



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

San Antonio, Texas

December 4, 1963

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F.
KENNEDY, NOVEMBER 22, 1963, DALLAS, TEXAS

Samuel J. Curtis

Records of the U. S. Consulate, Piedras Negras, Mexico, reflect that SAMUEL CURTIS, a white male, born April 24, 1901, at New York City, received assistance as an American citizen after he had been detained by the Mexican Customs November 9, 1963, for attempting to take into Mexico a number of items which appeared to be not for his personal use. He furnished his address as 17 Lakeview, Long Branch, New Jersey, and was traveling with his wife, EDNA, in a 1961 Chevrolet station wagon, with 1963 New Jersey license BCV 819. The U. S. Consulate was requested to furnish assistance by the Mexican Consul at Eagle Pass, Texas, who stated he had been requested to assist by the Mexican Consul General of New York City, EUGENIO V. PESQUEIRA.

Chas. T. ... Samuel J. Curtis - NO!
A tourist representative in Piedras Negras, HECTOR CHARLES, had intervened in the matter, and possibly it was through his efforts that the Mexican Consul was called in the matter since the Mexican Customs at one point in the investigation had planned to file formal charges against CURTIS for attempting to smuggle. Among the items which appeared prohibited were seven new telephones, a new electric oven, several new blankets, dolls, and three used rifles, Russian-made of a military type. After Consular intervention CURTIS and his wife were permitted to continue their trip to Mexico November 12, 1963, but were prohibited from taking the goods which appeared not to be for their personal use, including blankets, dolls, the new oven, and the telephones and rifles.

Some of the items were left with the Chamber of Commerce in Eagle Pass, Texas.

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Review of the Mexican Customs records, November 27, 1963, reflected that all of the items had been turned back to CURTIS and receipted for by him. However, HECTOR CHARLES advised that during the period of time that he was assisting CURTIS with the Mexican Customs, he determined that the three rifles, although turned back to CURTIS, were not actually taken by him but given by him to the Mexican Customs officers. This was also true of seven new telephones which he had since CURTIS indicated he did not want to return these items to Eagle Pass, Texas.

CHARLES, on November 27, 1963, obtained one of the Russian-made rifles which he stated had belonged to CURTIS. He stated that CURTIS, in discussing the rifles, stated he had bought them for approximately \$7.00 each, and intended to give them to the sons of some friends of his at Tasco, Mexico. All of the three rifles were similar in appearance and of the same make. It was noted that they had the hammer and sickle of the Russians stamped on the breech but there was no brand name on the rifle. There was a date stamp, 1936, and CHARLES stated that he recalled all of the rifles had this date stamped on them. The stock appeared to be refinished, and the rifle was of an old-type military rifle, apparently rebuilt since the barrel had Serial Number 195748, the bolt had Serial Number 19285, and the magazine had Serial Number 158825. CHARLES stated that CURTIS and his wife planned to return to Long Branch, New Jersey, where CURTIS had been employed for approximately forty years by the Bell Telephone Company and had to be at work on December 1, 1963. He planned to return through Eagle Pass, Texas, and pick up the items which he had left with the Chamber of Commerce. He stated that he had been taking a vacation in Mexico for the past eighteen years and that was the purpose of the trip at the time that he had difficulty with Mexican Customs.

A search of the FBI National Stolen Property File relating to the above-listed serial numbers on this rifle met with negative results.

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