

IN THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
DALLAS DIVISION

MARINA N. OSWALD PORTER,  
ET AL,

Plaintiffs,

v.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
Defendant.

Civil Action No. CA-3-4247-C

Washington )

District of Columbia )

ss.

AFFIDAVIT

Ronald G. Wittmus, being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

1. I am a Fingerprint Examiner employed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice, Washington, D.C. I have held the position of Fingerprint Examiner since 1947 and have been employed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation since 1939.

2. In connection with the investigation of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy many paper specimens were submitted to the FBI Identification Division, Latent Fingerprint Section, for latent fingerprint examination. Such examination was conducted by myself and others employed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the Latent Fingerprint Section.

3. The term "latent" as applied to fingerprints relates to those fingerprints which may be left on paper, cardboard, unpainted wood or other absorbent surfaces through normal perspiration exuded by pores on the finger

ridges or by oily matter present on the ridges. The development of latent fingerprint impressions involves more complicated techniques than just the use of fingerprint powder. Latent fingerprints are usually not visible on paper, and must be made visible by the use of various chemical processes. Three separate chemical processes are used for the development of latent fingerprints. These processes are: (1) Iodine fuming; (2) Ninhydrin solution; and (3) a silver nitrate solution. Each of these chemical processes reacts to a specific substance which may be present in the latent fingerprint. The chemical processing of paper for the development of latent fingerprints may result in the staining of paper specimens as well as the alteration of the appearance of the documents during the processing such as, for example, if washable inks are present on the document.

4. The chemical processing by the three methods referred to above is an accepted law enforcement laboratory technique which is performed daily by the FBI in its laboratories on a heavy volume basis in examining possible evidence in cases of criminal activity. My associates and I at the FBI Identification Division examined much of the documentary evidence which related to the investigation of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy shortly after the assassination. I determined that it

was necessary to utilize the above-mentioned chemical processes on the documents in order to determine whether any latent fingerprints were on the documents.

RONALD G. WITTMUS

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a notary public in and for the District of Columbia, on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of July, 1971.

Notary Public

My commission expires: \_\_\_\_\_