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Sam Stern
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J. Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

As you know, one of the most important matters being considered by this Commission is the extent to which various federal law enforcement agencies knew of the activities of Lee Harvey Oswald before the assassination of President Kennedy.

In the course of its inquiry in this regard, the Commission has obtained from each of the agencies concerned a great deal of information, and, in the case of the Central Intelligence Agency, the Department of State, the Office of Naval Intelligence, and the Immigration & Naturalization Service, the Commission has been furnished the entire contents of any files maintained by each of these agencies on Oswald prior to November 22, 1963.

The FBI has been most cooperative in furnishing its formal reports on Oswald, and in responding by letter or memorandum to certain questions that have arisen from time to time.

The Commission has a number of specific questions regarding these FBI materials; for convenience, the questions are set forth in an attachment to this letter. Although some of the questions are, in form, susceptible of a simple affirmative or negative response, the Commission would appreciate instead a reasoned response to each question, in reasonable detail, and with such substantiating materials as seem appropriate.

So that the data available to the Commission in this area with respect to the FBI is as comprehensive as that which has already been furnished to the Commission by the other federal agencies concerned, the Commission would appreciate being furnished two copies of all FBI files on Oswald, ^{through November 22, 1963} whether maintained at headquarters or at any field office. This should include all material in FBI files dealing with Oswald in any way which has not already been furnished to the Commission, including internal memoranda, teletypes, and other instructions or communications between FBI activities, internal surveillance reports ^{or} any surveillance conducted involving Oswald, internal mail cover reports on Oswald, and the like. To the extent feasible, the Commission would also appreciate being furnished two copies of any other ^{FBI} data on ^{relating to} Oswald not contained in his files, as, for example, extracts from the ^{logs} ~~books~~ of the daily activities of those agents who had any contact with Oswald if such entries are not a part of the Oswald files. *at*

I recognize that the information requested in this letter requires the most careful and secure treatment. The Commission would be pleased to discuss any suggestions you may have as to security precautions you would want to observe in making the data available to the Commission.

On behalf of the Commission I wish to thank you and your representatives for your continued assistance to the work of the Commission.

Sincerely,

Chairman

Enclosure

Ret -

him through that lead? Were any further efforts made between November 5 and November 22 to locate Oswald, and if not, why not?

26. Did SA Hosty interview Marina Oswald and Mrs. Paine ^{above} ~~interview~~ ^{on} November 1, 1963, and was he accompanied by another agent or agents? At what time of day did SA Hosty conduct ^{the} this interview on November 1, 1963, and did he receive any advice regarding the time

when Oswald was expected to visit Mrs. Paine's house that day, *or when he might be there on another day?*

27. What was the FBI evaluation of confidential information received on November 18, 1963 regarding Oswald's letter to the Soviet Embassy in Washington?

28. Did SA Hosty state to anyone on November 22, 1963 that Oswald had contacted two known subversive agents about 15 days before the assassination, but that the entire information was Top Secret? If so, to what did SA Hosty refer?

* * *

In view of all the information known to the FBI about Oswald before the assassination, furnish a comprehensive explanation of:

- a. What was the true degree of concern in which the FBI held Oswald?
- b. Why did the FBI apparently consider that Oswald's conduct did not merit advice to the Secret Service, particularly in the liaison activities immediately preceding the President's trip to Texas?
- c. Why was the FBI inquiry into Oswald's activities not more active in connection with its own direct responsibilities?