

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. Conrad
- 1 - Mr. Jevons
- 1 - Mr. Frazier
- 1 - Office, Room 7133

August 20, 1964  
By Courier Service

REC 27 62-109060-3650  
EX 110

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

Dear Mr. Rankin:

On August 13, 1964, Mr. Norman Redlich of your staff, orally requested of Special Agent Robert A. Frazier, FBI Laboratory, certain information concerning the assassination rifle, Commission Number 139. Mr. Redlich requested information with regard to the following questions:

- 1 - What is the meaning of the term "plunger"?
- 2 - Was the firing pin of the rifle replaced?
- 3 - Does the FBI have information concerning the availability of spare parts for rifles such as Commission Number 139?

You are advised that the term "plunger" is a colloquial term applied to the firing pin or striker of a firearm.

The assassination rifle has been examined and nothing was found to indicate that the firing pin had been changed.

In this connection it should be noted that the firing pin of this rifle has been used extensively as shown by wear on the nose or striking portion of the firing pin and, further, the presence of rust on the firing pin and its spring may be an indication that the firing pin had not been recently changed prior to November 22, 1963. This rust would have been disturbed had the firing pin been changed subsequent to the formation of the rust. In this regard, the firing pin and spring of this weapon are well oiled and the rust present necessarily must have formed prior to the oiling of these parts.

BY COURIER SVC.  
63 AUG 20  
COM. FBI

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

64 AUG 25 1964 TELETYPE UNIT

RECEIVED DIRECTOR

REC'D-READING ROOM  
FBI  
AUG 20 1 50 PM '64

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Honorable J. Lee Rankin

No oil has been applied to the weapon by the FBI; however, it is not known whether it was oiled by any other person having this rifle in his possession. It was noted during the examination of the firing pin that numerous shots have been fired with the weapon in its present well-oiled condition as shown by the presence of residues on the interior surfaces of the bolt and on the firing pin.

The Laboratory has no record of any outlet where spare parts, including firing pins, can be obtained for rifles such as Commission Number 139. In accordance with Mr. Redlich's telephonic request and in the absence of any indication that the firing pin of the rifle was changed, no investigative survey was conducted to ascertain whether any such outlets exist in the United States.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

NOTE: Reference memo Jevons to Conrad 3-17-54 setting out request of Mr. Redlich.