

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 12/5/63

*B. March 3
Linda. EN*

CEDRIC YOUNGER VON ROLDESTON, also known as Arthur Dear Swift, advised that he had information which might be of value in connection with the investigation of HARVEY LEE OSWALD. He stated that he and his twentyfour year old wife, ONEDA RUTH VON ROLDESTON, arrived in Alexandria, Louisiana around 2:00 A.M., on the early morning of October 11, 1963. He registered at the Hotel Bentley and they both went immediately to bed, sleeping most of the same day.

Adjacent to the lobby of this hotel was a campaign headquarters for a candidate whom he believed was "GILLIS," and this was a Democratic Headquarters.

Outside of this headquarters and in the lobby, he saw a man talking to three other men. This man was not dressed in a suit, but had on a light colored jacket and a hat. He stated that all he can say about the three men were that they wore normal business suits. He observed this man in conversation for some time, but did not overhear any of the conversation. After the three men left, this same man came over to him and asked him where he was from and where he was going. He felt this was a strange request but then engaged in a brief conversation with this man. During the general conversation, this man said "VERY SOON A LOT OF CATHOLIC LEADERS OR RULERS WILL BE SHOT." He does not remember any further conversation with this man and does not know if he was registered at the hotel or not. He stated that this was the last time that he saw this man, until he later saw a picture of OSWALD.

He stated that the next day, he and his wife were asked to leave by the manager of this hotel. He stated that he does not know why they were asked to leave, since he always pays his bills, and has never been asked to leave any hotel before.

They drove through the southern states and eventually into Washington, D.C., arriving there on October 31, 1963.

COPIES DESTROYED

On 12/3/63 at Fredericksburg, Virginia File # Richmond 89-34
by SAs JOSEPH A. AMRHEIN, JR. and JOHN W. ELWELL/mw Date dictated 12/3/63

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

ENCLOSURE 62 1090601740

RH 89-34
DL 89-43

- 2 -

He came to Washington, D. C., because he wanted to see Attorney General ROBERT KENNEDY to see if he could get a pardon and to see if he could get some help for his seven children. He stated that he wanted to have them raised in a Catholic School. He wanted the pardon, because in 1952, he was convicted for Extortion, and he served time for this crime. He stated that he wanted to clear the records for his little children who were coming along. He also wanted to mention to him about the statement about "A lot of Catholic rulers or leaders will be shot."

He was not successful in seeing KENNEDY, and he tried to get in touch with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), but he did not follow this through. He then went to the Soviet Embassy, where he met the Second Secretary of the Embassy of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), GENNADI N. SEREBRYAKOV. He went to the Embassy because he is a great admirer of Premier KHRUSHCHEV, and he wanted to give KHRUSHCHEV one of his landscape paintings. The painting was accepted and he was informed that it would be sent to KHRUSHCHEV. He told the Secretary that he admired KHRUSHCHEV because "he is the only ruler who would part with virgin gold to feed his own people and the world."

While there, he showed the Secretary some colored photographs of paintings he had done previously. Mixed up with the colored pictures was a postcard from the Hotel Bentley, Alexandria, Louisiana, and he himself, did not know that this postcard was with the pictures. When the Secretary came to the postcard, which was a picture of a dining room in the hotel, he appeared for a moment to show surprise, but said nothing. It was as if he recognized the place or name of the hotel.

He left then, and he and his wife traveled north to New Jersey, New York, and into New England. On the day that the President was shot, they were in New England. He saw the television and the newspapers, and after observing

RH 89-34
DL 89-43

- 3 -

the many pictures of OSWALD, he is positive that OSWALD is identical to the man he talked to in the lobby of the Hotel Bentley at Alexandria, Louisiana, on October 12, 1963. He stated that he is an artist and he knows facial construction, and that is why he is positive that this man was OSWALD. He stated that he then also recalled the statement about top Catholic rulers or leaders being killed, and here was KENNEDY shot, as well and two top Catholic Rulers in Viet-Nam. He stated that he did not know the names of the two Catholic rulers in Viet-Nam who were shot, but they were brothers and they ran the country. He recalled reading about it in the newspapers. He also then recalled how the Secretary of the USSR Embassy looked when he saw the pictures of the Hotel Bentley dining room.

He then tried to get in touch with ROBERT KENNEDY at Hyannis Port, Massachusetts, but was not successful, so he and his wife then made their way to Washington, D. C., arriving there on December 3, 1963. He again went to see the Soviet Embassy, and the same Secretary talked to him. He asked this man if he recalled their previous conversation. He recalled that on the previous visit to the Soviet Embassy, he had told this man to "trust President KENNEDY and the Catholic People. Don't trust the Baptists and the Protestants in Texas." The man did not recall the conversation, but told him that the picture had been forwarded to KHRUSHCHEV. The man then wanted him to tell him where he was going and where he could be located. He told this man he traveled constantly with his wife and did not have a home. He felt this was a strange request for this man to ask of him.

He then left and again tried to get in touch with ROBERT KENNEDY to tell him of his information. He could not see Mr. KENNEDY. Then he and his wife drove to the Quantico, Virginia, Marine Base, and here he told the Officer in Charge of the Military Police his story and asked him if he would get in touch with the FBI for him. He stated that he is glad that this information is in the right hands and he was advised that the matter would be looked into.

RH 89-34
DL 89-43

- 4 -

As a matter of background, VON ROLDESTON stated that he came from England as a small boy. He was raised in this country and is a naturalized citizen, and he does not have any home. He and his wife travel continuously, and he gets work doing landscape work wherever he stops. He stated that he has done landscape work and portrait work all over this country. He specializes in landscape work, and usually contracts for a job doing a mural on a wall of a bowling alley or restaurant. When he first grew up, he stated that he was violently anti-Catholic, but in recent years, he has seen the light and now he is pro-Catholic. He stated he is not a communist.

He once recalled in 1952 of writing a letter to STALIN in which he told STALIN to "blow up Rome" and to go ahead on the development of rockets in space. He stated that he was right about the rockets, and the Russians must have taken his advice and developed them. He then exhibited a letter from T. A. MEADE, a Vice President of the AMF Pinspotter Company. In this letter, Mr. MEADE thanked him for his suggestion that when KHRUSHCHEV came to this country, he should be shown a bowling alley, so that the people of Russia could also have bowling alleys. He stated that he read in the papers later on his visit KHRUSHCHEV did visit a bowling alley, and this again shows that his suggestions were taken by the Russians. For this reason, on his recent visit with the Soviet Embassy, prior to the death of KENNEDY, he told this Second Secretary to trust President KENNEDY and the Catholic People. He did not want them to do anything to President KENNEDY. He stated that he had the greatest of admiration for President KENNEDY. He exhibited his photograph album which contained letters of recommendation indicating that he was a proficient artist.

He stated that he did not know where he and his wife were going from Fredericksburg, Virginia. He stated that they both just take off and drive.

RH 89-34
DL 89-43
- 5 -

The following is a description of VON ROLDESTON as obtained through interview and observation:

Name	CEDRIC YOUNGER VON ROLDESTON.
Alias	Former name, ARTHUR DEAN SWIFT, legally changed
Age	47
DOB	March 3, 1916
POB	Leeds, England
Race	White
Sex	Male
Height	6'
Weight	250
Hair	Brown-gray
Eyes	Hazel
Complexion	Ruddy
Build	Obese
Posture	Erece
Occupation	Painter - landscape artist.