

Airtel

To: SACs, Dallas (Enclosures - 11)
Chicago (Enclosure)
WFO (Info.)

9/18/74

From: Director, FBI

- 1 - Mr. Gebhardt
- 1 - Mr. Bates
- 1 - Mr. Nettles
- 1 - Mr. McDermott
- 1 - Mr. White
- 1 - Mr. Bowers
- 1 - Mr. Shaneyfelt

ASSASSINATION OF JOHN FITZGERALD
KENNEDY
DALLAS, TEXAS
11/22/63
OO: DALLAS

Enclosed for Dallas are eight photographs showing three individuals in custody of police officers in the vicinity of the Texas School Book Depository, one each of known photographs of E. Howard Hunt and Frank Sturgis, and one photograph of a newspaper article from "The New York Times." Enclosed for Chicago is one photograph of one of the persons in Dallas. These items were photographed from an album furnished to the Director by Donald Dorahue, Special Assistant to Senator Jackson of Washington.

By way of background, on 8/7/74 Bob Horton, a reporter for "Reuters News Service," contacted FBIHQ to advise he was in possession of two photographs purported to show E. Howard Hunt and Frank Sturgis (both associated with the Watergate break in) in Dallas, Texas, on 11/22/63, the day of the assassination of President Kennedy. Horton had obtained these photographs from two young "Yippie" individuals who had a meeting scheduled with Congressman Henry B. Gonzalez (Democrat - Texas) to show him the photographs to elicit his support in reopening the Kennedy investigation.

The two "Yippie" individuals were identified through Congressman Gonzalez's office as Michael Canfield and A. J. Weberman, underground newspaper people from New York.

MAILED 7
SEP 18 1974
FBI

EX-105 REC-75 62-109060-7126

SEE NOTE PAGE THREE

SEP 19 1974

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(14)

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SEP 23 1974

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

62-109060

Airtel to SACs Dallas, Chicago, and WFO
RE: ASSASSINATION OF JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY

Canfield was interviewed by WFO Agents on 8/13/74. He advised that their research determined that three individuals had been arrested shortly after the assassination and were taken to the Sheriff's Office in Dallas. Investigation by them indicated no record of these arrests. Canfield had in his possession several photographs which he claimed to have obtained from Dallas newspaper files concerning the arrests. He indicated he felt that two of the individuals in the photographs are E. Howard Hunt and Frank A. Sturgis. He stated he would have copies made of the photographs and would contact WFO to turn them over for comparison with known photographs of Hunt and Sturgis. Subsequent contact with Canfield on 9/5/74 revealed that he would make the photographs available on 9/11/74.

In the meantime, Mr. Donahue of Senator Jackson's office obtained the photographs from Canfield in album form and made them available to the Director.

Laboratory examination of the photographs is negative regarding identifying Sturgis and Hunt as being two of the persons arrested. Differences in facial characteristics were noted. No evidence was found to indicate that the photos had been "doctored," however, this cannot completely be eliminated.

Notations in the album raise the question as to whether or not the third person arrested could be Thomas Arthur Vallee. Chicago, refer to report of SA Leo R. Pedrotty dated 12/2/63 in your file 62-6115 wherein the possibility of association between Vallee and Lee Harvey Oswald was considered.

The enclosed newspaper article mentions Dallas Police Sergeant D. V. Harkness and other officers pulling some "tramps and hoboes" off a long freight train and taking them in for questioning. It also mentions that Deputy Sheriff Harold E. Elkins took three prisoners brought in by a policeman from the railroad yards and turned them over to Police Captain J. Will Fritz, Chief of the Homicide Bureau. Also mentioned is a report of Deputy Sheriff C. L. Lewis regarding the arrest of Lonnie Ray Wright on the railroad tracks.

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Dallas, identify the police officers shown in enclosed photographs and through them identify the three persons in their custody. Determine if they were fingerprinted. If fingerprints not available, set forth appropriate leads for them to be located to determine whether or not they are Hunt, Sturgis and Vallee.

Chicago, obtain photograph of Vallee for submission to the Laboratory Division for examination to determine if he was possibly one of the three persons in custody in Dallas.

NOTE: Representative of "Reuters News Service" contacted External Affairs Division 8/7/74 reporting he had two photos purported to show E. Howard Hunt and Frank Sturgis of Watergate fame in the vicinity of the location of assassination of President Kennedy in the custody of police officers, but no record could be located regarding the arrest. It was determined that two "Yippie" type reporters had provided the photos to "Reuters" and that they were investigating this matter under the auspices of Congressman Gonzalez of Texas. The Director noted on the McDermott to Jenkins memo of 8/7/74 - "'The LA Times' inquiry of Jack Nelson on the Wallace assassination continues to give us trouble. Pls. try to still present one to avoid the same situation as above which continues." Through Congressman Gonzalez's office, WFO Agents interviewed one of the "Yippie" reporters, Michael Canfield, on 8/13/74, who promised to recontact WFO to make available copies of his photos. In the meantime, Don Donahue, Special Assistant to Senator Jackson of Washington, obtained an album containing the photographs from the "Yippie" reporters and provided it to the Director. The Lab examined the photos and found differences in facial characteristics between the photographs and known photographs of Hunt and Sturgis. No evidence was found that the photos had been "doctored," but this cannot be completely eliminated because of the possibility that such "doctoring" can be done without detection. No photo could be located of Thomas Arthur Vallee for comparison to determine if he was possibly the third person under arrest. This possibility was raised in the album. Vallee was arrested in Chicago, Illinois, several days before the assassination based on a threat

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against the President. Dallas is instructed in this communication to identify the three persons in the photographs to determine whether or not they are Hunt, Sturgis and/or Vallee. Chicago is instructed to obtain a photo of Vallee for comparison by the Lab.