephonically contacted ASAC JOSEPH T. SYLVESTER, JR., at his residence on 11/4/66 and advised he believed the news department at his television station was attempting to put together a show for the anniversary of the slaying of President KENNEDY.

DEPINO stated he has been instructed to interview all persons he could locate in the New Orleans area concerning their knowledge of the shooting of President KENNEDY. DEPINO said he has interviewed a Mr. COLLINS, who operated a Amoco station near the address where OSWALD lived in New Orleans, and that Mr. COLLINS told him he had known OSWALD, and when questioned as to whether or not he had previously been interviewed by the FBI or anyone else, COLLINS said he had not.

Lee Harvey

DEPINO wanted a comment as to whether or not the FBI had interviewed COLLINS and whether or not instructions had been given to persons interviewed to say they had not been interviewed. DEPINO was advised that no comment would be made concerning this.

The above is being furnished for the information the Bureau.

- Bureau (RM)
- Dallas (89-43) (RM)
- New Orleans

epk
(5)

115 8255
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 199 NOV 16 1966

62-109060-4255

ORIGINAL FILED IN

NOV 23 1966

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
 Special Agent in Charge

WASH DC

DALLAS

9:49 PM URGENT 11-5-66 ASP-

DIRECTOR (62-109060)

FROM DALLAS (100-10461)

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY, NOV. TWENTYTWO,

NINETEEN SIXTYTHREE; DALLAS, TEX.; MISCELLANEOUS - INFO CONCERNING.

RE BUTEL TO DALLAS THIS DATE.

ASSASSINATION RIFLE WITH CLIP AND REVOLVER, COMMISSION EXHIBIT

NO. ONE THREE NINE AND ONE FOUR THREE, PLUS A BROWN LEATHER HOLSTER,

COMMISSION EXHIBIT NUMBER ONE FOUR FOUR, SHIPPED AIR EXPRESS THIS

MORNING, VIA AMERICAN AIRLINES, FLIGHT NO. TWO TWO EIGHT, DEPARTING

DALLAS THREE TWENTYFIVE PM, ARRIVING WASHINGTON, D.C., DULLES AIR-

PORT SIX THIRTYFIVE PM THIS DATE. *Lee Oswald*

ASSASSINATION RIFLE SHIPPED AIR EXPRESS UNDER AIR EXPRESS WAYBILL

NO. THREE ZERO TWO TWO TWO SIX.

AIR EXPRESS OFFICIAL ROBERT WORSHAM, DALLAS, STATES AGENTS CAN

RETRIEVE FLIGHT TWO TWO EIGHT AT DULLES, AND AMERICAN AIRLINES WILL RE-

TURN RIFLE TO BUAGENTS.

CAPTAIN PICKERING IS AMERICAN FLIGHT CAPTAIN ABOARD FLIGHT TWO

TWO EIGHT.

END

WASH DC

7359

NOV 25 1966

copy [unclear]

105-7205

NOT RECORDED
199 NOV 16 1966

NOV 15 1966

ORIGINAL FILED IN 100-10461-4254

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

FILE NO. 105-82555

SERIAL NO. 5509

PAGE NO. 1-10

NO. OF PAGES 10

SECTION NO.

230

NAY

REFERRAL

FBI

Date: 11/2/66

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (105-82555)
FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (100-16601) (MC)
SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
IS - R - CUBA

Handwritten initials/signature

Re Bureau airtel to New Orleans, 10/14/66
and New Orleans airtel to Bureau, 10/28/66.

Enclosed for the Bureau are 10 copies and
for Dallas and WFO one copy each of a LHM regarding
captioned matter.

WILLIAM H. COOPER is identical to the indi-
vidual who was [REDACTED]

It is noted that during contact with COOPER
on 10/31/66, COOPER advised that he does not have
any specific basis for the allegations made regarding
this matter and that his only basis for these
allegations are that they were either his opinion or he felt the
allegations were true. He stated that in each

B

- 3 - Bureau (Enc. 10)
- 1 - Dallas (100-10461) (Enc. 1)
- 1 - WFO (105-37111) (Enc. 1)
- 1 - New Orleans

ENCLOSURE

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(6)

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SOVIET SECTION

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

53 NOV 21 1966

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Agency CIA Secret Service ON
Req. Recd
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by
11-8-66

NO 100-16601

EBL:cmg

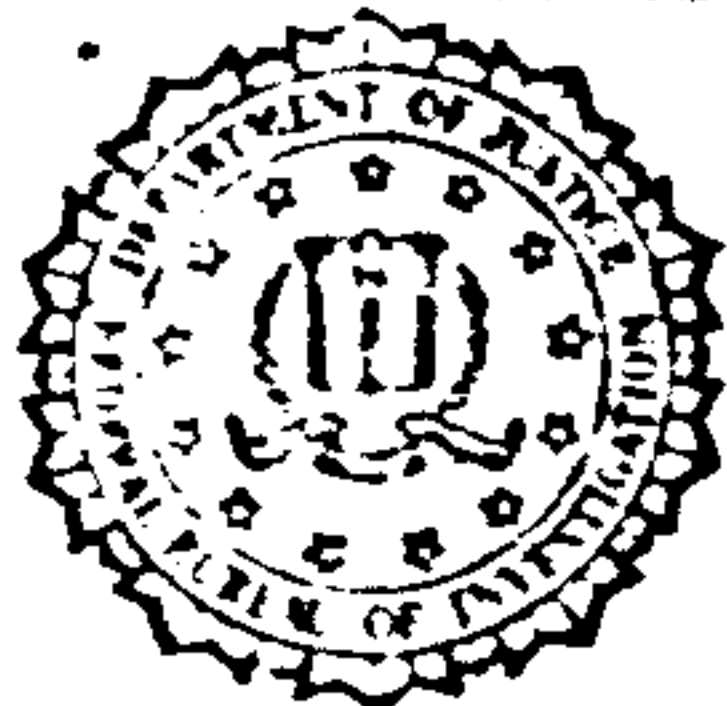
instance when questioned further, that his opinion and feelings were based upon his "research" and that this "research" was in the form of the documents that he had made available to Congressman DON FUQUA of Florida.

During the interview of COOPER, he stated that he had been a candidate for the position of Sheriff in East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana in 1959 and 1963 and that his opponent on each occasion was the incumbent, Sheriff BRYAN CLEMMONS. He stated that the reason he moved from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in the fall of 1965 to Florida was because of the fact that every time he got a job CLEMMONS would have him fired. He stated that he was never told this by anyone, but that he felt since he opposed CLEMMONS in the two elections, CLEMMONS was out to get him.

COOPER stated that he has been doing "research" into the assassination of President KENNEDY since about December, 1963, and that he had not completed this "research" when he left Baton Rouge for Florida in the fall of 1965. He stated that when he met Congressman FUQUA in Florida, he felt that his "research" had progressed to such a point that he had to advise someone.

It is noted that during the interview COOPER appeared to be highly nervous and was concerned about being seen with the interviewing agent.

The New Orleans Office does not feel that any additional inquiries are necessary regarding COOPER's allegations. New Orleans will have no further contact with COOPER, however, will accept any information from COOPER that he voluntarily furnishes.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

New Orleans, Louisiana
November 2, 1966

LEE HARVEY OSWALD

William H. Cooper, 620 Wiltz Drive, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, advised on October 31, 1966, that he did not have any specific information regarding Lee Harvey Oswald being a part of a conspiracy to assassinate the late President John F. Kennedy. He stated that he had been doing "research" into the assassination and he thought "some stuff just didn't look right." Cooper stated that he "felt" that Herman G. Engelhardt, J. Russell Dorrton, Bryan Clemmons, and James Wilhfree, were part of a conspiracy involved in the assassination of the late President Kennedy. He stated that he also believed that Edward G. Partin was also involved. He stated that his reason for thinking and feeling this way was that he believed the above persons felt that President Kennedy was usurping the police powers of the State of Louisiana, and was also usurping the power of the United States Navy through Secretary McNamara.

He pointed out that all of the above individuals with the exception of Partin were guests on the USS Shangri-La CVA-38, in August of 1963. In addition to these four, he stated that Clinton Dowling, J. Harper Erwin, Jr., Adolph Vermont, Jr., William E. Carver, Jr., and Ben A. Miller were on this guest cruise. He stated that he had been unable to identify Vermont and Carver, and he felt that they might be some high ranking naval officers who wanted to conceal their identities. He stated that he felt that the assassination was planned by

COPIES DESTROYED

21 MAR 12 1973

ENCLOSURE

MS 100-5510

LEE HARVEY OSWALD

this group during this cruise and pointed out that in August of 1963 Lee Harvey Oswald was receiving front-page publicity in the New Orleans newspapers. He stated that he knew that Bryan Clemmons was in New Orleans on August 19, 1963 and that Oswald was also in New Orleans on that date. He stated he had no proof that Clemmons contacted Oswald on that date, but felt it was an odd coincidence that they were both in New Orleans on the same day. Cooper stated that the guest cruise on the Shangri-La had been arranged by Herman Engelhardt, who is head of the Navy League in Baton Rouge. He stated that his "research" had showed that Engelhardt worked with Oswald's father a number of years ago. He stated that Fred Croth, who he described as an ex-secretary of the Navy, was fired by Kennedy and that Croth and Engelhardt were employed in the same "company group."

Cooper stated that another thing that lead him to believe the above group was in on the assassination of President Kennedy was that two or three people closely associated with Sheriff Clemmons were in on the assassination of Senator Huey Long. He stated that the Warren Commission Report pointed out that Oswald had read a book on the assassination of Senator Huey Long, and he thought that this was more than coincidental.

Cooper stated that another coincidence was that Sheriff Clemmons is a good friend of Sheriff Decker of Dallas, Texas, and Sheriff Decker's jail is the one in which Oswald was killed.

Cooper stated that even though Edward G. Partin was not on the guest cruise on the Shangri-La, he knew that Partin had purchased a rifle in April, 1963, similar to the one that was used to assassinate President Kennedy.

LEE HARVEY OSWALD

Cooper stated that for these reasons he felt that the persons he had named were involved in a conspiracy to assassinate the late President Kennedy. He stated that he had no specific allegations other than the ones that he has mentioned regarding this matter.

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.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (62-109030)

DATE: 11/7/66

FROM : SAC, DALLAS (100-10461) (1)

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY
11/22/63, DALLAS, TEXAS
MISCELLANEOUS -
INFORMATION CONCERNING

OO - DALLAS

✓
Re Ball
Row
...

Re Bureau teletype to Dallas, 11/5/66, and Dallas teletype to Bureau, 11/5/66.

Enclosed for the Bureau are the original and two copies of U. S. Government Bill of Lading A7509984, reflecting the shipment of the following evidence in captioned case via Air Express on 11/5/66: *Lee Oswald*

Assassination Rifle with Clip
Commission Exhibit No. 139;

Revolver, Commission Exhibit No. 143;

Brown leather holster, Commission Exhibit No. 144.

As reflected in referenced Dallas teletype, these items were shipped Air Express under Air Express Waybill No. 302226.

original of two copies of 462 attached 110 12

shipment rec'd 11/6 per [unclear]

2 - Bureau (encls-3) (RM)
1 - Dallas
RSG:jeg
(3)

ENCLOSURE

NOT RECORDED

18 NOV 22 1966

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430
J. Edgar Hoover
Director, Federal Bureau
of Investigation

Frank M. Wozencraft
Assistant Attorney General
Office of Legal Counsel

11/3/64
Transfer of rifle and pistol involved in the assassina-
tion of President Kennedy to the National Archives

By a memorandum of August 19, 1966, the Attorney General authorized you to transfer to the National Archives and Records Service of the General Services Administration all evidence and exhibits involved in the investigation conducted by the Warren Commission, except for the rifle and pistol which were subject to litigation in the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit (John J. King v. United States, decided July 29, 1966).

That memorandum also authorized you to transfer the rifle and pistol to the National Archives when the forfeiture litigation terminated or when title to those items was vested in the United States pursuant to Public Law 89-316.

Title to those items has been vested in the United States pursuant to Public Law 89-318 (See Part II of the Federal Register of November 1, 1966, page 13965, et seq.). Furthermore, the Solicitor General, in conformity with recommendations from the Criminal Division and this Office, decided not to appeal the adverse decision of the Fifth Circuit and time for any such appeal has expired. This, in effect, terminated the litigation.

Accordingly, in conformity with the Attorney General's memorandum of August 19, 1966, it is requested that you arrange for prompt transfer of the rifle and pistol to the National Archives

105-22555

copy

ENCLOSURE

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: November 7, 1966

FROM : A. Rosen

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. Shroder
- 1 - Mr. Raupach
- 1 - Mr. Wick
- 1 - Mr. Conrad

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY
NOVEMBER 22, 1963
DALLAS, TEXAS
MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION
CONCERNING

PURPOSE:

The Department, by letter dated 11/3/66, authorized transfer of assassination rifle and revolver used by Oswald to kill Police Officer J. D. Tippit to National Archives. These items were in possession of our Dallas Office pending disposition of court action as to ownership of these items.

BACKGROUND:

By memorandum dated 8/19/66, the Attorney General authorized the Bureau to transfer to National Archives all exhibits and evidence in the Bureau's possession relating to the assassination of President Kennedy, with the exception of the rifle and revolver. This has been done.

By letter dated 11/3/66, the Department authorized the Bureau to transfer to National Archives the assassination rifle and revolver (no mention made of the holster) used by Oswald to kill Dallas Police Officer J. D. Tippit. These items were previously shipped to the Dallas Office upon instructions of the Department in connection with a suit instituted by John J. King, a Colorado oilman. King paid Oswald's widow, Mrs. Marina Oswald Porter, \$10,000 for these items and agreed to pay an additional \$5,000 when he obtained possession.

Hearing held U. S. Federal Court, Dallas, Texas, and Judge Estes decided the guns were rightfully the property of U. S. Government. King appealed this decision to the 5th Circuit Court and, according to the Department's letter 11/3/66, the adverse decision of the 5th Circuit was not

ORIGINAL FILED IN

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1966 NOV 23 1966
CONTINUED - OVER

NOV 27 1966

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Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
Re: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY

going to be appealed and since time for such an appeal has expired, the Department states this, in effect, terminated the litigation. The Department indicates that the title to these items was vested in the United States pursuant to Public Law 89-318. The Federal Register for 11/1/66, specifically lists the rifle and pistol as coming within Public Law 89-318. No reference is made to the holster; however, the Acting Attorney General's order specifies that all other items of evidence which were assigned exhibit numbers by the Commission would be included. The holster was given Commission Exhibit Number C-144.

Upon Bureau instructions, the Dallas Office shipped the rifle, pistol and holster to the Bureau and these items were received on 11/5/66, and are presently in the possession of our Laboratory. It is noted that in the Department's letter of 11/3/66, it neglected to mention the holster; however, this item is being transferred to the National Archives along with the assassination rifle and revolver.

ACTION:

A memorandum transferring these items to Archives is being prepared by the Laboratory, and, thereafter, the Department will be advised of the action taken.

Handwritten notes:
✓
J. Edgar Hoover
11/22
all 3 exhibits etc in this case transferred to Archives & 1/19/67
#5

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Wick
- 1 - Mr. Rosen

Tolson _____
 DeLoach _____
 Mohr _____
 Callahan _____
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 Trotter _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Holmes _____
 Gandy _____

TO : Mr. W. C. Sullivan *WCS*

DATE: November 8, 1966

FROM : Mr. W. A. Branigan *WAB*

- 1 - Mr. Sullivan *WCS*
- 1 - Mr. Branigan *WAB*
- 1 - Mr. Raupach
- 1 - Mr. Lenihan

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
INTERNAL SECURITY - RUSSIA - CUBA

Boyd
D.C. Branigan
WCS

The purpose of this memorandum is to recommend that the Crime Records Division contact Congressman Don Fuqua of Florida and inform Congressman Fuqua that interview of William H. Cooper by Special Agents of this Bureau revealed that Cooper possesses no factual information indicating Lee Harvey Oswald was involved in a conspiracy with several individuals in the assassination of the late President John F. Kennedy.

BACKGROUND:

In memorandum Branigan to Sullivan dated 10/31/66 it was reported that Congressman Don Fuqua of Florida made available to a Special Agent of the Washington Field Office data Congressman Fuqua had received from Mr. William H. Cooper of New Orleans, Louisiana, indicating Oswald was involved in a conspiracy with several individuals in the assassination of the late President John F. Kennedy. The data made available by Congressman Fuqua revealed that Cooper claimed Oswald was involved with five other individuals in a plot to assassinate President Kennedy. The conspirators allegedly met in August, 1963, on a United States aircraft carrier, "U.S.S. Shangri-La." Cooper named the conspirators as Herman G. Engelhardt, J. Russell Dorron, Bryan Clemmons, James Winfree, and Edward G. Partin.

Bureau files contain no information identifiable with Engelhardt, Dorron or Winfree. Bryan Clemmons is a sheriff in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, who has held several responsible positions as a graduate of the FBI National Academy. Our relations with Clemmons have been excellent. Partin was formerly Secretary-Treasurer of Teamsters Local Five, Baton Rouge, and was the principal Government witness against James Riddle Hoffa when Hoffa was convicted on charges of Obstruction of Justice on 3/4/64 at Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Congressman Fuqua indicated he was concerned over Cooper's allegations and requested that a representative of the FBI contact Cooper in this matter.

105-82555

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Memorandum Branigan to Sullivan
RE: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
105-82555

DATA IN FBI FILES RE COOPER

William H. Cooper was

[REDACTED]

At no time during our contacts with Cooper [REDACTED] did he ever make any allegations in connection with the assassination of the late President John F. Kennedy or concerning Lee Harvey Oswald. At no time during our intensive investigation of Oswald or of the assassination of the late President Kennedy did Cooper or any of the other individuals mentioned herein as conspirators behind the assassination come to our attention as possessing information of value to the assassination.

INTERVIEW OF COOPER

By airtel 11/2/66 the New Orleans Office reported results of its interview with Cooper in this matter. Cooper informed the New Orleans Office that he had no specific information showing Oswald was part of a conspiracy to assassinate the late President Kennedy. He stated he had been doing "research" into the assassination and he thought "some stuff just didn't look right." He possessed no information indicating Oswald had any personal contact or acquaintance with the five other individuals named as conspirators but he believed these people were involved in the assassination since they felt President Kennedy was usurping the police powers of the State of Louisiana and was also usurping the power of the United States Navy through the Secretary of Defense, Robert S. McNamara.

During interview of Cooper by the New Orleans Office on 10/31/66, he indicated that he had opposed Sheriff Bryan Clemmons for election on two occasions for the position of sheriff. He also stated that he lost both elections and thereafter felt that every time he got a job, Sheriff Clemmons would have him fired. He stated he felt Sheriff Clemmons was out to get him.

Cooper also stated he had been doing "research" into the assassination of President Kennedy since December, 1963, and has continued his "research" up to this time. He stated that when he recently met Congressman Fuqua in Florida, he felt that

Memorandum Branigan to Sullivan
RE: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
105-82555

his "research" had progressed to such a point that he had to advise someone.

During our interview with Cooper on 10/31/66, he appeared to be highly nervous and was concerned about being seen with the interviewing FBI Agent.

RECOMMENDATION:

In view of Congressman Fuqua's interest in Cooper's allegations, it is recommended that the Crime Records Division contact Congressman Fuqua and inform him that we have interviewed Cooper in connection with his allegations surrounding the assassination of the late President John F. Kennedy. Crime Records Division should inform Congressman Fuqua that Cooper was unable to produce any specific basis for the allegations he has made and he admitted these allegations were either his opinion or he felt they were true. Crime Records Division should also inform Congressman Fuqua that this Bureau's intensive investigation of the assassination produced no evidence that anyone else was involved with Lee Harvey Oswald in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

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10/27

Handled with Cong 11-15-66
Fuqua
D-13/4

Memorandum

DEPARTMENT OF

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

TO : J. Edgar Hoover
Director, Federal Bureau
of Investigation

DATE:

FROM : Frank M. Wozencraft
Assistant Attorney General
Office of Legal Counsel

SUBJECT: Transfer of rifle and pistol involved in the assassination of President Kennedy to the National Archives

By a memorandum of August 19, 1966, the Attorney General authorized you to transfer to the National Archives and Records Service of the General Services Administration all evidence and exhibits involved in the investigation conducted by the Warren Commission, except for the rifle and pistol which were subject to litigation in the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit (John J. King v. United States, decided July 29, 1966).

That memorandum also authorized you to transfer the rifle and pistol to the National Archives when the forfeiture litigation terminated or when title to those items was vested in the United States pursuant to Public Law 89-318.

Title to those items has been vested in the United States pursuant to Public Law 89-318 (See Part II of the Federal Register of November 1, 1966, page 13968, et seq.). Furthermore, the Solicitor General, in conformity with recommendations from the Criminal Division and this Office, decided not to appeal the adverse decision of the Fifth Circuit and time for any such appeal has expired. This, in effect, terminated the litigation.

Accordingly, in conformity with the Attorney General's memorandum of August 19, 1966, it is requested that you arrange for prompt transfer of the rifle and pistol to the National Archives.

105-4-113

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Handwritten notes and stamps:
62-117-1-1
NOV 2 1966
[Signature]

NOV 21 1966

105-8255

Mr. Frank M. Wozencraft
Assistant Attorney General
Director, FBI

- 1 - Mr. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan (Attn: Mr. Lenihan, Rm. 818 9&D)
- 1 - Mr. Rosen (Attn: Mr. Malley, Rm. 5713)
- 1 - Mr. Raupach, Rm. 5716
- 1 - Mr. Conrad

November 9, 1966

**COPIES OF TITLE AND VISUAL INVOLVED IN
ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY TO
INTERNATIONAL ARCHIVES**

- 1 - Mr. Cunningham
- 1 - Office, Rm. 7133

Your memorandum of November 3, 1966, advised that the title to the rifle and pistol which had been subject to litigation has been vested in the United States and instructed that these items be transferred to the National Archives.

Pursuant to your instructions, the rifle, the pistol and its associated holster were furnished to Mr. Marion M. Johnson of the National Archives on November 3, 1966.

See Oswald's
[Signature]

RHJ:bsm
(11)

NOTE: Based on memorandum Jevons to Conrad 11/8/66 re "Warren Commission Exhibits."
RHJ:mjk

MAILED 6
NOV 9 - 1966
COMM-FBI

38
61 NOV 23 1966

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

RECEIVED IN 6

FBI

Date: 10/27/66

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (105-82555)
Attention: SUPERVISOR COURTLAND B. CUNNINGHAM
FBI LABORATORY

FROM: SAC, DALLAS (100-10461) (P)

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD, aka (deceased)
IS - R - CUBA
OO - DALLAS

Re Bureau telephone call to Dallas, 10/27/66 requesting determination of disposition of certain items of evidence in captioned case and specifically to whom and when the items were released.

Items No. 353, 371, 372, 374 through 379, B2, B17 and B18, described in Bulet to Dallas, 6/19/64, which items were personal property of Mr. and Mrs. MICHAEL PAINE, were returned to Mr. H. W. HILL, Property Manager of the Dallas Police Department, ^{6/23/64} as reflected in Dallas airtel to Bureau dated 7/3/64, and receipt obtained (100-10461-1A-373).

Item No. 330, which was Mrs. PAINE's address book, furnished Dallas by Bureau airtel to Dallas, 12/24/63, was returned to Captain WILL FRITZ, Dallas Police Department, on 1/6/64 by SA BARDWELL D. ODUM, and Dallas file reflects Mrs. PAINE was advised of this fact on 1/21/64.

Item C320, a rifle obtained from ROBERT ADRAIN TAYLOR, was returned to Dallas by the FBI Laboratory as indicated in Bulet to Dallas, 6/5/64, enclosing laboratory report. This rifle was returned to TAYLOR on 6/16/64 by SA A. RAYMOND SWITZER, as evidenced by receipt (100-10461-1A-355). (See report

Item Q618, material from sidewalk as reflected in Bulet to Dallas, 11/17/64, enclosing laboratory report, is still retained in Dallas file as a 1A exhibit (100-10461-1A-470). (See reports of SA ROBERT P. GIMBERLING, 10/8/64, pages 65-68 and 11/27/64, pages 8-11.)

1 - Bureau
2 - Dallas
RPG:jeg
(6)

airtel
11/15/66
cc: [unclear] RECS

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20 OCT 29 1966

62-11060-
9.11.62.1-

UNRECORDED

C C App [unclear] Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M

SEVEN
SOVIET

DL 100-10461

Items D128 through D136 were returned to Dallas by Bulet to Dallas dated 12/27/63 in case captioned "UNKNOWN SUBJECT; MRS. MARGUERITE CLEAVERIE; OSWALD - VICTIM; EXTORTION", Dallas file 9-1897, Bufile 9-41624 (FBI Lab No. D-437901AX). These documents are still retained in Dallas file 9-1897 as follows:

D128, D129, D130 and D131 are 1A4 of Dallas file 9-1897; D132 and D133 are 1A-3 of Dallas file 9-1897; D134 and D135 are exhibit 1A2 of 9-1897; and D136 is exhibit 1A-1 of 9-1897.

1 - Office, 71 :
11/15/66

1 - Mr. Cunningham

Airtel

To: SAC, Dallas (100-10461) REC-9
From: Director, FBI (105-82555) — 5:12

LEE HARVEY OSWALD, - aka (deceased)
IS - R - CUBA

Reurairtels 10/27/66, and 10/28/66.

For your information, items D128 through D136 relating to the extortion case captioned "UNKNOWN SUBJECT; MRS. MARGUERITE CLEAVERIE OSWALD - VICTIM; EXTORTION," Bureau file 9-41624, Dallas file 9-1897 were sent to the National Archives and Records Service on 11/1/66, for their permanent retention.

Attached herewith is item Q618 (material from sidewalk) which should be retained by your office, since it was received after the publication of the Warren Commission Report.

Enclosure

CC:bas
(5)

MAILED 12
NOV 16 1966
COMM-FBI

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

NOV 29 1966
MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

62-11111-1

UNRECORDED

NOV 12 1966
REC.D

FBI

Date: 10/28/66

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

Transmit the following in _____ (Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL _____ (Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (105-82555)
Attention: ASSISTANT DIRECTOR IVAN W. CONRAD
FBI LABORATORY

FROM: SAC, DALLAS (100-10461) (P)

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD, aka (deceased)
IS - R - CUBA
OO - DALLAS

Re Dallas airtel to Bureau, 10/27/66, and Bureau telephone call to Dallas, 10/27/66.

Enclosed for the Bureau is Item Q618, material from sidewalk which is furnished the Bureau in accordance with its request. Investigation relating to this item is set forth on pages 65 through 68 of the report of SA ROBERT P. GEMBERLING, dated 10/8/64, and on pages eight through 11 of the report of SA GEMBERLING dated 11/27/64.

Also enclosed for the Bureau are Items D128 through D136, mentioned in referenced airtel.

Although items D128 through D136 relate to an extortion case captioned "UNKNOWN SUBJECT; Mrs. MARGUERITE CLEAVERIE OSWALD - VICTIM, EXTORTION", Bufile 9-41624, Dallas file 9-1897, information concerning these exhibits was reported in accordance with Bureau instructions in the report of SA ROBERT P. GEMBERLING dated 5/15/64 at Dallas, captioned "ASSASSINATION OF JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY, 11/22/63, DALLAS, TEXAS, MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING" Bufile 62-109060, Dallas file 89-43, on pages 1061 through 1069. Also in this report, these exhibits are fully described on Table of Contents pages xx through xxii.

4 - Bureau (encls-10) (RM)
2 - Dallas
RPG:jeg
(6)

ENCLOSURE

8390 airtel
11/15/66

IC C. VICK

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

OCT 29 1966

SEVEN

SOVIET

62-109060-41624

[Handwritten signatures and initials]

DL 100-10461

In connection with Bureau inquiry concerning Item D45, a motel registration card belonging to Mr. and Mrs. CECIL SITZ, owners of the "Half Circle J" Motel, Fort Worth, Texas, the Dallas files reflect that this item was returned to the owners on 10/28/64. For the Bureau's information, this item was returned to Dallas by Bureau airtel to Dallas dated 10/16/64, with instructions to promptly return it to Mr. and Mrs. SITZ. This item was identified in Dallas files as 89-43-1A-14.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

NOV 5 1966

TELETYPE

FBI DALLAS

FBI WASH DC

12:08 PM URGENT 11-5-66 RCS

TO DALLAS 100-10461

FROM DIRECTOR 62-109060 1P

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY,
NOVEMBER TWENTY-TWO, NINETEEN SIXTY-THREE; DALLAS, TEXAS;
MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING.

100-10461 / Oswald

DEPARTMENT HAS ADVISED LITIGATION CONCERNING THE
ASSASSINATION RIFLE WITH CLIP AND REVOLVER, COMMISSION
EXHIBIT NUMBERS ONE THREE NINE AND ONE FOUR THREE
RESPECTIVELY, HAS BEEN TERMINATED AND MAY BE TRANSFERRED TO
THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES. PREPARE FOR SHIPMENT BY AIR EXPRESS
THESE ITEMS PLUS THE BROWN LEATHER HOLSTER, COMMISSION
EXHIBIT NUMBER ONE FOUR FOUR AND SHIP TO REACH THE BUREAU,
ATTENTION LABORATORY ON NOVEMBER SEVEN NEXT. SUTEL AIRLINES
FLIGHT NUMBER, ARRIVAL POINT AND TIME SO POSSESSION CAN BE
TAKEN BY BUREAU PERSONNEL.

END

ASP

FBI DALLAS 56 NOV 14 1966

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