

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont

DATE: 2/25/64

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN F. KENNEDY
11/22/63
DALLAS, TEXAS

Tolson	
Belmont	
Mohr	
Casper	
Callahan	
Conrad	
DeLoach	
Evans	
Gale	
Rosen	
Sullivan	
Tavel	
Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Holmes	
Gandy	

PURPOSE:

To recommend the attached letter be sent to the President's Commission in answer to its inquiry concerning Mrs. Shirley Martin of Hominy, Oklahoma, with whom we have had prior unsatisfactory dealings.

DETAILS:

Mr. J. Lee Rankin, General Counsel, President's Commission, by letter dated 2/18/64 advised the Commission had received several communications from Mrs. Martin. In the communications she reportedly showed an interest in Mrs. Ruth Paine of Irving, Texas (Mrs. Oswald resided with Mrs. Paine from 9/24/63 to 11/22/63), and in one of her letters states she had just returned from a visit with Mrs. Paine. Mr. Rankin stated it would be helpful if we could furnish the Commission with any information in our files concerning Mrs. Martin and that in the absence of any such information he desired we interview her so that the Commission could evaluate her interest in the Paines.

BACKGROUND:

We have handled several communications from Mrs. Martin, the latest dated 2/10/64. Some of her letters were directed to the Department of Justice and referred to us, and others were addressed to the Director. One communication asked why we had shown Oswald's mother photographs of Ruby before her son was murdered. This letter was acknowledged and she was told no such photographs had been shown. She

- Enclosure sent 2-26-64
- 62-109090
 - 1 - 62-109060 (Assassination of President Kennedy)
 - 1 - 105-82555 (Lee Harvey Oswald)
 - 1 - 44-24016 (Jack L. Ruby)

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. J. W. Hines
- 1 - Mr. R. E. Lenihan
- 1 - Mr. J. E. Hering

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immediately wrote back and asked if any photographs had been shown. This communication was received at the same time we were handling a referral from the Department in which Mrs. Martin claimed to have seen a photograph of an individual on a roof top with a rifle. Since she did not identify the photograph, she was interviewed for this purpose. The Oklahoma City Office also advised Mrs. Martin that all evidence developed by the FBI was being forwarded to the President's Commission and we were making none of the information public as this would be the responsibility of the Commission. *also we should*

By airtel dated 1/31/64, Oklahoma City advised Mrs. Martin had been contacted on 1/10/64, by SA Jack H. Bales. The photograph was identified as one in the 12/14/63 issue of "The Saturday Evening Post." In view of the Commission's request, two copies of the photograph will be enclosed for Mr. Rankin. Further, we are making efforts to locate the original of the photograph through "The Saturday Evening Post" for the use of the Commission.

Oklahoma City advised during the contact Mrs. Martin took SA Bales' name and credential number and was extremely antagonistic. Her attitude was such that SA Bales believed her to be mentally disturbed. She claimed SA Bales had come to question her and when he had told her he had come in response to communications she had sent to the Department and the FBI, and not to question her, she interrupted and said "you asked me my name, didn't you?" During the course of the conversation she demanded to know Mr. Hoover's age, why he had never married and asked if Agents still had to have their hands "swabbed" before they shook hands with the Director. It was obvious to SA Bales that Mrs. Martin was deliberately attempting to provoke an argument. When told the information developed by the FBI would be furnished to the President's Commission, she interjected, "all," "all of it?"

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Her most recent letter to the Director is dated 2/10/64 and she stated she was discouraged to read in the 12/8/63 issue of the "New York Times" that the Secret Service had suggested Marina Oswald would be safer and it would be easier for her if she returned to the Soviet Union rather than to try to live in the United States. She states since Mrs. Oswald has made it clear she does not want to return to the Soviet Union, this forces one to question whether or not her testimony before the Warren Commission was spontaneous. She asks, "What is the law regarding undue pressure?" This letter was not acknowledged; however, because she mentioned the Secret Service, a copy of her communication was forwarded to the Secret Service.

Bureau files also indicate Mrs. Martin has written to other prominent individuals such as Senator Robert S. Kerr (D-Okla.), deceased, and has gone as far as to write to Premier Walter Ulbricht of East Germany indicating she had read about the death of a young East German Boy and desired to know their side of the story.

The Oswald's met Ruth Paine through Russian emigre groups as early as April, 1963. This association continued and on 9/24/63 Marina Oswald went to reside with Mrs. Paine who was separated from her husband at that time.

To date we have disseminated to the President's Commission 38 reports on Ruth Paine and her husband.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the attached letter be sent to Mr. Rankin, General Counsel of the President's Commission, outlining our prior experience with Mrs. Martin. In this letter we will point out that the Commission has already received reports relating to the Paines and that we will not interview Mrs. Martin in this matter unless specifically requested to do so by the Commission at this time.

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* 2. Dallas being instructed to interview Mrs. Ruth Paine of Irving, Texas, concerning Mrs. Martin's contact with her and the results will be furnished to the President's Commission. It is pointed out we have interviewed Mrs. Paine on numerous occasions in the past and she has always displayed a cooperative attitude.

3. Will follow efforts of field to locate original of photograph appearing in "The Saturday Evening Post" and will furnish same to the President's Commission as soon as it is located.

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