

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

March 21, 1967

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

RE:

USA (Ret.)

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(Retired), telephonically contacted the Washington Field Office of the Federal
Bureau of Investigation (FBI) on March 18, 1967. After insuring
that his name was correctly understood as Junior, since "the
old man was still living," and stating that his conversation
could be recorded or appropriately noted, he advised as follows:

He had been struggling with his conscience for about a year now. He felt himself in a position akin to those cadets in the Air Force Academy who had been recently dismissed in the cheating scandals not because they cheated but because they had knowledge of same and did not report same, or "a little like the fellow charged with reporting a theft and didn't do so." What he was attempting to say was that he was trying to get something off his chest and this something was that he may have been a witness to conversation subsequent to the assassination of the late President Kennedy which might have some bearing on it. He then emphasized that he was not saying that it did pertain to the assassination but that it could pertain.

In view of his address, and the apparent topical nature of his call, it was suggested that he contact the nearer Alexandria, Virginia, Resident Agency Office of the FBI. Strickland said he did not want to do this, and for a reason would only offer that he "just did not want to do that," despite the fact it might facilitate the handling of his information.

Strickland then said that he had spent 30 years in the Army; was a retired Colonel; had been honorably discharged, although he "had been rapped a few times on the knuckles." He had all kinds of clearances and had held responsible positions

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ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEUY

in the past prior to his retirement, for example he had spent the last few years prior to retirement in a responsible assignment at the Pentagon. He pointed this out just to insure understanding that it was a full colonel who was talking and not just a military "shirt stacker".

He said he was born July 16, 1914, in Montgomery, Alabama, and his military serial number was 024176.

After furnishing the above background information, he added, admittedly in a facetious fashion, that he also owned a Cadillac for which he paid cash; but unlike a few espionage subjects he had recently read about, this money was not from "Uncle Joe" (meaning the Soviets), so he did not want anybody who might be inquiring as to "who is" to get the wrong idea. He said he bought a 1948 Packard in 1948, watched it carefully until he purchased his 1963 Cadillac. The cash money for the purchase, he added, was mostly saved in Korea.

When attempting to return him to the subject matter of his call, he explained that it was necessary for him to approach the matter in the above manner, because he had "to disclose his soul through his stomach"; that what he had to say was not easy; that he has been burdened with his information and has "gone through a number of cycles" with regard to the question of reporting of this information to the proper authorities.

Before he went any further he wanted it to be noted that he did not agree in any way with the ludicrous, nonsensical show that "GARRISON" was putting on down in New Orleans regarding the assassination of the President. In fact, he agreed with the apparent Washington view of silence towards same.

He said that he had thought of furnishing the information to the military since, after all, he was a military man and a colonel at that, but the thought of having to go through the "sheer, stupid, unadulterated chain of command", held him back. He said he tried to report the

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY

information to the FBI on two other occasions when contact was necessitated on other matters, but he felt "he had not established the rapport" necessary to unburden his soul. He had even considered talking to "BOBBY KENNEDY" about his information, since BOBBY lives within 1500 yards of him. After more "rassling" with the problem he decided to contact the FBI again.

said that he was in Albuquerque during August, 1966, for the wedding of a nephew. He stayed about a week at Sandia Base. During that period he frequented one of the bars in the basement of the BOQ where they had a daily "two hour happy hour" with drinks at 25 cents apiece. While at this bar one evening during this period he met an individual whom he subsequently met on the following two nights. One one occasion the topic of Vietnam came up and then the assassination of President KENNEDY was brought into conversation. During that conversation, said this man declared that he had documentary evidence that the assassination of President KENNEDY was a conspiracy and involved more than one person. The man stated that the evidence was "safely put away" and would be revealed "if they got him." As explanation of the latter part of this statement, stated that they also had discussed Federal firearm regulations and this individual stated that he would have to violate this law to be heavily armed to protect himself apparently against those who knew he had such evidence.

As to why didn't take action then, he offered only that he thought it was bar talk at the time. The next night was back at the same bar. He corraled the young Negro bartender who had been there the night before, and asked the latter if he had heard this unknown individual in his conversation with any that he had documentary evidence. The bartender said he did. At this point felt he had a possible clue to a murder. He asked the bartender if he was willing to state that this statement was made, and the bartender said yes. Since the bartender was generally there and knew the habituees of which this person seemed to be one, asked the bartender his impression. The bartender said that the person

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY

was in frequently and seemed to like to talk a lot. believed that the bartender probably passed it off as talk and nothing more.

Regarding the individual making the statement, did not know his name; believed his first name was GEORGE or something simple like that; age unknown, but fairly medium age, not young, -"captain or major level in age". He was a civilian employee in ordnance at Sandia about to get a commission with the military or considering same. The individual was white and although anglo-saxon could have been Polish, Czech, French, or Hungarian types. He was about 35-38 for a definition of fairly medium age. He was about five feet, eleven inches, with regular features and did not wear glasses. His weight was normal which meant he was neither obese nor too thin. He believed GEORGE lived in the south but did not know where.

The Negro bartender was a USAF Airman, rate unknown, who was stationed at Kirtland Air Force Base nearby. He moonlighted as bartender at Sandia at night. He was about 19-20 years old, about six feet tall, slender build, weight unknown but consistend with height and build. He had real dark complexion, was very active bartender, his name unknown. He did not wear glasses. He could not recall any further details.

said that on the third night when he saw the individual involved, he started to ask him further about this matter but the individual "shut up like a clam".

said that while the individual had been drinking on the night he made the statement, he would not consider him drunk but rather as "convivial". This he defined as just enough to put him in the friendly stage.

said he is trying to write these days, that employment wise he would describe himself as a self employed writer not doing much writing. He said that che

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY

is not seeking publicity; that he abhorred publicity and would not like to have this involve him in any publicity. He felt that he would not like to have too much inquiry into his affairs since like other people he might have a small dead skeleton around. He said he hated communism and is definitely not a communist.

said he desired it be noted that he is willing to go to Sandia Base or that area at his own expense to locate the airman or individual involved.

stated that he is rated 100 per cent disabled by the military because of arthritis, diabetes, and glaucoma conditions.



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