

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Adams

DATE: 10/8/74

FROM : R. E. Gebhardt *Rege*

- 1 - Mr. Gebhardt
- 1 - Mr. Bates
- 1 - Mr. Nettles
- 1 - Mr. McDermott
- 1 - Mr. Wannall
- 1 - Mr. White
- 1 - Mr. Long

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF JOHN FITZGERALD
KENNEDY, DALLAS, TEXAS,
NOVEMBER 22, 1963

Assoc. Dir. _____
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On 10/7/74, the Director conferred with Mr. Benjamin C. Bradlee, Editor of "The Washington Post," Assistant Director Robert E. Gebhardt and Supervisor William E. Nettles, Jr., of the General Investigative Division. Mr. Bradlee stated that certain photographs had come to his attention which allegedly showed E. Howard Hunt and Frank Sturgis, of Watergate notoriety, in the custody of Dallas, Texas, police officers shortly after the assassination of President Kennedy.

Mr. Bradlee said that since "The Washington Post" investigation of the Watergate matter was just about over, they were looking for a new inquiry to direct their attentions toward. He said he was considering sending a team of investigative reporters to Dallas to begin an investigation into these photographs but decided to check with the Director beforehand to see if the Bureau was aware of the photographs and had possibly already resolved the matter.

Mr. Bradlee was informed that this matter had come to our attention in August, 1974, through A. J. Weberman and Michael Canfield, who were described as underground newspaper people in New York City. The photographs have been compared by the FBI Laboratory with known photographs of Hunt and Sturgis with a determination being made that Hunt and Sturgis are not the ones in the photographs. Additionally, a third person shown in the photographs in custody had been alleged by Canfield to be Thomas Arthur Vallee of Chicago, Illinois, and he likewise has been eliminated through examination by the FBI Laboratory. Additionally, Mr. Bradlee was advised that it has been confirmed that Vallee was at work in Chicago, Illinois, on the day that President Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas.

He was also informed that the Dallas police officers in the photographs have previously been identified in relation to other investigations and that all three officers advised them that they took three individuals, names unknown to them, off a

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Re: ASSASSINATION OF JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY

boxcar about a mile from the assassination site about 20 minutes after the shooting. They took them to the Dallas County Sheriff's Office where a screening office had been set up. Numerous people were taken to that office on that day and released without charges or booking after being interviewed. No records have been located pertaining to the arrest of the individuals.

It was also pointed out to Mr. Bradley that there had been allegations that Lee Harvey Oswald had been in Miami, Florida, prior to the assassination and had been in contact with Sturgis, who was then using the name Frank Fiorini. Extensive investigation, including interview of Sturgis, indicated that there was no substance to this.

A copy of the March 15-21, 1974, edition of the "Berkeley Barb", a California underground newspaper, which contains the photographs in question as well as an article describing the alleged involvement of CIA, Hunt, Sturgis and Vallee in the assassination was given to Mr. Bradley.

An article from the 5/24/68, edition of the "New York Times" pertaining to the photographs was also mentioned to Mr. Bradley. In answer to his question, Mr. Bradley was told that according to information received by us, Canfield had made deals with the German magazine "Stern" and a Washington, D. C., free-lance reporter named Sam Jaffee in regard to selling this story.

Mr. Bradley then stated he was satisfied that the Bureau was well aware of these allegations and instead of investigating the matter, he planned to run a story to the effect that the FBI had checked into these allegations and found no substance to them.

After the departure of Mr. Bradley, the Director advised that Captain Will Fritz, who was the Dallas police officer in charge of their investigation of the Kennedy case and who apparently authorized the release of the persons in the photographs, should be interviewed for any knowledge he might have of this matter. The Director also stated that Hunt and Sturgis should be contacted to ascertain their whereabouts on the day of the assassination. The Director pointed out that these interviews should be conducted to carry our determination that Hunt and Sturgis were not the ones in the photographs one step further and hopefully lay these allegations to rest.

ACTION: General Investigative Division is making arrangements for interviews of Fritz, Sturgis and Hunt.

RG

H. J. M.

PFB

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