

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, NEW ORLEANS (89-69)

DATE: 11/25/63

FROM : ASAC J. T. SYLVESTER, JR.

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

Re: DAVID WILLIAM FERRIE

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[REDACTED] Intelligence Unit, at 8:32 p.m., 11/22/63 telephonically contacted ASAC J. T. SYLVESTER at home. He inquired as to whether or not the gun had been identified and whether this office had any information concerning the gun that was used to shoot the President. He stated the reason he was asking was because they had received no request from the Dallas police or anyone; that the only information he had was via the radio and T. V. concerning this gun. He advised there were a lot of outlets in New Orleans that could be checked as LEE HARVEY OSWALD had lived here. He was advised that I had no definite information concerning this and that all of our leads would be coming out of Dallas if they desired any check.

He referred to DAVID WILLIAM FERRIE, advising he was tied in with a Cuban movement; was an ex-pilot of Eastern Airlines; had flown planes into Central America and was currently employed by G. WRAY GILL, an attorney. He stated he understood but he had to back it up that OSWALD was possibly friendly with FERRIE in view of his Cuban activities. I advised [REDACTED] that we were interested in any information he might have which would indicate that OSWALD was friendly with FERRIE.

BILL REED of WVL T. V. on 11/24/63 at 12:25 p.m. stated they were running a check on DAVID FERRIE of 3303 Louisiana Ave. Pkwy., formerly connected with the Civil Air Patrol and Eastern Airlines, who allegedly a few years ago was a friend of LEE HARVEY OSWALD and that OSWALD might be connected with the Civil Air Patrol. He stated they were looking to interview FERRIE who is employed by G. WRAY GILL but were unsuccessful and FERRIE had an unlisted telephone.

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At 8:28 a.m. on 11/25/63, a reporter from the States-Item, Mr. HUTSON, appeared at the New Orleans Office and advised the 2nd District had a PATRICK L. MERTENS, age 20, of 3303 Louisiana Avenue Parkway and a ROLAND BEAUBEAUF, age 18, of 2427 Alvar, -in custody in the 2nd District booked for vagrancy and marked "hold for Secret Service and FBI." I advised BILL MANNING we were in no position to comment on this but the FBI had at no time asked police to mark anybody "hold for the FBI" unless there was a warrant of arrest outstanding for an individual.

I stated this was something that was always done and then said we had no comment concerning these men.

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At 8:35 a.m., 11/25/63 I telephonically contacted the PD and talked to Patrolman [REDACTED] of the Intelligence Unit, New Orleans PD, and asked what information he had concerning MERTENS and BEAUBEAUF. He advised he had checked the records and they had no information concerning them.

At 8:38 a.m. I received a telephone call from SA REGIS L. KENNEDY at home and stated X/NA he had received a telephone call from an officer in the DA's Office, RAYMOND COMSTOCK who called and asked SA KENNEDY where DAVID WILLIAM FERRIE could be located as they were looking for him in connection with the slaying in Dallas. He did not say why they were looking for him.

At 8:45 a.m. BILL MANNING, States-Item, advised it was their understanding although they had no source for this that DAVID FERRIE flew to Dallas on the day the President was assassinated, 11/22/63.

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At 9:02 AM, 11/25/63, [REDACTED] of the Intelligence Unit, New Orleans PD, advised they had no information concerning the arrests made by District Attorney's office and that the police had not marked the records "hold for the FBI or Secret Service" concerning the arrest of MARTENS or BEAUF, that this was done by the District Attorney's office.

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At 9:05 AM, ASAC SYLVESTER contacted JOHN RICE, Special Agent in Charge of the Secret Service by telephone. He advised he had no information concerning these arrests and they were interested in interviewing FERRIE if located.

At 10:40 AM, I talked to Supervisor RICHARD GALLAGHER of Division 6 and referred him to correspondence contained in the DAVID WILLIAM FERRIE file forwarded from this office by airtel and a letter forwarded from the Bureau to New Orleans concerning FERRIE. I advised him of the arrest of MARTENS and pointed out I would check with Assistant Director DeLOACH concerning any comments we should make concerning this arrest and the police arrest to the newspaper upon query.

At 10:55 AM, HAROLD LEINBAUGH of Assistant Director DeLOACH's Division was furnished with information as furnished to SA GALLAGHER at which time it was agreed that this office should advise the newspapers the FBI does not ask anyone to "hold for the FBI unless a warrant is outstanding" and we have no warrant outstanding for either PATRICK MARTENS or BEAUF.

At 11:13 AM, reporter DONALD HUDSON of the New Orleans States Item newspaper, telephonically contacted this office and was furnished with this quote; at 11:16 AM GORDON EZELL of the Times Picayune newspaper was furnished with this quote. At 11:40 AM, CARROLL TROSCLAIR of the UPI telephonically contacted this office and was furnished with this same quote.

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At 9:03 a.m., Officer BROUSSARD of the 2nd District was contacted regarding the two individuals presently being held in the 2nd District and he advised that the two men had been arrested on vagrancy charges and when he was requested to furnish information concerning the charges against these two individuals he referred the FBI to the DA's Office.

At 9:10 a.m., RAYMOND COMSTOCK, Investigator for the DA's Office, advised that the DA's Office was presently investigating an individual concerning the Dallas situation and that the DA's Office investigators had gone to the home of this individual and the two men who were arrested on vagrancy charges were in the house at the time. COMSTOCK referred the FBI to FRANK KLEIN (ph), Chief Assistant to the DA, who had worked on this situation the entire night and had just gone home and would return shortly. COMSTOCK was told that the FBI had no warrant for these two men and any notation or any record should not show "hold for the FBI." He advised that he would have the "hold" removed.

JTS:111

At 9:24 a.m., GORDON GEZELL, Reporter, Times Picayune, telephonically advised the first edition of the States-Item is carrying a story that PATRICK MARTENS and a ROLAND BEAUBOUF had been arrested by the DA's Office by two of their investigators and were being held for the FBI and Secret Service. I advised him we had no comment concerning this; that the FBI did not request a hold on anyone unless there was a warrant outstanding for them and we had no warrant outstanding for these men to my knowledge. I referred him to the DA's Office and stated no other comment could be made concerning this.