

FBI

Date: 12/6/66

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Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (62-109060)

FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (89-69) (P)

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY,
DALLAS, TEXAS, 11/22/63
MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING
(OO: DALLAS)

Re New Orleans airtel dated 11/29/66 to Bureau, and Dallas; Bureau airtel to New Orleans and Dallas, dated 12/2/66; New Orleans airtel to Bureau, copies to Louisville and Dallas, dated 12/5/66.

Enclosed for San Antonio is one copy of New Orleans airtel to the Bureau dated 11/29/66, which sets forth the original information furnished by complainant EUSTACE CHATHAM to New Orleans, FBI, on 11/28/66.

For information of Jackson, CHATHAM, who currently resides in Apartment three, 1932 St. Thomas Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, furnished a signed statement to the effect that some months ago he worked on a shrimp boat in the Gulf of Mexico in the area of Brownsville, Texas, with a man named, CLIFFORD JOHNSON, and an individual whose nickname he recalled only as "MOOLY". CHATHAM alleges that JOHNSON asked if he would kill President JOHN F. KENNEDY for \$50,000 or \$100,000 or \$150,000, and claimed that LYNDON B. JOHNSON wanted to be President of the United States. JOHNSON allegedly displayed an Army rifle with a telescopic sight and a .45 caliber luger automatic to CHATHAM.

REC-13

- 3 - Bureau
- 1 - Dallas (89-43)
- 2 - Jackson
- 1 - Louisville (Info.)
- 2 - San Antonio (Enc. 1)
- 2 - New Orleans

62-109060 - 4309

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Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

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CHATHAM also claimed that he observed JOHNSON to be in contact with a man who resembled LEE HARVEY OSWALD.

CHATHAM admitted to having served 31 months in the State Prison at Parchman, Mississippi, on a conviction of assault with the intent to kill. CHATHAM is hazy as to when he was in the Mississippi State Prison, and at one time it was 1949 and when re-interviewed on December 6, 1966, recalled a date as sometime in World War II.

CHATHAM, when re-interviewed on 12/6/66, furnished substantially the same information that he furnished in his signed statement under date of 11/28/66. He did, however, advise that he had forgotten to mention during his initial interview that JOHNSON had remarked to him, at the time he was displaying the rifle, that "we'll get President KENNEDY around Dallas or San Antonio when he comes to make his speech".

In connection with JOHNSON, CHATHAM said that JOHNSON indicated he was on some kind of dope and had been taking shots for pain at the Marine Hospital in Brownsville, Texas.

CHATHAM is confident that CLIFFORD JOHNSON must have had seamen's papers from the United States Customs House in Brownsville, Texas. He also recalled that the shrimp boat, which CHATHAM remembers only as the "Gene R" (ph), was a 45-foot boat with a double rig and a General Motors motor. CHATHAM said he understood that this boat was originally built by General Motors in St. Augustine, Florida, and purchased from the Brownsville Exchange Company for a cost of about \$25,000.

CHATHAM described CLIFFORD JOHNSON as a white male, age 45 to 50, 6' tall, 145 pounds, skinny build, brown hair, ruddy complexion and a heavy drinker.

CHATHAM said that JOHNSON's father, whose name he cannot recall, at one time owned the Permuta (ph) Ranch near St. Bonita, Texas, and that he allegedly sold this ranch for \$25,000.

In connection with the Mexican individual known to CHATHAM only as "MOODY", CHATHAM said that MOODY is about 5'9" and weighs 360 pounds. MOODY is between 30-35 years of

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age and was working at a Shell or Texaco Station on Ringo Street in Brownsville, before he shipped out on the "Gene R".

Referenced Bureau airtel instructs that this matter is to receive active investigation and that investigation should be directed to locating and fully identifying CLIFFORD JOHNSON, who thereafter should be interviewed in connection with CHATHAM's allegation. In addition, the individuals revealed by CHATHAM, one of whom allegedly resembled LEE HARVEY OSWALD, should be identified through CLIFFORD JOHNSON when located.

Bureau airtel instructs that investigation should be directed toward establishing any valid information which would establish any degree of mental incompetency on the part of CHATHAM.

Additionally, results of investigation are to be incorporated in a Letterhead Memorandum, suitable for dissemination, by the Bureau. All leads are to be covered expeditiously. Dissemination to local Secret Service should be held in abeyance pending advice by the Bureau.

San Antonio and Jackson should furnish copies of Letterhead Memorandums to New Orleans and Dallas.

LEADS:

JACKSON

AT PARCHMAN, MISSISSIPPI. Will at the Mississippi State Prison examine the record of EUSTACE THADDEUS CHATHAM, white male, date of birth 7/25/14, Biloxi, Mississippi, who allegedly served 31 months on conviction of assault to kill in approximately 1949, for purpose of obtaining all background information, with particular emphasis on establishing valid information which would indicate any degree of mental incompetency on the part of CHATHAM.

SAN ANTONIO

AT BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS. Will conduct investigation at the U.S. Customs House to determine if CLIFFORD JOHNSON possesses seamen's papers with a view toward his current location.

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Will at the Marine Hospital determine if CLIFFORD JOHNSON has a patient history, and if so determine any valid information which would indicate his degree of any mental incompetency.

Will conduct criminal check on CLIFFORD JOHNSON.

If necessary as a means to identify CLIFFORD JOHNSON, conduct investigation at the Brownsville Exchange Company to establish the alleged owner of the boat, "Gene R" in the name of JOHNSON's father.

Will, if located, interview CLIFFORD JOHNSON in connection with CHATHAMS allegation, identify the individuals referred to by CHATHAMS, one of whom allegedly resembled LEE HARVEY OSWALD and also attempt to gain the complete identity of the Mexican known as "MOODY."