



In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
Tampa, Florida  
July 7, 1967

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT  
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY  
NOVEMBER 22, 1963

Reference is made to the Tampa Office of the  
Federal Bureau of Investigation communication captioned  
as above and dated June 21, 1967.

JAMES HERBERT ~~MARTIN~~ was contacted at his  
residence 4300 Pompano Drive, S.E., St. Petersburg, Florida  
on the morning of July 5, 1967 whereupon he was advised  
of the identities of SA JOHN EDWARD HEGARTY and STEPHEN  
J. LABADIE as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of  
Investigation. He was advised an interview was desired  
and in view of the fact his children were present, one  
having a strep throat, he was interviewed in a Bureau  
vehicle.

Mr. MARTIN was advised his testimony before the  
Warren Commission on February 27, 1964 had been reviewed  
and Agents of the FBI desired to know if he had any other  
information whatsoever concerning the assassination and  
subsequent events that he had not testified to before  
such Commission.

Mr. MARTIN related he had no new pertinent  
information whatsoever since his testimony except he  
recalled he had testified to some information which he has  
never seen or heard anything about and such matter he  
has thought of from time to time. He said he has never  
heard of the result of information he testified to  
concerning information told to him by a resident manager  
of the Dinkler Plaza Hotel in Atlanta, Georgia while in  
the Gay Nineties, a private club in Dallas where he,  
MARTIN, had formerly been associated, in December, 1963  
or January, 1964. The maintenance man at the Dinkler  
Plaza reportedly went to the resident manager with a

2  
JUL 19 1967  
XEROX

62-144-5511  
ENCLOSURE

**ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT  
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY  
NOVEMBER 22, 1963**

problem in that the maintenance man's wife was a long distance operator in a telephone company in Atlanta, Georgia, it not being known whether she was an employee of any hotel or not, and she had received a request for a long distance phone call from a male voice who stated, "Remember this or remember these calls as it will go down in history." This female operator then reportedly called LEE OSWALD in Dallas, Texas. She listened to the conversation and heard were words to effect "Everything is set up, proceed as planned." Apparently then there occurred a disconnect but the male was still on the line and he then placed a call, again from Atlanta, to JACK RUBY, in Dallas, whereupon the operator heard him tell allegedly RUBY, "You know what to do if anything goes wrong."

Mr. MARTIN stated the resident manager related these calls were made at night allegedly a day or two, on a Wednesday or Thursday, before the assassination. He stated the reason the maintenance man told the resident manager was because his wife knew listening in on a call was against the law and he was asking for advice as to what should be done. The resident manager reportedly suggested his wife go to the FBI Office in Atlanta.

Mr. MARTIN stated that after testifying to the above before the Warren Commission, upon his return to Dallas, he was called by the FBI and thereafter interviewed in the Dallas FBI Office where he furnished the same information.

Mr. MARTIN thereupon related he had testified about MARINA OSWALD to effect she told his wife and himself various things on occasions all of which had no bearing on the assassination, yet MARINA could speak English when she wanted to because she could hold conversations in broken English when she wanted to do so.

**ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT  
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY  
NOVEMBER 22, 1963**

He said FBI agents used to interview MARINA almost daily in the afternoons when she was living at his, MARTIN's, home and when the FBI agents left, she merely gave him an impression that she "put something over on them."

Mr. MARTIN went on to state, that ISAAC DON LEVINE, a writer, wanted to make a factual story about MARINA and he would talk to her and he apparently would find out only the things he wanted to know. According to LEVINE, people in Russia who are not members of the Communist Party, do not have two room apartments which MARINA claimed she had had. Also, some photo had been turned up from somewhere which reportedly showed MARINA on a balcony of the apartment building and this fact did not fit in with a person who was not a member of the Communist Party.

MARINA had stated on occasions to Mr. and Mrs. MARTIN that she moved around a lot from city to city in Russia and such was not supposedly appropriate for a mere person in Russia.

MARINA had said she had had a date with an ambassador from Afghanistan while in Moscow.

ISAAC DON LEVINE, because of all such events and statements, therefore concluded, according to Mr. MARTIN, that MARINA could not have accomplished such things, if true, unless she were somewhat in a political circle and she therefore was not an ordinary everyday Russian person.

Mr. MARTIN continued to relate that MARINA on occasion had mentioned that she had a stepfather who was supposedly like a supply officer in some section of the Russian Army. However, Mr. MARTIN noted that before this statement had been made, MARINA had said she had not known her father or anyone as she had been born out of wedlock. In any case, MARTIN said this was one thing that MARINA definitely did not want the American public to know.

**ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT  
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY  
NOVEMBER 22, 1963**

Mr. MARTIN said MARINA related that she was a trained pharmacist and ISAAC DON LEVINE said this was a further indication that MARINA was not a common Russian as they do not train ordinary people in Russia.

Concerning the testimony given about MARINA's association or date with the ambassador from Afghanistan, Mr. MARTIN stated, Chief Justice EARL WARREN stated the Commission was not looking into the morals of MARINA. Because of such statement, Mr. MARTIN related he did not believe the above was recorded in the Commission's record. He added that he has never received a copy nor read his testimony before the Commission.

Mr. MARTIN then went on to relate MARINA could be just as nice to some people and then downright mean to others all depending on how she felt toward the persons. He stated MARINA would have a bottle of beer occasionally and also a glass of vodka but never to excess. He said, "No, she never drank to excess," and remarked on an occasion when she was in Washington, D.C. to testify before the Warren Commission they had gone to some Italian restaurant where she did have one drink and later on a reporter had put in the newspaper that she had apparently been sipping drinks and MARINA disliked this. On the other hand, he said, MARINA was expecting her name to be in the newspapers every day.

Mr. MARTIN continued to talk about how he had actually had everything set up pretty good for MARINA for awhile until her brother-in-law, ROBERT OSWALD, got into the affair which subsequently ended in a civil court suit wherein it was claimed ROBERT and MARINA had never been permitted to be alone to discuss personal affairs and that she could not read English and that she had not known what she was signing when she made their contract. Yet, contrarywise, ROBERT OSWALD had personally taken MARINA every Sunday to his knowledge for two months to LEE OSWALD's grave in a cemetery, and Secret Service Agent interpreter LEE GOPADZE had read the contract to MARINA and ROBERT OSWALD had also read it to her. In any case, Mr. MARTIN related a settlement out of court was made and since such time, in early 1964, neither he nor his wife have had anything to do nor been in contact with MARINA or ROBERT OSWALD.

**ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT  
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY  
NOVEMBER 22, 1963**

In answer to specific questions at this time, Mr. MARTIN related MARINA OSWALD never told him nor his wife any information whatsoever that she had any knowledge of an assassination ahead of time, the only thing being that she did know was when she mentioned the General Walker matter which he testified to and then she had mentioned Vice President NIXON's visit on the occasion when she allegedly locked LEE OSWALD in their bathroom, but such was believed fiction as all bathrooms generally in the U.S. lock from the inside, not the outside. He said MARINA never told anyone of any knowledge she might have had of any event ahead of time.

MARINA never told his wife nor himself that she was actually a member of the Communist Party. The only person who arrived at this conclusion to his knowledge was ISAAC DON LEVINE because of his knowledge of Russia, her apartment allegation, her education, as related above, and MARINA never told LEVINE to his knowledge she was a member of the Communist Party. He recalled LEVINE told him MARINA must have been a Trotskyite.

In response to the question as to whether or not, did MARINA say she ever had access to Russian government secrets or documents, Mr. MARTIN stated she had not stated such, but she had stated she used to attend some parties at her stepfather's and mother's, which was very vague, and whether or not she meant by this she therefore had access to liquor and food which her stepfather supplied or whether she therefore meant she could have access to military parties and meeting Soviet officials, was not understood and nothing further was ever ascertained.

MARTIN related he had known JACK RUBY before the assassination through taking people to his club and through seeing him around in the hotel business, but to his knowledge RUBY never knew MARINA OSWALD.

MARTIN stated he never actually planned to write a story himself but ISAAC DON LEVINE had planned to do so. Of recent date he had given thought to a story in that his wife kept a sort of journal or diary while MARINA OSWALD resided in his home in 1963. He had an idea that his wife could write a story for some

**ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT  
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY  
NOVEMBER 22, 1963**

ladies magazine which would be about life in her home when MARINA was there which may appeal to women, but of course, this should not be done as in the settlement suit it had been agreed that the MARTINS would not publish anything.

Concerning the publicity given to the press in the 1963 pertinent period, Mr. MARTIN related it had all been confusing to the public - such as, MARINA never got up early in the morning as was reported but she never got up until after 10:00 a.m. Secondly, she was reported to have read the Bible yet she never opened a Bible during the two and one-half months he knew her. Thirdly, she never did cook all the time and during the same period of time she only cooked twice, and fourthly she never washed or kept herself clean as was publicly reported.

Concerning the recent New Orleans publicity of a conspiracy involved in the assassination, Mr. MARTIN stated he has never personally known New Orleans District Attorney JAMES GARRISON nor CLAY SHAW and he had no knowledge of any conspiracy with the exception that he still had an unknown feeling and unknown final knowledge as to the above referred to phone calls from Atlanta to Dallas. He went on to say that during the first two days he had been contacted by the Secret Service in his hotel in Dallas it had been mentioned by the Secret Service agents they had suspected a plot involving fifteen to twenty people. They mentioned some car had followed them on an occasion and they had contacted the local police to stop the car which they did and they found a man with a rifle but the man was not wearing hunting clothes at all. Nothing further was ever said about any plot and he never heard anything further until he read of the New Orleans allegations.

Concerning a photograph, Mr. MARTIN stated that during the first two days after the assassination, he was in contact with the Secret Service agents, and they

**ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT  
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY  
NOVEMBER 22, 1963**

showed him a photograph, about 8" by 10", which he would "swear up and down" showed a bullet hole in the windshield of the assassination car. He said he knew nothing further about this but all the coincidences he has mentioned, and all the more publicity given the matter, has tended to confuse him with the idea, more than LEE OSWALD was involved.

Mr. MARTIN stated he never could recall making any direct statements to anyone that he had specific knowledge of any events that have occurred. He said he has talked with people from time to time when they became interested in his past when it was found out he had been in Dallas at the time of the assassination and had known after such assassination the OSWALD family.

Mr. MARTIN said he had no knowledge as to President KENNEDY's trip to Dallas but a friend of his in the past, a MARY \_\_\_\_\_, in her fifties, who is married to a man who has a small insurance and hospitalization business in Dallas, who drove a green Lincoln in 1965, and who had worked for the McKinney, Texas newspaper as a reporter many years ago, name and address not recalled, told him some time in 1965 that she had a date one time, many years ago, and she attended with such date, a political campaign meeting in Texas of now President JOHNSON. She had further mentioned that at this political rally, perhaps 20 years ago, it had been planned that Mr. JOHNSON would be president of the U. S. in 1968.

Concerning any connections with any criminal syndicate in the U.S., Mr. MARTIN related that President KENNEDY had been "riding the criminal syndicate pretty hard" and yet since such time that President JOHNSON has been in office it was his considered opinion that he has not done apparently as much. He stated he could definitely state that he has never heard anything that the criminal element had anything whatsoever to do with President JOHNSON. He further stated he has never had any knowledge that

**ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT  
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY  
NOVEMBER 22, 1963**

---

the criminal element had any connection with the President KENNEDY assassination. He stated he has never associated President JOHNSON with any criminal element in Texas nor anywhere else.

When questioned as to had he reported the information to the FBI in the past or to the Warren Commission concerning a political campaign held over 20 odd years ago, Mr. MARTIN stated he did not hear of such through this woman until perhaps April or May, 1965 and he never reported such to the FBI as it was all old information and unverified so far as he was concerned.

When asked if this woman known as MARY had ever furnished him any information concerning any political chicanery he replied that she had not with the exception that she had merely mentioned there had been some stolen ballot box by some unknown person which was to have occurred in Polk County, Texas some 20 odd years ago when President LYNDON B. JOHNSON first ran for some local political office. He said this incident and remark by this woman had no connection whatsoever with President KENNEDY. He felt it had been mentioned by this female in that she was letting it be known that she had knowledge of when President JOHNSON first got into politics in Texas.

Mr. MARTIN stated nothing whatsoever was stated that this had any connection with the Democratic National Convention nor with President KENNEDY's nomination.

Mr. MARTIN stated he had no factual information whatsoever concerning the attempted killing of Governor CONNELLY of Texas nor as to any information that his life was supposedly spared.



**ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT  
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY  
NOVEMBER 22, 1963**

At this time in this interview Mr. MARTIN related if there had been a plot to assassinate President KENNEDY and RUBY had been involved, RUBY was the type of person in Dallas who could get into any place, any where, any hour, and he was well known. Mr. MARTIN then reported that he had no new facts whatsoever that lots of people have asked him and talked with him about Dallas inasmuch as he had been there at the time and he had had knowledge of the OSWALDs after such event.

When asked if there was anything whatsoever he knew that he had not been asked up to now, it was now the time to furnish any and all facts, Mr. MARTIN responded by stating MARINA OSWALD had remarked on an occasion when in his home that when she first heard of the assassination she had run out to a garage apparently wherever she had been living at such time because she had wanted to see if LEE OSWALD's rifle was there. The rifle supposedly was wrapped in a blanket and MARINA remarked she said "she thought it was there in the blanket." She had never said anything further about the matter and he had no further knowledge of such event.

Mr. MARTIN was thereupon asked about his wife's diary and he stated, "I have seen it - it is yellow - it is hers - I have never read it nor looked through it." Mr. MARTIN stated he was "positive there would be nothing in it that has not been told." He said his wife never kept the diary up as actually a diary chronological event of their conversations and personal knowledge in that it was only notes that his wife made whenever she got around or had some spare time to jot something down. He said he has never read it but he has been told that it was mostly his wife's emotional feelings on a personal basis that she had recorded noting that in the beginning of their associations with the OSWALDs in their home his wife had liked Mrs. OSWALD, but later she was very much disliked.

**ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT  
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY  
NOVEMBER 22, 1963**

When questioned concerning any individuals related to him in any criminal connections Mr. MARTIN related he had a cousin by marriage, AL CERVANTES, presently mayor of St. Louis, Missouri, and CERVANTES is a close personal friend of FRANK CASTELLO of New York City. He said AL CERVANTES' sister, VIRGINIA CERVANTES SMITH, married his uncle RICHARD F. X. SMITH whose whereabouts is unknown to him.

In conclusion Mr. MARTIN stated that if in talking with people concerning his past association he has made statements that were not factual he had been in error and in discussing events generally, individuals whom he has conversed with in the past must have misconstrued facts from assumptions and he therefore had no specific information other than what he had testified to before the Warren Commission and furnished as set forth heretofore.

Mr. MARTIN related he still had not obtained hotel employment in the greater St. Petersburg area but continued his efforts and in the meantime, his wife and himself and two sons had a local newspaper route with 500 customers during the summer and up to approximately 1,000 customers during the winter season.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.