



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Norfolk, Virginia

May 28, 1968

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY
NOVEMBER 22, 1963
DALLAS, TEXAS

On May 14, 1968, an individual identifying himself as Henry Andrew Gourley appeared at the Norfolk Office of the FBI. He stated that he left Vancouver, British Columbia, on March 19, 1968, aboard the Danish ship M/S "JANECKE," has since traveled to ports in Europe via the Panama Canal, and arrived in Norfolk, Virginia, on May 13, 1968. He said he was a seaman aboard this ship, and another seaman by the name of Lorenzo Hitchcock harassed him at times, especially when Hitchcock had been drinking. He said Hitchcock told him he had been in the Kingston Prison, Ontario, Canada, for eighteen years on a charge of manslaughter, and he, Gourley, was afraid of him (Hitchcock). He said Hitchcock, in talking about his release from prison, indicated one William J. Brown had helped obtain his release and indicated Brown was a Senator from Newfoundland.

Gourley said when Hitchcock mentioned Brown, he recognized this name as being one he had heard earlier in a bar in Vancouver. He said about three or four days prior to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, he and a friend, John Lang, who sells newspapers at St. Paul's Hospital, Vancouver, were in the Hildon Hotel bar on Cordova Street, Vancouver, having a few drinks. Also present at the bar were three men sitting at another table, who were discussing plans to assassinate President Kennedy, Governor Wallace, and some other public figures, including former Vice President Richard Nixon. Gourley said one of these three men was referred to as Lee Oswald by name, and another as William J. Brown. He said he did not recall hearing the third man's name. Gourley said he could not explain as to why these men referred to each other by their full names in conversation among themselves.

Gourley described these men as follows:

COPIES DESTROYED

JAN 10 1973

6-10-68-6431

ENCLOSURE

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Oswald -- white male, aged 28 to 30 years old, 5'8"-9" tall, slender build, hair, clothing not recalled, and further description not recalled.

Brown -- white male, aged 30 to 35 years old, 5'2"-3" tall, stocky build, hair not recalled, reddish-brown mustache (bushy), dark suit, further description not recalled.

Third man -- white male, aged 20 to 25 years old, 5'4"-5" tall, slender build, further description not recalled.

He said he recalled part of the conversation, and remembers Oswald saying he had no reason to kill President Kennedy, but would do so. He said Brown said he did have a reason for killing President Kennedy as he, Brown, had been kicked out of the Navy. He said these men indicated that they had decided against killing Nixon as he was not important enough.

Gourley stated the next day he reported this situation to the local police in Vancouver, but they said they could not do anything about it. He said, of course, a few days later, President Kennedy was killed, but he did not then tell anyone about the conversation he had overheard, and has not since told anyone about it except members of his family, who did not want to get involved. He said he did not want to get involved either, but had been advised to furnish this information to the FBI.

Gourley said upon arrival at Norfolk, Virginia, on May 13, 1968, he had been paid off by the ship as he wanted to return to Vancouver and the ship was going to other ports. He said he was paid over \$300, and checked into the Atlantic Hotel, Granby Street, Norfolk, which he described as being second class. He said during the evening of May 13, 1968, he had some drinks at the local bars and a police officer subsequently advised him he had better call it a night as he was drinking too much. He said he returned to his room and went to bed, and when he dressed the morning of May 14, 1968, he discovered two \$100 bills were missing from his wallet, although approximately \$56 had been left in his wallet.

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Gourley said he reported the theft to the Norfolk Police Department, told them about his troubles with Hitchcock, and about the conversation he had overheard between Oswald, Brown, and the other man. He said the police officers told him to report this to the FBI and that was the reason he was doing so.

Gourley said the ship he had worked on left Norfolk the morning of May 14, 1968, and he himself was leaving to return to Vancouver.

During questioning of Gourley, as to details in this matter, he became upset and started to cry. He stated he had been receiving treatment at the Riverview Mental Hospital, Vancouver, British Columbia, for his nerves, and, in fact, is still receiving treatment, and is to return to the hospital for further treatment. He said he did not recall when he first went to the hospital, but it was quite some time-ago. He said doctors at Vancouver had stated he was mentally insane, but the doctors had made a mistake as it was just his nerves.

During the course of the conversation, it was difficult to follow Gourley's train of thought as he would jump from one subject to another, and sometimes speak as to make it difficult to understand.

The following description of Gourley was obtained through observation and interview:

Name	Henry Andrew Gourley
Race	White
Sex	Male
Born	June 4, 1921 Vancouver, British Columbia
Height	6'1"
Weight	165 pounds
Hair	Dark brown, graying
Eyes	Hazel
Canadian Passport #	5-623261
Home Address	Mariners Club for Seamen 1301 Robson Street Vancouver, British Columbia

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Sisters

Mrs. S. E. Richard
5869 Montgomery Street
Vancouver, British Columbia

Mrs. A. Day
4643 Rumble Street
South Burnaby, British Columbia

Brother

Mr. S. V. Gourley
2795 Crescent View Road
North Vancouver, British
Columbia

Previous Arrests

By Immigration and Naturalization
Service at Seattle, Washington,
during approximately 1954,
for overstaying his visiting
period in the United States

Nationality

Canadian

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