

September 11, 1978

Dear Media Representative:

Attached is an outline of investigative areas in the JFK case which I have drawn from the work of myself and other Warren Commission researchers. I think you will find it particularly useful in evaluating the Committee's work with respect to the issues which Warren Commission "critics" have raised throughout the years.

As for myself, I have done extensive research into President Kennedy's assassination with particular emphasis on Lee Harvey Oswald's trip to Mexico City and his alleged contacts with the Soviet and Cuban Embassies there. Although never having served as an official Committee consultant, I have submitted eleven memoranda to them on a variety of topics, and in August of last year briefed members of the staff on the Mexican aspects of the case. Presently I am a law student at the University of Va.

If you have any questions after today, please feel free to contact me at my Charlottesville residence, (804)295-6236.

Mark Allen

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I. Physical Evidence

A. Neutron Activation Analysis and Spectro

It is absolutely essential that neutron activation analysis, and where appropriate, spectrographic examination, be performed on all bullets, bullet fragments and the surfaces they reportedly struck which were determined to have been involved in the shooting of President Kennedy and Governor Connally. The purpose of these tests would be to determine which bullets, bullet fragments, and in the case of the surfaces struck, metallic residues, have common origins. At a minimum comparisons between the following items would be required:

- 1) Comparison between Commission Exhibit 399 and:
 - a) fragments from the wrist of Governor Connally (CE 842)
 - b) residues from the holes in Kennedy's coat and shirt
 - c) 3 metal fragments found on the floor of the limousine (CE 840)
 - d) scrapings from the limousine's windshield (CE 841)
 - e) Commission Exhibit 141, live round found in alleged murder weapon
- 2) Comparison between Commission Exhibit 567 and 569, bullet fragments found in the front seat of the limousine and:
 - a) Commission Exhibit 843, metal fragments removed from Kennedy's head during the autopsy
 - b) 3 metal fragments found on the floor of the limousine (CE 840)
 - c) scrapings from the limousine's windshield
 - d) residues from the holes in Kennedy's coat and shirt
- 3) Comparison between metal residues found on curbstone depicted in Shaneyfelt Exhibit 29 (which was purportedly struck by a bullet fragment) and:
 - a) all bullet or bullet fragments purportedly involved in the shooting

B. Rifle Cartridge Cases

Some researchers have contended that one of the three cartridge cases found near the sixth floor southeast corner window of the Texas School Book Depository could not have fired a projectile in the condition it reached the Warren Commission because of a prominent dent in the cartridge's lip. In addition one researcher has noted that the same cartridge case, CE 543, "lacks a characteristic impression on its side exhibited by all other car-

tridges (known) to have been seated in Oswald's rifle. (Thompson, Josiah, Six Seconds in Dallas, pgs. 194-5)

C. Disputed Identification of Tippit slug

An independent ballistics expert before the Warren Commission, Joseph Nicol, testified that one of the bullets recovered from the body of Officer J.D. Tippit could be ballistically matched to Oswald's revolver. However FBI expert Cortlandt Cunningham told the Commission no such conclusive match was possible. (Warren Report, pg. 559)
This conflict should be resolved, if possible.

D. Caliber of Walker Bullet

Questions have been raised about the caliber of the bullet which Oswald allegedly fired at retired General Edwin Walker on April 10, 1963. It should be independently determined whether this bullet either conclusively was or could have been fired from the Manlicher-Carcano, Commission Exhibit 139.

E. Palmprint on the Rifle

The circumstances surrounding the purported lifting of Oswald's palmprint from the alleged assassination rifle should be examined. Dallas police officer J.C. Day, who told the Commission he lifted the print, should be called to testify under oath and appropriate inquiry should be made to determine whether 1) a print was actually lifted and 2) if so, whether that print is the one appearing in Commission Exhibit 637.

II. Dealey Plaza - Eyewitnesses

A. Reports of Suspicious Individuals at Other Depository Windows

An evaluation should be made of the testimony of not only Howard Brennan, but of the witnesses who claimed to have seen suspicious individuals at other Texas School Book Depository windows as well: Arnold Rowland and his wife (2 H 169); Carolyn Walther (24 H 522); Richard Carr (CD 385.24)

B. Reports of Individuals Fleeing Assassination Site

Reports of individuals fleeing the site of the assassination should be investigated. James Worrell (2 H 196-201); Marvin Robinson (CD 5) corroborated by Roger Craig (19 H 524); J.C. Price (19 H 492).

C. Smoke Seen Near Knoll Area

Several witnesses reported seeing smoke near the area termed the "grassy knoll" which was ahead and to the right of President Kennedy as he was shot. S. M. Holland (6 H 244); Austin Miller (24 H 217); James Simmons (22 H 833) Clemon Johnson (22 H 836).

D. Testimony Concerning Secret Service Agents at Assassination Site Shortly After the Shooting

Three Dallas police officials testified to seeing Secret Service Agents at the site of the assassination within several minutes of the shooting. Two of the officers told the Commission that the men actually identified themselves as such: Sergeant D.V. Harkness, (6 H 312); Patrolman J.M. Smith, (7 H 535). Yet according to the Warren Report all Secret Service Agents remained with the motorcade, and none remained at the assassination site. (page 52) The possibility that individuals were impersonating Secret Service Agents at the scene of the murder has serious implications and deserves appropriate investigation. Robert I. Bouck, who was in charge of the Protective Research Section of the Secret Service should be called to testify concerning any inquiry that agency may have made into this matter.

III. Medical Evidence

A. Authentication of Autopsy Material

It is critical that all Kennedy autopsy material be authenticated. There is simply too much persuasive evidence which apparently conflicts what this material purports to show, especially relating to the location of President Kennedy's non-fatal back wound. Expert examination of this material will mean nothing unless appropriate efforts are made to ensure its authenticity. Chain of custody of the material will be expected to be established.

B. Missing Autopsy Material

Certain autopsy material is presently missing, such as the President's brain, certain microscopic tissue slides and purportedly photographs of the President's chest cavity. A more thorough listing of items missing was taken under oath in the 1975 inquiry of the US House Subcommittee on Government Operations. (GPO #68-952) The significance of this material in evaluating the Warren Commission conclusions will be expected to be considered.

C. Destroyed Autopsy Draft

JFK autopsy surgeon J.J. Humes destroyed by burning the first draft of the autopsy report. Appropriate inquiry should be made concerning the reason this draft was destroyed and its contents. (See 3 H 373)

D. Missing Autopsy Notes

Virtually all of the notes the autopsy surgeons took during the post-mortem examination are now missing. As there has been considerable dispute as to the autopsy report's accuracy, the status of these notes is an important issue.

E. Fragments in the Neck

The 1968 Clark Panel report stated that metallic fragments appeared in X-rays of President Kennedy's neck. As very little metal is missing from the bullet which purportedly caused this wound, the accuracy of the panel's observations is a key issue.

F. Interviews of Eyewitnesses

All individuals who either viewed President Kennedy's wounds, were at his autopsy, or assisted in his medical treatment should be located and interviewed. All of those who assisted in Governor Connally's immediate treatment should also be spoken with.

G. Influence of Military Superiors

The Committee should seriously examine the extent of influence which the military superiors of the autopsy surgeons had on the conduct of the autopsy itself and the writing of the report.

H. Possible Alternative Conclusions

The experts who examine the autopsy materials should not only decide whether they are consistent with the Warren Commission findings, but will be expected to determine whether any other alternative conclusions are possible.

I. Oswald Autopsy Material

Lee Harvey Oswald's autopsy photographs should be examined for any indications of physical abuse by his custodians.

IV. Oswald's Background

A. Trip to the Soviet Union

1. Source of Funds

To date it has not been successfully explained where Lee Harvey Oswald obtained the necessary funds to travel to the Soviet Union. While the Warren Report contends that Oswald saved the money from his Marine Corps salary, the Commission failed to establish the place where these alleged savings were kept. The possibility of financial assistance to Oswald needs to be seriously examined.

2. Russian Language Ability

While Oswald was thought to have suffered from a learning disability, he was apparently able to gain some command of the Russian language while in the Marine Corps. It should be determined whether Oswald was assisted in his foreign language efforts, and particularly if he received any schooling from the Corps itself.

3. Flight to Helsinki

Oswald's passport indicates that he departed London Airport on October 10, 1959 and a CIA source determined that he registered in a Helsinki

hotel the same day. Yet there was no commercial flight leaving London on October 10 which would have allowed him to do this. (CE 2677) The possibility that Oswald used a special, non-commercial flight will have to be examined.

4. Approval of the Oswalds' travel to the US

Oswald informed officials at the US embassy in Moscow in October, 1959 that he intended to provide the Soviets all of the military secrets he learned while serving in the Marine Corps. Yet not only was Oswald allowed to return to the US with his Soviet wife and child on a State Department loan, but he faced no criminal prosecution upon his arrival as well. It should be determined whether Oswald's case received preferential treatment by US government officials and if so the reason for such treatment.

B. Return to the US

1. CIA Claim Not to have Debriefed Oswald

CIA Deputy Director Richard Helms testified that Agency records showed that the CIA neither debriefed Oswald subsequent to his departure from Russia nor even contemplated any contact with him. (5 H 121) Helms sworn testimony denying any contemplated contact has been proven false by CIA item # 173a and many observers remain skeptical about the debriefing claim. Item #173 notes that Oswald had knowledge on a number of areas of interest to the CIA. The Committee will be expected to determine whether Oswald in fact was interviewed by the CIA or a representative and the significance of the CIA's inaction if he was not.

2. Oswald's Activities with the Fair Play for Cuba Committee

Many researchers have speculated that Oswald's New Orleans' activities in the summer of 1963 as the only known member of an unauthorized branch of the pro-Castro Fair Play for Cuba Committee were in some way related to intelligence gathering activity. Researchers have particularly noted that an address found on some of Oswald's FPCC literature was of a building primarily known for its anti-Castro activities. Oswald's FPCC activities will be expected to be evaluated with this possibility in mind.

3. Rumored Oswald-FBI Link

Rumors that Lee Harvey Oswald was an FBI informant greatly troubled the Warren Commission and even drove them into emergency executive session in January, 1964. The source for these rumors was never successfully pinned down and only since the release of the FBI Headquarters files was it also learned that a Dallas FBI agent had

told a friend of Lyndon Johnson aide Walter Jenkins that Oswald "definitely" was a Bureau informant. The Committee should not only examine the merits of the earlier rumors but should call on the aforementioned Dallas Special Agent Will Haydn Griffin to testify under oath.

4. Hosty Entry in Oswald Notebook

Oswald's address book contained the name, business address, phone and license plate number of Dallas FBI Agent James Hosty, who was assigned to the Oswald case. When the FBI first provided the Commission with a listing of the contents of this notebook, the Hosty entry was omitted. Marina Oswald testified that she obtained the license plate number at her husband's request when Hosty came to interview her in early November, 1963, but her story has been strongly challenged by researchers. Appropriate inquiry will be expected into the issue of whether there was any covert relationship between Oswald and Hosty.

5. Destroyed Oswald Note to Hosty

The Committee will be expected to use its investigative authority, which exceeded that of the Edwards Committee, to resolve the issues related to the destruction of Oswald's note to Agent Hosty, with particular emphasis on clearing up the disputed contents of that note.

C. Mexico City - September 27 - October 2, 1963

1. CIA Photographic Surveillance of the Cuban And Russian Embassies

Although Oswald allegedly visited the Cuban and Russian Embassies at least five times during his visit to Mexico City (3 to the Cuban and two to the Russian), CIA surveillance cameras at these embassies allegedly failed to obtain a photo of the accused assassin. The Committee will be expected to determine whether the CIA's claim not to have obtained pictures of Oswald is accurate, and if so the reason for the failure and its significance. (See CIA item #948-927T)

2. Oswald and the Unidentified Man in Warren Commission Exhibit 237

The CIA apparently thought that a still unidentified man depicted in Commission Exhibit 237 either was or could have been the man who contacted the Soviet Embassy on October 1, 1963 and identified himself as "Lee Oswald". The Committee will be expected to investigate the CIA's explanation for this error, if it was one. (#948-927T)

3. CIA Intercepted Oswald Conversations

As New York Times reporter Nicholas Horrock has confirmed (New York Times, 9/21/75), the CIA intercepted and tape recorded two conversations allegedly involving Oswald himself while he was in Mexico

City. One conversation was apparently a telephone call from the Cuban to the Russian Embassy and the other a contact with a guard outside the Soviet Embassy. While a CIA witness before the Committee has reportedly testified that the tapes were destroyed prior to the assassination, a November 23, 1963 FBI report referring to a CIA tape recording concerning Mexico which FBI agents in Dallas listened to shortly after the assassination casts serious doubts on the accuracy of this claim. An investigation of the status of the taped Oswald conversations and of the reference in the November 23 report is certainly required.

4. Report of Edited CIA Transcripts

According to a November 26, 1976 Washington Post story by Ron Kessler the CIA edited its transcripts of the intercepted Oswald conversations before showing them to the Warren Commission staff. As the nature and substance of Oswald's contacts with the Cubans and Soviets in Mexico City is of considerable importance to the JFK case, the Committee will be expected to determine through its investigation: 1) whether such transcripts were edited and 2) if so, what information was deleted and why.

V. Oswald Associates

A. Paines and DeMohrenschildts

An area of inquiry which is regarded to be essential in responding to legitimate questions concerning Oswald's possible ties to intelligence gathering organizations is the meaning of his association with numerous individuals in the Dallas and New Orleans areas. An analysis of Warren Commission key person name files indicates that an inordinate number of Oswald associates had held high security clearances or had members of their families that did. In the case of Ruth Paine, both her husband, Michael Paine, and her sister, Sylvia Hoke held at least Secret level security clearances in their employment. Michael Paine received his despite having refused to take the oath of allegiance upon induction into the Army in 1952. (CD 107, pg. 133) His father, George Lyman Paine, Jr., was a founder of the left wing Committee of Correspondence to which the CIA was funneling funds through the Hobby Foundation. (Congressional Quarterly, 2/24/67)

Any lengthy study of George DeMohrenschildt's Warren Commission files would have to at least seriously entertain the possibility that

he had at some point acted as an employee or agent for American Intelligence. Additionally, DeMohrenschildt's personal friendship with J. Walton Moore of Dallas (alleged to have directed the CIA office there) will need to be openly explored. The background of George's wife, Jeanne, and her brother Sergi Fomenko, aka Toman (who worked on the Manhattan Project) will also need to be set forth. Publicly available documents provide many more details as to possible intelligence activities on the part of the Paines and the DeMohrenschildts as well as the Russian emigre community in the Dallas area. When it is considered that much of the physical evidence later introduced as incriminating toward Oswald was possessed by or the subject of testimony by these individuals, the necessity of a full disclosure in this area becomes imperative.

VI. Photographic Evidence

A. Zapruder Film

The Zapruder film depicting the actual assassination of President Kennedy must be analyzed by the most sophisticated photoanalytical techniques available, with particular emphasis on gathering data on the question of the number of shots fired and their timing. Additionally, there should be a scientific study on the significance of President Kennedy's backward and leftward head snap upon impact with the fatal shot.

B. Hughes Film

The same sophisticated photoanalysis is also required on the home movie of Robert Hughes, which depicts the Texas School Book Depository only seconds before the shooting. Not only is analysis of this film important in checking for signs of movement at the sixth floor southeast corner, but also in evaluating the eyewitness testimony of other witnesses mentioned earlier (Walther, Rowland, Carr) who saw men at other windows on the sixth floor.

C. Moorman Photo

A polaroid photograph taken by Mary Moorman during the Kennedy shooting depicts the so called "grassy knoll" area where many bystanders thought at least one shot had been fired from. Analysis of this photo by some researchers has indicated a possible animate form behind the picket fence which borders the knoll. The Committee should determine the accuracy of this analysis and its significance.

D. Altgens Photo

Considerable controversy has surrounded a photograph taken by Associated Press photographer James Altgens at the time of the actual shooting

which depicts an individual resembling Lee Harvey Oswald standing at the doorway of the Texas School Book Depository. The Warren Commission conclusion that this individual was Oswald co-worker Billy Lovelady has been challenged by some researchers with particular emphasis on the shirts by Oswald and Lovelady were purported to have been wearing. Further examination of this issue is needed.

E. Oswald Photo with Rifle

Researchers have been challenging for years the authenticity of the photographs purportedly depicting Lee Harvey Oswald with a rifle, pistol and left wing magazines. The Committee will be expected to settle this issue through by conducting appropriate tests and examinations.

VII. Shooting of Officer J.D. Tippit

A. Select Committee Research

According to a September 3, 1978 Washington Star news article by Jeremiah O'Leary the Select Committee has decided not to pursue the murder of Officer J.D. Tippit which the Warren Commission concluded Oswald had sole responsibility for. If this is true, it will have to be regarded as a serious flaw and simply inadequate by the most minimal of investigative standards. Warren Commission proponents have continuously pointed to Oswald's alleged murder of Tippit as indicating "consciousness of guilt" in the Kennedy slaying. New leads to witnesses of the Tippit murder are part of the Select Committee's files. Less than discreet Select Committee investigators have confided to several researchers that they uncovered highly important leads in this area. Public disclosure of all information Committee investigators have developed in this important area is clearly called for.

B. Time of the Killing

Several witnesses place the time of the Tippit murder prior to when Oswald could have possibly made his way to the scene of the crime. The Committee must evaluate these time discrepancies.

C. Other Tippit Witnesses

Private researchers have talked with purported witnesses of the Tippit slaying who have related versions of the killing far different from the Warren Commission's. These witnesses should be questioned and their stories evaluated.

D. Police Car at Oswald Roominghouse

Oswald's landlady Earlene Roberts told the Commission that soon after Oswald left his roominghouse around 1:00 PM, a Dallas police car pulled up to the house, sounded its horn and slowly drove away. (6 H 443-4) The Committee should determine whether this reported

incident has any bearing on the Tippit slaying or the assassination of President Kennedy.

E. Revolver Cartridge and Slug Mismatch

Four bullets were recovered from the body of Officer Tippit, 3 manufactured by Western Winchester and one by Remington-Peters. Four cartridge shells identified as coming from Oswald's revolver were found at the scene of the shooting, but two were of Western manufacture and two were made by Remington-Peters. This mismatch led the Warren Commission to speculate that Oswald either fired additional shots or he carried a previously discharged cartridge. Yet combined with the Dallas Police's curious handling of the recovered slugs, this discrepancy assumes considerable importance and requires serious investigation. Chain of custody for the cartridges and the slugs need to be firmly established.

F. Dallas Police Radio Tapes

A study of the Dallas police radio tapes and transcripts is needed, particularly with view to the question of why Tippit was in the area where he was slain.

G. Harry Olsen

Circumstances surrounding the December 29, 1963 firing of Dallas police officer Harry Olsen need to be brought to light. Olsen told the Warren Commission he was guarding an estate on 8th Street in the Oak Cliff section of Dallas at the time of the murder of Tippit, with whom he was acquainted. Only minutes before his shooting Tippit notified the police dispatcher he was at nearby Lancaster and 8th Streets. Six minutes later Tippit did not answer the dispatcher's call. The possibility that Tippit was in contact with Olsen at this time needs examination, especially in light of Olsen's friendship with Jack Ruby. Olsen talked with Ruby in the early morning hours of November 23 and reportedly told him "they ought to cut this guy(Oswald) inch by inch into ribbons." (Warren Report, pg. 343) Olsen later married one of Ruby's strippers, Kay Coleman.

VIII. General Walker Incident

A. Credibility of Marina Oswald

The Warren Commission conclusion that Oswald fired a shot at General Edwin Walker in his Dallas home on April 10, 1963 is based largely on the testimony of Marina Oswald, whose credibility has come under serious challenge by Warren Commission scholars and was a subject of concern within the Commission itself. Commission Assistant Counsel Norman Redlich wrote in an internal staff memorandum that " Marina

Oswald has lied to the Secret Service, the FBI, and the Commission repeatedly on matters which are of vital concern to the people of this country and the world." It is of note that Marina Oswald told a story somewhat similar to the Walker incident which the Warren Commission could not completely accept. She testified that a few weeks after the Walker shooting Oswald indicated to her he was going to shoot former Vice President Richard Nixon. In fact Nixon was not in Dallas at the time nor had he planned any trips to that city. Marina's testimony as to forcefully detaining her much larger husband in their bathroom further weakened the credibility of her story. Certainly the reliability of Mrs. Oswald is a key concern to the Committee's investigators, and particularly so in the Walker area.

B. Altered Walker Photo

Additional pieces of evidence linking Oswald to the Walker attempt were photographs of Walker's house and its vicinity purportedly found among Oswald's possessions. Yet when one of these photographs was introduced into evidence before the Warren Commission, it contained a hole where the license plate of a car would have appeared. (Commission Exhibit 5) Furthermore, a photograph of evidence in the custody of the Dallas police appearing on page 113 of Jesse Curry's book The Assassination File appears to show this Walker photo completely intact. If either Dallas or federal law enforcement officials tampered with this photo, it is a matter of serious concern to the Committee.

C. Caliber of the Walker Bullet

See Section I, Part D.

D. Walker Eyewitness

Immediately after the Walker shooting a next door neighbor, Walter Kirk Coleman, aged 15, saw two men drive away from the vicinity. An evaluation of Coleman's story is required.

IX. Jack Ruby

A. Activities November 22-24

Most Warren Commission scholars have concluded that Jack Ruby lied to the Commission on at least two matters concerning his activities between the assassination and his shooting of Oswald: 1) his presence at Parkland Hospital about an hour after the assassination and 2) his presence at the Dallas police station in the early evening hours of the same day. Ruby's credibility should be evaluated with these reports in mind.

B. Ruby's Entrance into the Dallas Police Basement November 24

There is a considerable body of evidence suggesting that Ruby did not enter the Dallas Police Basement by the Main Street ramp as the Warren Commission suggested. (Warren Report, pg. 219-222) Eyewitnesses in the position to have viewed Ruby's entrance told federal investigators they did not see anyone come down this ramp during the pertinent period of time. This important question deserves further research by the Committee.

C. Alleged Links to Organized Crime and Purported Gunrunning Activity

Much of the research which has focused on Ruby during the last few years has centered on his purported links to organized crime and Cuban gunrunning activity. Various researchers have uncovered numerous indications that Ruby's ties to organized crime were extensive and that he may have been involved in gunrunning activity both to Castro and later to anti-Castro elements. A complete study and evaluation of Ruby's background is absolutely essential in determining whether Ruby acted on his own in killing Oswald.

D. Ruby Statements

Ruby's testimony to the Warren Commission contained numerous specific indications that he would tell the Commissioners more if he were removed from the custody of the Dallas police. (eg. 5 H 194) In addition, a recent independently produced program "The Assassination of President Kennedy: What We Know Now We Didn't Know Then" contained a videotape of Ruby telling reporters that the truth about him would likely never be known. While Ruby also stated on a number of occasions that he acted alone in the shooting of Oswald, his other remarks suggesting the contrary also deserve the Committee's serious attention.