

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : MR. TOLSON

DATE: 4/24/64

FROM : A. H. Belmont

cc Mr. Belmont
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Malley

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
IS - R - Cuba

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

At 5:10 p.m. today I talked to SAC Shanklin relative to the affidavit prepared by SA Hosty concerning the article which appeared in the Dallas News. I told Shanklin that the affidavit was satisfactory with the exception that it would be strengthened if it contained a sentence to the effect that Hosty had never heard any information indicating potential violence on the part of Oswald. I made it clear to Shanklin that this affidavit is Hosty's affidavit and we do not want to put words in his mouth.

Shanklin said he understood this thoroughly and that the facts are that Hosty did not have any such information and, therefore, it could go in the affidavit. After checking he advised the following sentence would be inserted, "In fact, prior to the assassination of President Kennedy, I never had any information indicating potential violence on the part of Oswald." I told Shanklin to have the affidavit completed and send it to the Bureau this afternoon.

I also advised Shanklin of the results of Mr. Malley's contact with Mr. Rankin of the Commission today, including the fact that Lt. Revill and an Officer by the name of B.J. Bryan had submitted to the Commission affidavits along the line of the article appearing in the Dallas News, and that these affidavits were almost verbatim; that we had told Mr. Rankin that Hosty had not made such statements and was submitting an affidavit to that effect which we would give the Commission.

I told Mr. Shanklin that Mr. Rankin was concerned about what appeared to be the planting of this story and possibly others in Dallas; that Rankin was sure they had not come from the Commission, but possibly from someone like Alexander in the District Attorney's office, and while Rankin did not want any investigation, he would appreciate any information our Dallas office picked up as to the source of this story. Shanklin said that he would be alert for any such information.

I also told Mr. Shanklin that the Dallas office should immediately start dealing with the Dallas PD at arms length, and should not participate in police training or other cooperative functions with them and in fact should stay away from them unless we received information.

AHB:CSH (5)

62-109090 -

COPY SENT TO MR. TOLSON

53 MAY 8 1964

PERF. UNIT

Handwritten signature

ORIGINAL FILED IN 105-42

Mr. Nelson

which we were duty bound to turn over to them as a violation within their jurisdiction. Shanklin said he had some police schools scheduled with the Dallas PD, and I told him to cancel them as far as the FBI is concerned.

ACTION:

For information. Upon receipt of the affidavit from Dallas we will forward it by letter to the Commission.

[Handwritten initials] *[Handwritten signature]*

Memorandum

abr
A. H. Belmont

DATE: April 24, 1964

FROM:

W.C.S.
W. C. Sullivan

SUBJECT:

LEE HARVEY OSWALD
INTERNAL SECURITY - RUSSIA - CUBA

- 1 - Belmont
- 1 - Mohr
- 1 - DeLoach

- 1 - Sullivan
- 1 - Malley
- 1 - Branigan
- 1 - Lenihan

1 - Rose

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

During a conversation on 4/13/64 Mr. J. Lee Rankin of the President's Commission asked Inspector Malley whether the FBI had contacted all informants for information concerning any connection Oswald may have had with the Communist Party (CP). The Commission, by letter dated 4/22/64, asked if this Bureau possessed any information not hitherto disclosed to the Commission concerning the association of Lee Harvey Oswald with any communist or subversive organizations or individuals either in the United States or abroad, or with any criminals or criminal groups either in the United States or abroad.

All information contained in Bureau files and information developed subsequent to the assassination of President Kennedy has been furnished to the Commission. Bureau teletype to all offices under the caption "Assassination of President John F. Kennedy," dated 11/22/63, instructed that all informants, security, racial and criminal, as well as other sources, be contacted for information bearing on the assassination of President Kennedy. Bureau airtel 4/15/64 to all offices with copies to Legat, Mexico City, captioned "Lee Harvey Oswald, IS - R - Cuba," instructed that all security informants and potential security informants, this to include Nation of Islam, CP, Socialist Workers Party, espionage, etc., informants be contacted to determine if any possess information regarding Oswald or his activities. To date contacts with live informants have developed no information to indicate Oswald was a member of the CP or any subversive organization, and information developed through sources other than live informants has been disseminated to the Commission. All but 23 offices and Legat, Mexico City, have replied to Bureau airtel dated 4/15/64.

ACTION:

There is attached for approval a cablegram to Legat, Mexico City, and a teletype to all offices that have not replied to Bureau airtel 4/15/64 instructing that the requested information be submitted to reach the Bureau by 4/27/64. Upon receipt of this information, an appropriate letter will be furnished to the Commission.

Enclosures
105-82555
BFR:pah

(9)

105-82555-109090
NOT RECORDED
MAY 6 1964

ORIGINAL FILED IN

FBI

Date: 4/24/64

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL SPECIAL DELIVERY
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (105-82555)
ATTN: ASST. TO THE DIRECTOR A. H. BELMONT

FROM: SAC, DALLAS (100-10461)

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD aka
IS-R-CUBA
OO: DL

Re Dallas teletype to Bureau, 4/24/64, pertaining to "Dallas Morning News" article by HUGH AYNESWORTH.

Transmitted herewith are the original and three copies of an affidavit of SA JAMES P. HOSTY, JR. Also enclosed herewith are two copies of the "Dallas Morning News" article referred to in the affidavit of SA HOSTY.

- 3 - BUREAU (ENCS.-6)
- 3 - DALLAS (1: 100-10461)
- 1 - MEMPHIS (1: 67-5593)
- 1 - MOBILE (1: 67-425)

JGS:eah
(6)

D. C. Wick

TEXAS

162-109090 -

NOT RECORDED

199 APR 30 1964

2 ENCLOSURES

ENCLOSURE ATTACHED

cc: [unclear]

6450 [unclear]

[unclear]

SECRET SECTION

57/10

PER. REC.

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____

Special Agent in Charge

ORIGINAL FILED IN

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

FBI Knew Oswald Capable of Act, Reports Indicate

By HUGH AYNESWORTH

The Dallas Morning News, 1964

A source close to the Warren Commission told The Dallas News Thursday that the commission has testimony from Dallas police that an FBI agent told them moments after the arrest and identification of Lee Harvey Oswald on Nov. 22, that "we knew he was capable of assassinating the president, but we didn't dream he would do it."

In a memorandum to superiors on Nov. 22, Lt. Jack Revill, head of the Dallas police criminal intelligence squad, reported that FBI special agent James (Joe) Hosty had acknowledged awareness of Oswald in the basement of the City Hall at 2:05 p.m. Nov. 22. His remark was made as five officers brought Oswald in from Oak Cliff, Revill reported.

LT. REVILL appeared before Warren Commission investigators here several weeks ago. Police Chief Jesse Curry testified before the commission in Washington Wednesday. Neither would comment on their appearance or their testimony.

Chief Curry was reported to have been questioned about the incident and was said to have given the commission a photostatic copy of Lt. Revill's 5-paragraph memo. He also was said to have given the commission the name of a second Dallas police officer who supported Revill's statement and filled in other part of the conversation between Revill and Hosty.

The second officer, V. J. (Jackie) Bryan, a member of

the criminal intelligence squad, also declined comment.

CHIEF CURRY had Lt. Revill's report in hand within hours of President Kennedy's death, even before all the facts and circumstances concerning Oswald were known.

Gordon Shanklin, special agent in charge of the Dallas FBI office, would make no comment.

The commission Thursday had not talked to agent Hosty, but The News' source said he anticipated that the agent would be called to testify.

CURRY WILL not show the report to reporters, nor will he comment on it or any other phase of the assassination.

"That's for the Warren Commission to talk about," the chief said.

Revill's memo is still in Chief Curry's possession.

In addition to mentioning that Hosty said the FBI knew Oswald was capable of such an act, the memo said Hosty told Revill other facts about the one-time Russia resident and admitted Marxist.

DALLAS POLICE officers watched several known extremists prior to the Kennedy visit and even sent representatives as far as 75 miles to interview others thought to be planning demonstrations.

Curry privately has told friends, "If we had known that a defector or a Communist was anywhere in this town, let alone on the parade route, we would have been sitting on his lap, you can bet on that." But he has refused public comment.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 "The Dallas Morning News" Dallas, Texas

Date: 4-24-64
Edition:
Author:
Editor: Jack B. Krueger
Title:
Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: Dallas

62-109090 -

ENCLOSURE ENCLOSURE

AFFIDAVIT

I, JAMES P. HOSTY, JR., being duly sworn, depose
as follows:

I am a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of
Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice, and have been
so employed since January 21, 1952.

My attention has been called to an article appearing
on the front page of the "Dallas Morning News," of April 24,
1964, captioned, "FBI KNEW OSWALD CAPABLE OF ACT, REPORTS
INDICATE," written by HUGH AYNESWORTH, which reads in part
as follows:

"A source close to the Warren Commission told
The Dallas News Thursday that the commission has
testimony from Dallas police that an FBI agent told
them moments after the arrest and identification of
Lee Harvey Oswald on Nov. 22, that 'we knew he was
capable of assassinating the president, but we didn't
dream he would do it.'

"In a memorandum to superiors on Nov. 22, Lt.
Jack Revill, head of the Dallas police criminal
intelligence squad, reported that FBI special agent
James (Joe) Hosty had acknowledged awareness of
Oswald in the basement of the City Hall at 2:05 p.m.
Nov. 22. His remark was made as five officers brought
Oswald in from Oak Cliff, Revill reported . . ."

The article refers to "Lt. Revill's five-paragraph
memo" concerning the above-mentioned incident and also stated

62-109090

that a second officer, V. J. (JACKIE) BRYAN, of the Dallas Police Department had "supported REVILL's statement and filled in other parts of the conversation between REVILL and HOSTY . . ."

The article continues that "in addition to mentioning that HOSTY said the FBI knew OSWALD was capable of such an act, the memo said HOSTY told REVILL other facts about the one-time Russia resident and admitted Marxist . . ."

On November 22, 1963, at approximately 3:00 PM, I arrived at the Dallas Police Department for the purpose of sitting in on an interview of LEE HARVEY OSWALD. When I arrived at the basement of the Dallas Police Department, I met Lieutenant JACK REVILL, whom I know to be the head of the Intelligence Unit of the Dallas Police Department. Lieutenant REVILL advised me that he "had a hot lead" on the assassination of President KENNEDY and that a man whose first name was LEE was the only employee of the Texas School Book Depository who had not been accounted for. I then told Lieutenant REVILL that LEE HARVEY OSWALD had already been arrested about one hour previously by the Dallas Police Department and was at that time in the office of Captain WILL FRITZ, Homicide Bureau, Dallas Police Department, being interrogated.

To my knowledge, this was the first time that Lieutenant REVILL knew of OSWALD's arrest.

I further advised Lieutenant REVILL that OSWALD had defected to Russia and had returned to this area in 1962, and that OSWALD was employed at the Texas School Book Depository. I also advised Lieutenant REVILL that OSWALD was at that time the main suspect in the assassination of President KENNEDY.

The above constitutes the entire contents of my conversation with Lieutenant REVILL which took place on the stairway from the basement to the third floor at the Dallas Police Department, during which time both Lieutenant REVILL and myself were running up the stairs and not facing each other. There were numerous people going up and down the stairs at the time of my conversation with Lieutenant REVILL and the noise level was very high, making it very difficult to hear anything. Although I know Detective V. J. (JACKIE) BRYAN, of the Dallas Police Department, by sight, I do not recall seeing him on this occasion or ever having a conversation with Lieutenant REVILL in BRYAN's presence, or having a conversation with Detective BRYAN.

I unequivocally deny ever having made a statement to Lieutenant REVILL or anyone else that the FBI knew OSWALD was capable of assassinating the President or that OSWALD possessed any potential for violence.

I specifically deny ever having made the statement as quoted in this article, "We knew he was capable of assassinating the President, but we didn't dream he would do it."

In fact, prior to the assassination of President JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY, I never had any information indicating potential violence on the part of LEE HARVEY OSWALD.

My conversation with Lieutenant REVILL on November 22, 1963, lasted not more than a minute and a half. Furthermore, I did not reach the Dallas Police Department until approximately 3:00 PM, November 22, which was after OSWALD had been brought to the Dallas Police Department, identified, and was in Captain WILL FRITZ's office. As stated above, my purpose in going to the Dallas Police Department was to sit in on an interview with LEE HARVEY OSWALD and I commenced this assignment at 3:15 PM, according to my wrist watch.

James P. Hosty, Jr.
JAMES P. HOSTY, JR.
Special Agent
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Sworn to and subscribed before me on this 7th day
of Apr, 1964.

Walter Brown
Notary Public
Dallas County, Texas

WHEN YOU LIE DOWN WITH PIGS

Norman Redlich is probably not anybody you'll want to meet, but I guess you'd better know who he is.

He resides at 29 Washington Square West, New York City. He is an assistant Professor of Law at NYU.

He has been a speaker for the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee, which has been cited as a Communist front.

THE WORKER, east coast Communist newspaper, in 1962 contained Norman Redlich's name. He was opposing the law which requires the Communist Party to register with the Government.

A New York Council sought to abolish the House Committee which is charged with investigating Un-American activities. Norman Redlich addressed their rally, applauded their objective.

Later, he was listed on their letterhead.

62-109090 -
NOT RECORDED
199 MAY 13 1964

You remember those students who traveled to Cuba after our State Department had ordered them not to. They defied our government to applaud Castro's. Norman Redlich supported the students.

Carl Bradea and Frank Wilkinson, who publicly consorted with the Communist conspiracy, were imprisoned. In February, 1962, a petition to get them out of prison was signed by Norman Redlich.

Harry Magdoff, when he appeared before a Congressional committee to take the fifth amendment when asked whether he was a Communist, was accompanied by his attorneys. You guessed it --

7.9 MAY 18 1964
Norman Redlich.

So this is Norman Redlich, consistent supporter of Communist front causes.

And this is the Norman Redlich who has been appointed as a personal assistant to the Counsel of the Warren Commission which is investigating the assassination of President Kennedy.

You probably won't like Mark Lane, either.

His first marriage was annulled after his bride charged "fraud". His second marriage ended in divorce.

In 1962 two young girls in Queens County, New York charged Mark Lane with unspeakable acts of perversion.

Mark Lane is on a speaking tour for the "National Guardian", a publication cited by a Congressional committee as "a virtual official propaganda arm of Soviet Russia."

Mark Lane is on the board of the National Lawyers' Guild, described by a Congressional committee as "the foremost legal bulwark of the Communist Party.

Mark Lane has spoken publicly in support of Cuba for the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee, which organization has also been cited as "a Communist front."

He has addressed other organizations in behalf of purposes which parallel the Moscow Party Line.

He has shared a speaking platform with the National Secretary of the Communist conspiracy in the United States. Communists reportedly contributed money to Lane's unsuccessful bid for a seat in Congress in 1962.

April 2, 1962, he was fined \$415 dollars for "wilfully ignoring numerous traffic tickets" in New York City.

This is the same Mark Lane who has been retained by the mother of Lee Harvey Oswald to represent Oswald before the Warren Commission.

No wonder Chief Justice Warren said that some of the findings of his Commission "might not be made public in your lifetime."

And one looks on and wonders.

4-29-64

Airtel 62-109090-

To: S.C, Dallas (100-10461)
From: Director, FBI (105-82555)

LEE HARVEY OSWALD, aka
IS - R - CUBA

ATTENTION CRIMINAL SECTION

Enclosed are two copies of a letter from the President's Commission dated April 28, 1964 enclosing transcripts of the testimony furnished by Dial Duwayne Ryder before Mr. Wesley J. Liebeler of the President's Commission. Also included is the report of Officer F. M. Turner - #209, Dallas Police Department.

Dallas is instructed to institute immediate investigation complying with requests in the Commission letter which is self-explanatory.

It is noted the transcript of Dial Duwayne Ryder has been classified by the Commission "TOP SECRET" and should be handled accordingly.

Endeavor to complete this request at an early date and furnish the results of your investigation to the Bureau in letterhead memoranda for dissemination to the President's Commission.

Enclosures (8)
1 - 62-109060
KJR:las
(5)

MAILED 5
APR 29 1964
COMM-FBI

Handwritten signatures and initials: Rm, JTS

NOTE:

By letter dated April 28, 1964, the President's Commission furnished a four page request which concerned the tag marked "Oswald" which was obtained from the Irving Sports Shop and had been prepared by Dial Duwayne Ryder. In connection with related investigation the Commission wanted certain facts clarified such as was our Agent actually present when the tag was found and if our Agent asked Ryder when and under what circumstances Ryder became aware of the tag's existence.

Director _____
Deputy Director _____
Assistant Director _____
Chief of Bureau _____
Administrative _____
Criminal _____
Ident. _____
Intell. _____
Lab. _____
Legal _____
Plan. & Insp. _____
Rec. Mgmt. _____
Tech. Serv. _____
Training _____
Off. Liaison _____

MAY 6 1964 353

SEE REST OF NOTE PAGE TWO

3485

Commission also desired to know how and when and where the story concerning the Irving Sports Shop first came to the attention of the press as they are making a determination concerning the veracity of Messrs. Hyder and Greener, the latter ~~is~~ is the owner of the Irving Sports Shop. Commission also desires to know who prepares the city directories of Dallas and Irving, Texas, and how the names listed are obtained for purposes of locating other individuals by the name of Oswald who may have resided in the Dallas and Fort Worth area in October, 1963. A request for the interview of Jessie J. Oswald to determine whether or not he had any work performed on any weapon which he may have owned. The Commission wishes to be advised whether or not the Bureau has received any indication that Lee Harvey Oswald owned any other rifle other than the weapon identified as "K-1".

PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION
ON THE
ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

200 Maryland Ave N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002
Telephone 543-1400

EARL WARREN,
Chairman
RICHARD F. RUSSELL
JIMIN SHIRKIAN COOPER
HALL BURGESS
GERALD R. FORD
JOHN J. McCLOY
ALLEN W. DULLES

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

APR 28 1964

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

On November 25, 1963, Mr. Dial D. Ryder made available for inspection by an agent of your Bureau a repair tag which indicated that certain work, associated by Ryder with the mounting on a rifle and the sighting of a telescopic sight, was performed by the Irving Sports Shop, 221 East Irving Boulevard, Irving, Texas, for a man by the name of Oswald. That fact and others concerning this matter are reported at pages 395-6 of the report of Special Agent Robert P. Gemberling, dated November 30, 1963, at Dallas, Texas.

We note that other reports of your investigation concerning the above repair tag are set forth at pages 65-6 and 654-6 of the report of Special Agent Gemberling dated December 23, 1963, and at page 96 of Agent Gemberling's report of March 10, 1964. We also note my letter to you dated February 21, 1964, your reply dated March 27, 1964, and the memorandum of your Dallas office dated April 2, 1964, in response to the oral inquiry of Mr. Wesley J. Liebeler of our staff.

It also appears that personnel of the Irving Sports Shop have been contacted by the United States Secret Service (Secret Service Control No. 424) and the Dallas Police Department. (See pages 252-4 of that Department's report of its investigation of the assassination of the President.) Mr. Liebeler has examined both Mr. Ryder and Mr. Greener, the owner of the Irving Sports Shop.

A review of the above documents indicates a need for further investigation as suggested below:

1. Agent Gemberling's report of November 30, 1964, (pages 395-6) does not indicate where the interview there reported was conducted or the circumstances under which the work tag was located. In his deposition, Ryder stated that your Agent first came to his

APR 28 1964

ENCLOSURE
sent to Mr. Tolson
1 cc of let
returned to
Tolson
6-11-64

62-109090
NOT RECORDED
199 MAY 1 1964

12 APR 30 1964

COVERT SECTION

ORIGINAL FILED IN 100-441101-100

home on Monday, November 25, 1963, and that they subsequently went to the shop to get the tag. (Tr., 8-10.)

Please advise us how and why your Agent contacted Ryder in the first instance. In that connection we note that Ryder testified that the Sports Shop was closed on Monday. (Tr., 9.)

We would like to know whether or not your Agent was actually present when the tag was found. If so, we would like to know the circumstances under which the tag was found. If not, we would like to know if your Agent asked Ryder when and under what circumstances he first became aware of the tag's existence.

In this connection, we note that Officer F. M. Turner of the Dallas Police Department reported that on Sunday evening, November 24, 1963, that Department had received a telephone call from one Ray John of Channel 8 news, presumably in Dallas, advising that the news office had received an anonymous phone call in which the caller had stated that he (she) thought Oswald had had the rifle sighted-in on November 21, 1963, at a gun shop at 211 or 212 Irving Boulevard. Officer Turner reports that he checked and found the Irving Sports Shop at 221 East Irving Boulevard. The Officer spoke to Mr. Greener (time not indicated) who said that he and Ryder had discussed the matter but that neither could remember having done any work for Lee Oswald or on the assassination weapon. Mr. Greener said he would check his files for names and re-contact the Dallas Police Department.

Mr. John should be interviewed in connection with the anonymous telephone call he received. Consideration should be given to the possibility that Ryder himself may have called Mr. John. Officer Turner might be able to supply additional information. The anonymous call may have come from Mrs. Whitworth (see below).

In that connection, Mr. Greener said that a reporter for the (Dallas) Times Herald had told him that he had spoken to Ryder before the FBI first came to the Sports Shop, i.e., before the story appeared in the newspapers on November 28-29, 1963. Ryder has denied to Greener that he talked to this reporter.

We think that a complete investigation into the question of how, when and where the story concerning the Irving Sports Shop first came to the attention of the press would be very helpful in making a determination of the veracity of Messrs. Ryder and Greener.

2. We would appreciate further investigation into the question of when the work tag was made out. This phase of the investigation should be conducted on the assumption that the tag was prepared prior to the assassination, although consideration should be given to the other possibility in connection with the investigation we have requested in paragraph 1 above.

We note that your reports indicate that Ryder said the work was done sometime during the period November 1-14, 1963. Mr. Ryder indicated the same to Mr. Liebeler.

We also note, however, that Mr. Greener told Officer Turner that it appeared that the rifle in question had probably been brought in between November 4-8, 1963. Greener also told Turner that he would check his cash register receipts to see if he could determine when the rifle was picked up and paid for. Ryder also noted that he had written the repair tag in pencil, but he usually used a pen. He said he remembered picking up some orders in Dallas one day in the past when he did use a pencil in his work. It might also be possible to fix within certain limits the date the tag was prepared by reference to its number, even though Ryder has indicated that they do not use the tags in any exact chronological order.

We would appreciate additional investigation into the above points and along whatever other lines you deem appropriate in order to help fix the date on which the tag was prepared.

3. The significance of Officer Turner's report that Greener had told him that the rifle had been brought in between November 4-8, 1963, is clear when considered in connection with your report on Mrs. Edith Whitworth who said she had, on November 6, 7, or 8, 1963, directed Lee Harvey Oswald to a gun shop one and one-half blocks from her used furniture store. (Page 65 of Gemberling's report of December 23, 1963.)

In connection with Mrs. Whitworth's statements, would you please advise (a) whether she does in fact have a grandchild which was born on or about October 20, 1963, and (b) whether or not in November, 1963, there were any gun shops, other than the Irving Sports Shop, within one and one-half blocks of 145 East Irving Boulevard, the former location of Mrs. Whitworth's Furniture Mart.

4. Please advise whether or not your Bureau has ever received any indication that Lee Harvey Oswald ever owned any rifle other than the weapon identified by your Bureau as "K-1". We would also appreciate your advice as to the nature and extent of any investigation that you may have made concerning that possibility.

5. In your letter to me dated March 27, 1964, you indicated that Mr. Jerry A. Oswald, as well as other persons having the last name of Oswald residing in Dallas and vicinity, were interviewed and all advised they had not taken a rifle to the Irving Sports Shop to have a telescopic sight mounted. You noted that your investigation on this particular matter was reported on pages 654-6 of Agent Gemberling's report dated December 23, 1963.

That report indicates that Jerry A. Oswald was the only Oswald located in Irving, Texas, as a result of examining the City Directory, telephone directory, files of the Retail Merchants Association and files of the Police Department of that city. Other Oswalds were identified by reference to the Dallas City Directory. It thus appears that the only Oswalds located in the above investigation are those who had sufficient contact with Dallas or Irving to have been uncovered by the procedures described above.


Would you please advise who prepares the City Directories of Dallas and Irving, Texas, and how the names of persons listed therein are obtained. We would also appreciate further investigation to locate all other persons by the name of Oswald who may have resided in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area in October or November, 1963.

We also note that while the above report indicates the existence of one Jessie J. Oswald, 2625 Stoval Street, Dallas, Texas, it does not indicate that Jessie J. Oswald was ever interviewed to determine whether or not he had had any work performed at the Irving Sports Shop on any weapon which he may have owned. Would you please interview Mr. Jessie J. Oswald and forward the results of that interview to us.

I enclose a transcript of Mr. Ryder's examination, as well as a copy of the report of the Dallas Police Department, to which I have referred.

Your continued cooperation in the work of this Commission is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,


J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel

Enclosures

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont

DATE: April 28, 1964

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: THE PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION

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

Reference is made to Rosen to Belmont memorandum dated 4-20-64, wherein information was set forth advising that Mr. Rankin had been told that the Bureau did not desire to participate in any re-enactment of the assassination that might take place in Dallas.

Today, Mr. Norman Redlich of the Commission called Malley and requested that he accompany Messrs. Gauthier of the Exhibits Section and Shaneyfelt of the FBI Laboratory for a meeting to be held at 2:30 p. m., today, for the purpose of discussing any further action that might be taken in Dallas to resolve any remaining problems with regard to the motorcade and the assassination site.

Mr. Redlich was advised that Mr. Shaneyfelt was not available in view of a court commitment, at which time, Redlich requested Gauthier and Malley to attend the conference at 2:30 p. m. The conference lasted from 2:30 p. m., until 5:10 p. m. and was attended by a large number of Commission staff attorneys as well as Mr. J. Lee Rankin.

Mr. Redlich advised those present that with the accumulation of information that has been received by the Commission as a result of testimony taken by the Commission, including the testimony of doctors, witnesses, Secret Service personnel who were at the site of the assassination and detailed testimony from Governor and Mrs. Connally, certain conclusions have been reached which necessitated establishing certain information which would make it possible to show that events had occurred or could not have occurred based on the testimony which had been received.

Mr. Rankin stated that approximations had been furnished by the FBI, by Secret Service and by members of the Commission staff based on their exhaustive review of all material available, and that he felt

- 2 - Mr. Callahan
- 2 - Mr. Conrad (Shaneyfelt)
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Gauthier

62-109090

NOT RECORDED
199 MAY 5 1964

12 MAY 4 1964

JRM:hwj

58 MAR 3 1964

ORIGINAL FILED IN

Memorandum to Mr. Belmont
RE: THE PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION

it was most important to resolve the matter as closely as possible realizing that no precise point could be stated as the exact point where shots one, two and three occurred. He stated that members of the Commission did not want any precise locations given but the Commission was extremely desirous of making sure by an on-the-site check that the information set forth in the Commission's report could be possible and not subject to questions concerning feasibility.

As a result of much discussion as to whether it would be necessary to utilize an automobile on the expressway where the shooting occurred and various other ramifications, Mr. Rankin indicated that he did feel that the matter had to be resolved and there would be a certain degree of publicity no matter how this matter was handled. He asked specifically if the FBI would participate in carrying out the Commission's request. He was advised he had been previously told that the Bureau did not desire to participate in any re-enactment of the assassination and would prefer not to be involved; however, if there was any technical assistance that could be furnished without a re-enactment, the Bureau would certainly consider such a request in order to aid in any way possible.

Secret Service representative, Inspector Tom Kelly, stated that Secret Service had been fully carrying out many requests from the Commission and would do whatever they were asked in this particular matter.

Mr. Rankin advised the Commission members did not want any of the Commission staff members to be present and felt this should be handled by the investigative agencies. It was pointed out to Mr. Rankin that based on the detailed discussion that had taken place, it was apparent that the Commission staff members were not in full agreement as to just what they desired to be handled in Dallas or how it should be accomplished, and that in view of this, it would certainly seem necessary to have staff members of the Commission, who were familiar with what they were trying to accomplish, available to decide if they had achieved their purpose. Mr. Rankin stated that this matter would receive further consideration, and in the event he desired the Bureau to render any technical assistance, an appropriate request would be made in writing for consideration by the Bureau.

Memorandum to Mr. Belmont
RE: THE PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION

It is noted that during the discussion today it was brought out that all living occupants of the car in which the President was riding, with the exception of the President's wife, have been interviewed and testimony taken by the Commission. This point obviously was of considerable contention between members of the Commission staff inasmuch as they were constantly making remarks indicating that they were without benefit of possible additional information and felt that this work in Dallas should not proceed until this additional information was obtained or at least an attempt made to interview Mrs. Kennedy.

In the event a request is received from the Commission requesting the Bureau to participate, full consideration will be given and recommendations made.

[Handwritten initials] *[Handwritten signature]* *[Handwritten signature]* ✓

4/28/64

Airtel 62-109090 -

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. Conrad
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Branigan
- 1 - Mr. Wannall
- 1 - Mr. Lenihan
- 1 - Mr. Anderson
- 1 - Mail Room

To: SACs Miami (Enclosures - 2)
New Orleans (Enclosures - 2)

From: Director, FBI (105-82555)

LEE HARVEY OSWALD
IS - R - CUBA
BUDED 5-8-64

Enclosed for recipients is one copy each of a letter dated 4-23-64, from J. Lee Rankin, General Counsel, President's Commission, to this Bureau, and its enclosed transcript of testimony of Carlos Bringuier taken 4-8-64 in New Orleans, both of which are self-explanatory.

New Orleans promptly review testimony of Bringuier and handle any additional investigation not previously conducted which may be warranted in addition to that specifically requested by Commission.

With regard to Commission's request, New Orleans is instructed to immediately initiate necessary investigation in accordance with items 1, 2, 4, and 5.

Miami is instructed to handle item 3 through MM 492-E or other sources capable of furnishing the desired data. It is noted "Bohemia International" magazine referred to in item 3 is possibly "Bohemia Libre," known to the Miami Office.

Hermínio Portell-Vila, referred to in item 3 as the writer of the article reporting speech of Fidel Castro, was previously interviewed 2-17-64 by WFO in connection with investigation of subject concerning an article by Portell-Vila in the 12-22-63 issue of "Bohemia Libre" captioned "President Kennedy's Strange Assassination." During this interview, Portell-Vila stated his

1 - WFO (Enclosures - 2)
1 - Dallas (Enclosures - 2)

- _____ Tolson
- _____ Belmont
- _____ Mohr
- _____ Casper
- _____ Callahan
- _____ Conrad
- _____ DeLoach
- _____ Evans
- _____ Gale
- _____ Rosen
- _____ Sullivan
- _____ Tavel
- _____ Trotter
- _____ Tele. Room
- _____ Holmes
- _____ Gandy

LLA:hc/mac
(18)

353

MAY 6 1964

MAILED 8
APR 28 1964
COMM-FBI

SEE NOTE PAGE THREE 3 12 11:21

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

ORIGINAL FILED IN 65-109090-3487

Airtel to Miami
RE: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
105-82555

article was based on public source data such as American and foreign newspapers and publications, and that many of the statements made therein were merely conjecture based on personal analysis. Portell-Vila also stated he had read in a November 29, 1963 publication that in a speech on November 27, 1963, Castro, whether through a slip of the tongue or as a result of the influence of liquor made a comment which suggested Oswald may have previously made a visit to Cuba. He conjectured this trip could have taken place when Oswald was in Mexico last year or in Russia; however, he had no additional information in this regard.

Miami also attempt to obtain copies of newspaper articles requested on page 2, last paragraph of enclosed letter.

Miami and New Orleans review files and report any pertinent information contained therein as well as any additional investigation warranted concerning Fernando Fernandez. It is noted page 51 of enclosed testimony indicates "Miami Herald" may have conducted interview of Fernandez.

With regard to paragraph 1, page 3 of relct, field comments are not desired as this will be handled by Bureau upon receipt of above investigation.

Handle immediately, sutel any additional leads warranted and surep results by 5-8-65.

Airtel to Miami
RE: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
105-82555

BUREAU NOTE:

Commission has furnished transcript of testimony of Carlos Brinquier, anti-Castro Cuban in New Orleans who was involved in picketing of Oswald in New Orleans 8-9-63, resulting in arrest of all concerned. Commission has requested additional investigation resulting from testimony of Brinquier, specifically to resolve certain points of testimony and obtain certain publications referred to. Commission has also requested additional investigation previously discussed with SAC Maynor in New Orleans by Mr. Liebeler of the Commission.

PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION
ON THE
ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

200 Maryland Ave. N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002
Telephone 543-1400

EARL WARREN,
Chairman
RICHARD B. RUSSELL
ARTHUR SHIRASIAN COOPER
HALE BURGESS
GERALD R. FORD
JOHN J. MCCLOY
ALLEN W. DULLES

Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Evans	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

✓
J. LEE R

APR 23

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C., 20530

Bringuier
Lieber

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I enclose two copies of the transcript of the testimony of Mr. Carlos Bringuier which was taken in New Orleans by Mr. Wesley J. Liebeler of our staff on April 8, 1964. Mr. Bringuier's testimony raises several questions which appear to require further investigation. Mr. Liebeler discussed some of those questions on April 9, 1964, with Mr. Maynor, Special Agent in Charge of your New Orleans office, and has also mentioned some of them to Mr. Malley.

We also have several other questions concerning the New Orleans phase of the investigation of the assassination. These questions, along with those raised by Mr. Bringuier's testimony, are set forth below:

1. Beginning at line 16 of page 40 of his transcript, Bringuier testified that Orestes Pena had told him that sometime during the summer of 1963 Pena had seen Lee Harvey Oswald in the Havana Bar in the company of a man who Pena thought was either Mexican or Cuban. That subject is covered on page 43 of the report of Special Agent Reynolds, dated December 6, 1963, at New Orleans.

62-104090
NOT RECORDED
100 MAY 1 1964

Oswald was also allegedly seen in the Havana Bar by Mr. Evaristo Rodriguez, 1239 Chartres Street, New Orleans, as is reflected on page 48 of the report of Special Agent Reynolds, dated December 30, 1963, at New Orleans.

Bringuier testified that the brother of the owner of the Havana Bar (Rodriguez, apparently) had told Bringuier that, apparently sometime prior to August 15, 1963, the FBI had shown an interest in locating the Mexican who was allegedly seen with Oswald. This alleged interest of the FBI does not appear to have been related to Oswald in any way.

Airtel Miami (enc-2)
1-WFO (enc-2)
1-Dallas (enc-2)
4-28-64 LLH:hc/mac

ORIGINAL FILE IN 100-457301-100

ENCLOSURE

Airtel Miami (enc-2)
1-WFO (enc-2)
1-Dallas (enc-2)
4-28-64 LLH:hc/mac

According to Bringuier, an FBI agent had been in the Havana Bar and told Rodriguez (and possibly Pena) that if he saw this Mexican he should call the FBI immediately because the Mexican "was a pro-Communist." Bringuier said that Rodriguez then saw the Mexican in the company of another Mexican for whom the FBI was also supposedly looking, and had come to him and asked him to call the FBI. Bringuier says that he did so sometime between August 15 and 30, 1963.

No mention of those allegations is made in any of the above reports, or in the report of the interview with Bringuier which is set forth at page 696 of Special Agent De Brueys' report dated December 2, 1963, at Dallas, Texas.

Would you please conduct further investigation to check Mr. Bringuier's testimony on the above points and, if possible, to identify the person or persons who were allegedly with Oswald in the Havana Bar.

In connection with that investigation, you might wish to obtain from Mr. Bringuier a copy of the letter to which he refers at the bottom of page 43 and the top of page 44 of his transcript.

2. Bringuier refers on page 9 of his transcript, and again at page 33 et seq., to an anti-Castro military training camp which had been established in the New Orleans area, apparently in the late summer of 1963. Bringuier suggests a connection between Oswald and pro-Castro individuals because Oswald attempted to infiltrate Bringuier's organization to assist in giving military training to anti-Castro Cubans at a time when such training was allegedly being given in the New Orleans area, but at a time when such alleged fact was not publicly known. Bringuier suggests that Oswald could only know of the camp, if he did, as a result of information supplied by pro-Castro agents who had apparently infiltrated the anti-Castro training camp.

We would appreciate your advice on whether or not a training camp such as that described by Bringuier was ever set up in the New Orleans area.

We would like to have copies of the newspaper articles to which Bringuier refers on page 33 of his transcript, together with translations of the same into English and any information which you may have in your files, or can readily obtain, concerning Mr. Fernandez, or the letter he is purported to have written to Mr. La Chuga and the alleged interception thereof.

We would also like to have your assurance that you have conducted a thorough investigation into the question of possible contacts between Lee Harvey Oswald and any representative of or known sympathizer with the Castro government of Cuba, together with an indication of the result of that investigation.

3. At pages 45-47, Bringuier testified about a magazine article which reported Fidel Castro as having committed a lapsus linguae in a speech given at the University of Havana on November 27, 1963. Castro was reported to have said, under the influence of cognac, "The first time Oswald was in Cuba"

We would appreciate it if you would determine through appropriate sources whether or not Castro made a speech at the University of Havana on November 27, 1963, and whether or not he made the remarks set forth above.

If you could provide us with a copy of Bohemia International magazine for February 2, 1964, together with a translation into English of the article indicated in Bringuier's testimony, it would be very much appreciated.

4. We note that reports of interviews of Dean Andrews, Esq., are set forth at pages 20-36 of Special Agent John J. Reynolds' report dated December 6, 1963, at New Orleans, and at pages 195-196, 198, 230, 234-235, and 305-306 of Special Agent Warren C. De Brueys' report of December 2, 1963, at Dallas. Mr. Andrews has also been interviewed by the Secret Service.

We note also that Mr. Andrews states that Lee Harvey Oswald came to his office on several occasions during the summer of 1963 and was accompanied by several different people, including a person of Mexican extraction. Andrews also states that he received a telephone call from one Clay Bertrand, asking that Andrews represent Oswald in his defense of the charges placed against him in Dallas. The most recent report (page 33 of Reynolds' report of December 6, 1963) indicates that Andrews had concluded that the above call was a figment of his imagination.

Mr. Andrews now states that he met Clay Bertrand in the street subsequent to the date of such report but was unable to detain him long enough to bring him to the FBI office. Mr. Liebeler has previously advised Mr. Maynor of the above.

Consideration should be given to the possibility that the Mexican alleged to have accompanied Oswald to Andrews' office may be the same man with whom Oswald was allegedly seen in the Havana Bar. If you are able to identify the Mexican or Mexicans seen by the owner of the Havana Bar or by his brother (and this should be possible if the statements of the latter as to their previous contact by the FBI in respect to the Mexicans are correct), Andrews should be asked whether he is able to identify either of such Mexicans as the person who was with Oswald when Oswald came into Andrews' office.


We realize that Andrews has indicated that he would not be able to identify the Mexican who was with Oswald, but in that connection we wish to call to your attention the reports of the Secret Service Special Agents Gerretts, Counts, and Rice, dated December 6, 1963 (Secret Service Control No. 467), in which Andrews does not seem to demonstrate this inability.

We will probably wish to examine Mr. Andrews after you have conducted the investigation requested in this letter.

5. Consideration should also be given to the possibility that the Mexican or Mexicans who may have been associated with Oswald, if the stories of Rodriguez and Pena are correct, may have been involved in the distribution of FPCC literature on August 16, 1963. We note that at least one of the individuals who was so engaged has not yet been identified.

Your continued cooperation in the work of this Commission is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,


J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel

Enclosures
2 Transcripts

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Conrad *[Signature]*

DATE: 4/27/64

FROM : W. D. Griffith *[Signature]*

Tolson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Belmont	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mohr	<input type="checkbox"/>
Casper	<input type="checkbox"/>
Callahan	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conrad	<input type="checkbox"/>
Felt	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gale	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rosen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sullivan	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tavel	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trotter	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tele. Room	<input type="checkbox"/>
Holmes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gandy	<input type="checkbox"/>

Receiving
Malley
Rosen
[Signature]

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY
REQUEST OF PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION

Today I received a call from Mr. Milton Eisenberg, staff member of The Commission, inquiring concerning availability of SA James C. Cadigan for pretestimony conference followed by testimony before the Commission. He stated he would like to discuss SA Cadigan's testimony at 1:30 p. m., today and have him testify at 11:00 a. m., Thursday, 4/30/64. I told him SA Cadigan is available and will appear at The Commission at both of the times indicated.

SA Cadigan's testimony will relate to the handwriting identifications made in this case by the FBI Laboratory. Included are handwritings appearing on order to purchase the murder weapon, postal money order to make payment for the rifle and the application for the Post Office box to which the rifle was shipped. The writing on these documents has been identified as that of Oswald.

Mr. Eisenberg also made reference to the numerous translations the Laboratory has performed for The Commission and stated that he is now in the process of preparing the foreign language exhibits for filing and retention and he wants to be absolutely certain that the translations are accurately matched up to the foreign language exhibits to which they relate. He asked that we match up the exhibits and the translations (approximately 75 of them) currently in the possession of The Commission. I told him I would have someone familiar with this translation material get in touch with him to work out the arrangements. I have referred this request to the Section Chief of the Cryptanalysis-Translation Section, Mr. C. F. Downing, and he has designated SA Bertil W. Rolander to handle this matter. SA Rolander went to The Commission today to commence fulfillment of this current request from Mr. Eisenberg.

RECOMMENDATION: None. For information.

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Malley

WDG:mb
(10)

62-109090-25

NEW YORK
Rolander
[Signature]

12 MAY 1 1964

72 MAY 5 1964

62-109090-3003

ORIGINAL FILED IN

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

- Tolson _____
- Belmont _____
- Mohr _____
- Casper _____
- Callahan _____
- Conrad _____
- DeLoach _____
- Evans _____
- Gale _____
- Rosen
- Sullivan
- Tavel _____
- Trotter _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holmes _____
- Gandy _____

TO : MR. SULLIVAN

DATE: 4/24/64

FROM : A. H. Belmont

cc Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Belmont

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
IS - R - Cuba

President

[Handwritten signature]

3537

At 12:10 p.m., SAC Shanklin called from Dallas and read the proposed affidavit which SA Hosty has prepared, relative to the story appearing in the Dallas newspapers. I told Shanklin to put the affidavit on the teletype so that we can look it over carefully, after which we will call the Dallas Office.

I also told Shanklin that the completed affidavit should be sent in to the Bureau sometime this afternoon.

Shanklin

AHE:CSH (4)

[Handwritten initials]

162-109090
MAY 1 1964
FBI - NEW YORK

MAY 1 1964

353
56 MAY 5 1964

SOVIET SECTION

PERS. REC. UNIT

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO: Mr. Belmont

DATE: April 24, 1964

FROM: A. Rosen

SUBJECT: JACK L. RUBY, AKA;
LEE HARVEY OSWALD, AKA - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS

On April 24, 1964, while Malley was talking to J. Lee Rankin of the President's Commission relative to the affidavits of Dallas police officers as commented in a news story of the April 24th issue of the Dallas Morning News, Mr. Rankin brought up another situation relating to Dallas.

Mr. Rankin referred to the testimony in the Ruby trial of Detectives D. R. Archer, T. D. McMillon, J. R. Leavelle, Captain Glen D. King and Sergeant Patrick Dean. He mentioned that, without remembering specific details, all or some of these police officers testified concerning malice on the part of Ruby at the time Ruby killed Lee Harvey Oswald. He commented that, when these officers had been previously interviewed by the FBI, as well as furnishing information to the Dallas Police officials, they had not furnished information concerning malice on the part of Ruby. Mr. Rankin stated that this situation appeared most unusual in that the Commission has now learned that Forrest Sorrells, head of Secret Service in Dallas, some time around December 17, 1963, or a few days thereafter, advised the Dallas Police Department that he was present at the police department on one occasion when Ruby was being interviewed and heard Ruby make the statement that he hoped he killed the s— of a b— or words to that effect.

According to Rankin, Sorrells, whom Rankin described as an extremely experienced Secret Service representative, furnished this information to the police department by telephone, and he could not understand this action on the part of Sorrells; that it certainly appeared to him that such information would have been handled on a personal contact basis. He also could not understand why Sorrells would have waited almost a month

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Branigan

JRM:hw

58 MAY 6 1964

162-109090

NOT RECORDED

100 MAY 5 1964

COPIES TO MR. TOLSON

ORIGINAL FILED IN 44-2706-153

Memorandum to Mr. Belmont
RE: JACK L. RUBY, AKA

before he revealed that he had overheard this information. He also noted that the police officers did not make known information in their possession indicating malice on the part of Ruby until the approximate time the Ruby trial was to commence.

Mr. Rankin advised that, because of all these circumstances, the Commission certainly questioned the activities of members of the DLPD, but that he did not have facts to support the feelings of members of the Commission staff.

The information furnished by Mr. Rankin relative to Forrest Sorrells going along with the information testified to by the police officers is new. The details concerning the testimony of the police officers was covered in full in a memorandum from A. Rosen to Mr. Belmont, dated April 10, 1964, same caption. (attached)

Foregoing submitted for information.

W. H. ...
Rankin
A

62-109090-

April 17, 1964

BY COURIER SERVICE

APR 17 3 46 PM '64
FBI

Honorable J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel
The President's Commission
200 Maryland Avenue, Northeast
Washington, D. C. 20002

Dear Mr. Rankin:

In response to your letter of April 3, 1964, as it pertains to Robert Ray McKeown, I am enclosing a letterhead memorandum entitled "Robert Ray McKeown" dated April 17, 1964, which sets forth McKeown's connection with a neutrality and registration act investigation conducted by this Bureau and identifies his contacts.

McKeown's neutrality and registration act investigation related primarily to the activities of Carlos Prío Socarras, who, with a number of others including McKeown, was involved in a conspiracy to ship arms, munitions, and other war materials to Fidel Castro to assist him in his efforts to overthrow the Batista regime in Cuba. There are no references to Jack Ruby appearing in this investigation.

Other than McKeown's connection with the above matter and material previously furnished to you in connection with the case entitled "Jack L. Ruby, Lee Harvey Oswald - Victim, Civil Rights" there is no other material in Bureau files concerning McKeown.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

- Tolson _____
- Belmont _____
- Mohr _____
- Casper _____
- Callahan _____
- Conrad _____
- DeLoach _____
- Evans _____
- Gale _____
- Rosen _____
- Sullivan _____
- Tavel _____
- Trotter _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holmes _____
- Gandy _____

Enclosure
JWH/ras
(7)
SEE NOTE ON PAGE TWO.

62-109090-17

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

25 APR 22 1964

52-1-9101-44

NOTE:

The Commission by letter 4/3/64 stated that to shed further light on connections between Jack Ruby and Robert Ray McKeown, the Commission would appreciate our detailing the material available in FBI files concerning McKeown including the names of any suspects or confederates in his armament sales to Cuba. McKeown was allegedly contacted by Ruby in early 1959 after Castro took over leadership in Cuba. Information concerning his contact and McKeown's gunrunning activities were fully set forth in a report of 2/18/64 which was furnished to the Commission. He was also a subject in our investigation involving Carlos Prio Socarras and others who were furnishing material and guns to Castro and aiding him in his efforts to overthrow Batista. McKeown does not appear in our files in connection with any other investigation and there are no references to Ruby whatever in the Socarras file. In reply to the Commission's request, we are furnishing them a letterhead memorandum setting forth McKeown's connection with the Socarras case and the identity of other subjects and also that there is no information or references in the Socarras file concerning Ruby.

The results of the investigation are voluminous, consisting of 57 sections of the main file. There are no references to Jack Ruby in this investigation. McKeown's name is indexed once in the Jack Ruby investigation. The pertinent information in this reference concerning Ruby's connection with McKeown is set forth in a report which has already been disseminated to the Commission. As there are no references to Ruby in this 57-section file, it does not appear that any purpose would be served by reviewing this voluminous material page by page for complete detailed information concerning McKeown's background. The Commission has been given the names of McKeown's confederates in this matter as requested and has previously received the information concerning possible contact between McKeown and Ruby.

April 17, 1964

ROBERT RAY McKEOWN

Information concerning reported contact between Jack L. Ruby and Robert Ray McKeown was furnished the President's Commission on March 2, 1964, by report of Special Agent Manning C. Clements at Dallas, Texas, dated February 18, 1964, entitled "Jack L. Ruby, Lee Harvey Oswald - Victim." FBI files reveal no other contact or association of Ruby and McKeown.

FBI files reveal that McKeown was one of the subjects in an extensive investigation conducted by this Bureau since 1952 concerning the activities of Carlos Prio Socarras. This investigation involved neutrality matters and possible violation of the Registration Act. Prio, a former President of Cuba and supporter of Castro, was engaged with others, including McKeown, in attempting to assist Castro in his revolutionary action against the Batista regime in Cuba. McKeown is reported to know Prio and Castro personally.

A summary of McKeown's admitted participation in efforts to procure guns, ammunition and other war material for Castro's use prior to Castro's overthrow of the Batista regime is set forth in the above-mentioned report of Special Agent Clements and in an interview with McKeown which was conducted on January 24, 1964, and also included in this report.

Inasmuch as the investigation by the FBI did not develop violations within the jurisdiction of this Bureau by individuals involved in the smuggling activities on behalf of Castro, the information developed in our investigation was furnished to the Bureau of Internal Revenue. We subsequently received information that Agents of the

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

JWH/ras

(3)

44-24016

From memo G. H. Scatterday to Mr. Rosen dated 4/14/64 entitled "Robert Ray McKeown."

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

62-109090

ENCLOSURE

ROBERT RAY McKEOWN

Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Unit, Bureau of Internal Revenue, continued the investigation in this matter and charged various individuals, including McKeown, with conspiracy to smuggle guns and related equipment to Cuba. The defendants in this action were as follows:

Dr. Carlos Prio Socarras, also known as Carlos Prio, age unknown, male, resident of Miami, Florida, citizen of Cuba.

Jorge Enrique Sotus Romero, also known as Jorge Soto, Commander Jorge, S. Romero, age 24, male, resident of Miami, Florida, citizen of Cuba.

Orlando Garcia Vasquez, also known as Orlando Vasquez, F. Valdez, Ramos, age unknown, male, resident of Miami, Florida, citizen of Cuba.

Angel Danos, age unknown, male, resident of Miami, Florida, citizen of the United States.

Robert R. McKeown, also known as Dick McKeown, Max, J. T. Brown, H. J. McAllister, age 47, male, resident of Galena Park, Texas, citizen of the United States.

Mario Silverio Villania, also known as Frank Guzman, Frank George, John Jordan, R. Castillo, age 34, male, resident of Miami, Florida, citizen of the United States by naturalization.

Manuel Arques, also known as Manny, age 23, male resident of Miami, Florida, citizen of the United States.

ROBERT RAY McKEOWN

Evelyn Eleanor Archer, also known as Mrs. Manuel Arques, Ruby, age 36, female, resident of Keyport, New Jersey, citizen of the United States.

Pedro Luis Chaviano Reyes, also known as Luis Chaviano, F. Castillo, Gilbert Pawtoja, age 44, male, resident of Miami, Florida, citizen of Cuba.

Abelardo Pajol Barrera, also known as Joe Sanco, Jose Saucó, Jose Alonzo, age 42, male, resident of Miami, Florida, citizen of Cuba.

Francisco Gonzales Obregón, also known as T. Gonzales, F. Gonzales, age 33, male, resident of Cerro, Cuba, citizen of Cuba.

Mrs. Ethel Jane McKeown, age unknown, female, resident of Galena Park, Texas, citizen of the United States.

Our investigation in this matter did not reveal any contact by Ruby with the individuals listed above.

One Jane Margaret Eritt in 1954 had a close association with Prio on a very intimate basis. She was a National Airlines hostess residing in Florida and reportedly is the daughter by a previous marriage of McKeown's wife.

4/17/64

INDICOR

62-109090-

URGENT

751

TO SAC DALLAS (105-10461)
FROM DIRECTOR FBI (105-32535)

LEE HAROLD OSWALD, AKA., IS DASH & DASH CUBA, ATTENTION:

CRITICAL MATTER:

APRIL SIXTEEN LAST

PRECEDING COMMISSION TELEPHONICALLY REQUESTED BUREAU TO MAKE

ARRANGEMENTS TO PHOTOGRAPH RECORDS IN POSSESSION OF MRS. BERTHA
CHEEK, THREE ONE FOUR EIGHT AVENUE, DALLAS. ACCORDING TO
COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE MADE WITH MRS. CHEEK FOR PHOTOGRAPHING
RECORDS WHICH HAD PREVIOUSLY EXAMINED BY BURT GRIFFIN OF THE
COMMISSION'S STAFF HERE IN DALLAS. CHEEK DECIDES TELEPHONIC
CONTACT FOR NEXT TO APPOINTMENT TO PHOTOGRAPH RECORDS.

RECORDS REQUESTED BY COMMISSION RELATE TO PROPERTY OWNED BY CHEEK
IN NINETEEN SIXTY-ONE LOCATED AT FIVE TWO ONE TWO CANTON, DALLAS
FOR YEARS BEGINNING JULY-EIGHT THROUGH NINETEEN SIXTY-ONE. COMMISSION
SIGHT ALSO ... RECORDS OF ALL ... CHEEK'S MARITAL RECORDS
FOR ALL ... RECORDS, WHICH COMMISSION OF TWO OR THREE ...
FOUR ... SIXTY-...

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

VIA RADIOGRAM

APR 17 1964

NOTE: If regular/radio contact missed, send by teletype at

66 APR 27 1964 ... Commission, Assassination of the President "GHS:mpc

(NOTE CONTINUED PAGE TWO)

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

ORIGINAL FILED IN 105-22500-3335

Radiogram to Dallas
RE: LEE HARVEY OSWALD

NOTE CONTAINED:

Durt Griffin of the Commission telephonically contacted G. H. Scatterday at 1:40 PM, 4-16-64, re this request which will be confirmed in writing by the Commission.

Cheek, a wealthy woman who had prior interests in nightclubs, knew Jack Ruby in view of their mutual interest in the nightclub business. About one week prior to the assassination she was in Ruby's nightclub in Dallas, where Ruby endeavored to interest her in investing in his club. In addition, Cheek's sister, Earlene Roberts, was landlady at Lee Harvey Oswald's Beckley Street residence, at the time of the assassination. Although Roberts was landlady she did not take an active part in the matter and when interviewed denied knowing Lee Harvey Oswald or Jack Ruby. This matter has been thoroughly investigated and no connection established between Oswald and Ruby.

The Bureau interviewed an employee of Cheek, who advised that Cheek also owned a property at 5212 Gaston, Dallas, where two Cubans were reported to have been residing in 1958-1959 (when Oswald was in the U. S. Marine Corps). Efforts to identify these Cubans have been unsuccessful to date. The above facts have been furnished to the President's Commission. We have previously reviewed Cheek's rental records and had knowledge the Commission staff while in Dallas examined Cheek's records. When the negatives are received and developed appropriate copies will be promptly disseminated to the Commission.

NR.	171711
ENC.	1/1
CK.	WIS
APPROVED BY	CK
TYPED BY	

Memorandum

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

TO : Mr. Rosen

DATE: 4/16/64

FROM : J. R. Malley

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION
ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT

Rosen

At 1:40 p. m. today, SA G. H. Scatterday took a telephone call from Mr. Burt Griffin of the President's Commission. Mr. Griffin requested that the Bureau make arrangements for the Dallas Office to photograph certain records in the possession of Mrs. Bertha Cheek, 3914 Swiss Avenue, Dallas, Texas. Mr. Griffin stated that he had made arrangements with Mrs. Cheek for the photographing of these records which he indicated he has previously examined. Mr. Griffin stated Mrs. Cheek had requested that she be telephonically contacted and arrangements made for a specific time for the photographing of her records.

The records Mr. Griffin desires photographed concern the rental records of Mrs. Cheek covering the years 1958, 1959, 1960 and 1961, for property formerly owned by her and which she sold in 1961, located at 5212 Gaston, Dallas, Texas. Mr. Griffin also desires photographs of all of Mrs. Cheek's rental records for all of her property, which consists of two or three apartment houses, for the year 1963.

Mr. Griffin stated he would confirm this request by letter.

ACTION:

It is requested that Dallas be instructed to comply with Griffin's request.

1 - Mr. Sullivan

GHS:mpd (7)

*DL 4-17-64
RDR/1964*

162-109090
NOT RECORDED
199 APR 23 1964

6 APR 23 1964

[Handwritten signature]

ORIGINAL FILED IN

- Mohr
- Casper
- Callahan
- Conrad
- DeLoach
- Evans
- Gale
- Rosen
- Sullivan
- Tavel
- Trotter
- Tele. Room
- Holmes
- Gandy

DECODED COPY

AIRGRAM CABLEGRAM RADIO TELETYPE

VERY URGENT 4-18-64
 TO DIRECTOR
 FROM LEGAT MEXICO CITY NO. 561

M. J. Ryan
R. F. [unclear]

BUFILE 105-82555 LEE HARVEY OSWALD, IS-R-CUBA. FOLLOWING IS DAILY SUMMARY.

RE ALLEGATIONS HOTEL DEL COMERCIO. HOTEL NIGHTWATCHMAN PEDRO RODRIGUEZ ADVISED HE CLEARLY RECALLS CALLING TAXI FOR OSWALD ON EARLY MORNING OF HIS DEPARTURE FROM HOTEL; THAT OSWALD USUALLY RETURNED TO HOTEL AROUND MIDNIGHT ALONE AND SOBER AND DID NOT LEAVE HOTEL BEFORE WATCHMAN WENT OFF DUTY BETWEEN 8 AND 9 AM.

RE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVES. FOREGOING ADVISED OSWALD'S NOTEBOOK CONTAINED MEXICO CITY ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE OF CUBAN AIRLINES AND INQUIRED IF CHECK COULD BE MADE TO DETERMINE IF OSWALD HAD BEEN AT THAT OFFICE. SOURCE [REDACTED] (CONCEAL), [REDACTED] ADVISED HE IS CERTAIN THAT OSWALD DID NOT VISIT CUBANA OFFICES AS HE WOULD HAVE BEEN AWARE OF AND ALERT TO SUCH A VISIT BY AMERICAN.

REBUAIRTEL APRIL 13 LAST AND ALLEGATIONS OF JOAQUIN RIVAS GAMEZ. BUAGENT WHO IS ACCREDITED TO AND HANDLES INVESTIGATIONS IN CENTRAL AMERICA JUST RETURNED FROM THAT AREA AND NORMALLY WILL NOT INITIATE ANOTHER ROAD TRIP UNTIL EARLY MAY. REQUEST BUREAU ADVISE IF FOREGOING ALLEGATION MAY BE HANDLED ON NEXT ROAD TRIP OR IF AGENT OF SPECIAL SQUAD SHOULD MAKE TRIP IMMEDIATELY FOR THAT PURPOSE.

CLARK D. ANDERSON

RECEIVED: 3:09 PM RDR

62-109090 -

James Bannigan
4/21/64

Legat
4-20-64
RDR

25 APR 23 1964

SA [unclear]
8/5/64
no [unclear]
in handling

[Handwritten initials]

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

105-82555-351

Memorandum

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

TO : Mr. Conrad *JWC*

DATE: 4/20/64

FROM : R. H. Jevons *RHJ*

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN F. KENNEDY; 11/22/63
DALLAS, TEXAS

715

JWC

As a matter of record, the President's Commission returned to the Laboratory on 4/20/64, evidence items numbered C254 and C261.

The delivery of the above items has been previously confirmed by appropriate letter to the Commission.

ACTION:

For information.

62-109060

- 1-Mr. Belmont
- 1-Mr. Rosen
- 1-Mr. Sullivan
- 1-Mr. Malley

NOTE: C254 - "Val-Pak" type suitcase
C261 - Sea bag
(both of these items were Oswald's property)

REN:ich
(10)

Q

JWC
62-109090
SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
INDEXED

25 APR 22 1964

SEVEN
EVEN

APR 27 1964

ORIGINAL FILED IN

4/20/64

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (62-109060)
ATTN: INSPECTOR JAMES R. MALLEY

FROM: SAC, DALLAS (100-10461) (P)

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

"The Dallas Morning News," of 4/19/64, carried an article captioned, "Police Will Testify For Warren Probe," which article states that Police Chief JESSE E. CURRY and Detective Captain WILL FRITZ and Lt. CARL DAY, of the Crime Scene Search Section, were to appear before the President's Commission, on Wednesday, 4/22/64.

The article also stated that Texas Governor JOHN CONNALLY and his wife would be heard by the Commission on Tuesday, 4/21/64, and also to appear on Tuesday, 4/21/64, were Doctor CHARLES GREGORY and Doctor ROBERT SHAW, of Parkland Hospital.

The above is for the Bureau's information.

3 - BUREAU
2 - DALLAS
RPG:eah
(5)

62-109090
NOT RECORDED
1964 APR 24 1964

66 APR 27 1964

ORIGINAL FILED IN 62-109090-2967

PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION
ON THE
ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

200 Maryland Ave. N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002
Telephone 343-1400

EARL WARREN,
Chairman
ARTHUR B. RUMBLE
WINN HIRSHMAN COOPER
HALL RUGG
GERALD R. FORD
JOHN J. MCCLOY
ALLEN W. DULLES

J. LEE RANKIN

APR 20 1964

77
Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Pennsylvania Ave. & 9th St. N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20535

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Please accept this letter as confirmation of a telephone conversation between Mr. Griffin of my staff and Agent Scatterday of the FBI in which your Bureau was requested to obtain photographic copies of certain records belonging to Bertha Cheek in Dallas, Texas.

Many thanks for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

J. Lee Rankin
J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel

*2nd to DK
4-17-64 RDR/100*

62-109090
NOT RECORDED
194 APR 24 1964

10 APR 21 1964

SEVEN

4-21-64 TWC

44333

Handwritten notes and signatures in the right margin, including a large signature and a vertical stamp.

Memorandum

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

TO : Mr. Conrad *JTC*

DATE: 4/21/64

FROM : W. D. Griffith *W.D.G.*

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY
REQUEST OF THE COMMISSION *O. President's Commission*

Attached is a letter received from the Commission requesting SA Lyndal L. Shaneyfelt for testimony as an expert witness on Thursday, 4/23/64 at 9:00 a.m. Mr. Melvin Eisenberg has been telephonically advised that SA Shaneyfelt is available and will appear at the Commission as requested.

The testimony of SA Shaneyfelt concerns the identification of one of the photographs of Oswald holding the rifle as having been taken with the camera recovered from the Payne residence which is reported to be the camera of Marina Oswald. The photograph of Oswald holding the rifle is one that was recovered in the search of Oswald's possessions. This picture is a similar pose to that photograph that was widely publicized, including the front cover of Life magazine. The photograph that appeared on Life magazine was not identified with the camera because the negative for this photograph was not recovered and is an essential basis for the examination.

RECOMMENDATION: None. For information.

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan (Mr. Lenihan)
- 1 - Mr. Rosen (Mr. Malley)

105-82555

Enclosure
LLS:emh (8)
[Signature]

ENCLOSURE

[Signature]
62-109090
NOT FILED
MAY 1964

62-109090-1035

ORIGINAL FILED IN 100-442701-1035

PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION
ON THE
ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

200 Maryland Ave. N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002
Telephone 543-1400

EARL WARREN,
Chairman
RICHARD B. RUSSELL
JOHN SHERMAN COOPER
HALE F. NEGUS
GERALD R. FORD
JOHN J. McCLOY
ALLEN W. DULLES

Mr. Mohr
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Evans
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

J. LEE RANKIN

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director, Federal Bureau
of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

If his schedule permits, we would appreciate having
Mr. Lyndal L. Shaneyfelt available to testify as an expert
witness on Thursday, April 23, 1964, at 9:00 a.m.

Sincerely,

J. Lee Rankin

J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel

ENCLOSURE

62-109090

98 APR 20 1964

EXP. PROC. 39

ORIGINAL FILED IN

*None
Conrad H 4/21/64*

APR 20 1964

[Handwritten signature]

1- Mr. Belmont
1-Mr. Rosen
1-Mr. Sullivan
1-Mr. Malley

April 21, 1964

By Courier Service

Honorable J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel
The President's Commission
200 Maryland Avenue, Northeast
Washington, D. C.

44-38861-2974

Dear Mr. Rankin:

In accordance with the telephonic request of Mr. Melvin Eisenberg on April 17, 1964, evidence items numbered D30, E1 and D77 were delivered to Mr. Eisenberg on April 20, 1964.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

162-109090 -
NOT RECORDED
199 APR 24 1964

REC'D - READING ROOM
APR 21 1 50 PM '64

ORIGINAL FILED IN

BY COURIER SVC.
COMM - FBI

ENCLOSURE

62-109060

NOTE: This request was made to SA Roy H. Jeyons on 4/17/64. The items are described as follows:

- D30 - Letter from Marina Oswald
- D77 - Microfilm reel of Klein's Sporting Goods company invoices
- E1 - Wallet and contents belonging to Oswald.

class _____
 amount _____
 by _____
 copy _____
 date _____
 division _____
 file _____
 index _____
 initials _____
 name _____
 number _____
 priority _____
 routing _____
 subject _____
 time _____
 type _____

REN: fch (2)

27, 1009

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

Number	Number of Frames	Checked Out By	Date	Checked In By	Date
D77	1 - Microfilm reel				
B1	14				
D30	1				

Received BY W. F. Keddick Date 4/20/64

~~ENCLOSURE~~ 62-109090 -
ENCLOSURE

new wrapping paper &
ground tape from
Mrs Ruth Paine -
Museum Landlocked -

Examined to see if
it came from the same
source as the tag in which
the right was carried.

Notes from in Museum
prosecution - No
Conn. Exhibit # / no
direction - has requested
we help them w/ next 2
months.

new in - means some
days you check out with
#1 SSIS notes of complaint
#2 Exhibits of series
in need for series
check for program