



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

July 7, 1964

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

RE: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY,
NOVEMBER 22, 1963, DALLAS, TEXAS
MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING

On June 10, 1964, the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy received a telegram from Mrs. Shirley Martin of Hominy, Oklahoma, in which she stated that Mr. William Keester, an Oklahoma City detective told one Jim Standard, an Oklahoma City reporter, that there were many things that he, Keester, had to say about the attempted assassination of Major General Edwin A. Walker. Mr. Keester was reported to have said, however, that he was afraid to tell Mr. Standard what those things were.

On June 30, 1964, Mr. J. Lee Rankin, General Counsel for the Commission, requested interviews of Mr. Standard and Mr. Keester to determine whether or not there is any truth in the allegations made by Mrs. Martin. These interviews are reported hereinafter. "Jura" T.C.

On July 3, 1964, Mr. James Standard, reporter, Oklahoma City Times, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, who advised he had been interviewed previously concerning his coverage of the events following the assassination of President Kennedy at Dallas, Texas, stated that several weeks following his return to Oklahoma City on November 25, 1963, he had chanced to talk to William R. Keester, a former detective on the Oklahoma City Police Department, then employed as a private investigator.

On the occasion of this conversation, Mr. Standard said Keester told him he had done some private investigative work in partnership with Cliff Roberts for General Clyde J. Watts, Oklahoma City attorney, and counsel for General Edwin A. Walker. The assignment

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had related to the attempted shooting of General Walker at Dallas, Texas, in the spring of 1963, and had involved investigation by Keester and Roberts at Dallas, Texas.

Mr. Standard said that, as his conversation with Keester was prior to that time when Oswald definitely had been established as the one attempting the assassination of General Walker, he was interested in any information which Keester and Roberts might have developed, and had indicated this to Keester. Keester, who had then stated he might have to return to Dallas on the same matter, promised to give Mr. Standard information for a story, unless such should be prohibited either by General Watts, by whom he had been retained, or by General Walker. This, Mr. Standard said, was the reason that Keester had not related any details to him in this matter of the attempted shooting of General Walker--the story would await possible additional investigation and clearance by Generals Watts and Walker.

Mr. Standard said that the later developments concerning Lee Harvey Oswald were such that he had not pursued this matter with Keester thereafter.

Mr. Standard said he had related this to Mrs. Shirley Martin, of Hominy, Oklahoma, when she had called him from Hominy. She had called, as she had numerous times in the past, to ask questions of Mr. Standard, and to tell of "interesting things," as Mr. Standard put it. Mr. Standard said that shortly following the assassination, he had visited Mrs. Martin in Hominy for the purposes of obtaining material for a feature story which he had prepared concerning her investigative activities relating to the assassination. Long since, he said, he has merely filed away anything she has directed to him. He felt that Mrs. Martin has supplied him with copies of almost every paper she has prepared.

It was in this most recent telephone conversation with Mrs. Martin, which she had initiated, that Mr. Standard said he had mentioned the Keester conversation to her. He said he had related no more than the

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contact with Keester as he had described. If Mrs. Martin had inferred anything beyond this, Mr. Standard said that it was in her failure to understand, or of her imagination.

Mr. Standard advised he has no information which would indicate that any person, other than Lee Harvey Oswald, made the assassination attempt on General Edwin A. Walker.

Concerning ~~William R. Keester~~, Mr. Standard said that he still is engaged in private investigative work at Oklahoma City, insofar as he knew. He has been so engaged since his discharge from the Oklahoma City Police Department in the spring of 1963. Initially, he had operated in partnership with Cliff Roberts, as the K & R Investigation Service, but Roberts now is employed as an agent by the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, and may be presumed no longer active in the partnership. Keester's principal accounts have been Looney, Watts, Looney, Nichols, and Johnson, Attorneys, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; and Cooper, Lawrence and Gullett, also Attorneys, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Mr. William Ross ~~Keester~~, 2224 Southwest 61st Terrace, (phone Mutual 5-2745), Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, on July 6, 1964, advised he operates the K & R Investigation Service, 417 Leonhardt Building (phone Central 2-0233), Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; a firm established in 1963 in partnership with Cliff Roberts, now employed as an agent for the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation at Oklahoma City.

Mr. Keester stated that the investigative work by the firm primarily is civil, its principal accounts being Cooper, Lawrence and Gullett, Attorneys, where Keester said he maintains an office, and Looney, Watts, Looney, Nichols and Johnson, Attorneys, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, of which firm a partner, former General Clyde J. Watts, is counsel for General Edwin A. Walker, Dallas, Texas.

In the spring of 1963, the exact dates not recalled, Mr. Keester said that he and Roberts had been called upon by General Watts to investigate the attempted

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assassination of General Edwin A. Walker. Several trips had been made by Keester and Roberts to Dallas, Texas, in connection with this assignment.

The course of initial investigation had been suggested by General Walker, who had ventured that the Black Muslims, which Keester described as a Negro organization active in Dallas, might have "master-minded" the attempt to kill the General. The investigation, Keester said, had failed to identify the Black Muslims with the incident, though liaison with the Dallas Police Department had been established for assistance to the K & R. Investigations Service. Keester and Roberts returned to Oklahoma City without having developed any suspects in the shooting.

The course of subsequent investigation, Keester related, had concerned William McEwan Duff, formerly employed as a batman by General Walker, and reported as a possible suspect by a woman who had called a Walker aide anonymously to state that her daughter, in association with Duff, had said Duff seemed to have knowledge of the shooting. General Walker, in a telephone call to General Clyde J. Watts, had requested investigation concerning Duff, who continued to reside at Dallas, Texas.

A surreptitious investigation of Duff, culminating in an offer by Keester and Roberts of \$5,000 to Duff for a second attempt to assassinate General Walker, failed to gain information from Duff which would implicate him in any way with the first attempt, or to indicate his knowledge of any suspects.

Keester said that he and Roberts had taken an apartment in the same building with Duff, cultivated his friendship, his confidence, followed by the offer of \$5,000 to kill General Walker. Always Duff had implied knowledge of the prior attempt, and finally did agree to their proposal, according to Keester. Duff stipulated that he be provided a passport out of the United States, along with a car, a driver, and a rifle. With Duff,

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Keester and Roberts had toured the area of the Walker residence in Dallas, surveying the potential of this area for the shooting.

When the plan had reached this stage, Keester said he and Roberts had counseled with General Watts and he with General Walker. Both were uncertain as to how to proceed. Three days elapsed. Finally, Keester and Roberts were instructed to turn all of the results of their investigation, including taped recordings of conversations with Duff, over to the Dallas Police Department, with which department Keester and Roberts had made no prior contact relating to Duff.

In the three days which had elapsed, Keester said "Duff gets spooky." He had been pressing Keester and Roberts for the passport and implementation of the plan. Keester stated that he never had any doubt that Duff had intended to get and abscond with the \$5,000 if he could; that he never had any intention of shooting Walker, Keester doubting that killing was in Duff's make-up. Keester, who described Duff as displaying every evidence of a skilled confidence man, said that on the same day he and Roberts had turned their evidence to the Dallas Police Department, Duff had visited the Dallas office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Keester said that he had a feeling that Duff might have been in touch with the FBI all along.

Mr. Keester said he and Roberts concluded their investigation of Duff with their surrender of evidence to the Dallas Police Department, convinced Duff had taken advantage of his prior employment with General Walker--without intent to pursue the proposal--simply in order to obtain the \$5,000 offered.

Additionally, Mr. Keester stated that never in his investigation had the name Jack Ruby appeared, or that of Lee Harvey Oswald, of whom he had heard nothing until Oswald's assassination of President Kennedy. An acquaintanceship with Jack Ruby, pre-dating the investigation, had been established through contacts

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with the Dallas Police Department and several visits to the night club operated by Ruby. Ruby's name never had been mentioned by Duff, and Keester said that he has no reason to believe that Duff knew anything of Jack Ruby until Ruby's shooting of Lee Harvey Oswald.

Mr. Keester said he had conducted no other investigation relating to the attempted killing of General Walker, an investigation which had been concluded within several weeks following the attempt, nor had he been requested to do so by his client.