

PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION
ON THE
ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

200 Maryland Ave. NE.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20002

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LEE R

MAR 6 1964

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C. 20530

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Reference is made to our previous letter dated February 21, 1964, requesting investigation of the publication by Life Magazine and various newspapers of a picture of Lee Harvey Oswald shown with a rifle and revolver.

During his appearance before the Commission on Thursday, February 27, 1964, Mr. James H. Martin was questioned regarding this matter. Among other things, Mr. Martin stated as follows:

"Mr. Martin. Life Magazine purchased the rights, North American rights on a photograph of Lee Harvey Oswald with a rifle and pistol, primarily for their use on a cover issue.

"Mr. Dulles. That is what appeared on the recent cover issue, I guess, it was two weeks ago.

"Mr. Martin. Yes, sir.

"Now, that \$5,000 has been paid. We have the \$5,000 in an escrow account.

"Mr. Redlich. Did you actually have in your possession the photograph, a copy of which appeared on the cover of Life Magazine?

"Mr. Martin. No.

"Mr. Redlich. Could you tell us how this contract was consummated, in view of the fact that Life Magazine apparently printed on its cover a photograph which you never possessed?

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MAR 19 1964
FBI
MARTIN

Handwritten notes and signatures at the bottom of the page, including "3-30-64" and "Redlich".

"Mr. Martin. They knew the photographs belonged to Marina. They have a common law copyright, and the only way they could legally use the film is to purchase the rights from Marina.

"Mr. Redlich. Did Life Magazine indicate to you where they obtained the photograph?

"Mr. Martin. No.

"Mr. Redlich. Have you had conversations with other publications concerning that photograph?

"Mr. Martin. Yes. I made the contact with the London Daily Mirror for the purchase of the British Commonwealth rights on that same photograph, and they guaranteed \$2200 plus 50-50 split on what they sold in the Commonwealth. It was restricted to the Commonwealth only.

"However, the London Daily Mail came out with the photograph prior to the Mirror, and I was informed by Mr. Weggand of the London Daily Express that the Detroit Free Press had sold this photograph to the London Daily Mail for \$500.

"Mr. Redlich. Do you have any idea how the Detroit Free Press obtained this photograph?

"Mr. Martin. No. I talked to Ken Murray, who I was informed was the attorney for the Detroit Free Press.

"Mr. Redlich. Where did you talk to him?

"Mr. Martin. At his home in Detroit.

"Mr. Redlich. By phone?

"Mr. Martin. By telephone. And he stated that the photograph was public property, and not covered under common law copyright. I asked him where he got the photo, and he said he got it at the same place as Life did, through a leak in the Commission. I talked to Life Magazine attorney -- I can't remember his name. It is a very odd name. It begins with an 'S'. Now, Murray said that Life had informed him that they had gotten it from a leak through the Commission, and I contacted Life and he denied saying anything of the sort to Murray.

"However, Murray insisted that that is where he got that and he figured it was public domain."

I would appreciate your interviewing Mr. Murray regarding this matter and conducting any further investigation you consider appropriate.

Sincerely,

J. Lee Rankin

J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel