

BC-JFK-HILLITES 12-7
WASHINGTON (JPI) -- SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FBI FILES ON JOHN F. KENNEDY'S ASSASSINATION RELEASED TODAY.

MARINA OSWALD WROTE THE SOVIET EMBASSY FEB. 17, 1973 -- BEFORE THE ASSASSINATION: "I BEG YOUR ASSISTANCE TO HELP ME TO RETURN TO THE HOMETOWN IN THE USSR WHERE I WILL AGAIN FEEL MYSELF A FULL FLEDGED CITIZEN. MY HUSBAND REMAINS HERE, SINCE HE IS AN AMERICAN BY NATIONALITY."

IN JULY 1973 SHE WROTE SHE WANTED TO GO BACK TO RUSSIA BECAUSE SHE WAS "HOMESICK." SHE SAID OSWALD HAD DECIDED TO GO BACK TO RUSSIA WITH HER AND SHE ASKED THE EMBASSY: "I EARNESTLY BEG YOU TO HELP HIM IN THIS."

OSWALD WROTE TO THE EMBASSY JULY 1, 1973, URGING HIS WIFE'S VISA BE EXPEDITED AND THAT HIS REQUEST BE CONSIDERED SEPARATELY SO AS NOT TO DELAY HER'S. TWO WEEKS BEFORE THE ASSASSINATION, OSWALD WROTE THE EMBASSY ASKING THAT HE BE FORMED AT ONCE WHEN THEIR VISAS ARRIVED.

THERE WAS CONFUSION AT FBI HEADQUARTERS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE SHOOTING, HOOVER WROTE A MEMO RELATING A TELEPHONE CALL WITH SECRET SERVICE CHIEF JAMES J. ROWLEY.

"I MENTIONED THAT ONE OF THE SECRET SERVICE AGENTS REPORTEDLY HAD BEEN KILLED, AND HE (ROWLEY) STATED HE DID NOT KNOW THIS. FROM THE FOURTH FLOOR OF A BUILDING THAT APPARENTLY THE SHOOTING CAME FROM THE THAT THESE WERE WINCHESTER SHELLS."

"I THEN MENTIONED THE KLAN ELEMENT. I ADVISED MR. ROWLEY THAT ONE WITNESS STATED HE SAW A NEGRO MAN LEAN OUT OF A WINDOW BUT LATER THIS WAS NOT CONFIRMED AND THEY DO NOT KNOW WHETHER HE WAS A WHITE OR A BLACK."

NO AGENT WAS KILLED, OSWALD WAS ON THE SIXTH FLOOR; THE RIFLE WAS ITALIAN AND NOT A WINCHESTER. THERE WAS NO "KLAN ELEMENT." NOR WAS A BLACK MAN INVOLVED.

IN A MEMO ON DEC. 12, 1963, HOOVER SAID: "I PERSONALLY BELIEVE OSWALD WAS THE ASSASSIN." BUT HE WAS CONCERNED AS TO WHETHER HE WAS THE ONLY MAN."

HOOVER SAID HE WANTED NO STATEMENT CONNECTING JACK RUBY AND OSWALD BECAUSE "WE HAVE NO PROOF THEY WERE EVER TOGETHER." BUT HE DID NOT WANT THE REPORT TO BE "100 PERCENT SURE ON THAT."

HOOVER ALSO CHALLENGED REPORTS THAT OSWALD COULD NOT HAVE PERFORMED THE ASSASSINATION ALONE, SAYING HE TOLD THE COMMISSION: "HE WAS A MARKSMAN AND IT WASN'T ANYTHING HE COULD NOT DO; THAT WE HAVE TESTED IT ON OUR RIFLE RANGE AND WERE ABLE TO GET SHOTS OFF EVEN FASTER THAN HE DID; THAT THERE IS NO QUESTION IN MY MIND ABOUT IT."

FIFTEEN MINUTES AFTER THE SHOOTING, A HOOVER MEMO RELATES HE

TELEPHONED THE SLAIN PRESIDENT'S BROTHER, ATTORNEY GENERAL ROBERT F. KENNEDY, TELLING HIM "THE SHOT WAS BELIEVED TO BE FATAL." THE ATTORNEY GENERAL HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN ADVISED OF THIS. AND TWO HOURS AFTER 5:15 P.M. EST -- FOUR HOURS AFTER THE SHOOTING AND TWO HOURS AFTER OSWALD WAS ARRESTED -- HOOPER DICTATED A MEMO TELLING WHAT HE KNEW AT THAT POINT. "I THOUGHT VERY PROBABLY WE HAD IN CUSTODY THE MAN WHO KILLED THE PRESIDENT IN DALLAS, BUT THIS HAD NOT DEFINITELY BEEN ESTABLISHED. IN LIFE HARVEY OSWALD SPENT SOME YEARS IN RUSSIA, ALTHOUGH HE WAS BORN IN AMERICA, THAT HE TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO RENOUNCE HIS AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP, AND THEN CAME BACK HERE." "HE SAID OSWALD WOULD BE IN THE CATEGORY OF A NUT AND THE EXTREMIST PRO-CASTRO CROWD."

WITHIN DAYS OF THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION, THE SECRET SERVICE MADE CLEAR IT UNDERSTOOD THAT THE FBI WAS IN CHARGE OF THE INVESTIGATION. FBI LIAISON AGENT O. H. BARTLETT WROTE HEADQUARTERS THAT HE HAD CONFERRED WITH SECRET SERVICE CHIEF JAMES J. ROWLEY WHO STATED THAT THERE IS NO QUESTION BUT THAT THE FBI IS COMPLETELY HANDLING THE OSWALD INVESTIGATION AND HIS SERVICE IS READY TO ASSIST IN ANY WAY. "ROWLEY WAS ALSO QUOTED AS SAYING THAT 'DURING THE HEAT OF BATTLE' IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION 'HIS SERVICE MAY HAVE COVERED SOME LEADS WHICH SHOULD HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO THE BUREAU' BUT 'THIS WAS NOT DONE IN ANY ATTEMPT TO TAKE AWAY THE BUREAU'S JURISDICTION.'"