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February 16, 1964

76
Honorable J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel
The President's Commission
100 Maryland Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Rankin:

Reference is made to your letter dated February 10, 1964, requesting this Bureau to undertake appropriate investigation in an effort to develop full circumstances surrounding the incident involving Marina Oswald and James Herbert Martin. As you are aware, results of our inquiries in this matter have been furnished to the Commission.

For your information, Special Agent in Charge J. Carlton Shanksin of our Dallas office has advised that the incident involving Marina Oswald and James Herbert Martin is known to Marina Oswald, Mr. and Mrs. James Herbert Martin, John L. Thorne, Mr. and Mrs. Deelam Ford, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Oswald, Mr. William L. McKenzie and Mr. McKenzie's law partner, Mr. Henry Moor.

Mr. Shanksin also advised that the rift between Marina Oswald, James Herbert Martin and John L. Thorne has been noted by the newspapers in Dallas and has been the subject of comment by the press. The Dallas "Times Herald" contained an article in its February 15, 1964, edition reporting Marina Oswald had switched legal advisers on in-law advice. The article also quoted Thorne as stating that he had spent hundreds of hours representing Marina Oswald, as had Mr. Martin, and she has a bona fide contract for payment of the money she wishes and I intend to enforce it. Thus action could be opening the door to the courthouse and that door swings both ways."

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PLH ITEM # 641

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Mr. Franklin stated that in his opinion, with as many people aware of the situation as there are, and the fact that the newspapers are very alert to anything regarding Marina, it is only a matter of time until the affair between Marina Oswald and James Herbert Martin becomes known and probably publicized.

The above is being furnished for the information of the Commission.

Sincerely yours,

John C. Stennis

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- 2 -

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