

July 16, 1964

BY COURIER SERVICE

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. McGowan
- 1 - Mr. Hines

Honorable J. Lee Rankin
 General Counsel
 The President's Commission
 200 Maryland Avenue, Northeast
 Washington, D. C.

Assassination of President John F. Kennedy

Dear Mr. Rankin:

Reference is made to your letter of July 14, 1964.

Special Agent Manning C. Clements advises that when he arrived at the office of Chief Curry at approximately 1:00 p.m. on November 22, 1963, Chief Curry was not in his office and the Agent's best present estimate as to the time Chief Curry arrived is approximately 3:30 or 4:00 p.m. He recalled specifically that Curry's arrival was after Oswald was on the premises of the Dallas Police Department. When he observed Chief Curry in his office, he conveyed the message to Chief Curry personally in substantially the language set forth in his report dated November 30, 1963. Agent Clements had been instructed to deliver this message by Mr. J. Gordon Shanklin, Special Agent in Charge of the Dallas Office of the FBI. No other person is recalled by Agent Clements as having been present when he spoke to Chief Curry.

With respect to Mr. Clements' testimony before the President's Commission, Mr. Clements has advised that it is his recollection that he did not make a direct statement that he was not a "conduit for any information that the FBI had concerning Oswald to the Dallas Police Department," but rather when the question, "Did you serve as a conduit for

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any information from FBI files to the Police Department relative to Oswald?" was put to him by Mr. Samuel A. Stern of the President's Commission, he replied "No" without further comment.

Mr. Clements states that his answer is factual in that he was at no time instructed to furnish and he did not furnish to the Police Department or anyone else information from prior investigation concerning Oswald.

With regard to my testimony before the President's Commission wherein I referred to a message I sent to Chief Curry requesting that the Dallas Police refrain from announcing to the press details regarding the progress of the investigation into the assassination, Mr. Shanklin states that at 3:15 p.m. on November 24, 1963, he personally telephoned Chief Curry and talked to him concerning the amount of publicity that was being afforded the case. He pointed out to Chief Curry that the President of the United States was concerned over the amount of publicity that was being given out by Chief of Police Curry and Captain Fritz. Chief Curry stated that he was in full agreement that too much publicity was being given out and that he personally would cease answering further questions concerning the matter and would assure that Captain Fritz who had been giving additional statements would do likewise.

Mr. James R. Malley, who was in Dallas at the time, states that on November 25, 1963, Chief Curry was in telephonic contact with him and referred to the fact that the City Manager of Dallas had been in touch with Chief Curry and was insisting that he make a release to the press concerning the case that the Police Department had against Oswald. The release was to be to the effect that at a proper time when the investigation had reached a status where it would be proper to do so evidence against Oswald would be documented and made available to the public. Curry stated he was getting considerable pressure from the City Manager and desired to clear the matter with Mr. Malley. At that time Mr. Malley pointed out to Chief Curry that he had been in touch with Captain Fritz on the evening of November 24, 1963, in Chief Curry's absence and had passed on the President's grave concern over the amount of publicity that was emanating from Dallas.

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Mr. Malley again contacted Chief Curry at 12:50 p.m. on November 27, 1963, and brought to his attention the President's concern over the publicity that was still being released. Chief Curry advised that he was not making any press releases of any kind, that he had specifically requested individuals in his Department to refrain from making comments to the press, but was having difficulty in controlling this phase of the Police Department's activities. Chief Curry assured Mr. Malley that he would make every effort to see that no comments were made and said that he personally had not made any comments since this matter had been discussed with him on Sunday, November 24, 1963.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

NOTE:

The Commission by letter July 14, 1964, requested that we check further into the matter of messages which were reportedly sent by the FBI to Chief Curry stating that Chief Curry did not recall receiving these messages. The above information setting forth the contacts with Chief Curry was taken from memoranda in the Dallas files which were recorded at the time setting forth these contacts by SAC Shanklin and Mr. Malley and they clearly and unequivocally verify the testimony of the Director before the Commission.