

March 27, 1964

BY COURIER SERVICE

Honorable J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel
The President's Commission
200 Maryland Avenue, Northeast
Washington, D. C.

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. Shroder
- 1 - Mr. Rogge

Dear Mr. Rankin:

Reference is made to your letter dated February 21, 1964, wherein you request certain information relating to the 6.5 millimeter Mannlicher-Carcano Italian military rifle, and to your request to obtain the originals or photographic copies of all documents relating to this rifle.

With regard to your request in paragraph one, the following is submitted:

The rifle, K1, was correctly described previously by the Federal Bureau of Investigation Laboratory as a 6.5 millimeter Mannlicher-Carcano Italian military rifle, Model 91/38, Serial Number C3764. Micrometer measurements of the interior of the barrel of the rifle were made. The bore diameter is 6.50 millimeters (.256 inches).

In paragraph two you request sharper reproductions of exhibit numbers 15 and 18 appearing in Volume I of the Book of Exhibits furnished by this Bureau. Efforts were made to obtain sharper reproductions, and two enlarged photographic copies of each of the above exhibits are enclosed for your assistance. It should be noted these photographs were made from the microfilm record maintained by Klein's Sporting Goods. The original records from which the film was made have been destroyed.

In connection with paragraph four, the following is set out:

DUPLICATE YELLOW

162-109060

199 MAR 31 1964

UNREC.

1 - Dallas (100-10481) (HKE SAC, DALLAS NOTE, PAGE 5)

- 1 - Mr. I.W. Conrad
- 1 - Mr. W.C. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. R.E. Lenihan
- 1 - Mr. J.C. Cadigan

① - 62-109030 (Assassination of President Kennedy)

ORIGINAL FILED IN 105-2235-2798

ADD 1 COPY

Honorable J. Lee Rankin

- (a) The weight of the rifle with sling is 8 pounds; without the sling 7 pounds 11½ ounces.
- (b) The length of the rifle is 40.2 inches.
- (c) The length of the longest component, which is the stock, when disassembled is 34.8 inches.
- (d) (i) The average time required to disassemble the rifle is 1½ minutes.
(ii) The average time required to assemble the rifle is 2½ minutes.
- (e) The tools required to assemble or disassemble the rifle would include a screwdriver, fingernail file, coin (dime), or some similar object.
- (f) The Dallas Police Department, when searching Lee Harvey Oswald's residence at 1026 North Beckley, Dallas, Texas, on November 23, 1963, obtained a fingernail file and a screwdriver, and it is considered these items would normally be located at any residence. These objects would also be generally available at the Paine residence in Irving, Texas, or at the Texas School Book Depository Building.
- (g) The fired cartridge cases are ejected from the K1 rifle at various angles and distances depending upon the speed at which the bolt is operated and upon the position of the rifle at the time of extraction. This is a condition which exists with all bolt action rifles. Two series of tests were conducted. In one test, the barrel was held horizontally at the time of ejection. In the second test, the barrel was held at a 45-degree downward angle. In both tests, the ejection port was 32 inches above the floor.

In the horizontal barrel test, the ejected cartridge cases struck the floor between 59 inches and 101 inches from the ejection port. The angle

Honorable J. Lee Rankin

between the line of sight and the point of impact varied from 80 degrees to 97 degrees. All of the cartridge cases landed in a 47-inch diameter circle, the center of which was located 80 degrees from the ejection port on a line 90 degrees to the right of the line of sight.

In the test conducted with the barrel depressed at a 45-degree downward angle, the cartridge cases struck the floor between 85 inches and 115 inches from the ejection port. The angle between the line of sight and the point of impact varied from 64 degrees to 95 degrees. All of the cartridge cases landed in a 65-inch diameter circle, the center of which was located 85 inches from the ejection port on a line 80 degrees to the right of the line of sight.

These angles were measured clockwise from the line of sight with vertices at the ejection port.

It is pointed out that after striking the floor the cartridge cases ricocheted in a very erratic pattern both as to distance and direction some traveling as much as 10 feet beyond the point of impact.

In compliance with the requests set out in paragraph five, enclosed are two photographic copies of repair tag number 18374 which was obtained from the Irving Sport Shop, Irving, Texas. In addition, the following information is submitted:

(a) Your attention is invited to our letter dated March 18, 1964, which was in partial reply to your letter dated March 3, 1964, relating to the testimony of Marina Oswald. Specifically, item number two of your letter dated March 3, 1964, requested we endeavor to confirm or negate the apparent fact that the telescope was attached to the rifle when it was shipped to Dallas, Texas. The information enclosed with our letter

54

Honorable J. Lee Rankin

dated March 18, 1964, would appear to comply with instant request. No further inquiry on this particular item is being made, unless a specific request to the contrary is received from you.

(b) From an examination of the K1 rifle, no indication was found that the telescopic sight was remounted. Its position on the rifle, the mounting screws and the screw holes show no evidence of having been altered. It cannot be determined whether or not the telescope tube has been shifted in its mount since shifting the tube would leave no marks or other evidence of adjustment.

(c) Our investigation has disclosed only one other family by the name of Oswald residing in the area of Irving, Texas; namely, Mr. Jerry A. Oswald, his wife, and two children.

(d) Mr. Jerry A. Oswald, as well as other persons having the last name of Oswald residing in Dallas and vicinity, were interviewed and all advised they had not taken a rifle to the Irving Sport Shop to have a telescopic sight mounted. The results of our investigation into this particular matter are recorded on pages 654 through 656 in the report of Special Agent Robert P. Gemberling at Dallas, dated December 23, 1963, captioned, "Lee Harvey Oswald, Internal Security - Russia - Cuba."

(e and f) According to Mr. Charles William Greener, owner of the Irving Sport Shop, the Irving Furniture Company, now defunct, and formerly operated by Mrs. Edith Whitworth, was located one block west of the Irving Sport Shop, on the north side of Irving Boulevard.

Your request to obtain the originals or photographic copies of all documents relating to the K1 rifle, as well as the rifle shipped to Aldens of Chicago, bearing Serial Number 2766, is still being vigorously pursued by this Bureau. For your information, seven of our continental offices are involved in this project including investigation in Canada. This material is being assembled as received for easy reference, and when all of the documents are obtained, you will be furnished the requested material.

Sincerely yours,

Enclosures (6)

NOTE TO SAC, DALLAS:

LEE HARVEY OSWALD, AKA.,
IS - B - CUBA

You will be furnished under separate cover photographic copies of the documents received by the FBI Laboratory, which have been furnished appropriate identification numbers where necessary. When all documents requested by the President's Commission have been received, the information relating to them, and any necessary explanatory notations, should be incorporated in an appropriate letterhead memorandum and submitted with two copies of each photograph to the Bureau for dissemination to the President's Commission. This matter should continue to receive your close attention so that this matter can be promptly handled. Insure all aspects of the Commission's request are complied with.

NOTE:

The Commission, in addition to the above technical data, requested the originals or photographic copies of all documents relating to the above weapons. This would include purchase orders, invoices, shipping documents, bills of lading, receipts, sales records, inventory records, of some eight business firms. It has been very extensive in nature, and certain difficulties in obtaining this information is beyond our control. This matter continues to be followed closely at the Bureau, and when all the requested material is received, the President's Commission will be promptly advised.