

Washington, D. C.
September 8, 1975

I, Kenneth C. Howe, being duly sworn, hereby make the following voluntary statement to Assistant Director Harold N. Bassett and Special Agent in Charge of the New York Office Philip A. McNiff.

In July of this year I furnished three statements relative to my knowledge of information that had been brought to the attention of the FBI, indicating that Lee Harvey Oswald had come to the Dallas Office of the FBI some time prior to the assassination of President Kennedy on 11/22/63, that he had left a note and that the note had subsequently been destroyed.

In the second statement that I furnished I made reference to the fact that while I could not recall what the note said I did recall that it contained what appeared to be a threat and that there was no question in my mind but that the note was from Lee Harvey Oswald.

I still can't remember specifically why I knew this note was from Oswald but I know it was either signed by Oswald or Oswald's wife's name. Marina, was mentioned therein. Since we currently had a case on Marina at that time and I, of course, knew her to be the wife of Lee Harvey Oswald, the name Marina, coupled with the fact that Hosty had interviewed Marina, left no doubt in my mind that the note was from Lee Harvey Oswald, and I knew he had talked to Marina.

since (10-1-75)
and I

K C H

I do not recall the specific wording of the note. As I recall at the present time it was on plain paper and was either hand written or hand printed and was threatening in nature either concerning some action Oswald said he was going to take, possibly against Agent Hosty himself or against the FBI office. (K-18) (K-18)

I am not able at this time to chronologically place the date or how long after the assassination I found this note, whether it was before or after Oswald was shot by Ruby. I do very definitely know that it was after the assassination and I believe it was after Oswald was shot by Ruby. The first time I learned of the existence of this note was when I had occasion to look for a serial or something in Hosty's workbox in connection with a case assigned to Hosty. I do not recall what case this might have been, whether it was the Oswald case or some unrelated matter. In any event, that is where I came upon the letter and that was my first knowledge of it.

I considered the note of sufficient import that it should be brought to the attention of the SAC and I took it immediately to SAC Shanklin's office. I cannot say what wording I used to convey to SAC Shanklin what I had but it probably was something to the effect that "Here is a note from Oswald which I found in Hosty's workbox." It was my intention in taking the note to SAC Shanklin to discuss with him what action should be taken with reference to it. Although I cannot recall the exact words I used, I know SAC Shanklin

was made aware by me of what I had and his reaction was to wave me away and say, "Don't tell me about it, I don't want to hear, or I don't want to know, anything about it." From his reaction it was my impression that he had possibly heard about the existence of this note before. I do not know this to be a fact.

I don't remember whether I left this note with SAC Shanklin. I feel that at this point one of three things had to have occurred: (1) I left the note with Shanklin, (2) I returned the note to Hosty's workbox, or (3) I held the note and personally gave it to Hosty. I subsequently told Hosty what had happened but I do not recall having had any discussion with him concerning it. At that stage I felt it was a matter for the SAC to resolve with Hosty and having told both about the matter I took no further action. I did not subsequently discuss the matter with SAC Shanklin, Jim Hosty or anyone else.

I never instructed Agent Hosty to destroy the letter nor did I ever receive any instructions from anyone else that I should tell him to destroy the letter. I do not know what happened to the letter after the incident I have described in the foregoing. I never subsequently saw it and its ultimate disposition is unknown to me. I have no recollection of having prepared a memorandum or having made any written record of the note or the foregoing incident.

I have been told that my then secretary has stated that she heard from another employee of Oswald's visit and the leaving of a note and she informed me of this. Further, that I emphatically told her to forget about it. I do not recall this nor under the circumstances of the situation as it existed at that time can I categorically deny it didn't happen. At that time the matter was still in the hands of the SAC and until some adjudication of it by him I felt the matter should not be discussed.

I have been advised that SA Hosty in his statement related that on the evening of the assassination he was preparing a detailed statement as to exactly what he had done on the case prior to the assassination as well as what he had learned during Oswald's interview of 11/22/63 at the police department. I was further informed SA Hosty stated to the best of his recollection he was going to include reference to Oswald's visit to the Dallas Office and his leaving of the note for SA Hosty. According to SA Hosty's statement, after further consultation with he believes SAC Shanklin and Supervisor Howe, he was instructed by SAC Shanklin to disregard and destroy this letter.

I recall that the initial teletype to the Bureau in connection with the assassination was prepared by me from information furnished by Agents who were conducting investigation and telephonically and otherwise making known to the office their findings to that time with respect to the assassination. I cannot recall whether my initials appear on the teletype but I recall that I was the Agent who correlated information which was included in the

teletype to the Bureau. I did not at that time have any knowledge of the note and if any decision was made that information concerning the note should or should not be included in the teletype, I had no part in that decision, it would have been made by Hosty himself.

Kenneth C. Howe
KENNETH C. HOWE

Subscribed and sworn to before me
on 9/8/75 at Washington, D. C.

Harold N. Bassett
HAROLD N. BASSETT
Assistant Director, FBI

Philip A. McNiff
PHILIP A. MCNIFF
SAC, New York Office