

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. Moore

DATE: 3/7/77

FROM : J. S. Peelman

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

- 1 - Mr. Feld
- 1 - Mr. Adams
- 1 - Mr. Moore
- 1 - Mr. Ingram
- 1 - Mr. Peelman
- 1 - [REDACTED]
- 1 - [REDACTED]
- 1 - Mr. Mintz (Attn: Office of Congressional Affairs)

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

Reference J. S. Peelman to Mr. Gallagher memoranda 2/4/77, and 2/18/77.

**PURPOSE:** To provide comment on statements made in "The Washington Post, 3/4/77, article entitled "Oswald Letter Clouded; FBI Said Unable To Authenticate It."

**SYNOPSIS:** The article refers to information received via the Department from Internal Revenue Service (IRS) sources in Dallas, Texas, which included a poor quality reproduction of an 11/8/63 letter allegedly written by Lee Harvey Oswald to a Mr. Hunt. FBI investigation based upon the IRS information commenced 1/7/77, and thus far has failed to establish the authenticity of the alleged "Oswald letter. All persons interviewed, including Nelson Bunker Hunt, state they have not seen the original of such a letter and the known, original recipient of a copy, William Penn Jones, states he "did not put a lot of faith" in the alleged letter. The article mentions conclusions of FBI Laboratory technicians regarding the alleged letter when, in fact, no formal laboratory examination of the "letter" has been performed. The article also states that the "letter . . . reportedly was sent by Oswald to the late H. L. Hunt." This appears to be mere supposition as the salutation in the alleged letter, "Dear Mr. Hunt," is not specific.

Enclosure

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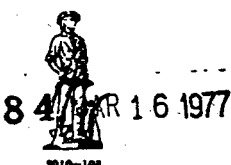
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ENCLOSURE

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J. S. Peelman to Mr. Moore Memorandum 3/7/77  
Re: Assassination of President John F. Kennedy

It is to be noted that the article states that the unidentified source who furnished a copy of the letter to Penn Jones claims that he (the source) had sent a copy of the letter to FBI, Director Clarence M. Kelley in 1974 . . . Exhaustive searches at the Dallas Office and FBIHQ failed to locate the original or a copy of such a letter.

CONTINUED - OVER

Memorandum to Mr. Moore  
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RECOMMENDATION: None. For information.

APPROVED:

Director	Adm. Serv.	Legal Coun.
Assoc. Dir.	Ext. Affairs	Plan. & Insp.
Dep. AD Adm.	Fin. & Pers.	Rec. Mgmt.
Dep. AD Inv.	Gen. Inv.	S. & T.
	Ident.	Spec. Inv.
	Intell.	Training

*Handwritten initials: m/y, Pm, and others.*

DETAILS: J. S. Peelman to Mr. Gallagher memoranda 2/4/77, and 2/18/77, provided resumes of investigation conducted by the FBI since receipt of information developed by IRS, Dallas.

On 12/9/76, IRS reportedly received a copy of a letter allegedly written by Oswald on 11/8/63, to a Mr. Hunt (copy attached).

On 12/30/76, IRS furnished its information to the Department which in turn furnished it to the FBI by memorandum dated 1/6/77.

The IRS information additionally indicated that in 1971, Nelson Bunker Hunt may have been involved in the establishment of a kill squad, that a Eugene Brader may have been involved in that activity with Nelson Bunker Hunt and that Braden and Jack Ruby were in Nelson Bunker Hunt's office on 11/21/63. Investigation to date has not corroborated this information.

The FBI has identified sources of the IRS information and they have been interviewed.

Copies of the alleged letter have been traced back to the IRS sources, [redacted] and [redacted] former [redacted], who received their copies from Earl Golz, Dallas newspaper reporter, who in turn received a copy of the "letter" from William Penn Jones, a former newspaper editor, who claims to have received a copy of the alleged Oswald letter from a person known only as "P.S." in Mexico City, Mexico.

CONTINUED - OVER

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All above persons have been interviewed except P.S. who reportedly provided a return address of "Insurgentes Sur No. 309." Inquiry at this address discloses transient rooms and no information which would identify P.S. who purportedly claims in an 3/13/75 letter to William Penn Jones: "Towards the end of last year, I remitted a letter from Lee Oswald to Mr. Kelley, Director of the FBI.

Exhaustive searches at FBIHQ and Dallas have failed to locate any indication that the original or a copy of the alleged Oswald letter was received prior to January, 1977.

No formal examination of the alleged Oswald letter has been requested of the Scientific and Technical Services Division pending receipt of the original, a photograph of the original or a better copy. On 1/14/77, an FBI document examiner informally advised that the extremely poor quality of the reproduction and resultant loss of detail therein precluded conclusive comparison. However, based on the quality of the reproduction received from IRS, it could only be said that the alleged letter contained apparent similarities in handwriting style when compared to the known handwriting of Lee Harvey Oswald.

In accordance with Departmental instructions, the Office of Congressional Affairs, Legal Counsel Division, has provided progress briefings on this investigation to Senator Gary Hart, Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

The Dallas Office has been instructed to submit a report in this matter by 3/9/77.