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UNITED STATES CI ()NMENT Memorandum : Mr. Belmont(Mor DATE: March 24, 1964 FROM : A. Rosen SUBJECT: F. KENNEDY; -11/22/63; DALLAS. TEXAS Referenced memorandum dated 3/20/64 from Jevons to Conrad set forth information concerning testimony relating to firearms evidence and the fact that firearms evidence was to be made available to the President's Commission on March 21, 1964, in order that an independent examination could be made of the firearms evidence. This matter was discussed with J. Lee Rankin, Generaly Counsel, President's Commission, in the early evening of March 23, 1964. Mr. Rankin was advised that in view of the action taken by the Commission concerning the firearms evilence, it was obvious the Commission does not have confidence in the FBI Laboratory, and that in view of the independent examinations being requested, it would appear desirable for the Commission to have whatever examination they desire from independent experts made and for the Bureau to step out of the picture from the standpoint, ". et Laboratory examinations. It was pointed out to Mr. Rankin that our Laboratory was greatly burdened with a large volume of 4 work and that if the examinations that we made were not going 2 to be accepted, it would appear that there would be no reason our Laboratory experts to be tied up on these examinations & in utilizing the time it requires to furnish testimony concerning matters where independent examinations are being made. Art Kitt initial. (Final : 11! Mr. Rankin immediately replied that he certainly desired o to correct any impression that the Bureau may have received that anyone connected with the President's Commission had a lack of confidence in the examinations made by the Bureau Laboratory P He stated that there had been a tremendous amount of pressure from various sources on the Commission for accepting the work being performed by the Bureau and not subjecting it to any independent examination. He also commented that the Bureau had performed a tremendous amount of investigative activity at the Commission's request and that there was likewise considerable pressure on the Commission to have independent examinations made

Memorandum to Mr. Belmont RE: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY; 11/22/63; DALLAS, TEXAS

advised he had personally been completely opposed to any independent investigation by any outside investigators and that he had taken a strong stand that any investigation conducted should be handled by Government agencies unless it was found that the Commission could not obtain the results they desired. He stated thus far there had been no difficulties encountered with the FBI or any other Government agency relative to investigations and he did not anticipate there would be any. He stated he sincerely hoped he would be able to keep the members of the Commission agreeable to Government agencies handling investigative matters without any investigations on the part of outside investigators. Mr. Rankin was advised that his comments concerning investigative matters were appreciated but this did not change the picture relative to what appeared to be a lack of confidence in the Laboratory examinations. Mr. Rankin again stated that there was no lack of confidence and that the Commission relied completely on the thoroughness of the FBI Laboratory examiners, which he considered to be the best in the country. He stated because of the pressure that had been brought, the members of the Commission had made the decision to have the independent examinations. He stated emphatically that the Commission would insist that the Bureau Laboratory men be available to furnish testimony concerning matters examined by the Laboratory.

During the discussion, it was ascertained from Mr. Rankin that the Commission members had indicated they will probably desire independent examination concerning handwriting and fingerprint examinations. He gave no indication what items he was referring to or when such a request would be made.

Throughout the discussion Mr. Rankin seemed to be a little disturbed over the Bureau pointing out to him that the Commission obviously lacked confidence in our Laboratory and he repeatedly commented that the independent examinations of evidence were being made at the instructions of the seven members of the Commission. He gave no indication, however, whether this was the desire of certain members of the Commission and others were going along, or whether the Commission was in full agreement concerning this matter.

The foregoing is symitted for information.

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· UNITED STATES GO Memorandum Mr. Conrad R. H. Jevons //-FROM SUBJECT: PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY, 11/22/63, DALLAS, TEXAS In accordance with the verbal request of Mr. Melvin Eisenberg of The President's Commission and with prior approval, SAs Henry B. Heiberger and John F. Gallagher met with Mr. Eisenberg on 3/26/64, to discuss spectro-: graphic examinations conducted on materials relating to the assassination of President Kennedy. SA Heiberger discussed the spectrographic comparison examinations which he conducted in the Laboratory. SA Helberger advised that the lead alloy of the bullet recovered from the attempted shooting of General Walker .. was different from the lead alloy of a large bullet fragment recovered from the car in which President Kennedy was shot. SA Gallagher advised Mr. Bisenberg the spectrographic examinations of the bullet fragments recovered from the wound in President Kennedy's head and from the vehicle in which President Kennedy was riding at the time of his assassination were. composed of the same chemical elements. As reported in my memorandum of March 17, 1964 (Jevons to Conrad, LEE HARVEY OSWALD, IS - R), SA Gallagher discussed with Mr. Eisenberg the neutron activation analyses of the paraffin casts from Oswald. This technique you will recall revealed deposits on the casts characteristic of powder residues. However, it was not possible to distinguish the powder: residues of the rifle cartridges from the powder residues of the revolver cartridges. It was in connection with this examination that Mr. Eisenberg : then discussed with SA Gallagher a letter of Dr. Paul C. Aebersold, Director, Division of Isotopes Development, Atomic Energy Commission, to Assistant Attorney General Herbert J. Miller, which was dated December 11, 1963, and subsequently forwarded to The Commission. He read from this letter the following: REC 7 62-109060 - 2845 1 - Mr. Belmont 1 - Mr. Rosen 1 - Mr. Bullivan 1 - Mr. Malley 25 APR 7 1304 EX-103 62-109060 JFG:g1

Memorandum to Mr. Conrad Re: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY, 11/22/63, DALJAS, TEXAS 62-109060

"We would hope soon to have more details on whether the method (neutron activation analyses) will give useful information to distinguish between smoke deposits from revolvers and those from rifles—by means of their distribution on the body of the person firing them and by the levels of antimony and barium (and perhaps other elements) deposited."

Mr. Eisenberg then asked if more detailed background was available at this date. It was pointed out by SA Gallagher that Dr. Aebersold's letter was written prior to the actual activation analyses examinations of Oswald's casts. No elements were found during these tests to distinguish between rifle and revolver deposits. Mr. Gallagher further pointed out that the data in the present instance were further complicated by Oswald's firing of the revolver subsequent to the firing of the rifle and by the fact that the casts have been chemically treated and washed prior to receipt for neutron activation analyses. Nothing has come to our attention and to our knowledge nothing has been done subsequent to these examinations which would assist further in the interpretation of the data obtained from the activation analyses of the paraffin casts from Oswald.

ACTION: None, for information.

W.s.

UNITED STATES GOVEY Memorandum : Mr. Contie DATE: 4/3/64 R. H. Jevons SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY; 11/22/63; DALLAS, TEXAS On 4/3/64, SA Paul M. Stombaugh, Hairs and Fibers Unit, FBI Laboratory, testified before the President's Commission on the assassination of President Kennedy, beginning at 9:05 a.m. and ending at 12:20 p.m. Chief Justice Earl Warren was present from 9:05 a.m., until 10:00 a.m. at which time he left for duties at the Supreme Court. At 10:00 a.m., Mr. Allen Dulles replaced Mr. Warren and remained until the completion of SA Stombaugh's testimony. Mr. Melvin Eisenberg was also present and elicited the testimony. The testimony concerned the receipt in the Laboratory of the blanket from Mrs. Paine's garage, the assassination rifle, homemade paper bag found near the rifle and the shirt Oswald was wearing at the time of the apprehension . and subsequent examinations for hairs and fibers. With regard to the blanket (in which the assassination rifle may have been wrapped) the Commission was interested in knowing how the blanket was folded when received. This was demonstrated through the use of a small piece of paper taken to the hearing and folded in a similar manner to that which the blanket had been folded. At the time of the examination of the blanket in the 'Laboratory, a small "hump" approximately 10" in length was observed and noted," Inasmuch as the length of this "hump" approximated the length and size of the telescopic sight of the rifle, the approximate location of this hump was noted on 3 the paper used in the demonstration, although the "hump" could not definitely be attributed to the sight or to any other part of the gun. The blanket also had a metal safety pin attached to one end and a short length of twine had been tied to /5/ this end. A small safety pin was inserted into the paper at the approximate location of the larger pin as it had appeared in the blanket. The Commission was also interested in the type of knots used in tying the twine around the blanket and this was demonstrated with a separate piece of twine. The knots actually used on the blanket were a granny knot (very common) and a double bowknot (the type evidence. A folded paper similar to that introduced into evidence during the testimony is attached for record. Enclosure 1964 $62 - 109060 \triangleright$

Mr. Belmont Mr. Rosen

- Mr. Malley - Mr. Rogge

PMS:fch:NOB

Memorandum to Mr. Conrad

Re: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F.

KENNEDY; 11/22/63; DALLAS, TEXAS

62-109060

The Commission was then interested in the various hairs found adhering to the blanket. Testimony was given regarding the fact that limb hairs and pubic hairs found on the blanket matched those of Oswald in all observable microscopic characteristics. The Commission was shown, through the use of previously prepared charts, how the Laboratory determined the origin of hairs as to race, and the microscopic characteristics present in the hairs removed from the blanket Photomicrographs were then shown of these hairs as compared with known hairs from Oswald. It was pointed out to the Commission that the Laboratory could not state definitely that the hairs originated from Oswald to the exclusion of all other Caucasian persons inasmuch as hairs do not exhibit enough individual microscopic characteristics to permit this to be done.

The homemade bag (paper bag) was introduced and testimony given regarding how a single brown viscose fiber and several light green fibers matched similar fibers found in the composition of the blanket and the conclusion that these fibers could have originated from this blanket. A previously prepared chart was used to demonstrate the differences that exist among woolen, cotton and viscose fibers of which the blanket was composed. With regard to the remaining contents of the debris removed from this bag, which consisted of a small particle of wax and a minute fragment of woody material, it was pointed out that the wax was examined and compared spectrographically with a large quantity of wax found adhering to the front of Oswald's shirt and found to be dissimilar. The woody material was too limited in size for identification purposes.

Testimony was then brought out regarding the small tuft of cotton fibers found adhering to a jagged edge on the butt plate of the rifle. A description of these fibers was given regarding their type and colors and the fact that they were compared with the cotton fibers composing Oswald's shirt and found to match microscopically. Color photomicrographs were used to show these comparisons wherein the conclusion was reached that these fibers could have originated from Oswald's shirt. Mr. Eisenberg attempted to obtain mathematical probabilities from SA Stombaugh as to two persons having identical hair or of fibers originating from a particular shirt to the exclusion of all other shirts. SA Stombaugh stated that such probabilities could not be determined in view of the numerous unknown factors which exist in such cases.

The charts prepared by SA Stombaugh, photographs of which were attached to my memorandum of 4/2/64, were all entered into evidence. Upon completion of his testimony, SA Stombaugh was complimented upon his testimony by Mr. Dulles and thanked for his appearance before the Commission.

ACTION: For information.

V

PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION ON THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY 200 Maryland Ave. N.E. Washington, D.C. 20002 EARL WARREN, J. LEE RANKIN, "Chartel Counsel Telephone 543-1400 RICHARD B. RUSSELL JOHN SHERMAN, COOPER Trison HALE BOCCO Mr Brimost . . GERALD R. PORD Mohr JOHN J. McCLOY ALLEN W. DULLES Md. Casper 1984ir. Cal'aban Mr. Conrad Mr. Delowin Mr. Evaps Mr. Gath Mr. J. Edgar Hoover Director, Federal Bureau Mf. Tavel Mr. Trotter ... of Investigation Tele. Room Department of Justice Miss Holmes Washington, D. C. Miss Gandy Dear Mr. Hoover: I am returning herewith the two photographs taken by Mrs. Mary Ang Moorman of the Presidential motorcade on Movember 23, 1963, which you forwarded to the Commission with a covering letter dated March 27, 1964. You may return these photographs to Mrs. Moorman since the Commission has no further use for them at this time. Sincerely, J. Lee Rankin General Counsel Enclosures **REC- 19**

Airtel

To: SAC, Dallas (89-43)

From: Director, FBI (62-109060)

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

Reurairtel 3-24-64.

By letter dated April 3, 1964, the Commission returned the two photographs furnished by Mrs. Mary Ann Moorman, which are enclosed.

The Commission advised they have no further use for these photographs at this time and that they may now be returned to Mrs. Moorman.

Dallas is instructed to immediately return the two enclosed photographs to Mrs. Moorman.

Inclosures (2)

KMR: jh
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NOTE: By letter dated 3-18-64 the President's Commission decided to review one additional photograph taken by Mary Ann Moorman of the Presidential motorcade on 11-22-63. Mrs. Moorman furnished both photographs she had taken and requested they be returned as soon as the President's Commission had finished with them. Upon return of these photographs this matter will be completed.

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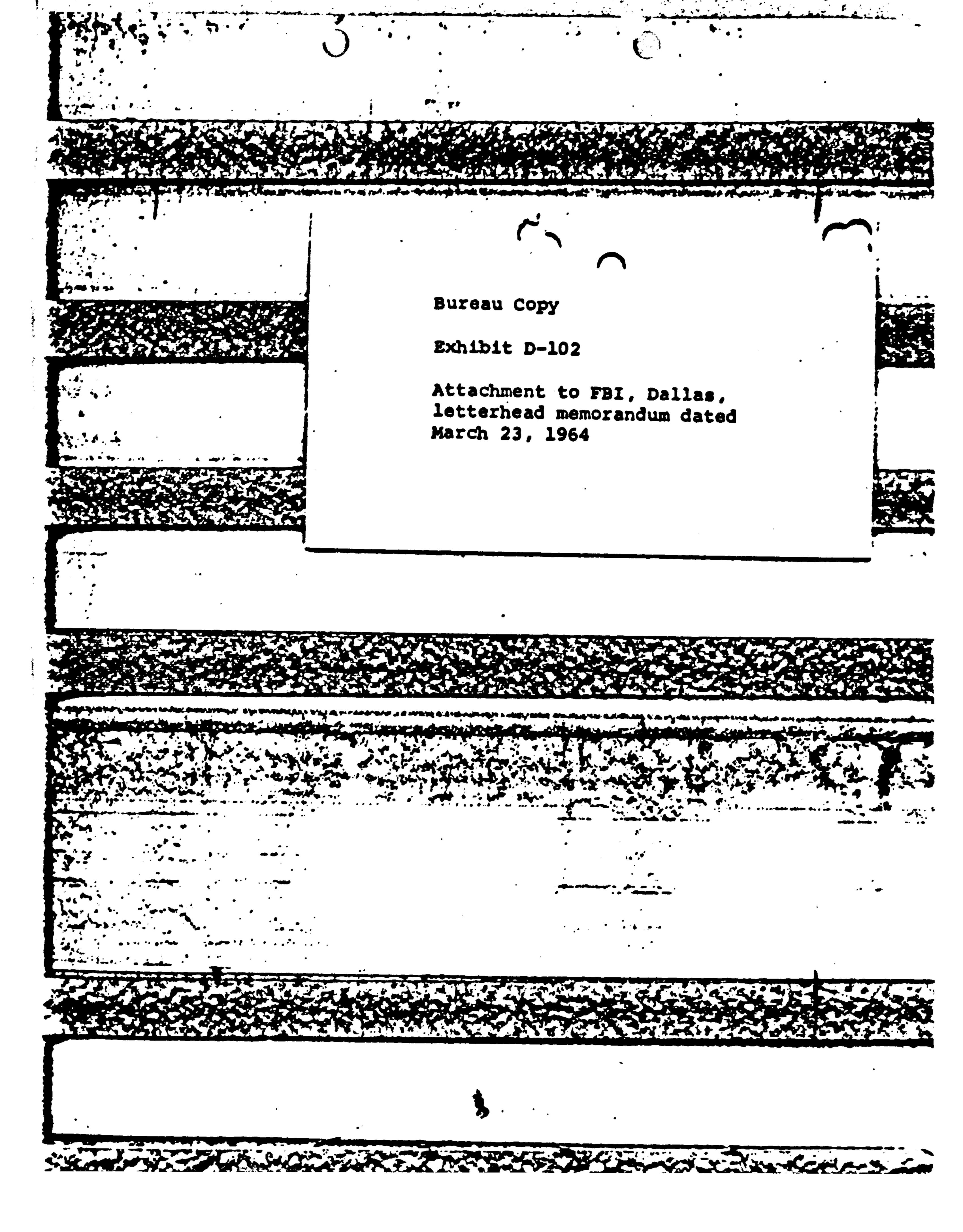
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REC 25

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1	TO:	DIRECTOR, PBI (105-82555)	(U.,
	FROM:	SAC, DALLAS (100-10461) (P)	
	RE:	LEE HARVEY OSWALD, aka. IS - R - CUBA	
The team in	and D-1 D-103, effort "2766" serial	Enclosed herewith are ten copies each of two head memoranda, together with three copies each chibits, being furnished in accordance with Bureauctions. These letterhead memoranda concern Exhibits 103. It is pointed out that in connection with Exhibits investigation is currently being conducted in an to establish if the weapon bearing serial number is identical to the assassination weapon which however "C2766". It appears highly unlikely that	of u D-l02
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UNIT STATES DEPARTMENT OF

TICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Dallas, Texas March 23, 1964

LEE HARVEY OSWALD

Exhibit D-102 is Century Arms, Inc., St. Albans, Vermont, order number 8934 dated June 29, 1962, reflecting sale of 700 6.5 caliber Italian Carbines to Aldens, 5000 West Roosevelt Road, Chicago, Illinois.

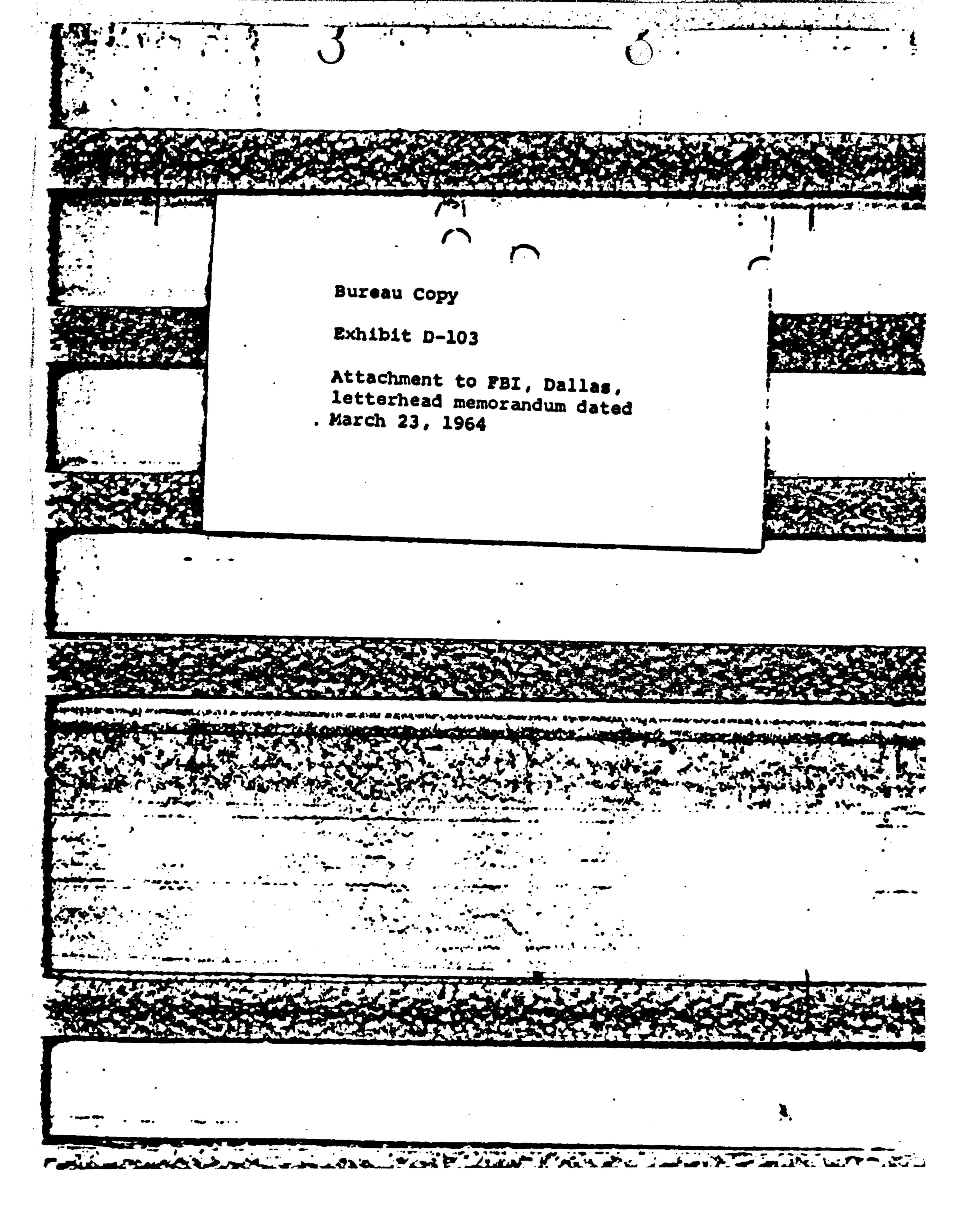
This exhibit was obtained from JAMES L. OUIMET, owner, Century Arms, Inc., St. Albans, Vermont, on November 23, 1963.

The results of the investigation concerning this exhibit are reflected on page 206 of the report of Special Agent ROBERT P. GEMBERLING dated December 10, 1963, at Dallas, Texas.

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UNIT STATES DEPARTMENT OF TICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to Pile No.

Dallas, Texas March 23, 1964

LEE HARVEY OSWALD

Exhibit D-103 is an original list of serial numbers of 700 Carcano Italian Carbines received by Century Arms, Inc., St. Albans, Vermont, from Empire Sporting Goods, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, on which list there appears the serial number "2766" on the last page.

This exhibit was obtained from Mr. JAMES L. OUIMET, owner, Century Arms, Inc., St. Albans, Vermont, on November 23, 1963.

The results of the investigation concerning this exhibit are reflected on page 206 of the report of Special Agent ROBERT P. GEMBERLING dated December 10, 1963, at Dallas, Texas.

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PHONE: LA. 6-6706



CENTURY ARMS INC.

ST. ALBANS, VERMONT

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SHIPPED TO: Aldens, Dopt. G33 Chicago, Ill.

June 29/62 DATE YOUR ORDER NO. 82803

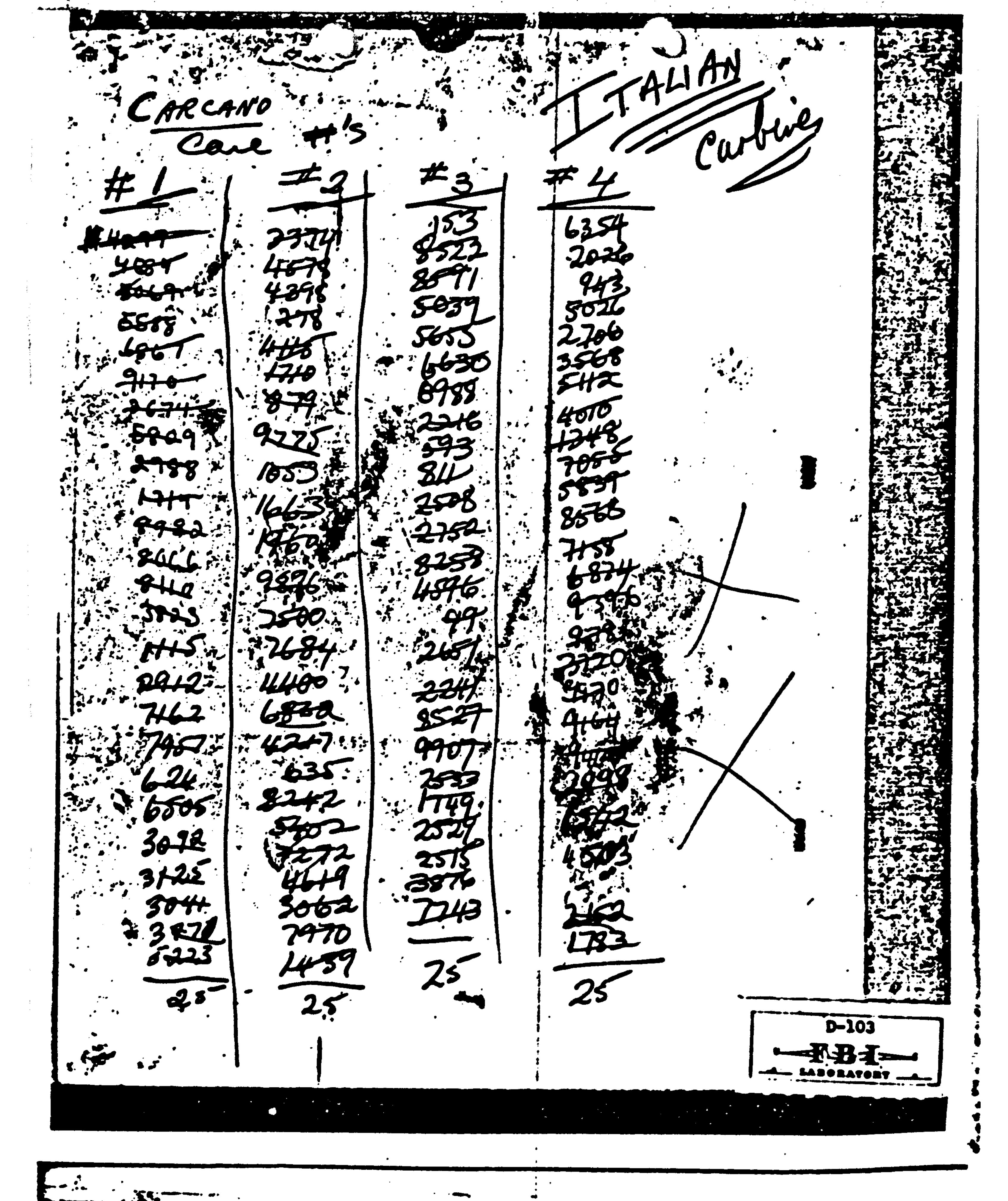
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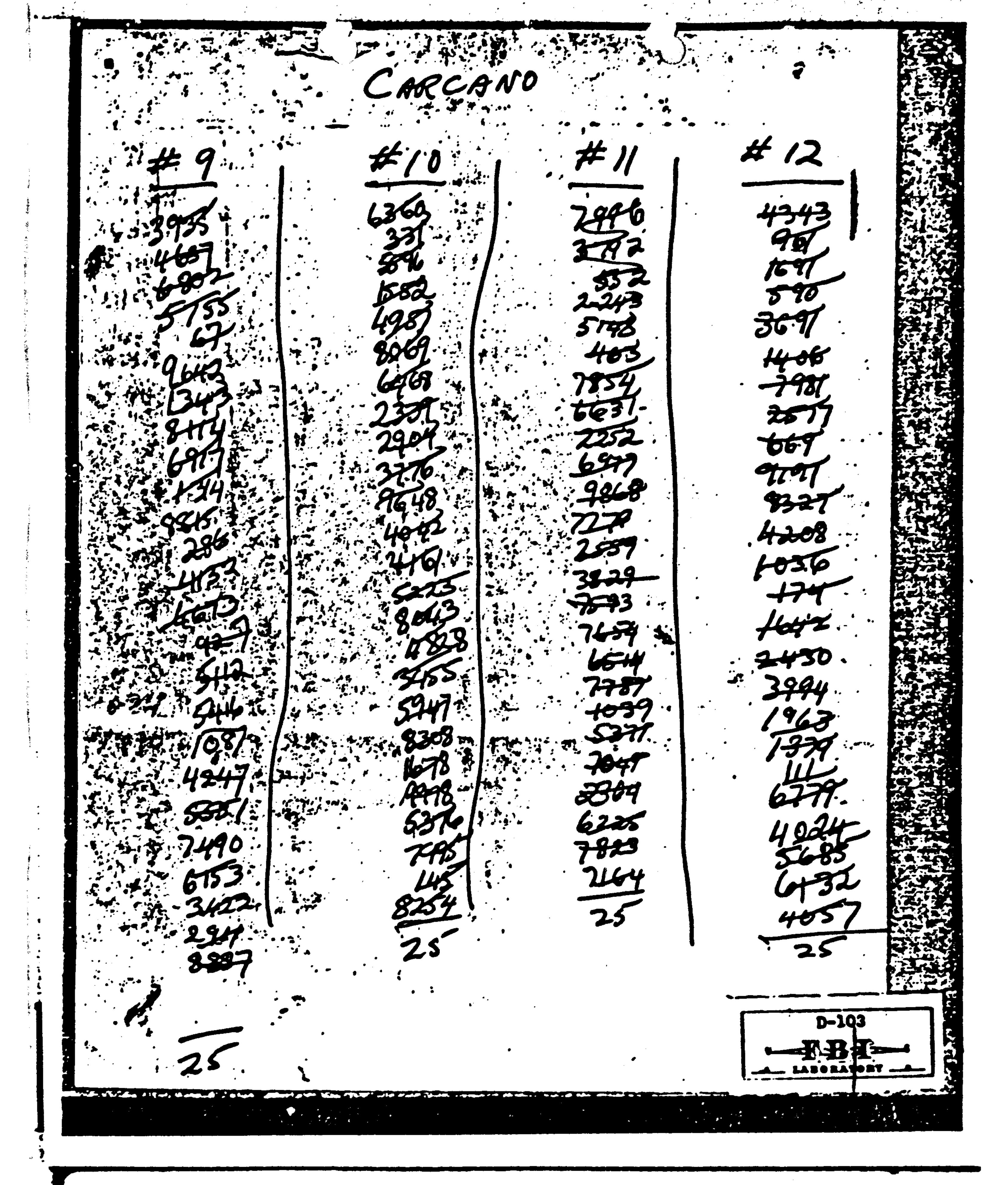
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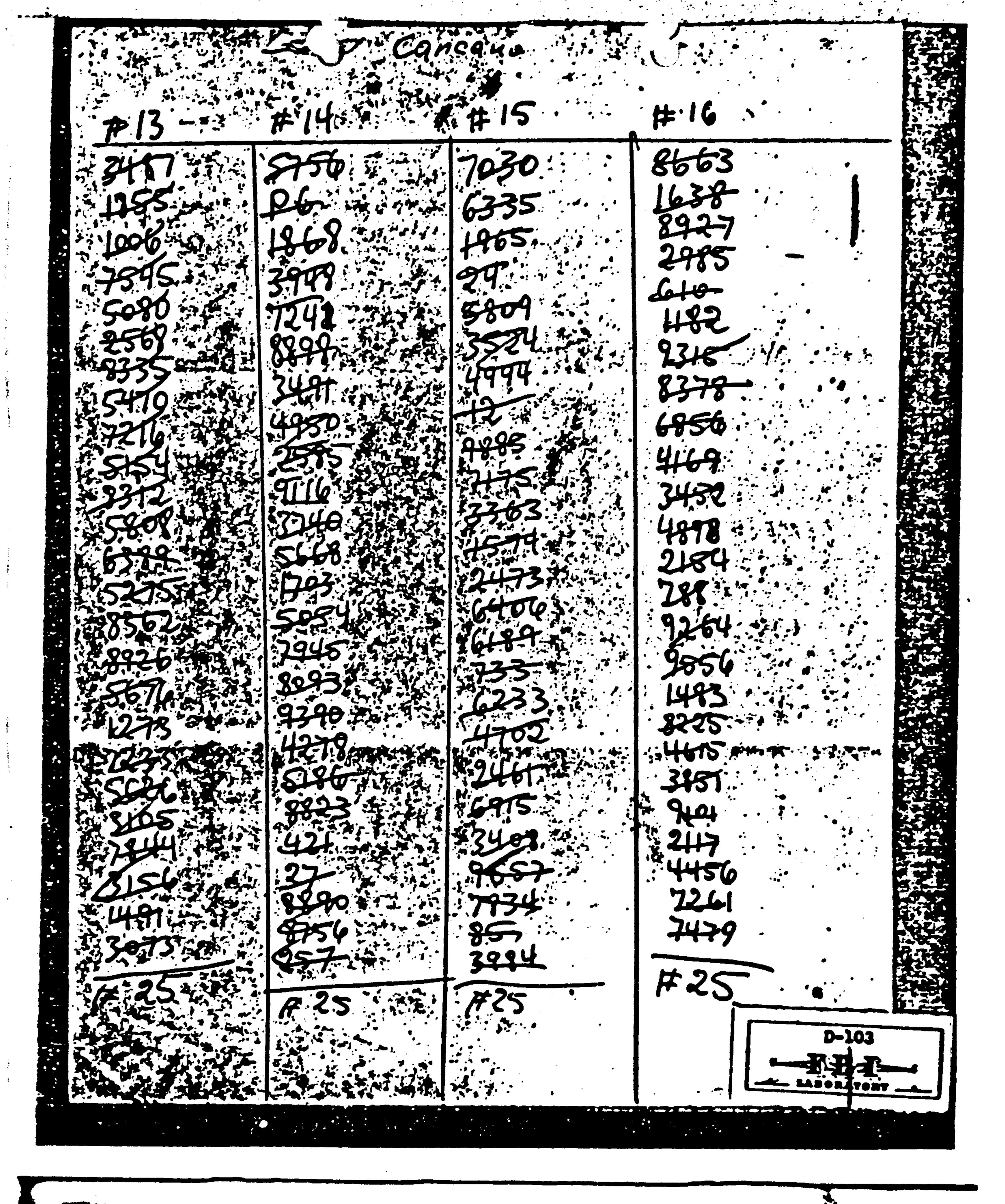
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