Excerpts from Portrait of the Assassin by Gerald R. Ford and John R. Stiles, Simon and Schuster, New York, 1965, sent to EE on 7/21/66

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One of the mysteries never to be solved, unless Marina in years to come recalls something she has not yet related, is whether Lee had actually made up his mind to kill when he went out to Irving or whether the decision was still hanging fire, perhaps depending on whether Marina accepted what appeared to be his peace offers and agreed to come to Dallas to live with him. Wesley Frazier recalled that before the morning coffee break on Thursday, Lee came to him with his story about going to Irving to get "curtain rods." Thorough investigation by the Commission was persuasive that there was no intention on Oswald's part of seeking curtain rods but that he had devised this story to explain the package containing the rifle he carried into the Depository the next morning. He could have made up his mind to shoot at the President regardless of the outcome of his quarrel with Marina, or he could have left the rifle in the garage and simply told Frazier the next morning that he had discovered the curtain rods would not work in his room. That he was sensitive, however, to Marina's refusal to take an apartment with him there can be no question. The incident she related about her asking for a washing machine, and his agreeing, reminds one of the point de Mohrenschildt stressed to the effect that she was always demanding things he could not give. She admits she was home toying with him. Her anger had changed to "smiling inside." "I, of course, wanted to make up with him." Which was the real Marina Oswald-the one full of anger and indignation, or the one who wanted to make up? "And he said that he didn't want me to be angry with him because this upsets him." How much? Enough so that her rejection of his offer to come back would make the difference between the decision to kill or not to kill? In all likelihood history will never be able to judge.

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Lee's marriage to Marina failed to give him what he was seeking. Marriage is, after all, a "meaningful" human relationship, perhaps the most delicate of all, requiring patience and consideration. It would appear that neither Marina nor Lee was able to deal successfully with this relationship. Lee apparently make it impossible for Marina to find a solution. She appears to have dealt with him the best way she knew how to the very end, but he assassinationed a President just hours after his last quarrel with Marina. She said about that last night, "I was smiling inside. I of course wanted to make up with him"——words that took a grim turn a few hours later.