

RELEASED PER P.L. 102-526 (JFK ACT)
NARA KJ DATE 06/25/11

RG 200
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Box 34

Key Doc

FBI - Paraffin
Tests

July 2, 1964

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Allen W. Dulles
FROM: Norman Redlich

This is the
article Redlich
was speaking
in July F413

Enclosed herewith is a letter from the Federal Bureau of Investigation with reference to the neutron activation analyses on the paraffin casts. I believe that the conclusion reached in the proposed Readers Digest article is inaccurate for the following reasons:

1. At best the analysis shows that Oswald may have fired a pistol, although this is by no means certain. ✓
2. There is no basis for concluding that he also fired a rifle, since the barium and antimony deposits from the pistol cartridges are indistinguishable from those of the rifle cartridges.
3. The presence of barium and antimony in the cheek cast is of no significance because Oswald might have touched his face with his hands after firing the pistol. Moreover, I have been advised by the FBI Lab that there had been insufficient experience with this technique to enable conclusions as to what would be the normal amounts of these elements on a person's cheek whether or not he had fired a weapon.
4. We have been advised that barium and antimony are found on a variety of common substances other than cartridge primers.

In this
the article
Sept. 1964
by Rapert &
Robinson

There was
None

Enclosure

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MEMORANDUM

February 19, 1964

TO: Messrs. Adams, Ball, Specter and Belin

FROM: Norman Redlich

Box 434
F443

At the request of Mr. Rankin, Mr. Eisenberg and I are doing extensive research into the areas of ballistics, paraffin tests, fingerprinting, handwriting and gunshot wounds. I would suggest, therefore, that all questions concerning these areas be referred to us before being directed to any outside agency so that there is a uniformity in our approach to the problem.

cc: Willens
Rankin ✓