

9 February 1975

Mr. Richard Reeves  
c/o "Sunday"  
Channel 4  
WNBC-TV  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Reeves:

This morning during your interview of Bella Abzug you suggested that the Secret Service had knowledge of Lee Harvey Oswald before the assassination and was aware that Oswald had threatened the President's life. Neither statement is true. Neither the Warren Commission or any of its critics have ever made such a claim.

The actual fact is that the Secret Service had no foreknowledge of Oswald's existence. The Protective Research Section of the Secret Service, which maintains records of persons who have made threats to a President, informed the Agent responsible for advance preparations for the Dallas trip on 8 November 1963 that there was no listing for any individual in the Dallas-Fort Worth area who was deemed to be a potential danger to President Kennedy (see Warren Report, pages 29-30).

Perhaps you had in mind the FBI, which had a complete dossier on Oswald and whose Agent James Hosty had visited Oswald's wife early in November 1963 and who seemingly was planning to interview Oswald himself--not because he had made threats of any kind but because of his visits to certain foreign embassies in Mexico City. No one has ever testified to or reported any hostility toward President Kennedy on Oswald's part. On the contrary, there is considerable testimony that he approved and admired Kennedy.

What is arresting is what I call "the Miami Tape". I enclose herewith a copy of several paragraphs on page 89 of my 1967 book Accessories After the Fact (Bobbs-Merrill, now out of print but available at the main branch of the New York Public Library). I think you will find this information of special interest and importance.

For more than eleven years, the responsible critics of the Warren Report have been pursuing misinformation, whether deliberate or inadvertent, with the actual facts. I feel certain that your own remarks were inadvertent and understandably so, given the passage of time and the labyrinthine complexity of the evidence. I greatly admire your uncompromising and perceptive work as a journalist.

With all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

*Sylvia Meagher*

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Enclosure: Excerpt from Accessories

Excerpt

A truly startling piece of new information came to light early in 1967 when the Miami Police Department released a tape-recorded conversation between a police informer and an unidentified man who was an organizer for a reactionary segregationist political party. On November 9, 1963, this man said that a plan to kill the President was in the works. He said Kennedy would be shot with a high-powered rifle from an office building, and he said that the gun would be disassembled, taken into the building, assembled, and then used for murder." He said also, and this must sober any objective student of the Oswald case, "They will pick up somebody within hours afterwards...just to throw the public off."

The tape-recording of this November 9, 1963 conversation was given to the Secret Service immediately, and when the President visited Miami on November 18 "police intelligence took extraordinary step to guard the President's life. They insisted that he abandon the plan to take a motorcade from the airport to downtown. They put him on a helicopter instead." (Bill Barry, "Assassination Idea Taped Two Weeks Before JFK Was Killed," Miami News, February 2, 1967, page 1A, cols. 4-7 and page 6A, cols. 1-6) (Italics added)

With a veritable blueprint of the assassination in hand, the Secret Service proceeded to arrange for Presidential protection in Dallas without taking any apparent precautions directed to the plan described in the taped conversation. The tape undoubtedly was transmitted by the Miami Secret Service office to the Protective Research Section in Washington; but the Special Agents responsible for the advance planning of the Dallas trip and for the President's safety during the visit, in their testimony before the Warren Commission, never mentioned the tape in relation to the Presidential visits to either Miami or Dallas. The FBI, which had picked up and questioned the unidentified man five days after the assassination, also remained silent about the tape in testimony before the Commission; and if a written report was transmitted, it does not appear in the Exhibits.

To dismiss this extraordinary advance description and warning of the tragedy played out two weeks later in Dallas as mere coincidence requires nothing less than a complete suspension of critical judgment.