

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Director, FBI (62-109060)

DATE: 4-22-65

FROM : SAC, Cleveland (62-1848) (RUC)

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY  
November 22, 1963  
MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING

Re: JOHN J. PETRANEK

JOHN J. PETRANEK, 1182 East 71st Street, Cleveland, Ohio, telephonically contacted the Cleveland Office on the evening of April 17, 1965, and advised he was presently at a tavern located "two doors down from my house," and he stated he was "blind drunk." He said he knew who had assassinated former President JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY but refused to identify this person any further. He remarked he did not agree with the "propaganda" which had been published concerning the assassination of President KENNEDY or with the results of the investigation concerning this matter. He commented the "real" assassin had been "paid off" but again he declined to identify this person.

During this conversation, he made no reference to LEE HARVEY OSWALD or any other individual.

PETRANEK stated his admiration of former President KENNEDY and made no comment of any kind concerning President LYNDON B. JOHNSON. He indicated in no way any feelings concerning the present US policy, the current federal administration, or any other individual of federal, state, or local political or administrative significance.

- 4 - Bureau  
(1 - 62-109080)  
(1 - 44-24016)
- 3 - Dallas (89-43)  
(1 - 44-1639)
- 3 - Cleveland  
(1 - 44-265)  
(1 - 100-26735)

JAW:esc  
(10)

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PETRANEK commented several times during the conversation of being "blind drunk" and stated he wanted to call it to the attention of the FBI that he did not agree with the results of the investigation concerning the assassination.

He was thanked for his observations and courteously advised, in the event he had any information concerning the assassination of former President KENNEDY or any other information which he believed of interest to the FBI, he might contact the Cleveland Office personally during normal business hours and discuss this matter fully. He stated he would give this consideration, but he did not know whom he could "trust," if anyone. He was advised any information furnished the FBI would be handled in a confidential manner and that any Special Agent with whom he would speak, in the event he came to the Cleveland Office, could be fully trusted.

[It is noted PETRANEK is identical to the subject of Bureau File 62-109080.]

For information of the Dallas Division, PETRANEK first contacted the Cleveland Office on March 14, 1953, at which time he complained that his commanding officer in a local National Guard unit had made favorable remarks concerning former Premier JOSEPH STALIN, USSR. He further complained that the commanding officer should have "given Russia hell" when lecturing to the men of the unit. PETRANEK was a 1st sergeant in this National Guard unit at the time of complaint.

The next pertinent contact made by PETRANEK and contained in the Cleveland file was on November 24, 1963, when he telephonically contacted the Bureau and requested the present location of "SA MUNLEY." He indicated at this time he had important information which he would not disclose and would only furnish to SA MUNLEY. He stated he was very suspicious of all other law enforcement officers and, therefore, did not wish to be contacted by any other agent. PETRANEK further indicated he would travel to wherever SA MUNLEY was located in order to impart this information. It was determined that the SA MUNLEY referred to by PETRANEK was identical to SA LAWRENCE F. MUNLEY, assigned to the

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Buffalo Office at that time.

On November 29, 1963, SA MUNLEY corresponded with PETRANEK on plain unmarked stationery requesting him to either contact the Cleveland Office personally or to furnish this information directly to him by either letter or by personal contact. By December 17, 1963, PETRANEK had not contacted the Bureau, the Cleveland Office, or SA MUNLEY in any manner, and the Bureau granted permission to contact PETRANEK directly at Cleveland.

PETRANEK was contacted on February 7, 1964, upon Bureau authority, at which time he advised he was very concerned over the number of communists in this country. He stated that he ran into communists everywhere he went. When questioned about his reluctance to furnish information to the FBI, he stated that during World War II he found communists in the armed forces and he, therefore, assumed that they were throughout the government service, possibly even in the FBI. He stated he did have confidence in SA MUNLEY, and in this connection said that about ten years ago he had taken a tour of the Buffalo Office with some relatives, and SA MUNLEY was the agent conducting the tour. He said he has had no further contact with SA MUNLEY.

Concerning the information he wished to furnish, PETRANEK stated he has been upset since the assassination of President JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY, as he believes this was a communist plot. He could furnish no reasons for his belief. He further said that, after seeing pictures of JACK RUBY, he has come to the conclusion that RUBY looks a lot like a man he remembers seeing around the YMCA in Cleveland in the 1950's. He stated this man ran around with a group in the YMCA which he considered "liberal," although he could not give any reasons for his thoughts in this regard or name any persons in the group.

PETRANEK stated at this time he would give the matter further thought and if he could think of any specific information of interest to the FBI, he would again contact that office.

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Upon interview on February 7, 1964, it appeared PETRANEK was obsessed with the question of communist influence in this country. He stated that although he continues to work as a plumber for the City of Cleveland, he occasionally becomes so upset over this matter that he has to take a day off. He could furnish no specific information of any kind and gave no indication of being violent and spoke strongly against persons who attempt to take matters into their own hands.

PETRANEK on May 14, 1964, telephonically contacted SA MUNLEY at Buffalo by long distance from Cleveland, at which time he indicated he had "very important information" on communism involving high personages in the United States government, but he would not give this information over the telephone and would not put it in a letter to the agent, stating he would be killed if he did so, as he was in much danger as it was.

PETRANEK at this time accused SA MUNLEY of having given him bad advice in his letter of November 29, 1963, that he should contact agents of the Cleveland FBI Office concerning his furnishing information which would be treated in the strictest confidence. He told SA MUNLEY that he had spoken with two FBI agents from the Cleveland Office and that he did not trust them and had suspected they and other agents in the Cleveland FBI Office were also tied up in the communist conspiracy. In fact, he said that as a result of the recommendation made by SA MUNLEY in his letter, he is not sure now that he could trust him. PETRANEK stated, however, that he had no choice since the information he had, and which he refused to discuss over the telephone, was very important and that he would, therefore, travel to Buffalo at the end of May and personally furnish this information to SA MUNLEY.

SA MUNLEY, based on this telephone conversation, believed PETRANEK to be suffering from a mental disturbance and it appeared to him that he had developed a complex concerning communism, which is manifested by his obsession that the communists had successfully infiltrated every government agency and department to the point where they are able

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to control actions of such departments.

No additional information is contained in the Cleveland file re PETRANEK.

PETRANEK has not contacted the Cleveland Office in any manner to date as requested on April 17, 1965, and no further effort will be made by the Cleveland Office to contact him concerning this matter, UACB or Dallas.

This communication is being furnished for information purposes and information copies are being designated to Bureau File 44-24017 and Dallas File 44-1639, captioned JACK L. RUBY, aka; LEE HARVEY OSWALD, aka - VICTIM (deceased), CR, inasmuch as PETRANEK, when interviewed at Cleveland on February 7, 1964, made reference to JACK L. RUBY.