

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

~~REC 53~~

Tolson	_____
DeLoach	_____
Walters	_____
Mohr	_____
Bishop	_____
Casper	_____
Callahan	_____
Conrad	_____
Felt	_____
Gale	_____
Rosen	_____
Sullivan	_____
Tavel	_____
Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holmes	_____
Gandy	_____

- 1 - Mr. C. D. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Wick

TO : Mr. W. C. Sullivan

DATE: July 13, 1967

FROM : Mr. W. A. Branigan

- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. W. C. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. W. A. Branigan
- 1 - Mr. R. E. Lenihan

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

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this memorandum is to report results of interview of James Herbert Martin, former business manager of Marina Oswald, in connection with allegations that Martin has made concerning Marina Oswald.

BACKGROUND:

In memorandum Mr. W. A. Branigan to Mr. W. C. Sullivan dated 6/28/67, it was reported that [redacted]

[redacted] Florida, informed the Tampa Office that Martin has been in contact with her in his attempts to obtain employment in the hotel management business in St. Petersburg, Florida. During such contacts, [redacted] alleged that Martin claimed that Marina Oswald is not the decent person she appears to be. Martin informed [redacted] that Marina Oswald consumes large amounts of vodka and contrary to popular belief, speaks very fluent English. Martin also allegedly informed [redacted] that Marina Oswald claimed she had knowledge of the most important officials of the Soviet Union and when living in Russia, she had complete access to all government facilities. Martin also allegedly stated that Marina Oswald made statements to him that she knew about the assassination before it occurred, that she was part of the Communist Party and could have prevented the assassination had she desired.

CURRENT INTERVIEW OF MARTIN 7/5/67:

On 7/5/67 James Herbert Martin was interviewed by two Special Agents of the Tampa Office concerning the allegations of [redacted]. Martin informed our Agents that he possessed no additional pertinent information concerning the assassination of Marina Oswald that he had not already furnished to the Warren Commission and the FBI in 2/64. Martin denied ever [redacted]

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Memorandum to Mr. W. C. Sullivan
RE: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY
62-109060

telling anyone that Marina Oswald drank to an excess or had access to important officials of the Soviet Union. Martin also denied telling anyone that Marina Oswald claimed to be a member of the Communist Party or claimed to possess information about the assassination before it occurred. At no time did Marina Oswald ever state to Martin that she could have prevented the assassination had she desired.

Martin informed our Agents that it was true that he has made statements that Marina Oswald is not the person the news media have presented her to be. For example, Martin stated that Marina Oswald never got out of bed in the morning until after 10 a.m. although press reports stated she got up early to care for her children. Martin added that though Marina Oswald reportedly reads the Bible, he never saw Marina open a Bible during the two and one-half months he knew her. Martin also stated that Marina Oswald never washed or kept herself clean as was publicly reported. During our interview with Martin, Martin stated that Marina informed him she had a stepfather in the Russian Army who performed duties like that of a supply officer. Martin claimed that Marina informed him she had not known her real father since she had been born out of wedlock. Martin stated this was one thing that Marina definitely did not want the American public to know. (In her testimony before the Warren Commission on 2/5/64, Marina was asked by Commission Counsel Rankin the name of her father. Marina answered "I had a stepfather. I had no father. I never knew him.")

Martin further informed our Agents that if in talking with people concerning his past association with Marina Oswald he has made statements that were not factual, he had been in error. He also added that in discussing events generally, individuals with whom he has conversed in the past must have misconstrued facts from assumptions. Martin stated he possessed no specific information concerning Marina Oswald or the assassination other than that to which he had testified to before the Warren Commission.

In conclusion, Martin stated he has not, to date, obtained hotel employment in the St. Petersburg, Florida, area. He stated he is continuing his efforts in this regard and in the meantime, he, his wife and two sons have a local newspaper route with 500 customers during the summer and up to approximately 1,000 customers during the winter season.

ACTION:

For information. Results of our interview with Martin are being furnished to the Department, Secret Service and the Central Intelligence Agency.

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