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ON 12/9/94 *Joe*

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- TOTAL DENIAL

DL 100-10461

On February 18 and 19, 1964 ROBERT LEE OSWALD also known as ROBERT L. OSWALD was interviewed at his residence, 1009 Sierra Street, Denton, Texas by Special Agents BARDWELL D. ODUM and ARTHUR E. CARTER at which time he furnished the following signed statement:

"Denton, Texas
"February 18, 1964

"I, Robert L. Oswald, make the following voluntary statement to Bardwell D. Odum and Arthur E. Carter who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"I first became aware that there was a man named James Herbert Martin about November 26 or 27, 1963, at the Inn of The Six Flags, Arlington, Texas. Mike Howard, a Secret Service Agent, introduced Martin to me and Martin indicated that he was willing to take Marina Oswald and her two children into his home at Dallas, Texas, and consider them as a part of his family. Martin at that time was an assistant manager of the Inn of The Six Flags. I know Martin as Jim Martin and usually called him Jim.

"Either November 29 or 30, 1963, Marina Oswald moved into the Martin home at 11611 Farrar, Dallas, Texas. The understanding was that Marina was not to pay Jim Martin or Mrs. Martin anything for the board and room of Marina Oswald and her two children.

"Saturday night, December 7, 1963, I called Jim Martin on the telephone. During this conversation, he mentioned some business contracts that he wanted Marina to sign. I suggested that I might be able to talk to Marina about them.

"The next day Sunday, December 8, 1963, I went to Jim Martin's home. At this time I met John M. Thorne, an attorney. I thought he was representing Jim Martin at that time. Either Martin or Thorne produced a typed contract which purported to be a standard business agent's contract, between Marina Oswald and Jim Martin as her business agent, giving Martin 15% of all monies made by Marina from books, movies, articles, television appearances or stories, radio

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"broadcasts, personal appearances, etc. This did not include gifts to Marina and I recall Thorne striking out the word "gifts" where it appeared once. This was for a period of ten years. It was unsigned.

"Marina Oswald and I went to a bedroom away from the others and I told her generally what the contract was about. She told me, I believe, at this time, that they had previously mentioned that Martin's percentage would be 10%, and she wanted to know why the percentage was now 15%. By "they" she was referring to Jim Martin and Thorne. Marina also got out her Russian - English dictionary and said "lawyer" and pointed to a Russian word by which appeared the English translation "sneaky." I interpreted this to mean that she considered Thorne "sneaky."

"After this conversation, we returned to the part of the house where Jim Martin and Thorne were. I told Thorne that I would not advise Marina to sign the contract that night since I wanted to "sleep on it."

"The following Monday December 9, 1963, I consulted an attorney, Weldon Knight, Denton, Texas, about the contract. I did not have a copy of it. Mr. Knight advised me that I should judge my decision by what kind of people Martin and Thorne are, by the possibility of need for immediate action which might require the existence of a contract, and by whether I wanted to make myself a party of the contract.

"That same night I went to Jim Martin's home in Dallas. Present at this time were Jim Martin, Thorne, Marina Oswald and I. I was at this time acting as the personal adviser of Marina Oswald. At this time, Marina, on my advice, signed the contract, previously described in this statement, giving Jim Martin 15%, as previously described in this statement.

"Also at this same time Marina and I signed a contract by which I was to be her assistant business agent and manager, and receive 10% of all funds received by her from personal engagements, books, pictures, movie rights and 10% of all increase in the trust funds received by Marina Oswald as donations. Marina had

"previously mentioned to me on Sunday night that she wanted to give me a percentage of any earnings, and I agreed with the idea that I would be reimbursed for any expenses I was out, but I did not intend to actually make any money on the contract. This contract was signed on December 9, 1963 and is dated the same date. The contract between Marina and Jim Martin was signed December 9, 1963 but is dated December 6, 1963.

"In the period after December 9, 1963, Jim Martin and Thorne did not come up with any positive results in the way of contracts and earnings for Marina Oswald, and for this reason I was not entirely satisfied with the way Jim Martin, and his attorney Thorne were handling Marina's business.

"On Wednesday night, February 5, 1964, James Wakefield Burke, an author and Carl B. Schafer, business agent for Burke, were at my home in Denton, Texas. They had met with Jim Martin and Thorne on two occasions, I believe, negotiating towards Burke writing a book incorporating Marina Oswald's story. I had not met either of them before. Carl B. Schafer resides at 4448 Potomac Dallas, Texas. Mr. Burke can be contacted through Mr. Schafer and is staying in an apartment in Dallas.

"During the conversation with Burke and Schafer they were telling me how Jim Martin and Thorne were handling Marina Oswald, like she was a piece of furniture. Mr. Burke stated that in his last meeting with Jim Martin and Thorne at a hotel in Dallas, he became so disgusted with the way they were referring to her, to the effect that they had the wife of the killer of the President of the United States in the palm of their hand, that he walked out of the room.

"I was somewhat upset by this conversation, and I already had my doubts about Martin and Thorne. After they left, my wife, Vada, told me about a conversation that she had with Marina Oswald approximately Sunday December 29, 1963. Vada told me that Marina told her that Jim Martin was in love with Marina, but that Marina was not in love with Jim but liked him alright for a friend and manager.

"This information prompted me to place a call

"to Washington D.C. where Marina, Thorne, and Jim Martin had gone so that Marina could testify before the Presidential Commission. I placed the call about 10:30 p.m. on February 5, 1964. At about 12:30 a.m. (morning of February 6, 1964) Jim Martin called me, since I had not been able to reach him earlier. I told him I wanted to talk to Marina. Jim Martin said she was in her room "three floors down." I told Jim to have Marina call me at home at 6 p.m. (CST) February 6, 1964. I did not get the call at the appointed time. I finally got Jim Martin on the telephone again Friday February 7, 1964 at about 12:30 p.m. He was still in Washington, D. C. He said Marina was there. She got on the telephone. I told her we wanted her to come home. She said they were planning on a news conference and doing some sight-seeing and she would come home Saturday, February 8, 1964.

"Saturday night about 9 p.m. (February 8, 1964) I called the Jim Martin home in Dallas, Texas and talked to Marina Oswald telling her that we would come over to see her the next day. She said that this would be fine.

"Sunday, February 9, 1964, my wife, Vada, and I went to the Jim Martin home in Dallas, Texas. We arrived there about 10 a.m. and Marina let us into the Martin home. I indicated to my wife and Marina that I wanted to speak to Marina privately, and as soon as my wife left the room, Marina said "You want to talk to me about Jim!" I told her that I did not think it was right for there to be any personal relationship between her and Jim Martin, and that I wanted her to come home to Denton, Texas, with us. She immediately agreed to do that if that was what I thought she should do. I told her I thought it was what she should do. During the next few hours, Jim Martin talked to Marina, I talked to Jim Martin, Martin talked to Thorne on the telephone, Martin interposed reasons, mostly business, as to why Marina should remain at his home. In the end, Marina indicated she would do what I thought best, and left the Martin home in Dallas with my wife and me about 6:30 p.m. and came to Denton. During a conversation with Jim Martin that day I indicated to him that I wanted Marina Oswald to move out of the Martin

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DATE 12/1/81
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"home because there was something personal between Jim and Marina. Jim did not answer that but stated whatever Marina wanted to do would be O.K. with him.

"Monday afternoon, February 10, 1964, my wife called me at work and told me that Marina had told her that she (Marina) had had sexual relations with Jim Martin in Washington, D. C., Thursday night February 6, 1964. I did not understand that it was rape, but that Marina consented.

"Monday morning, February 10, 1964, I had consulted with Weldon Knight, a Denton attorney, and he had advised me to meet with Thorne and Jim Martin, and tell them that I wanted to terminate their connections with Marina Oswald.

"Monday afternoon, February 10, 1964, after I had received the call from my wife, I called Thorne and told him I wanted to meet with him and Jim Martin because of the personal involvement of Marina with Jim Martin. He seemed shocked and indicated it was the first he had heard of it, and suggested that he and I meet together without Jim Martin. That same night Thorne and his wife came to my home in Denton, Texas. John Thorne indicated that we should try to get Martin out. I told Thorne I knew that Jim Martin had slept with Marina in Washington, D. C.

"About 11:30 p.m. that same night, February 10, 1964, after he had returned to Grand Prairie, Texas, Thorne called me on the telephone and said perhaps the best thing to do was to buy off Jim Martin's contract. No figure was mentioned.

"On Tuesday, February 11, 1964, Marina Oswald met Mrs. Jim Martin at Mrs. Martin's home in Dallas while Marina was getting some of her clothes. Apparently, Mrs. Martin had heard something of a relationship between her husband and Marina Oswald and asked Marina some questions about details. All this I have learned from my wife, Vada, as I was not present. When I got home Tuesday night, February 11, 1964, Marina Oswald was talking on the telephone, and I understand she had both Jim Martin and his wife on the other end of the line (they have an

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"extension telephone in their residence). She proceeded to tell Mrs. Martin everything, with Jim also listening. I heard very little of this conversation, as it was almost over when I came in. Marina was crying after she hung up. Vada told me what the conversation was all about. About an hour later, Marina had stopped crying. She said she hoped I understood. I told her I did not hold her completely blameless, but that Martin was more at fault than she was.

"That same night Carl Schafer and his wife came by the house. I asked him about a lawyer. He mentioned that Attorney William A. McKenzie of Dallas was a good friend of his. We talked about my consulting McKenzie about the contract between Marina and Jim Martin.

"Wednesday, February 12, 1964, Kathy Ford, a friend of Marina's, and John Thorne came to my house about 1 p.m. Thorne brought Kathy because she speaks Russian and is a friend of Marina's, and could tell Marina completely about the proposal to get rid of Martin. Thorne told me that he had talked to Jim Martin and that Martin wanted \$5,000 to terminate his contract. Thorne stated that if this was what I and Marina wanted to do, he Thorne would pay Martin the \$5,000 and let Marina reimburse him at a later date. Marina left with Mr. Thorne and Kathy Ford to spend the night at Kathy's home in Dallas.

"Wednesday night I called Marina at Kathy Ford's house. When Kathy answered the telephone, she immediately asked me "what about this lawyer?", referring to John Thorne. (I had not met her before this day). She said Thorne had tried to get her (Kathy) to see that it was best for Marina for Thorne to handle her interests. I told her that I had an appointment to see another lawyer (McKenzie) and would like for Marina to go with me.

"Thursday night, February 13, 1964, I went to the office of William A. McKenzie, Fidelity Union Life Building, Room 631 Dallas, Texas, at about 8:30 p.m. I was accompanied by Carl Schafer, Marina Oswald, Kathy Ford and Deck Ford (her husband). I told the whole story

"Jim Martin moved into her room but had John Thorne keep Martin's clothes in Thorne's room, which was adjoining Marina's room after the Secret Service moved out.

"I have seen a picture of Marina Oswald and Jim Martin sitting on a sofa in Marina's hotel room in Washington, D. C. I understand that John Thorne made this picture.

"When Thorne was at my home on February 12, 1964, Marina Oswald said to Thorne something to the effect that if Thorne was such a good advisor, he was "there", and why didn't he tell her what was going on? Thorne protested that he didn't know what was going on between her and Martin in Washington. I noted, however, that when Marina said this, his face turned quite pale.

"In my opinion, I believe that Marina Oswald moved from my house to the residence of Kathy Ford because she does not want to be a burden to us in our small home, and because she feels at ease talking to someone (Kathy Ford) who also has Russian for her native language.

"I have read the foregoing statement consisting of this and fourteen other handwritten pages and I have placed my initials at the bottom of each page and by each correction. This statement is true and correct to the best of my belief and knowledge.

"/s/ "Robert L. Oswald @ 2:10 a.m. 2/19/64.

"Witnesses: "/s/"Bardwell D. Odum, Special Agent FBI
"Dallas, Texas, 2:10 a.m., 2-19-64

"/s/ "Arthur E. Carter, Special Agent, FBI
"Dallas, Texas"

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Howard P. Wilkens

File-Marina

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JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM
IDENTIFICATION FORM

AGENCY INFORMATION

AGENCY : WC
RECORD NUMBER : 179-40006-10111
RECORDS SERIES : 44: WILLENS, HOWARD
AGENCY FILE NUMBER :

#8

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

ORIGINATOR : FBI
FROM :
TO :
TITLE :
DATE : 02/18/1964
PAGES : 8
SUBJECTS : OSWALD, MARINA, RELATIONSHIP WITH JAMES MARTIN
MARTIN, JAMES, RELATIONSHIP WITH MARINA OSWALD
OSWALD, ROBERT

DOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT
CLASSIFICATION : UNCLASSIFIED
RESTRICTIONS : OPEN IN FULL
CURRENT STATUS : OPEN
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 12/09/1994
OPENING CRITERIA :
COMMENTS : ALSO DL 100-10461; P. 1-8; P. 5-12 (?) OF CD 470