

1/15/64

To: Legat London (62-358)

REC-56

From: Director, FBI (62-109060) — 2251

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY
MISCELLANEOUS

Re Legat London airtel and enclosure 1/8/64, copies of which are furnished for the information of Dallas, relating to a letter written by English seaman Thomas Kerr Smith.

Enclosed for Legat London is a copy of the letter from Smith which was enclosed with reairtel. For your future information and guidance, details such as that set out in the enclosed letter from Mr. Smith should have been incorporated into an appropriate letterhead memorandum so that it can be disseminated at the Bureau if necessary. The volume of communications such as this received at the Bureau since the assassination has been great and if it was necessary for the Bureau to retype all such information it would become an almost impossible task.

You are instructed to make reasonable efforts through your sources to locate and have Smith interviewed regarding his allegation concerning an American seaman. Logical background data on the American seaman should be obtained so that efforts can be made to locate him for interview if necessary.

The results of your inquiry should be placed in a suitable letterhead memorandum and submitted to the Bureau for possible dissemination. Sufficient copies should be submitted to handle any lead situations which may develop as a result of your inquiry.

- Tolson _____
- Belmont _____
- Mohr _____
- Casper _____
- Callahan _____
- Conrad _____
- DeLoach _____
- Evans _____
- Malone _____
- Rosen _____
- Sullivan _____
- Tavel _____
- Trotter _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holmes _____
- Gandy _____

Dallas (enc. 3)

1 - Domestic Intelligence Division
1 - Foreign Liaison (route through for review)

RDR:vhm
(8)

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO.

JAN 15 1964
RECEIVED

[Handwritten signature]

HEI
M2:CC
NOV

302
OH 2/1

[Handwritten initials]

Smith, an English citizen, residing in Southampton, England, and sailing as a Steward on a British ship, wrote a letter dated 12/11/63 to the American Consul at Southampton which was forwarded to our Legat in London on 1/3/64. In this letter Smith alleges that "many weeks" before President Kennedy's assassination he conversed with an American seaman in a local bar at which time the American allegedly stated "that playboy Kennedy will be shot soon." Smith wrote to the Consul after the assassination inasmuch as he was wondering how this American sailor knew the President was to be shot prior to the assassination. While it would appear the American sailor's comment was made in passing or he was misquoted, it is still possible this allegation could reach the Presidential Commission through the Department of State who received the initial letter. It is therefore felt we should make efforts to interview Smith for full details concerning his conversation which might shed additional light on the identity of the American sailor and subsequently made efforts to identify and locate the American sailor. Smith stated that on the occasion of his conversation with the American, an American ship was in the port of Southampton.