

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. McDermott

DATE: 9/23/75

FROM : A. C. Frank

SUBJECT: ANALYSIS OF ALLEGED ALL SAC TELETYPE MESSAGE DATED NOVEMBER 17, 1963, RE: JOHN F. KENNEDY ASSASSINATION MATTER

- Assoc. Dir. _____
- Dep. AD Adm. _____
- Dep. AD Inv. _____
- Asst. Dir.:
- Admin. _____
- Comp. Syst. _____
- Ext. Affairs _____
- Files & Com. _____
- Gen. Inv. _____
- Ident. _____
- Inspection _____
- Intell. _____
- Laboratory _____
- Plan. & Eval. _____
- Spec. Inv. _____
- Training _____
- Legal Coun. _____
- Telephone Rm. _____
- Director Sec'y _____

The Communications Section has thoroughly reviewed the alleged teletype message from FBIHQ to all SACs captioned "Threat to Assassinate President Kennedy in Dallas, Texas 11/22/63, Miscellaneous Information Concerning."

This analysis assumes that the teletype message appeared exactly as dictated to [redacted], in which case there are numerous inconsistencies which would indicate that it was contrived or reconstructed from memory. The following is a line-by-line listing of inconsistencies:

Line 1 - The time and date are in reverse order; there was no teletypist assigned at FBIHQ in 1963 with the initials HLF, [redacted] did work the midnight shift at that time and used the initials HFL, however, he cannot recall any details of specific messages handled); and the terminology "ONE PAGE" does not belong on line one of the format but should be located in line three following "FROM DIRECTOR" as "1P".

Lines 2 and 3 - Appear normal except that "1P" should be in line three as stated above.

Lines 4 and 5 - The caption does not appear normal as it was accepted practice, in such cases, to use the caption "UNSUB; THREAT TO";

and the date would have been spelled out, e.g., NOVEMBER TWENTYSECOND, SIXTYTHREE.

- 1 - Mr. Callahan (sent direct)
- 1 - Mr. Adams (sent direct)
- 1 - Mr. Jenkins (sent direct)
- 1 - Mr. Gallagher (sent direct)
- 1 - Mr. Cleveland (sent direct)
- 1 - Mr. Bassett (sent direct)
- 1 - Mr. McDermott (sent direct)
- 1 - Mr. Wannall (sent direct)

REM:jw
(10)

CONTINUED - OVER

REC-14
62-10901-7413
File
6-1M 62-10901-60
NOV 20 1975

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Line 9 - The dates again would have been spelled out,
e.g., NOVEMBER TWENTYSECOND THROUGH TWENTYTHIRD, SIXTYTHREE.

Lines 12 and 13 - The term "BUREAU SHOULD BE KEPT ADVISED
OF ALL DEVELOPMENTS VIA TELETYPE" would normally have been
shortened to read "SUTEL DEVELOPMENTS."

Line 14 the term "OTHER OFFICES HAVE BEEN ADVISED"
appears redundant since the message was directed to all SACs.

Line 15 - This line should appear "END AND ACK PLS."

Lines 16 through 19 appear to indicate that this message
was transmitted simultaneously to three offices, i.e., Mobile,
Dallas and New Orleans followed by a single acknowledgement
indicated by the characters "KT TI TU CLR." This is inconsistent
with the normal sequence of events since each of the three office
abbreviations should be followed by a separate acknowledgement
consisting of the time, OK FBI, field office abbreviation and
operators initials. The diagraphs "KT TI" do not correlate to
any known teletype terminology; however, the "TU CLR" meant
THANK YOU-CLEAR and is accepted terminology. The following is an
exact representation of how the message should have appeared with
appropriate format and terminology used in Bureau messages at
that time:

URGENT 11-17-63 1-45 AM HLF

TO ALL SACS

FROM DIRECTOR 1P

UNSUBS; THREAT TO ASSASSINATE PRESIDENT KENNEDY IN DALLAS, TEXAS
NOVEMBER TWENTYTWO, SIXTYTHREE, MISCELLANEOUS-INFORMATION
CONCERNING.

INFORMATION.....

END AND ACK

MO (time) OK FBI MO (initials)
DL (time) OK FBI DL (initials)
NO (time) OK FBI NO (initials)

TU CLR

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The possibility exists that if the original copy of the alleged message were reviewed it would be found that the errors in format were attributable to the dictation. Further, although the above reflects normal practices which were strictly adhered to at that time, it is not inconceivable that a series of coincidences could have resulted in a message similar to that presented.

ACTION:

For information.

IM

~~JK~~
TMS

10/18
10/18

PLM

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ADDENDUM OF FILES AND COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION ACF:jw 9/26/75

To clarify the variation between the standard heading as set forth on Page 2 and copies of ALL SAC teletypes in Bufiles, it should be noted that the initials "FBI" were not transmitted on the teletype machine following the word "Director" even though "FBI" invariably appeared on the 0-9 green and on the blocked yellow when prepared by the stenographer at FBIHQ. The deletion of the initials FBI from the transmission copy was placed into effect sometime between 1961 and March, 1963, as an economy measure by eliminating unnecessary information in the heading of teletype messages.

The caption as set forth in the alleged teletype and as set forth in the representation of how a teletype message should have appeared in 1963 would have depended entirely upon the dictator. For example, the dictator of such a communication could have used "President Kennedy" as opposed to "President John F. Kennedy" in recognition of President Kennedy's eminence. There was not then, nor is there now, a prescribed format for the captions of teletype messages, this being the prerogative of the dictator.

MAD

JEN