

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. Conrad *JWS*

DATE: 3/30/64

FROM : R. H. Jevons

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

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Bishop	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

In my memorandum of 3/20/64, I advised that Mr. Eisenberg of the Commission's staff stated that he was making arrangements to turn the firearms evidence over to a Mr. Ronald Simmons, Weapon Systems Division, Defense Department, Aberdeen, Maryland, for re-examination.

Recently, during the course of a conversation on another matter, Eisenberg mentioned that Simmons was to determine the accuracy of the assassination weapon by a technique of firing the weapon a number of times from a stable rest and from the resulting target pattern determine the relative accuracy of the weapon when fired by different people of varying abilities. This appears to be primarily a statistical problem which the Weapon Systems Division should be in a position to do. There is no information in Bufiles identifiable with Ronald Simmons.

Also at this time, Mr. Eisenberg advised that Joseph D. Nicol, Superintendent, Criminal Identification and Investigation, Illinois Department of Public Safety, Springfield, Illinois (previously reported 3/23/64) was only to handle the firearms identification aspects. According to Bufiles, Joseph D. Nicol was appointed Superintendent by Governor Otto Kerner on 8/25/61. Bufiles also show that Nicol has been a faculty member at the Michigan State University since 1957 where he taught criminalistics in the School of Police Administration. Previously, he had established and directed the crime detection laboratories in Pittsburgh and Allegheny County, Pennsylvania and in Miami, Florida for the Dade County Sheriff's Office. From 1941 through 1951, it is reported that Nicol did microanalysis, instrumental analysis, firearms identification and comparative micrography for the Chicago Police Department Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory with two years' absence while serving in the U. S. Navy during World War II. A news item (3/23/63) reported that Nicol advised that most of the equipment, personnel and facilities of the present State Criminal Identification and Investigation Bureau in Springfield, Illinois, will be moved to a new building in Joliet, Illinois.

ACTION: For information.

62-109060

1-Mr. Belmont  
1-Mr. Rosen

1-Mr. Sullivan  
1-Mr. Malley

12 APR 1 1964

41-2182