



In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Baltimore, Maryland

January 24, 1964

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN F. KENNEDY

Re: Allegation that President
Kennedy Knew Details of
Coming Assassination
Two Weeks Prior to Same

On January 10, 1964, a man who identified himself as IRVIN OSTROW, 4329 Park Heights Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland and who insisted at the outset that he was not a "nut", telephoned the Baltimore Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to advise that a week or two prior to the assassination of President KENNEDY he had a passenger in his taxicab who told the whole story as it actually happened. OSTROW claimed that he had picked this woman passenger up in his G.I. Veterans Taxicab between 7:30 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. in front of the Belvedere Hotel and transported her to Friendship Airport outside Baltimore City. While enroute the woman talked about being at a party at the White House where plans were made for the assassination of President KENNEDY. This woman allegedly had the full details which happened just as she said it would with President KENNEDY riding in an open car and being shot. OSTROW stated that he thought the woman was a "nut" and had completely forgotten the matter, not even remembering it when President KENNEDY was actually assassinated in Texas. On January 10, 1964, his driving to the airport again was the only thing which made him remember this story.

OSTROW stated that he could be located through his residence at 4329 Park Heights Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland; through his sister, Mrs. JEAN COONIN, 907 Painted Post Road, Pikesville, Maryland; or through the G.I. Veterans Taxicab Association, 2317 Greenmount Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland.

On January 10, 1964, [REDACTED] Spring Grove State Hospital for mental patients, Catonsville, Maryland, advised that hospital records did not reflect IRVIN OSTROW had been a patient at the hospital but did show that [REDACTED] whose sister is [REDACTED] Pikesville, Maryland, has been a patient at the hospital almost continuously since October, 1947. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] is currently confined to Crownsville State Hospital for mental patients. His condition is diagnosed as schizophrenic reaction, chronic, undifferentiated type.

Mrs. JEAN COONIN, 907 Painted Post Road, Pikesville, Maryland, advised on January 10, 1964, that she is the sister of IRVIN [REDACTED]. She stated that [REDACTED] has had mental treatment but IRVIN has not. She stated that IRVIN OSTROW dreams things and then believes that they have actually happened. He is constantly giving wild stories based on such dreams which his family have learned to ignore. With respect to his having had a passenger in his taxicab who had talked of the coming assassination of President KENNEDY a week or two before it actually happened, Mrs. COONIN stated that she felt sure this had not actually happened but had merely been something IRVIN OSTROW had dreamed. She stated that he had never told anybody else in the family about such an incident and she felt sure that he would have mentioned it at the time President KENNEDY was actually assassinated if any such passenger had existed. She again stated that her family paid no attention to IRVIN OSTROW's wild stories and she wished that nobody else would either.

IRVIN OSTROW was located on January 17, 1964, through the G.I. Veterans Taxicab Association, 2317 Greenmount Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland. At that time he repeated that he had picked up a woman passenger on the street in front of the Belvedere Hotel, Baltimore, Maryland, between 7:30 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. He described the woman as being about 35 years of age, white, 5'5" tall, having gray hair, wearing a red coat and slacks, color unknown. She did not carry any luggage. OSTROW stated that on the way to the Friendship International Airport which is located between Baltimore and Washington, D.C. he suggested to the woman that he drive her on over to Washington, D.C. She allegedly told him that BOB KENNEDY was sending a plane to Friendship Airport to pick her up and take her to Washington, D.C. OSTROW stated that the woman claimed she had been at a party at the White House in Washington, D.C. the night before and present at the party were President and Mrs. JOHN F. KENNEDY, Attorney General ROBERT KENNEDY, Premier KHRUSHCHEV and other high Government officials whose names OSTROW could not recall. The woman allegedly told OSTROW that all of the foregoing individuals discussed the coming assassination of President KENNEDY and had the exact details as to how it would transpire.

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President KENNEDY allegedly knew that on his next trip he would be riding in an open car, he would be shot from behind and his poor wife would grab him and hold him after he was shot. Mrs. KENNEDY also knew that this was to be her part in the procedure. OSTROW stated that he understood that KHRUSHCHEV was also to be shot at the same time but realized that this part of the story had not actually happened.

IRVIN OSTROW was asked specifically why he did not report this incident at the time it allegedly occurred and replied that he did not want anybody to think he is a "nut". He stated that he had not told anybody not even his sister about the woman passenger. He had no idea how her identity could be determined except that he had heard her tell an officer at the airport that "BOBBY KENNEDY was sending a plane for her."

OSTROW stated that he had completely forgotten about the woman and that the actual assassination of President KENNEDY with the fulfillment of specific details mentioned by her did not remind him at all about the woman's story. He stated that he did not think about it at all until the morning of January 10, 1964 when he had two men as passengers from Baltimore to Friendship Airport. His driving to the airport was the only thing which made him think of the woman passenger he had had prior to the assassination.

On January 17, 1964, Captain CARL C. KUNANIEC, Chief, Friendship Airport Police, advised that he had no information concerning any passenger such as the woman described by IRVIN OSTROW. He stated, however, that there are many people who turn up at Friendship Airport who appear to be mentally unbalanced and who claim they are personal friends or are waiting to meet persons of national prominence. He stated that he would cause the records of his department to be checked concerning an incident such as that described and would also canvass the officers of his department.

On January 20, 1964, Captain KUNANIEC advised that he had been unable to locate any record or officer with any information identifiable with the passenger described by OSTROW. He advised that one additional officer, RONALD CLAYTON, would not be available until January 22, 1964.

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On January 22, 1964, Officer RONALD CLAYTON, Friendship International Airport Police, advised that he did not have any information which would coincide with that furnished by IRVIN OSTROW. He stated that he was employed during the pertinent period on the 4:00 p.m. to 12:00 midnight shift and did recall that on or about November 8, 1963, a woman, possibly 40 to 45 years of age, who was intoxicated at the time had made the statement that BOB KENNEDY was sending for her. She appeared to be merely a "name dropper" and did not mention a plane or any other pertinent information. He could not recall whether she was wearing a red coat or slacks but was certain that this incident would have had to have occurred after he himself had reported for duty on the evening shift and could not have been in the morning. Officer CLAYTON stated that no taxi driver had been observed by him near the woman whom he had seen and that he did not know IRVIN OSTROW.

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