



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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November 28, 1963

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN F. KENNEDY, 11/22/63
DALLAS, TEXAS

Lt. Col. L. L. RIVERS, U. S. Army Retired, Harlingen, Texas, who was the original source of this information on November 22, 1963, advised on November 24, 1963, that he had identified his source as KENNETH SHAND, 921 Cenizo, Harlingen, Texas. SHAND was interviewed on November 24, 1963, and could give no additional information than that previously furnished by Lt. Col. RIVERS. SHAND said that the conversation was a casual one in a bar in Harlingen, Texas, in about May, 1963.

KEN MEDDERS, Manager of the Sun Valley Dusting Company, San Benito, Texas, and CLYDE ELLIOTT, Elliott Aviation Company, Harlingen, Texas, were interviewed on November 26, 1963, in an effort to identify the unknown duster pilot who had told KENNETH SHAND in May that the President would be shot when he next came to Texas and who told SHAND that he was a member of an organization known as the Minute Men. MEDDERS and ELLIOTT know most of the people connected with crop dusting in the area of Texas where they live as well as in Latin American countries.

Both MEDDERS and ELLIOTT stated that the physical description of the unknown pilot furnished by SHAND fits a man named CHUCK ROGERS whom they both know well but who has not been in Harlingen, Texas area since about 1957. They have no idea of his whereabouts. MEDDERS said that ROGERS worked for him in 1954 and part of 1955 mostly dusting crops in Nicaragua. MEDDERS described ROGERS as being unstable, untrustworthy, nervous to the point of having seizures, he drank too much liquor and was too rough on the company's equipment. MEDDERS said that the pilots in Nicaragua were allowed to carry side arms. Most of them did not elect to do so but ROGERS did and one day in Nicaragua became angry about something and took some shots at personnel around the airport. He was deported from Nicaragua. ELLIOTT said that in 1957 that CHUCK ROGERS

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contacted him and said that he could not get a job and wanted to know if ELLIOTT knew of anyone who would hire him as a pilot. ELLIOTT told ROGERS that he knew of no one who was that bad off for a pilot, and ROGERS has not been in the Harlingen area since.

MEDDERS and ELLIOTT advised that they also know a former duster pilot named HAROLD B. OLSEN who fits the general physical description of the person who is alleged to be the source of SHAND's story. MEDDERS and ELLIOTT state that OLSEN too has not worked in the Harlingen area for several years, that he is even more unstable than CHUCK ROGERS, that he is in an advanced state of alcoholism, that he lives somewhere around Winita Falls, Texas, and they have heard that he was working in Oklahoma six months ago, and they have not seen him in several years.

KEN MEDDERS explained that crop dusting has become a big business. Years ago it attracted unstable types of young men who had learned to fly during World War II but that these pilots lost too much equipment and embarrassed their employers in Latin American countries and that for the past few years they have been able to hire stable and reliable pilots.

Neither MEDDERS nor ELLIOTT could offer any suggestions as to the identity of the unknown person who is alleged to have given SHAND the information in question at a bar in Harlingen, Texas, in about May, 1963. They said that hardly any of the duster pilots now operating were pilots during World War II.

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