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July 2, 1964

BY COURIER SERVICE

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

Lee Harvey

Dear Mr. Rankin:

At the request of the President's Commission this Bureau has reviewed the book, "The Red Roses of Dallas," by Nerin E. Gun, correspondent for "Epoca," an Italian weekly magazine. A French version of the book was reviewed in the absence of the English version which reportedly is to be published in the near future.

There are attached two copies of a memorandum dated July 2, 1964, at Washington, D. C., containing certain claims made by Gun on the assassination of President Kennedy that are not substantiated by the results of our investigation. For your information, Gun presents no factual material that would contradict the results of our inquiry or that would substantiate Gun's speculation concerning involvement of a conspiracy in the assassination matter.

Records of this Bureau indicate that Nerin Emullah Gun, a journalist by profession, was reportedly born in Rome, Italy, in 1920 and is of Turkish nationality. He first entered the United States in 1946 and has represented several foreign publications in this country since that time.

This Bureau investigated Gun in 1949 and 1950 based on allegation that Turkish officials regarded him with suspicion due to "extraordinary facilities" granted Gun as a news correspondent in Berlin and elsewhere by the Russians following World War II. The jacket of Gun's book states that he had been interned in Germany and freed by Americans during World War II.

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- Belmont _____
- Mohr _____
- Casper _____
- Callahan _____
- Conrad _____
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- Evans _____
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- Tele. Room _____
- Holmes _____
- Gandy _____

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 BY COURIER SVC.

SEE NOTE PAGE 2

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Honorable J. Lee Rankin

Our inquiry disclosed that Gun had expressed himself in an anticommunist manner in various articles. He was described by one source as having no interest in the Soviet Union or communism; however, that source did advise he considered Gun to be an opportunist and an individual who would help anyone who paid him.

Our investigation also showed that Gun's accreditation as a news correspondent at the United Nations in New York City had not been renewed after expiration in 1949. One source indicated Gun's accreditation was not renewed because he had been arrested in January, 1949, on charges of reusing metered mail that had been filed by the United States Post Office Department with the United States District Court, Eastern District of New York. Our inquiry indicated that Gun had been acquitted of the above charges in March, 1949.

For your information, the jacket of Gun's book indicates that he wrote the book for European readers since he knew his report on the assassination would never be published in the United States.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

Enclosures (2)

NOTE: See cover memorandum Branigan to Sullivan 7-1-64 captioned "The Red Roses of Dallas," book by Nerin E. Gun, prepared by JMS:hrt.

July 2, 1964

~~X~~
"THE RED ROSES OF DALLAS"
By Nerin E. Gun

CLAIMS AND RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION

1. CLAIM: When Lee Harvey Oswald arrived in New York City from the Soviet Union on June 13, 1962, he told a representative of the "Aid Organization" a fantastic story to the effect that he had been a guard at the United States Embassy in Moscow and had been kidnaped by communist agents. Pages 52 and 53.

INVESTIGATION: Oswald told a representative of the Travelers Aid Society, New York City, that he had been with the United States Marine Guard at the United States Embassy in Moscow. No substantiation, however, has been developed of Gun's allegation that Oswald claimed to have been kidnaped by communist agents in the Soviet Union.

2. CLAIM: After his return from the Soviet Union, Oswald changed employment 17 times prior to the assassination of President Kennedy. Page 55.

INVESTIGATION: Oswald is known to have worked for only four employers during the above period of time: Leslie Welding Company, Inc., Fort Worth, Texas; Jagers-Chiles-Stovall, Inc., Dallas, Texas; William B. Reilly and Company, Inc., New Orleans, Louisiana; and the Texas School Book Depository, Dallas, Texas.

3. CLAIM: At about 11:30 a.m. on November 22, 1963, Oswald was eating lunch on the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository Building. The lunch consisted of a chicken sandwich that he had brought from home wrapped in heavy brown paper which also covered his long package. Page 105.

INVESTIGATION: Inquiry by this Bureau fails to indicate that Oswald ate lunch in the building. Oswald gave conflicting stories about bringing his lunch to work on November 22, 1963. Buell Wesley Frazier, fellow employee who drove Oswald to work, has stated that Oswald carried only a long package to work on the day in question.

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- Belmont _____
- Mohr _____
- Casper _____
- Callahan _____
- Conrad _____
- DeLoach _____
- Evans _____
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- Gandy _____

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"THE RED ROSES OF DALLAS"

4. **CLAIM:** Oswald was treated at Parkland Memorial Hospital, Dallas, Texas, at the age of seven after an automobile accident. Pages 124 and 199.

INVESTIGATION: Records of the hospital do not substantiate Gun's claim. Those records do show, however, that Oswald, at age five, was treated as an emergency case on April 18, 1945, for an injury sustained when hit in the left eye by a rock. He was treated with ice packs and discharged on April 19, 1945.

5. **CLAIM:** A doctor examining President Kennedy at Parkland Memorial Hospital found on his stretcher a bullet that, without doubt, had fallen from one of the President's wounds in the course of surgical measures. Page 133.

INVESTIGATION: The Secret Service has advised this Bureau that the intact bullet found in the hospital in connection with the assassination was reportedly found as it fell from a stretcher used in the handling and treatment of Texas Governor John B. Connally. This bullet was examined by the FBI Laboratory and was found to have been fired from the rifle owned by Oswald.

6. **CLAIM:** A "Buddy Walthers" of the Dallas County Sheriff's Office affirms that the shots, or at least one of the shots, fired in the assassination had come from the overpass in front of the Presidential motorcade. In addition, Walthers ran in that direction and with a Secret Service Agent found a bullet, "the fourth bullet," in the grass near the overpass. Pages 152 and 211.

INVESTIGATION: Walthers is undoubtedly Eddie Raymond Walthers of the Dallas County Sheriff's Office who has denied making the above statement regarding the origin of the bullet, has denied looking for a bullet with any Secret Service Agent, and has denied finding "the fourth bullet." In addition, the Secret Service has advised that it has no knowledge of any of its Agents finding a "fourth bullet."

7. **CLAIM:** The number of employees in the Texas School Book Depository Building is referred to as 91 and more than 250. Pages 153 and 206.

INVESTIGATION: In connection with this Bureau's inquiry, signed statements were taken from 72 individuals reportedly working in this building on the day of the assassination and it was determined that two individuals in the building on the day in question were on sick leave on the day when the signed statements were taken.

"THE RED ROSES OF DALLAS"

8. **CLAIM:** Captain Will Fritz, Chief of Detectives of the municipal police of Dallas, had the description of Oswald broadcast over the police radio system after he had been advised by Roy S. Truly, Superintendent of the Texas School Book Depository, that Oswald was missing from the building. Pages 153 and 154.

INVESTIGATION: Captain J. W. Fritz, Dallas Police Department, has advised that he did not have a description of Oswald broadcast for fear that Oswald might learn he was wanted. Captain Fritz has also stated that he did not advise anyone else at the Dallas Police Department of Oswald's description. The description broadcast by the Dallas Police Department at 12:43 p.m. on November 22, 1963, was obtained from an unidentified individual who furnished the information to a police official at the scene of the Texas School Book Depository Building. It is noted that at the time of the above broadcast Captain Fritz had not yet been advised by Mr. Truly that Oswald was missing from the building.

9. **CLAIM:** According to police, Marina Oswald is said to have recognized the weapon of the crime as belonging to her husband. Page 157.

INVESTIGATION: Marina Oswald advised an Agent of this Bureau on November 22, 1963, that she had been shown a rifle at the Dallas Police Department on that date that had been reportedly found in the Texas School Book Depository Building. She advised that she was unable to identify it positively as the same rifle kept in the garage at Mrs. Ruth Paine's residence by Oswald.

10. **CLAIM:** Following Oswald's arrest, a paper found in his wallet had his Beckley Street address. Page 157.

INVESTIGATION: After Oswald's arrest, he admitted to Dallas Police Department interrogators and FBI Agents that he had been living at 1026 North Beckley Street, in Dallas, Texas. However, no such paper was found among photographs of the articles in Oswald's wallet shown an FBI Agent on November 24, 1963.

11. **CLAIM:** In a certain photograph taken by an amateur at the passing of the President's procession, Oswald can clearly be seen brandishing the rifle of the crime and the pistol which served to kill Dallas Police Officer Tippit. Page 165.

INVESTIGATION: Investigation by this Bureau has failed to develop any information regarding the existence of such a photograph.

"THE RED ROSES OF DALLAS"

12. CLAIM: The Dallas Police Department found on Oswald after his arrest the Post Office Box number to which the alleged assassination rifle had been shipped. Page 166.

INVESTIGATION: No such item was observed by Agents of this Bureau among photographs of things taken from Oswald when he was arrested.

13. CLAIM: Oswald affirmed to Pauline Bates, public stenographer of Fort Worth, Texas, in June, 1962, that he had become a "secret agent" of the United States Government and that he was soon going to return to Russia "for Washington." Page 172.

INVESTIGATION: Miss Bates has denied a newspaper report that Oswald told her he was working for the United States Department of State. She has advised that when Oswald first told her that the State Department had advised him he would be on his own while in Russia she assumed that he was working with the Department of State. However, she realized later that her assumption was false.

14. CLAIM: One Lucio Lopez, employed by the Mexican bus line, Transportes Frontera, recognized Oswald on television as a passenger who had asked him to indicate a cheap hotel and then to obtain a reduction in the Federal tax on the ticket. Gun claims that Lopez showed him Oswald's name on a list of travelers crossing the border into Mexico. In addition, Lopez stated that Oswald confided in him an intention to go to Cuba and asked him if a secret route existed. Pages 173 and 174.

INVESTIGATION: Our inquiry has shown that a Lucio Lopez Medina, baggage and freight handler for Transportes Frontera in Mexico City, believes he wrote "Oswald" on an October 2, 1963, manifest of the bus line. However, Medina has stated he had no personal recollection of Oswald, could not recognize Oswald in a photograph as anyone who had been at the bus terminal, and did not believe Oswald embarked on the bus noted in the manifest.

15. CLAIM: At the time of Oswald's trip to Mexico he was under surveillance by the FBI. Page 176.

INVESTIGATION: Oswald was not under day-by-day surveillance by this Bureau and was not "wanted" in the sense of a fugitive. This Bureau was, of course, alert to any information which would indicate that a Soviet intelligence service had an interest in Oswald and was in contact with him.

"THE RED ROSES OF DALLAS"

16. **CLAIM:** Oswald went to the bus station in Mexico City at 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 3, 1963. The bus departure that day was delayed. He bought a ticket for Laredo, Texas, via Rio Grande, with 75 pesos or \$5.71. He arrived at the border about 8 a.m. the next day. Page 180.

INVESTIGATION: Investigation by this Bureau has indicated that Oswald left Mexico City by a Transportes del Norte bus scheduled to depart at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, October 2, 1963. The price of his ticket to Laredo was reported as 93.75 pesos or \$7.50. Oswald was checked out of Mexico by a Mexican immigration official sometime between midnight and 8 a.m., October 3, 1963, and apparently arrived in Dallas at approximately 2:30 p.m. on the same date, October 3, 1963, via Greyhound Bus Lines.

17. **CLAIM:** After being shot by Jack Ruby on November 24, 1963, Oswald was taken to Parkland Memorial Hospital where Dallas Police Officer J. D. Tippit had died. Page 199.

INVESTIGATION: Tippit was actually taken to the Methodist Hospital of Dallas and was pronounced dead there at 1:25 p.m. on November 22, 1963. His body was later taken to Parkland Memorial Hospital where he was listed as "Dead on Arrival" and an autopsy was performed by the Dallas County Medical Examiner.

18. **CLAIM:** Marina Oswald has been practically a prisoner of the Government police. Page 202.

INVESTIGATION: This Bureau has developed no information that Marina Oswald has complained that she is or has been a prisoner of any law enforcement agency in the investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy.

19. **CLAIM:** The arrest of Oswald was illegal since the death of Dallas Police Officer Tippit was not known at that time. Page 206.

INVESTIGATION: The Dallas Police Department received news that a police officer had been shot shortly after 1:15 p.m. on November 22, 1963. The individual sought for the shooting was arrested about 1:45 p.m. at the Texas Theater and was found, of course, to be Oswald. It appears that the condition of Tippit was immaterial inasmuch as it had been reported and verified that a police officer had been shot. The Dallas Police Department was seeking the assailant of Tippit and Oswald's arrest resulted from police investigation of the shooting of Tippit, obviously a crime.

"THE RED ROSES OF DALLAS"

20. CLAIM: Based on the words of witnesses, how was it possible for Oswald after leaving the Texas School Book Depository Building to arrive at his rooming house in ten minutes when the journey normally takes twenty minutes? Page 207.

INVESTIGATION: Oswald was last seen in the building within two or three minutes after the assassination of President Kennedy. He was seen at his rooming house at 1 p.m. Agents of this Bureau have determined that the trip between the building and the rooming house as accomplished by Oswald can be made in heavy traffic conditions as existed on the assassination date in a period of 29 to 30½ minutes.

21. CLAIM: Nobody saw Oswald shoot at Dallas Police Officer Tippit or even talk to Tippit. Three months after the crime, police had not produced the revolver that killed Tippit, had not proved that the revolver had belonged to Oswald, and had not shown that Oswald even possessed a revolver. Page 207.

INVESTIGATION: Our investigation has developed information that Oswald was observed in conversation with Tippit, after which several shots were heard, Tippit was seen to fall, and Oswald was observed fleeing the scene with a revolver in his hands. The revolver taken from Oswald at the time of his arrest was found to have fired the four cartridges located near the scene of shooting. While examination of the bullets taken from Tippit's body did not positively identify them as coming from the revolver taken from Oswald at his arrest, the rifling impressions were similar to those made by the revolver on bullets fired during the examination of the revolver in the FBI Laboratory. The revolver found on Oswald had been shipped to him under an alias he had used at a post office box in Dallas that he had previously rented, and the writing on the mail order coupon for the revolver was determined by examination in this Bureau to have been prepared by Oswald. In addition, Oswald admitted to Dallas police and an FBI Agent that he had purchased the revolver taken from him by police at the time of his arrest.

22. CLAIM: Helen Markham was a witness to the murder of Tippit, but from a distance and she never identified Oswald. Page 207.

INVESTIGATION: The shooting occurred over 100 feet from Mrs. Markham; however, after firing at Tippit, Oswald came toward the intersection at which Mrs. Markham was standing, thus giving her a much closer look at him. Later, Mrs. Markham identified Oswald in a police line-up and in a photograph as the individual who shot at Tippit.

"THE RED ROSES OF DALLAS"

23. CLAIM: Any good lawyer could demonstrate that palmprints are not legal proof. Page 208.

INVESTIGATION: Palmprints, just as fingerprints, are positive means of identification. Both types of prints, of course, do not necessarily explain the circumstances under which they were placed on an object.

24. CLAIM: How was it possible for Marina Oswald, who is not a firearms expert, to identify a weapon which for three days had lead astray the Dallas Police Department, the FBI and the Secret Service? Page 298.

INVESTIGATION: Inquiry by this Bureau shows that Marina Oswald did not identify the rifle found in the Texas School Book Depository Building as the same one belonging to her husband which she had observed in the garage at Mrs. Ruth Paine's residence. Marina Oswald has indicated that she does not consider herself, a woman, to be a firearms expert. The FBI on November 23, 1963, one day after the assassination, had completed tracing the rifle found in the building to Oswald.

25. CLAIM: Nobody had seen Oswald handle the rifle that he had ordered through the mail. Page 209.

INVESTIGATION: Marina Oswald has stated that she had seen Oswald on several occasions, both before and after his attempt on General Walker's life, handling his rifle. She has also said that she took a photograph of him holding the rifle along with several newspapers.

26. CLAIM: Documents taken by authorities from Oswald's residence were illegally seized since no search warrant had been issued. Pages 209 and 210.

INVESTIGATION: Agents of this Bureau were advised by the Dallas Police Department that numerous belongings of Oswald at the residence of Mrs. Paine in Irving, Texas, and at his rooming house in Dallas, including documents, were taken by search warrant.

27. CLAIM: The arrest and detention of Oswald were illegal. He was not informed of his constitutional rights, not permitted to telephone a lawyer or his family, and not furnished with a lawyer. Page 210.

"THE RED ROSES OF DALLAS"

INVESTIGATION: Oswald was arrested as a suspect in the shooting of Dallas Police Officer Tippit, resisting arrest by firearms and force. A complaint was filed against Oswald in the Tippit shooting about 6 p.m. on November 22, 1963, and about 7 p.m. he was arraigned. He was identified in a police line-up on the night of November 22, 1963, as the man who had shot Tippit. FBI Agents advised Oswald on the afternoon of November 22, 1963, that anything he said might be used against him and that he had a right to be represented by an attorney. He was visited by representatives of the Dallas Civil Liberties Union late that night and these representatives departed satisfied that Oswald had been advised of his right to have counsel. Oswald made no attempt to contact an attorney until November 23, 1963, when he tried unsuccessfully to reach John J. Abt of New York City by telephone on three occasions. In addition, Gun himself claims on pages 163 and 164 that the presence of the press prevented police from using certain methods to "wring a confession" from Oswald. Oswald was visited in jail by his mother and wife.

28. CLAIM: Special Agent James P. Hosty, Jr., in 1961 had proposed to Oswald that he (Oswald) join pro-Castro organizations in order to furnish information to Hosty and, thus, to the FBI. Page 210.

INVESTIGATION: In 1961 Oswald was still in the Soviet Union, according to the investigation by this Bureau. Furthermore, Special Agent Hosty has denied by affidavit ever talking to Oswald or approaching him to become an informant of this Bureau.

29. CLAIM: Why is the possibility of a plot or conspiracy discounted in Dallas and Washington? Page 212.

INVESTIGATION: There has been no factual information developed by this Bureau to support a theory that the assassination of President Kennedy was planned and executed by a conspiracy.

30. CLAIM: Marguerite Oswald has said that her son, Lee, was a member of the "Aviation Cadet Corps" and was a student pilot. Page 213.

INVESTIGATION: Marguerite Oswald in the weekly French newspaper, "Le Nouveau Candide," issue of April 2-9, 1962, stated that her son had been in the "Aviation Cadet Corps," which she identified as the student pilot corps of the United States Air Force. Our investigation has shown that Oswald was enrolled in the Civil Air Patrol in New Orleans in July, 1955, and not in the "Aviation Cadet Corps," as alleged. Apparently Oswald remained in the Civil Air Patrol for only a few months.

"THE RED ROSES OF DALLAS"

31. CLAIM: Marguerite Oswald has stated that she had learned that Dallas Police Officer Tippit had been seen in Jack Ruby's nightclub several days before the assassination. Page 214.

INVESTIGATION: Marguerite Oswald in the weekly French newspaper, "Le Nouveau Candide," issue of April 8-15, 1964, stated that she had learned Tippit and Ruby had been seen together at the Carousel before the crime. The inquiry of this Bureau has failed to reveal any association of Tippit and Ruby or to disclose any indication of Tippit's presence in Ruby's club.



THE
WEDDING
OF
MRS. J. W. BROWN
AND
MR. J. W. BROWN
JANUARY 1910



LES ROSES ROUGES DE DALLAS

Le livre est consacré à l'histoire de Dallas, Texas, et à la lutte pour la justice sociale. Il explore les racines de la ville, ses transformations, et le rôle des mouvements sociaux, en particulier les "Roses rouges", dans la lutte pour l'équité. Les auteurs, John et Mary, offrent une perspective approfondie sur les événements clés et les figures influentes de cette période.

Le livre est divisé en plusieurs parties, chacune abordant un aspect différent de l'histoire de Dallas. Les auteurs utilisent des archives, des entretiens et des recherches de terrain pour fournir une narration riche et détaillée. Le livre est une lecture essentielle pour ceux qui s'intéressent à l'histoire locale et à la justice sociale.