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MEMORANDUM

TO : Mr. DeLoach *510*

DATE: November 15, 1967

Callahan	_____
Conrad	_____
Felt	_____
Gale	_____
Rosen	_____
Sullivan	_____
Tavel	_____
Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holmes	_____
Gandy	_____

FROM : A. Rosen *A. Rosen*

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. Shroder
- 1 - Mr. Raupach
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Bishop
- 1 - Mr. Conrad

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY
NOVEMBER 22, 1963, DALLAS, TEXAS
MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING

PURPOSE: United Press International (UPI) 11/13/67 reported the Saturday Evening Post, to reach the newsstands 11/21/67, contains an article by Dr. Josiah Thompson of Haverford College, Haverford, Pennsylvania. The Post editorial contends that Thompson's article "demolishes the Warren Report," and demands the assassination case be reopened. Background of Thompson set forth.

BACKGROUND: UPI 11/13/67 reported Dr. Josiah Thompson completed an independent two-year investigation of the assassination. He claims the assassination was a conspiracy and three gunmen were involved, all of whom may be at large. Thompson charges that although details remain unclear, "the essential outline of the assassination is now apparent--the 'one assassin' finding of the Warren Commission is patently wrong; there were four shots from three guns in six seconds." This article is apparently based on Thompson's book, "Six Seconds in Dallas" to be published 11/27/67. UPI indicated Thompson does not speculate on the identities of the assassins or their motivation but casts doubt on the guilt of Lee Harvey Oswald who was in the Texas School Book Depository Building (TSBDB), and his rifle was used. Thompson indicates, it is "quite likely" that Oswald was not the assassin at the sixth floor window.

The UPI does not reveal how Thompson arrived at this conclusion. The Warren Commission concluded Oswald was present at the window from which the shots were fired, and this was supported by evidence found at the scene and testimony of witnesses.

Thompson claims to have had access to a better print of Abraham Zapruder's color movie of the assassination than was made available to the FBI. An analysis of this print, owned by Life Magazine, by a new technique involving superimposition of

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Rosen to DeLoach Memo
RE: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JFK

sequential pictures and by a dissecting microscope provided Thompson with data from which he made conclusions. These conclusions were four bullets were fired, and he indicates shots originated from three locations, one of which was from the TSBDB. The Warren Commission concluded all shots originated from the sixth floor of the TSBDB and that all shots were from the rear. The Warren Commission arrived at this conclusion from the examination of the original Zapruder film and a reenactment at the scene. In connection with Thompson's examination of the film by a new technique, it is noted that this new technique is not identified.

Thompson accused the Commission of ignoring testimony of witnesses who saw gunsmoke in the area of the grassy knoll in Dealey Plaza. This is false. S. M. Holland, a railroad employee, reported to the Commission he heard four shots and saw a puff of smoke. However, the Commission concluded that Holland's observations could not be substantiated.

Regardless of Thompson's allegations, he does not speculate on the number of conspirators or their identities. This is a typical approach of numerous authors who have written books critical of the Warren Commission in the past, and he is following a similar line. It is to be noted that with a few exceptions, Thompson closely follows conclusions arrived at by Mark Lane without setting forth any concrete evidence to validate his opinion.

BACKGROUND REGARDING JOSIAH DONALD THOMPSON: Our files contain numerous references to Thompson who was born 1/17/35 at Liverpool, Ohio. He holds a Ph.D. degree and is an Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Haverford College. He has been associated with many Vietnam peace movements, and on 10/20/67, in protest of the Vietnam War, he was one of 350 individuals who relinquished his Selective Service Card to the Attorney General in Washington. However, he previously served in the Navy and is now classified 5-A (registrant over the age of liability for military service). According to an article dated 10/10/67 in "The Philadelphia Inquirer," he said he has told the boys to stay out of the Vietnam War, even if they have to go to jail. He also said the Warren Commission's conclusion was too pat for him, and "I got the feeling my Government was lying to me, so I decided to do some research on my own and flew to Dallas."

ACTION: Philadelphia Office has acquired an advance copy of the Saturday Evening Post which contains Thompson's article. It will be reviewed in detail upon receipt, and a memorandum submitted.

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