emorandum - Mr. Conrad - Office, Room 7133 Mr. Stombaugh SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY ... DALLAS. TEXAS. 11/22/63 Mr. Melvin Eisenberg of the President's Commission telephonically contacted SA Paul M. Stombaugh on 9/1/64, relative to certain questions regarding fiber examinations conducted in this case for inclusion in an affidavit he is preparing for SA Stombaugh's signature. A resume of this conversation is as follows: Mr. Eisenberg desired to know what mercerized cotton is. He was told this is cotton that has been chemically treated and which process removes much of the twist naturally present in cotton, 2 He inquired as to whether or not the degree of twist in cotton was regarded as a main characteristic used for comparison purposes. SA Stombaugh answered that the twist was a minor individual characteristic used, the shade of the fiber being the main characteristic. He asked what delustered fibers were and the significance of the spots on these fibers. The answer given was that delustered synthetic fibers are those that have been chemically treated to remove the luster or shine from the fiber. The resulting spots from this chemical action are fairly uniform in size and are used as a major individual characteristic for comparison purposes. Mr. Eisenberg then inquired if the small tuft of cotton fibers removed from the butt of the assassination rifle contained several different shades of each color. He was told that the grayblack and orange-yellow cotton fibers each contained one shade; however, the blue cotton fibers contained two different shades of blue. REC 30 . 62-109060-3692 - Mr. Belmont 1"- Mr. Rosen 1 - Mr. Sullivan 1 - Mr. Malley [5 ] 1 2 n. .. 62-109060

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Memorandum to Mr. Conrad
Re: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN F. KENNEDY, DALLAS,
TEXAS, 11/22/63
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He then asked the approximate number of fibers in the tuft, whether or not these matched those in Oswald's shirt, and whether or not the cotton in this shirt was mercerized. The answer was there were six or seven fibers in the tuft. The blue fibers matched two of the three shades present in the shirt and the gray-black and orange-yellow fibers matched the gray-black and orange-yellow fibers present in the shirt. The cotton in the shirt was mercerized, the twist of the cotton fibers in both the shirt and the tuft from the rifle being fairly uniform.

Mr. Eisenberg then asked how many different shades of green cotton fibers were in the blanket (found in Paine's garage) and was told approximately seven. He then inquired if the several green cotton fragments removed from the paper bag (found near the rifle) matched any of these. He was told they matched one of the shades.

He inquired whether or not the delustered brown viscose fibers present in the blanket had uniform delustering spots. He was told the spots varied in size with the various fibers as the fibers were of different diameters. However, the brown viscose fiber fragment from the paper bag microscopically matched some of these fibers in diameter and delustering characteristics.

Mr. Eisenberg then stated that he had neglected to place into evidence the glass microscope slides containing the fibers removed from the gun and the paper bag, the hairs removed from the blanket and the known hair samples obtained from Oswald. He inquired whether or not these are still available and upon receiving an affirmative answer, stated the introduction of these would be included in the affidavit.

SA Stombaugh is to be contacted by a representative of the President's Commission in the near future to obtain his signature on the affidavit and to turn over the glass slides for evidentiary purposes.

ACTION:

For information.

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