

Director, FBI (64-29833-234)

6/3/64

Legat, Tokyo (80-6)

RELATIONS WITH NATIONAL POLICE  
AGENCY OF JAPAN

Remy cable 6/2/64.

As the Bureau is aware, Supt. Atsuyuki SASSA of National Police Agency (NPA) of Japan, made an official visit to the United States in early 1964 for dual purpose of visiting the Bureau to learn something about the FBI filing system, and visiting the U. S. Secret Service in effort to gain information that would assist Japanese police in prevention of assassinations, it being feared that other assassination attempts, particularly in Japan, might follow in the wake of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Bulet 3/16/64 reflects that SASSA visited the Bureau on 3/5/64 where he had opportunity to talk with Bureau officials concerning FBI records and filing systems. At that time he stated it was perfectly clear to him that the Bureau was not presently in a position to make any information available to him relative to the assassination of President Kennedy.

Upon his return to Japan, SASSA called at this office to thank Legat for the helpful and instructive treatment with respect to tour of the Bureau and discussion of the Bureau's filing system which had been afforded him. At that time again he said he understood perfectly that the Bureau could not discuss with him any aspects of the assassination of President Kennedy, but he said he had talked to whatever extent he could during the visit with representatives of the U. S. Secret Service, members of the Dallas Police Department, and newspaper and magazine reporters, as well as reading all public-source information available concerning the incident.

On 6/2/64 SASSA telephoned Legat advising he was flabbergasted to have learned that remarks made by him a few weeks earlier in an informal discussion which SASSA had thought was "off the record" had been grossly misconstrued and built into a "sensational" article which <sup>to</sup> appear in the next issue of "U. S. News & World Report" magazine.

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SASSA explained that on 4/24/64 he had been invited by Kuniyasu TSUCHIDA, a Senior Superintendent of the NPA, to a dinner at the Kokusai Bunka Kaikan (International Cultural Institute, commonly referred to as "International House") in Tokyo to be attended by a small group of close, reliable friends who were interested in hearing about SASSA's recent trip. In all, eight men were present at this party, including correspondent Glenn TROELSTRUP who came as guest of Hideaki KASE. One of the other Japanese participants was also a writer for a magazine, SASSA explained, and there was some mention of possibility of his preparing an article to refute the so-called "Euchanan theory" which alleged that the assassination was product of a conspiracy between Oswald, Ruby, and ultra-rightists in the United States. However, it was clearly understood by SASSA, TSUCHIDA, and the Japanese writer that no article would be prepared without prior police clearance, and that the discussion was therefore "off the record." Unfortunately, however, both SASSA and TSUCHIDA advised Legat, nobody specifically told the group, particularly TROELSTRUP, that anything said should be considered "off the record."

On Friday, 5/29/64, SASSA said TROELSTRUP contacted him to advise that he was surprised to have learned that notes he had prepared on the April 24 discussion had been worked into an article which was to be published by "U.S. News & World Report." The following day, May 30, TROELSTRUP showed SASSA a preliminary draft of the article, which greatly alarmed SASSA because of its impropriety and many inaccuracies. He requested TROELSTRUP to have the article withdrawn, which TROELSTRUP said he would attempt to do. On 6/2/64, SASSA said, he learned the article had actually been printed.

Legat advised SASSA that if any inaccurate statements relating in any way to the FBI appeared in the article, it would be absolutely essential to obtain explanation and retraction from the author. SASSA said he would do this.

Later on 6/2/64, SASSA and TSUCHIDA came to this office bringing the enclosed statement signed by TROELSTRUP and others. They also brought a copy of the 6/3/64 issue of "U. S. News & World Report", from which the article in question was copied and is enclosed.

TSUCHIDA confirmed circumstances of the April 24 meeting as related by SASSA. TSUCHIDA further said that he wanted to offer his profound apology, and to assume responsibility for the blunder leading to appearance of the article, since he

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had overlooked his responsibility to make the "off-the-record" character of the discussion clear to all participants, and since he, as a senior police official was host at the gathering and had indicated to SASSA that he could speak freely, it was only natural that SASSA would do so. TSUCHIDA observed at the same time that actually no sensitive or classified matters were mentioned by SASSA, and it was of course impossible to predict at that time that his remarks would be so grossly misconstrued.

Legat reviewed the article point by point with SASSA and TSUCHIDA, and on basis of their explanations, drew up a tentative supplemental statement which they said they would ask TROELSTRUP to sign. Copy of the supplemental statement dated 6/3/64 is enclosed.

Matter is being closely followed, and Bureau will be advised.