



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Dallas, Texas
May 26, 1964

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY
NOVEMBER 22, 1963, DALLAS, TEXAS

On May 23, 1964, the Dallas Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation received the following quoted communications from Mrs. Mark E. Martin, Hominy, Oklahoma:

"Letter to J. Edgar Hoover

"Sir:

"We require an explanation for the distribution of evidence in the case of Lee Harvey Oswald.

"We refer specifically to the photograph ('transparancies') of a man holding a rifle (?) on the cover of LIFE Magazine, February 21, 1964. This photograph was first reported in the hands of the Dallas police who removed it from the home of Ruth Paine, November 23, 1963.

"The Dallas police announced on November 25, 1963, that 'all evidence in the case (having to do with the assassination)' had been turned over to the FBI at the request of that agency. This included the photograph.

"Yet, the FBI (and you, sir) has recently stated that the case concerning the assassination 'has not been closed' and will not be closed for many years.

"How, then, did this particular piece of incriminating evidence fall into the hands of LIFE Magazine? Recent newspaper statements say that Marina Oswald sold this photograph to LIFE for \$5,000. How was Mrs. Oswald able, as early as February, 1964, to sell a prime piece of the people's evidence?

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**ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
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"Certainly certain branches of the United States government have not conducted themselves in either a discreet or judicious manner in this regard. (Nor have they done so in other instances of mishandled and concealed evidence.)

"The point to remember is that a much-loved President has been killed. Repeated attempts to pull the wool over the eyes of the public would be more successful (as they have been in the past) if so much were not at stake.

"As it is, when one agency loses face, a whole nation may, too.

"Sincerely,
Mrs. Mark E. Martin and Children
Hominy, Oklahoma
5/20/64"

"Concerning Rowland, Belin, and the Warren Commission
(not to mention Allen Dulles..which is just as well)

"David Belin, attorney for the Warren Commission, emphasizes the testimony of a '20-year-old part time college student' who told reporters on November 22, 1963, he saw a man with a rifle on the sixth floor of the Texas Book Building 15 minutes before the assassination.

"The following is a quote from Rowland as taken from a reporter's notebook:

"I looked up at the Texas School Book Depository Building and noticed that the second floor from the top had two adjoining windows open, and on looking up I saw what looked like a man ABOUT 15 FEET BACK FROM THE WINDOW and he appeared to be holding a HIGH POWERED RIFLE WITH A SCOPE. He appeared to be holding the rifle at parade rest. I mentioned to my wife at the time--Look, honey, they've got secret service men everywhere."

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"Mr. Rowland's statement is extraordinary. As is his eyesight. No need to discuss here what a defense attorney would do in court to a witness such as this. The tragedy lies in the seeming excited credence given such witnesses by the Warren Commission.

"To add to the total absurdity is the statement made by Allen Dulles during his recent, brief 'investigative' trip to Dallas.

"'We didn't discover anything new,' Mr. Dulles said.

"We didn't really expect him to, did we?

"Sincerely,
Mrs. Mark E. Martin and Children
Hominy, Oklahoma
5/21/64."