

TO : Mr. Conrad *JML*  
FROM : R. H. Jevons  
SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF  
PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY,  
11/22/63, DALLAS, TEXAS

DATE: 3/27/64  
*Oswald's paraffin tests*  
*9*

In accordance with the verbal request of Mr. Melvin Eisenberg of The President's Commission and with prior approval, SAs Henry B. Heiberger and John F. Gallagher met with Mr. Eisenberg on 3/26/64, to discuss spectrographic examinations conducted on materials relating to the assassination of President Kennedy.

SA Heiberger discussed the spectrographic comparison examinations which he conducted in the Laboratory. SA Heiberger advised that the lead alloy of the bullet recovered from the attempted shooting of General Walker was different from the lead alloy of a large bullet fragment recovered from the car in which President Kennedy was shot. SA Gallagher advised Mr. Eisenberg the spectrographic examinations of the bullet fragments recovered from the wound in President Kennedy's head and from the vehicle in which President Kennedy was riding at the time of his assassination were composed of the same chemical elements.

As reported in my memorandum of March 17, 1964 (Jevons to Conrad, REE HARVEY OSWALD, IS - R), SA Gallagher discussed with Mr. Eisenberg the neutron activation analyses of the paraffin casts from Oswald. This technique you will recall revealed deposits on the casts characteristic of powder residues. However, it was not possible to distinguish the powder residues of the rifle cartridges from the powder residues of the revolver cartridges. It was in connection with this examination that Mr. Eisenberg then discussed with SA Gallagher a letter of Dr. Paul C. Hebersold, Director, Division of Isotopes Development, Atomic Energy Commission, to Assistant Attorney General Herbert J. Miller, which was dated December 11, 1963, and subsequently forwarded to The Commission. He read from this letter the following:

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

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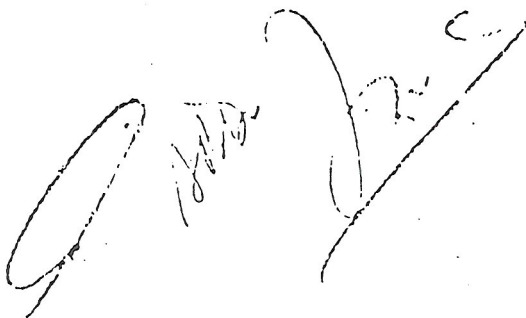
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Memorandum to Mr. Conrad  
Re: ASSASSINATION OF  
PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY,  
11/22/63, DALLAS, TEXAS  
62-109060

"We would hope soon to have more details on whether the method (neutron activation analyses) will give useful information to distinguish between smoke deposits from revolvers and those from rifles--by means of their distribution on the body of the person firing them and by the levels of antimony and barium (and perhaps other elements) deposited."

Mr. Eisenberg then asked if more detailed background was available at this date. It was pointed out by SA Gallagher that Dr. Aebersold's letter was written prior to the actual activation analyses examinations of Oswald's casts. No elements were found during these tests to distinguish between rifle and revolver deposits. Mr. Gallagher further pointed out that the data in the present instance were further complicated by Oswald's firing of the revolver subsequent to the firing of the rifle and by the fact that the casts have been chemically treated and washed prior to receipt for neutron activation analyses. Nothing has come to our attention and to our knowledge nothing has been done subsequent to these examinations which would assist further in the interpretation of the data obtained from the activation analyses of the paraffin casts from Oswald.

ACTION: None, for information.

A large, stylized handwritten signature, possibly "W. J. C.", is written across the middle of the page. To its right, there are smaller handwritten initials, possibly "W. J.", and a vertical line.

AIB/DSL