

11/24/63
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

DEC 24 1963

TELETYPE

REC 45
H. J. [unclear]

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

URGENT 12-24-63 4-01 PM EST SAF

TO DIRECTOR AND SACS, DALLAS AND JACKSONVILLE
FROM SAC, TAMPA 62-455 /P/ 4 PAGES

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY.

NOVEMBER TWENTY - TWO NINETY SIXTY THREE. DL-00

RE JACKSONVILLE TEL TO TAMPA DECEMBER TWO THREE LAST,
AND DALLAS TEL TO BUREAU AND JACKSONVILLE DECEMBER TWO ZERO LAST.

ON DECEMBER TWO FOUR LAST EDISON VANCE SMITH, MECHANICAL
ENGINEER, CORPS OF ENGINEERS, MERRITT ISLAND, FLORIDA, ADVISED

SA JOHN JAMES O-BRIEN THAT HE HAD SENT INSTANT NOTE TO E. W. SPEAR,
DATED NOVEMBER THREE ZERO LAST, AND HE FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING
INFORMATION/

ABOUT NOVEMBER TWO FIVE LAST HE OVERHEARD A GROUP OF ABOUT
FIVE OR SIX MEN CONVERSING AT THE CORNER OF VOLUSIA AVENUE AND
BEACH ST. AT DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA, ABOUT ONE P.M. ONE MAN
COMMENTED THAT INFORMATION FOR THE UNDERGROUND IN TAMPA,
FLORIDA, INDICATED THAT PRESIDENT KENNEDY WAS TO HAVE BEEN
SHOT IN TAMPA. ANOTHER MAN COMMENTED THAT HE DID NOT DOUBT

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REC 45

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cc - Thompson

3

TP 62-455

PAGE TWO

THIS, AND THAT QUOTE THE JOB HAD BEEN MUFFED IN TAMPA UNQUOTE. THE NAME OF CASTRO WAS NEVER MENTIONED, BUT SMITH ASSUMED THAT THESE PERSONS MEANT THAT CASTRO OR PRO CASTRO ELEMENTS IN TAMPA WERE THE PLOTTERS OF THIS CRIME. SMITH ALSO ASSUMED THAT THE PRO CASTRO ELEMENTS HAD ACCOMPLISHED THE ASSASSINATION IN DALLAS, TEXAS, ALTHOUGH NOTHING TO THIS EFFECT WAS MENTIONED IN THIS CONVERSATION. SMITH HAD NEVER SEEN THESE MEN BEFORE, OR SINCE THIS INCIDENT, AND HE WAS UNABLE TO DESCRIBE THEM, EXCEPT THAT THEY WERE MIDDLE AGED MEN, ABOUT FIFTY YEARS OF AGE, WHO SPOKE ENGLISH WITHOUT ACCENT, AND DID NOT APPEAR TO BE CUBANS OR LATIN TYPES. THEY WERE APPARENTLY JUST LOITERING IN THE AREA AND HE WOULD NOT RECOGNIZE THEM IF HE SAW THEM AGAIN. SMITH NOTED THAT THIS CONVERSATION WAS CONDUCTED OPENLY, AND WITHOUT ANY SECRECY. SMITH WAS UNABLE TO EXPLAIN WHY HE BELIEVED HIS LIFE WOULD BE IN JEOPARDY FOR REPORTING THIS INFORMATION. SMITH RELATED THAT HE HAS BEEN EMPLOYED BY THE U. S. CORPS OF ENGINEERS FOR THE PAST THIRTY YEARS, AND HOLDS THE OFFICE OF GRAND CHEF DE TRAIN, IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA, IN THE QUOTE FORTY AND EIGHT CLOSE QUOTE, WORLD WAR ONE VETAN-S

TP 62-455

PAGE THREE

ORGANIZATION, AND IS MEMBER OF VOITURE THREE ZERO FOUR AT DAYTONA BEACH. SMITH INDICATED THAT THIS ORGANIZATION IS CONDUCTING THEIR OWN INVESTIGATION OF THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY, SINCE THEY HAVE SOURCES THAT WOULD NOT TALK TO FBI, BUT THE DECLINED TO FURNISH DETAILS, OR TO STATE WHO ACTIVE IN THIS INVESTIGATION.

SMITH ALSO SAID HE WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN DEVELOPING INFORMATION CONCERNING NAZI ESPIONAGE IN VICINITY OF SARANAC LAKE, NEW YORK IN WORLD WAR TWO.

SMITH DEMANDED THAT HIS NAME NOT BE MENTIONED IN ANY WAY AS THE SOURCE OF ANY INFORMATION, AND HE DESIRED THAT HIS SUPERVISORS AND FELOW EMPLOYEES NOT KNOW THAT HE WAS INTERVIEWED BY THE FBI . HE DECLINED TO FURNISH A SIGNED STATEMENT.

SMITH RELATED THAT ABOUT NOVEMBER TWO SEVEN LAST, HIS WIFE HAD TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH MRS. EDWARD BROWN, A WIDOW, ABOUT SEVENTY YEARS OF AGE, WHO RESIDES IN DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA, ADDRESS NOT RECALLED. MRS. BROWN TOLD HIS WIFE SHE HAD HEARD INFORMATION SIMILAR TO THAT OVERHEARD BY SMITH. MRS. BROWN'S RESIDENCE AND TELEPHONE NUMBER ARE

3

TP 62-455

PAGE FOUR

KNOWN TO HIS WIFE, WHO CAN BE CONTACTED FOR THIS INFORMATION.

JACKSONVILLE, AT DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA, CONTACT MRS.
E. V. SMITH FOR RESIDENCE OF MRS. EDWARD BROWN, WHO SHOULD
BE INTERVIEWED AS TO ANY PERTINENT INFORMATION SHE MAY
POSSESS IN THIS MATTER.

NOTE THAT MR. E. V. SMITH WILL BE AT THIS RESIDENCE IN
DAYTONA BEACH OVER THE HOLIDAYS.

TAMPA IS SUBMITTING FD THREE ZERO TWOS TO DALLAS.

~~CORR PAGE 1 LINE 7 WORD ONE SA~~

~~PAGE THREE LINE 13 WORD TEN SIGNED~~

~~LINE 14 WORD ONE SMITH~~

END AND ACK

4-16 PM OK FBI WA RL

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