



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

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**ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY,
DALLAS, TEXAS, November 22, 1963**

During November, 1963, plans were initiated for President JOHN F. KENNEDY to speak at a luncheon on November 22, 1963, at the Trade Mart, Dallas, Texas, sponsored by the Dallas Citizens' Council, Dallas Assembly and the Science Research Center. The luncheon was scheduled to commence at 12:15 PM and among the many dignitaries anticipated to be in attendance included the President's wife, Vice President and MRS. LYNDON B. JOHNSON, as well as Texas Governor JOHN B. CONNALLY and his wife. (u)

The plans for this visit were confirmed on November 19, 1963 and a route from Love Field, Dallas, to the Trade Mart, was mapped out. While proceeding along the selected route, the somewhat delayed motorcade was proceeding at a slower rate of speed at the insistence of President KENNEDY who always wanted to be closer to the American people. The motorcade continued through downtown Dallas going west on Main Street, until it reached Houston Street, where it turned north one block to Elm Street. At this intersection, the motorcade again headed west on Elm and at a location, approximately fifty yards west of Houston Street on Elm, three loud shots rang out at approximately 12:29 PM and President KENNEDY slumped over mortally wounded, never to recover. (See Exhibit 1) (u)

Immediate investigation to locate the assailant was initiated and when LEE HARVEY OSWALD was apprehended at about 2:00 PM, for the murder of Dallas Patrolman J. D. TIPPITT, he became a prime suspect, particularly when it was determined he was employed in the building from where the shots which killed President KENNEDY came. (u)

All evidence points to the fact that the life of our beloved president was taken by LEE HARVEY OSWALD, known Marxist, a former defector, to the Soviet Union and an active member of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, which has been financed by the Cuban Government. (u)

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BACKGROUND

LEE HARVEY OSWALD is reported to have been born on October 19, 1939, at New Orleans, Louisiana. His mother, MARGUERITE CLAVERIE OSWALD, resides at 2220 Thomas Place, Fort Worth, Texas, and his father, ROBERT E. LEE OSWALD, died on August 19, 1939, shortly prior to OSWALD's birth. (u)

In about 1944, when OSWALD was five years of age, he and his family moved to Fort Worth, Texas. He finished the eleventh grade in high school in Fort Worth, after having attended local grammar schools in that city. He has a brother, ROBERT LEE OSWALD, of Denton, Texas, and a stepbrother, JOHN EDWARD PIC, reportedly in the armed forces of the United States. (u)

OSWALD reportedly was employed during 1963, as an oiler - machinist assistant by the William B. Riely and Company, Inc. on Magazine Street in New Orleans, Louisiana, and was last employed as a laborer at the Texas School Book Depository, 411 Elm Street, Dallas, since October 16, 1963. (u)

Investigation indicates that during the past year, OSWALD has resided at the following addresses during the approximate periods indicated:

- November, 1962 - March, 1963: Apartment 2, 604 Elsbeth Street, Dallas;
- March, 1963 - May, 1963: 214 West Nealey Street, Dallas;
- May, 1963 - July, 1963: 4907 Magazine Street, New Orleans, Louisiana;
- July, 1963: 1501 West Seventh Street, Fort Worth;
- October, 1963: 1026 North Beckley Street, Dallas.

OSWALD is known to have used the alias of ALAN JAMES HIDEELL, which was reflected on a Selective Service Card containing OSWALD's photograph, which was obtained from him after his arrest on November 22, 1963, (see Exhibit 2). He has also used the name of O. E. LEE at the time he obtained his last residence. (u)

OSWALD enlisted in the United States Marine Corps at Dallas, Texas, on October 24, 1956, and was assigned Marine Corps serial number 1653230. He was released from active duty on September 11, 1959, and was transferred to the Marine Corps Reserve with obligated service until December 8, 1963. However, he was given an Undesirable Discharge effective December 12, 1963.

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in view of his efforts to renounce American citizenship while in the Soviet Union. In service he was convicted by two summary courts-martial for possession of a privately-owned unregistered weapon and for wrongfully using provoking words and assaulting a non-commissioned officer.

Shortly after being transferred to the Marine Corps Reserve in 1959, OSWALD reportedly traveled to Russia. The United States Department of State advised that OSWALD had appeared at the American Embassy on October 31, 1959, indicating he desired to renounce his American citizenship and gave as the principal reason for his decision, "I am a Marxist." The United Press International reported in November, 1959, that Soviet authorities would not grant him citizenship, although he would be permitted to reside in Russia as a resident alien.

While in the Soviet Union, OSWALD met his wife-to-be at a dance in Minsk. On April 30, 1961, he married MARINA NICHOLAEVNA PRUSKOVA, born July 17, 1941, in Russia. On February 18, 1962, their first daughter, JUNE LEE, was born in Russia. During June, 1962, both OSWALD and his wife departed Soviet Russia and entered the United States. During October, 1963, their second daughter, RACHEL, was born. (U)

The records of the FBI Identification Division under number 327925D reflect that OSWALD was arrested on August 9, 1963, at New Orleans, Louisiana, for disturbing the peace by creating a scene. An article in the August 13, 1963 issue of "The Times Picayune", New Orleans, Louisiana, indicates OSWALD was sentenced to pay a fine of \$10 and/or serve ten days for disturbing the peace as a result of his distribution of a pamphlet for the "Fair Play for Cuba". When apprehended by local authorities on November 22, 1963, in addition to numerous personal cards in his possession, he had a card issued to LEE H. OSWALD, dated May 28, 1963, by the "Fair Play for Cuba Committee", 799 Broadway, New York 3, New York, signed by the Executive Secretary V. T. LEE. Further, during interview on November 22, 1963, after being arrested in connection with the assassination of the President, OSWALD admitted he was Secretary for the "Fair Play for Cuba Committee" in New Orleans, Louisiana, a few months earlier. (U)

The April 6, 1960, edition of "The New York Times" newspaper contained a full-page advertisement captioned "What Is Really Happening in Cuba", placed by the Fair Play for Cuba Committee (FPCC). This advertisement announced the formation of the FPCC in New York City and declared the FPCC intended to promulgate "the truth about revolutionary Cuba" to neutralize the distorted American press. (U)

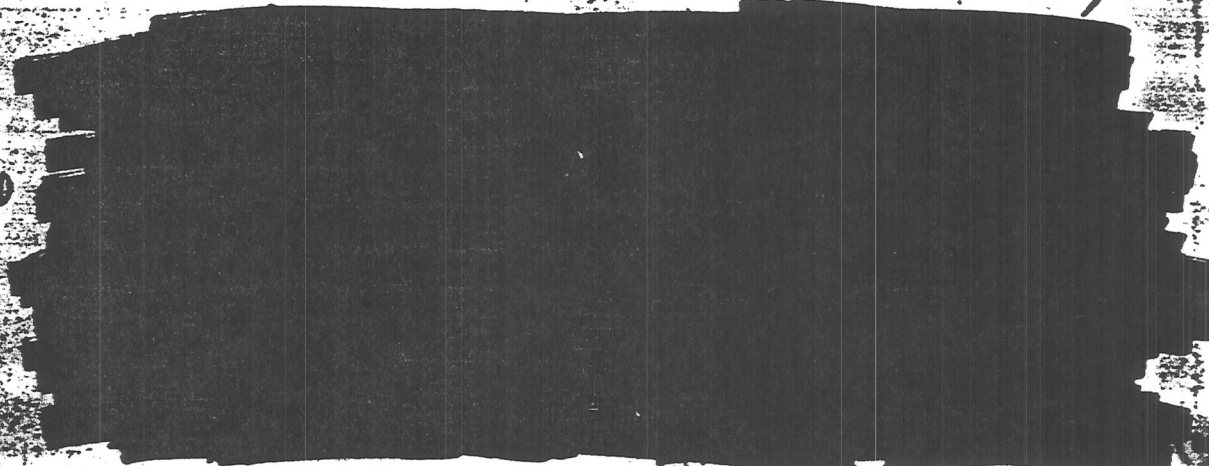
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"The New York Times" edition of January 11, 1961, reported that at a hearing conducted before the United States Senate Internal Security Subcommittee on January 10, 1961, Dr. CHARLES A. SANTON-BUCH identified himself and ROBERT TABER as organizers of the FPCC. He also testified he and TABER obtained funds from the Cuban Government which were applied toward the cost of the aforementioned advertisement. (u)

On May 16, 1963, a source advised that during the first two years of the FPCC's existence there was a struggle between Communist Party (CP) and Socialist Workers Party (SWP) elements to exert their power within the FPCC and thereby influence FPCC policy. However, during the past year this source observed there has been a successful effort by FPCC leadership to minimize the role of these and other organizations in the FPCC so that today their influence is negligible. (u)



The CP and the SWP have been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450 (u)

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With reference to the assassination of President KENNEDY, witnesses observed an individual holding a rifle in the window of the sixth floor of the building occupied by the Texas School Book Depository as the Presidential Parade passed the building. This person was observed to take deliberate aim and fire three shots. One spectator stated that he had seen the man with the rifle prior to the arrival of the parade but assumed that the person was a Secret Service Agent. (See Exhibit 4 for photograph showing inside view of window on sixth floor from which shots fired). (u)

The following is a summary of investigation conducted and evidence developed implicating LEE HARVEY OSWALD with the assassination. (u)

BUELL WESLEY FRAZIER, fellow employee of OSWALD, stated that OSWALD had made arrangements with him to ride with FRAZIER to Irving, Texas, on Friday evenings and return with him to Dallas on Monday mornings. He stated that on Thursday evening, November 21, 1963, he asked for permission to ride to his wife's residence in Irving, and return with him the next morning. OSWALD stated that he wanted to obtain some curtain rods for his residence in Dallas. FRAZIER stated that OSWALD went to work with him at Texas School Book Depository on the morning of November 22, 1963, at which time OSWALD carried a package which FRAZIER described "as a kind of sack that one obtains in a five and ten cent store" and OSWALD said it contained curtain rods. OSWALD got out of the car at the Texas School Book Depository, and carried with him the brown package. (See Exhibit 5 for outside view of Texas School Book Depository building.) (u)

Mrs. RUTH PAINE, the landlady with whom OSWALD's wife lived, and where OSWALD spent his weekends, advised that OSWALD made no mention to her of curtain rods on the night of November 21, 1963, and she had no plans to give any curtain rods to him. MARINA OSWALD, the wife of LEE HARVEY OSWALD, confirmed that OSWALD had spent the night of November 22, 1963, with her in Irving and he left early the next morning before she awakened. Mrs. OSWALD stated her husband owned a rifle which she had observed wrapped in a blanket in the garage at their residence in Irving, but on November 23, 1963, she observed the same blanket in the garage but the rifle was missing. The FBI Laboratory subsequently identified body hairs on this blanket as having the same characteristics as body hairs of LEE HARVEY OSWALD. (See Exhibit 6 for photograph of blanket.) Another witness observed OSWALD leaving the Irving, Texas, address, at approximately 7:15 a.m., November 23, 1963, and stated that OSWALD placed a long brown package in the back seat of WESLEY FRAZIER's automobile. (u)

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One employee at the Texas School Book Depository stated he observed OSWALD in the building at 11:30 a.m., and OSWALD yelled to this employee, asking him to close the gates on the elevator so that OSWALD could have the elevator returned to the sixth floor. Another employee observed OSWALD taking the elevator to an upper floor of the building between 11:30 a.m., and 12 noon, November 22, 1963. This same employee, while watching the Presidential Parade from the fifth floor of the Texas School Book Depository, heard three shots, all within a few seconds. This employee believed that the shots were fired from inside the building in which he was located. Shortly after the shooting, the superintendent of the Texas School Book Depository observed OSWALD in a small lunch room on the second floor of the building. OSWALD was not questioned by an officer who accompanied the superintendent at that time because the superintendent recognized OSWALD as an employee. OSWALD was not subsequently observed in the building. (See Exhibit 7 for view of lunch room on second floor where OSWALD last observed shortly after the President was shot.) (u)

An acquaintance of OSWALD stated that she was a passenger on a bus shortly after the Presidential Motorcade had passed through downtown Dallas and she observed OSWALD get on the same bus at Murphy Street, which would be approximately seven blocks from the scene of the shooting. This witness observed that OSWALD appeared to be somewhat nervous and was wearing dirty clothing which was especially noticeable to her since OSWALD was usually very neat in his personal appearance. She stated that shortly thereafter the traffic became extremely heavy and while the bus was stopped a motorist told the bus driver that the President had been shot. She stated that at this point, OSWALD left the rear seat of the bus and got off at the next stop, disappearing in the crowd. At this point OSWALD had traveled less than two blocks, on the bus. A bus driver for the Dallas Transit Company selected OSWALD from a lineup as a person resembling a man who had ridden on his bus on November 22, 1963. He further identified a Dallas Transit transfer which was in the possession of OSWALD at the time of his arrest, as having been issued by him on November 22, 1963. He recalled that the passenger got on the bus shortly after the President had been shot and in the immediate area. This driver said that he commented to the passenger, "I wonder where they shot the President", and he stated that this passenger replied, "They shot him in the temple". A taxicab driver positively identified a photograph of LEE HARVEY OSWALD and subsequently selected OSWALD in a lineup as an individual whom he had picked up about seven blocks from where President KENNEDY was assassinated, shortly after the shooting on November 22, 1963. The passenger whom the taxi (u)

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driver identified as OSWALD said that he wanted to go the 500 block of North Beckley Street. The driver estimated that he transported OSWALD about two and three-fourth miles to the 500 block of North Beckley and OSWALD left the taxi some seven blocks from where J. D. TIPPITT, a Dallas Police Officer, was subsequently shot. (u)

Mrs. EARLENE ROBERTS, of 1026 North Beckley Street, advised that an individual, using the name of O. H. LEE, had rented a room at this address on October 14, 1963. Mrs. ROBERTS positively identified the photograph of LEE HARVEY OSWALD as the person known to her as O. H. LEE. She stated that OSWALD came to her address in the early afternoon of November 22, 1963, shortly after she had learned that President KENNEDY had been shot. She stated that OSWALD picked up a coat from his room and left hurriedly. She had never observed this man in possession of a gun but did notice a holster for a hand gun in his room on the afternoon of November 22, 1963. W. W. SCOGGINS, a taxicab driver in Dallas, stated that at about 1:25 PM, November 22, 1963, he observed a Dallas policeman in uniform talk to a man on Tenth Street, just east of Patton Street. He stated that he heard a gun firing and saw the officer fall beside the car on the driver's side. The assailant ran west on Tenth Street to Patton, and south on Patton Street and then down Jefferson Street. SCOGGINS on November 23, 1963, selected LEE HARVEY OSWALD in a line-up as the individual whom he had seen shoot the uniformed police officer. (u)

Mrs. HELEN MARKHAM also an eyewitness to the shooting of the police officer, positively identified LEE HARVEY OSWALD as the assailant. This witness stated that OSWALD had drawn the hand gun from the inside of his shirt. It is noted that Patrolman J. D. TIPPITT of the Dallas Police Department is the police officer referred to above and he died of gunshot wounds on November 22, 1963. (See exhibit 1F for location of the shooting of Officer TIPPITT.) (u)

A Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, upon receiving a message that a police officer had been killed, proceeded to the area and subsequently, at approximately 2:00 PM, November 22, 1963 heard a broadcast advising that a possible suspect had been sighted at the Texas Theater which is located in the 200 block of West Jefferson Street in Dallas. (See Exhibit 1G for location of Texas Theater). The agent observed officers of the Dallas Police Department struggling with a man later identified as LEE HARVEY OSWALD. One of the officers

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took a .38 caliber snubnose revolver out of OSWALD's right hand. (See exhibit 8 for photograph of this weapon). The officers led OSWALD from the theater and as they did so, OSWALD started yelling "They are violating my civil rights". One of the arresting officers stated that when he first approached OSWALD the subject attempted to pull the revolver from his shirt and did pull the trigger once but the gun did not fire. An examination of this weapon confirmed that one of the six cartridges taken from the weapon had an indentation on the primer but had not fired. (U)

LEE HARVEY OSWALD upon interview admitted that he had resided in the Soviet Union for three years where he has many friends. He further admitted that he was secretary of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee in New Orleans, Louisiana, a few months ago, and related that the Fair Play for Cuba Committee has its headquarters in New York City. He further stated that he had been living at 1026 North Beckley Street, in Dallas, under the name of O. H. LEE and that he was present in the Texas School Book Depository where he was employed on November 22, 1963. OSWALD contended that he was on the first floor of the building when President JOHN F. KENNEDY passed in the motorcade and that he had decided to go home after the President was shot because he learned that there would be no work performed that afternoon because of all the confusion. OSWALD stated he then went home by bus, changed his clothes and went to a movie. OSWALD admitted that he carried a gun with him to the movie, stating he did this because he "felt like it", giving no other reason. OSWALD denied that he owned a rifle. (It is noted that a subsequent search of OSWALD's residence by officers of the Dallas Police Department disclosed a photograph of OSWALD wearing a sidearm and holding a rifle, similar to the one used by the assailant. (See Exhibit 9 for photograph). (U)

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Deputy Constable SEYMOUR WEITZMAN assisted in the search of the Texas School Book Depository building following the shooting of President KENNEDY on November 22, 1963, and he observed a rifle which was found between some boxes located near the northwest corner of the sixth floor. He described this weapon as a Mauser bolt-action rifle, equipped with a four-power scope of apparent Japanese manufacture. It was determined that this rifle bore serial number C2766. (See Exhibit 10 for photograph of rifle.) (u)

Investigation revealed that this weapon was received from Italy by Crescent Firearms, gun importers in New York City, and was subsequently sold to Klein's Sporting Goods, Chicago, Illinois. Records of Klein's Sporting Goods disclosed that the rifle was purchased from Klein's by an individual using the name of A. S. HICKEL, payment for same being made by money order in the amount of \$21.45. The order was received by Klein's on March 13, 1963, and the rifle and scope were shipped by parcel post to Post Office Box 2915, Dallas, Texas. Further investigation revealed that Post Office Box 2915 at that time was listed to LEE H. OSWALD. An examination in the FBI Laboratory determined that the handwriting on the envelope, order form, and order blank received by Klein's, as well as the application for Post Office Box 2915, and the money order was identified as having been written by LEE HARVEY OSWALD. (See Exhibit 11 for photograph of order to Klein's for weapon; Exhibit 12 for Klein's receipt; Exhibit 13 for photograph of postal money order to Klein's for purchase of murder weapon; Exhibit 14 for application to rent P. O. Box 2915; Exhibit 15 for photograph of passport application; and Exhibit 16 for photograph of letter dated January 30, 1961 to the Secretary of Navy. The latter two exhibits were used by the FBI Laboratory for the known handwriting of OSWALD.) It is interesting to note that suspect OSWALD, when protesting his undesirable discharge from the U. S. Marines, wrote to the then Secretary of the Navy, JOHN B. CONNALLY, who later became Governor of the State of Texas and was present in the same vehicle on November 22, 1963 when President KENNEDY was assassinated. Governor CONNALLY was also seriously wounded at the same time. (u)

Additional examination in the FBI Laboratory determined that two bullet fragments found in the automobile in which President KENNEDY was a passenger at the time of the assassination were fired from the above rifle. (See Exhibits 17 and 18 for photographs of bullet fragments.) It was further determined that a bullet found on one of the stretchers at the hospital immediately after the admittance of President KENNEDY had been fired from this rifle.

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same rifle. (See Exhibit 19 for photograph of this bullet.) Autopsy of the President revealed one bullet entered the back of his head and thereafter emerged through the top of his skull. One bullet hole located just below his shoulders to the right of the spinal column indicated the trajectory of entry was 45 to 60 degrees downward and hole of short depth with no point of exit. This bullet could not be located in the body. Pathologists were of the opinion that the bullet found on stretcher worked its way out of the President's back during the cardiac massage performed by physicians following the shooting. (u)

A brown paper bag, possibly used to carry the rifle, was found near the window on the sixth floor of the building from which the shots were fired. (See Exhibit 20). A latent fingerprint developed on this bag by the FBI Identification Division was identified with the left index finger impression of LEE HARVEY OSWALD. (See Exhibit 21.) A latent palmprint developed on the same bag was identified with the right palmprint of OSWALD. (See Exhibit 22.) (u)

A small tuft of textile fibers was found adhering to a jagged area on the left side of the metal butt plate of the rifle. Included in this tuft of fibers were gray-black, dark blue and orange-yellow cotton fibers which match in microscopic characteristics the gray-black, dark blue and orange-yellow cotton fibers composing the shirt worn by LEE HARVEY OSWALD. It was determined that these fibers could have originated from this shirt. (See Exhibit 23 for photo of shirt worn by OSWALD). (u)

Three cartridge cases were located by officers of the Dallas Police Department near the window on the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository from which three shots were fired. Two of these cartridge cases were submitted to the FBI Laboratory and it was determined that these cartridge cases had been fired in the 6.5 millimeter rifle, serial number C2766 which, as previously noted, was owned by LEE HARVEY OSWALD. (See Exhibit 24 for photograph of the two empty cartridge cases). One unfired cartridge was in the rifle when found in the building. (See Exhibit 25 for photograph of the cartridge removed from rifle). (u)

Tests made by DR. M. F. NASON in Dallas, Texas, revealed that paraffin casts made of the hands of LEE HARVEY OSWALD contained traces of nitrate which would be consistent with a person who had handled and/or fired a firearm. (u)