

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Gallagher

DATE: 2/25/77

FROM : J. S. Peelman

- 1 - Mr. Adams
- 1 - Mr. Gallagher
- 1 - Mr. Ingram
- 1 - Mr. Peelman
- 1 - Mr. [REDACTED]
- 1 - Mr. [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN F. KENNEDY
11/22/63
DALLAS, TEXAS

- Assoc. Dir. _____
- Dep. AD Adm. _____
- Dep. AD Inv. _____
- Asst. Dir.:
- Adm. Serv. _____
- Ext. Affairs _____
- Fin. & Pers. _____
- Gen. Inv. _____
- Ident. _____
- Inspection _____
- Intell. _____
- Laboratory _____
- Legal Coun. _____
- Plan. & Eval. _____
- Rec. Mgnt. _____
- Spec. Inv. _____
- Training _____
- Telephone Rm. _____
- Director Sec'y _____

PURPOSE: To advise of a JFK cover-up conspiracy theory recently received in the Baltimore Division involving Secret Service, FBI, Attorney General Kennedy, Kennedy family, and unknown Government officials.

SYNOPSIS: --Baltimore Division has advised of information received that [REDACTED] gun dealer, Towson, Maryland, has developed theory that while Lee Harvey Oswald did fire at President Kennedy, the fatal head wound received by Kennedy was fired, accidentally, by "Secret Service Agent" Kenneth O'Donnell (O'Donnell is in fact the former Presidential Assistant to John F. Kennedy) and that the Kennedy family and the highest Government officials in the country have hidden these true facts. [REDACTED] indicated that a feature story relating to his information will appear in the Baltimore Sun papers within the next 30 days but that Donohue will at this time make available to the FBI all of his research material and data.

RECOMMENDATION: (1) That no attempt be made to obtain this research material from [REDACTED] prior to the release of the story by the Baltimore Sun since:

(a) [REDACTED] bizarre theory of limitless conspiracy proportions is the synthesis of investigative and historical fact. ST-126

(b) [REDACTED] while expressing his current concern for the reputation of the FBI, made no attempt to furnish his theory to the FBI prior to making his material available to the Baltimore Sun.

Enclosure

JCL/ejw (7)

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Peelman to Mr. Gallagher Memorandum
Re: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

(c) Any immediate interest by the FBI in this research material could be construed as adding credibility to this theory.

(2) That the information furnished by the Baltimore Division be disseminated to the Criminal Division, Department of Justice, and to Secret Service Headquarters in view of the fact that this theory may be published in the near future.

APPROVED:

Director _____
Assoc. Dir. _____
Dep. AD Adm. _____
Dep. AD Inv. _____

Adm. Serv. _____
Ext. Affairs _____
Fin. & Pers. _____
Gen. Inv. _____
Ident. _____
Intell. _____

Legal Coun. _____
Plan. & Insp. _____
Rec. Mgt. _____
S. & T. Serv. _____
Spec. Inv. _____
Training _____

DETAILS: By teletype to FBIHQ dated 2/23/77, (attached), Baltimore Division advised that [redacted], a Towson, Maryland gun dealer, has developed the theory that while Lee Harvey Oswald did fire at President Kennedy, the fatal shot, the head wound suffered by John F. Kennedy, was in fact fired accidentally by a Secret Service Agent named Kenneth O'Donnell, riding in the follow-up car. This shot, according to [redacted] was fired in the general direction of the 'grassy knoll' which was located in front of the Kennedy car and that the driver of this car, Secret Service Agent Emory Roberts, felt the shot go over his head. [redacted] concludes that the Kennedy family and the highest Government officials decided to cover up the true facts and that Attorney General Robert Kennedy ordered the Secret Service and the FBI to cover up this matter.

Review of pertinent files and related material at FBIHQ reveals the following pertaining to the follow-up car to President Kennedy's limousine:

The driver of this vehicle was Secret Service Agent (SA) Samuel Kinney; Assistant Agent in Charge (ATSAIC) Emory Roberts was in the right front seat; Mr. Kenneth O'Donnell, Special Assistant to the President, Presidential Appointments Secretary, was in the left jump-seat; Mr. David Powers, White House Staff, was in the right jump-seat; SA George Hickey, left rear seat; SA Glen Bennett, right rear seat; SA Clinton

Peelman to Mr. Gallagher Memorandum
Re: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

Hill, left front running board; SA William McIntyre, left rear running board; SA John Ruddy, right front running board; SA Paul Landis, right rear running board. There was no Secret Service Agent named O'Donnell in the Dallas contingent.

The follow-up vehicle did carry one AR-15 rifle which was "cocked and loaded" by SA Hickey when Mr. Kennedy was hit. When interviewed, all of the occupants of the follow-up vehicle indicated that they believed the shots were fired from the "right rear" and Hickey stood up in the vehicle and faced in that direction. No shots were fired from the follow-up vehicle.

A review of the Zapruder film confirms that, at the time the head wound was inflicted, the "grassy knoll" was not "ahead of the President" but at an elevated direct right angle to the Presidential vehicle. Additionally, the position of the President's head, turned to the left and slumped on his chest, negates [redacted] theory of the fatal bullet being fired from the left rear. Additionally, a review of the testimony of Commander James Humes, Senior Pathologist, Bethesda Naval Hospital, before the Warren Commission concerning the fatal head wound (Exhibit 388) indicate that the characteristics of this wound are not consistent with the characteristics of a wound inflicted by a bullet fired from an AR-15.

Most witnesses agree that they heard three shots fired. Three shell cases were found at the sixth floor window, southeast corner of the Texas Book Depository, and were identified as having been fired from the rifle which was also found on the sixth floor of the Texas Book Depository.

Finally, the conspiracy as outlined by Mr. [redacted] would of its very nature have to have enveloped not only the highest echelons of Government and various federal, state, and local agencies and the individual citizens of Dallas who viewed the motorcade in the vicinity of the Texas Book Depository at the time of the assassination, but also the members of the Warren Commission and other Congressional committees, innumerable researchers, scholars, and interested citizens subsequent to the assassination of John F. Kennedy more than 13 years ago.

Bufiles contain no information pertaining to Donohue based upon available identifying data.