



THE FOREIGN SERVICE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

American Embassy  
Paris 8, France

Date: December 2, 1963

To: Director, FBI

From: Legat, Paris (62-148) (P)

Subject: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY  
INFORMATION CONCERNING

*dup*  
*EPR*

This is to advise that we have carefully watched the French press for information of interest to the Bureau in the captioned matter. There has been considerable comment in the French papers regarding the assassination and the subsequent investigation; however, it appears that generally speaking the French press has contained nothing which has not appeared in the American press. For this reason and since the articles are in French they have not been forwarded to the Bureau.

DEC 11 1963  
36  
*OK*  
*OK*

There is enclosed for the Bureau an article which appeared in "France Soir," a French daily newspaper, on November 30, 1963. The headline states "The FBI: 15,000 Agents and 163 Million Fingerprints." Under the captioned it states that its Chief John Edgar Hoover is one of the most powerful men of the United States. In summary the article states as follows:

It states that Mr. Hoover, from his Bureau on Pennsylvania Avenue in the wing of the Ministry of Justice in Washington, has directed since 1924 an army of more than 15,000 men as well-known for their ability with the pistol and machine gun as for their ability to catch criminals. This army known as the Federal Bureau of Investigation "The FBI" is the equivalent of the French Surete Nationale. The article states that this organization known as the best police organization in the world started in 1908 when Theodore Roosevelt decided to create an investigative agency.

DEC 2 10 44 AM '63

3 - Bureau (ENCL: 1) (1 - Liaison)  
1 - Paris  
NIP: 13

62-109060-1442

DEC 9 10 08 AM '63

ENCLOSURE

DEC 6 1963  
FOR INLET DIA

5 DEC 10 1963

*Handwritten signatures and initials*  
*File*  
*File*

Paris 62-148

He created the "Bureau of Investigation" which became "Federal" with the responsibility to conduct investigations in certain cases throughout the entire territory of the United States independent of local police.

The article states that the organization was little known when Mr. Hoover assumed command but very rapidly became popular. The fight against gangs, the repression of kidnapping, the traffic of alcohol and drugs, of prostitution, the investigation of Nazi and Japanese agents during the war and communists after the war, has made the Bureau well-known. It is stated that Mr. Hoover is one of the most powerful men in the United States. He has 3,500 "Special Agents," the "Lemmy Caution" of the FBI, training for 14 months after entering the service in techniques and investigation. ("Lemmy Caution" is a federal agent depicted in a series of French motion pictures). The article states that the Bureau is also well-known for its laboratories and its ultra-modern scientific equipment, permitting it in criminal assignments to prove the innocent or convict the guilty. The article mentions the Bureau's Identification Division where it states 163 million sets of fingerprints are on file and that there are filed 29 million "forms" of "suspects."

The article states that last Monday President Johnson personally ordered the FBI to make a complete investigation into the assassination of President Kennedy. The article states this is a very significant precedent in the importance of the FBI since it appears that little by little the FBI is substituting for local police in crimes which affect the security of the United States. The article also stated that numerous members of Congress have demanded this week that attacks against the Chief of State and other high officials be made automatically the object of investigation by the FBI. It states that the FBI has never been charged with the protection of the President and that this comes under the jurisdiction of the "Secret Service," curiously enough attached to the Treasury Department.

This article was prepared by FRANCOISE SIMON of the staff of "France Soir."