

#4

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PA

File - W.H. Testing

Attachment 1

C.A. 75-0226

Key
not
Dec

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Conrad
FROM : B. H. Jevons
SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

DATE: 11/27/63

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

Boyd
Brown
W.H.

Make a copy
P. 185 + 189
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In connection with our examination of evidence received in the above matter, we have considered all possible examinations and techniques which would be productive in identifying the perpetrator of the crime. It is noted that we have already by means of microscopic examinations, identified the gun used in the assassination and further through handwriting examinations identified Lee Harvey Oswald as the individual who ordered and paid for this gun. It is further noted that an eyewitness reportedly selected Oswald from a line-up as being most similar in appearance to the subject whom the eyewitness saw aiming and firing the rifle at the Presidential car although the eyewitness was unable to make a positive identification.

Among the analytical techniques considered from the beginning has been a rather recently developed technique known as neutron activation analysis, which is an outgrowth of the atomic energy program and which makes it possible to analyze for the presence of much smaller quantities of materials than heretofore possible by the earlier existing techniques. One consideration of this technique in the present case was directed toward the possible detection of powder residues on the person and clothing of the suspect with the objective of showing that he actually fired the gun. In this respect, it is noted that the detection of such residues on the hands and on the person and clothing of Oswald would not necessarily establish the exact kind of weapon fired by him, the time at which he fired the weapon or the number of times the weapon was fired. Accordingly, in view of the nonspecific nature of such results and in view of the massive evidence already available indicating Oswald's guilt, it was not felt that this type of examination would contribute essentially to the investigation of Oswald.

See
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- 53 DEC 9 1963
- Enclosure
- 1 - Mr. Tolson
 - 1 - Mr. Belmont
 - 1 - Mr. Mohr
 - 1 - Mr. DeLoach
 - 1 - Mr. Rosen
 - 1 - Mr. Sullivan
 - 1 - Mr. Handley, RM. 8710

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- (2) The time the residues were deposited on the subject cannot be determined.
- (3) The number of times the weapon was fired cannot be established.
- (4) The residues can be easily removed from the skin of the subject as they are only adhering to the skin by mechanical adhesion. A normal washing may effectively remove these deposits.

It is to be noted in this particular case that the interpretation of the data will be complicated by many factors. The casts were made by the Dallas Police Department and not under supervision. They were reportedly treated with strong chemicals. The transfer and the loss of significant powder deposits prior to the time the paraffin casts were made represents a strong possibility as to the violent physical contact which was necessary to realize Oswald's apprehension.

Incredible! Implies that a residue of
 police in the theatre that gun powder
 residues from his face might have been
 brushed away — thereby accounting for
 the negative paraffin results on
 Oswald's cheek