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PM-JFK 3RDLD-2TAKES-PICKUP5THGRAF A086 12-7

AGENT

BY MIKE FEINSILBER

UPI SENIOR EDITOR

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- LESS THAN FOUR HOURS AFTER JOHN KENNEDY WAS SHOT TO DEATH ON NOV. 22, 1963, AND TWO HOURS AFTER LEE HARVEY OSWALD'S ARREST, FBI DIRECTOR J. EDGAR HOOVER TOLD WASHINGTON OFFICIALS OSWALD "VERY PROBABLY" WAS THE ASSASSIN, ACCORDING TO FBI DOCUMENTS RELEASED TODAY.

HOOVER SAID HE WOULD PUT OSWALD "IN THE CATEGORY OF A NUT AND THE EXTREMIST PRO-CASTRO CROWD."

THE MEMO REFLECTING HOOVER'S THOUGHTS WAS CONTAINED IN A MASS OF RAW FBI REPORTS MADE PUBLIC TODAY BY THE AGENCY UNDER THE TERMS OF THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.

THE MATERIAL -- 40,001 PAGES IN ALL -- HELPED LEAD THE WARREN COMMISSION TO ITS CONCLUSION OSWALD "ALONE AND WITHOUT ADVICE OR ASSISTANCE" KILLED KENNEDY.

ANOTHER 40,000 PAGES ARE TO BE RELEASED SOON, PROBABLY IN JANUARY.

THE FBI DATA -- ENOUGH PAPER TO STACK TWICE FROM FLOOR TO CEILING IN UPI'S WASHINGTON BUREAU -- WAS BASED ON MORE THAN 25,000 FBI INTERVIEWS.

ONE DOCUMENT -- A MESSAGE WRITTEN LESS THAN ONE HOUR AFTER THE SHOOTING IN DALLAS AND LABELED "URGENT" FROM JAMES WALSH, OTHERWISE UNIDENTIFIED, ON A DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE COMMUNICATIONS SECTION LETTERHEAD, READ:

"GET EVERYONE INVOLVED IN SHOOTING THE PRESIDENT AND GET THEM FAST."

MORE

UPI 12-07 10:29 AES

XXX THEM FAST."

FIFTEEN MINUTES AFTER THE SHOOTING, HOOVER REPORTED TO OTHER FBI OFFICIALS HE HAD 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."

THEN, AT 5:15 P.M. EST -- FOUR HOURS AFTER THE SHOOTING AND TWO HOURS AFTER OSWALD HAD BEEN TAKEN INTO CUSTODY -- HOOVER DICTATED A MEMO TELLING WHAT HE KNEW AT THAT POINT.

HE WAS ACTING IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST BY THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE SUSPECT THAT COULD BE INCLUDED IN A PROCLAMATION BY THE NEW PRESIDENT, LYNDON JOHNSON. HOOVER SAID, "I THOUGHT VERY PROBABLY WE HAD IN CUSTODY THE MAN WHO KILLED THE PRESIDENT IN DALLAS, BUT THIS HAD NOT DEFINITELY BEEN ESTABLISHED."

"LEE HARVEY OSWALD," HE TOLD THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, "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."

OSWALD HAD COME TO THE FBI'S ATTENTION, HE SAID, BECAUSE OF HIS ASSOCIATION WITH THE FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE. THE FBI DIRECTOR SAID OSWALD HAD BEEN ARRESTED IN NEW ORLEANS SOME MONTHS AGO FOR DISTRIBUTING LEAFLETS ON BEHALF OF THE COMMITTEE.

HOOVER SAID HE TOLD THE DEPARTMENT THE FBI KNEW OSWALD "WAS WORKING IN THE BUILDING FROM WHICH THE SHOTS WERE FIRED; THAT WE HAVE THE RIFLE AND THREE EMPTY SHELLS FOUND IN THE BUILDING IN WHICH THE MAN WAS EMPLOYED."

"I SAID OSWALD APPARENTLY LEFT THIS BUILDING AND A BLOCK OR TWO AWAY TWO POLICE OFFICERS MOVED TOWARD HIM, AND FOR NO GOOD REASON HE OPENED FIRE ON THEM AND KILLED ONE."

HE SAID OSWALD "WOULD BE IN THE CATEGORY OF A NUT AND THE EXTREMIST PRO-CASTRO CROWD."

IN A MEMO TO HIS STAFF DEC. 12, 1963, HOOVER DISCUSSED WHAT HE WANTED INCLUDED IN THE AGENCY'S REPORT TO THE WARREN COMMISSION.

"I PERSONALLY BELIEVE OSWALD WAS THE ASSASSIN," HE WROTE, BUT ADDED HIS GREAT CONCERN "WHETHER HE WAS THE ONLY MAN."

"... WE HAVE SEVERAL LETTERS, NOT IN THE REPORT BECAUSE WE WERE NOT ABLE TO PROVE IT, WRITTEN TO HIM FROM CUBA REFERRING TO THE JOB HE WAS GOING TO DO, HIS GOOD MARKSMANSHIP, AND STATING WHEN IT WAS ALL OVER HE WOULD BE BROUGHT BACK TO CUBA AND PRESENTED TO THE CHIEF."

BUT HOOVER'S MEMO SAID, "WE DO NOT KNOW IF THE CHIEF WAS CASTRO AND CANNOT MAKE AN INVESTIGATION BECAUSE WE HAVE NO INTELLIGENCE OPERATION IN CUBA."

HOOVER SAID THIS WAS THE REASON HE "URGED STRONGLY" TO LEE RANKIN, SPECIAL COUNSEL TO THE WARREN COMMISSION, THAT NO CONCLUSION BE REACHED THAT OSWALD ACTED ALONE.

HE SAID ALL ANGLES BUT "THE CUBAN THING" HAD BEEN CLEARED UP. THE MEMO ALSO SAID HOOVER 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."

HE SAID HE TOLD RANKIN THAT RUBY "IS A SHADY CHARACTER FROM THE HOODLUM ELEMENT OF CHICAGO, HAS A POOR BACKGROUND, RUNS A NIGHTCLUB IN

DALLAS, AND IS WHAT WOULD BE CALLED A POLICE BUFF . . ."
HOOVER ALSO CHALLENGED REPORTS THAT OSWALD COULD NOT HAVE
PERFORMED THE ASSASSINATION ALONE, SAYING HE TOLD RANKIN:

"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;
THAT WE ALSO FOUND THE FINGERPRINTS AND THE BULLETS SO CONCLUSIVELY
FIRED FROM THE GUN; THAT WE HAVE ALL THIS AND WE HAVE ALL THE
PHOTOGRAPHS."

PICKUP 6TH GRAF; MORE THAN
UPI 12-07 10:46 AES

PM-JFK 4THLD-2TAKES-WRITETHRU A094 12-7

URGENT

BY MIKE FEINSILBER

UPI SENIOR EDITOR

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- TWENTY DAYS AFTER JOHN F. KENNEDY WAS KILLED IN DALLAS, J. EDGAR HOOVER REPORTED THE FBI HAD LETTERS WRITTEN TO LEE HARVEY OSWALD FROM CUBA "REFERRING TO THE JOB HE WAS GOING TO DO."

HOOVER SAID HE HAD NOT TURNED THE LETTERS OVER TO THE WARREN COMMISSION BECAUSE HE WAS NOT ABLE TO PROVE THEIR VERACITY.

AND LESS THAN FOUR HOURS AFTER KENNEDY WAS ASSASSINATED ON NOV. 22, 1973 -- AND TWO HOURS AFTER OSWALD'S ARREST -- HOOVER TOLD WASHINGTON OFFICIALS THAT OSWALD "VERY PROBABLY" WAS THE KILLER.

HOOVER SAID HE WOULD CLASSIFY OSWALD "IN THE CATEGORY OF A NUT AND THE EXTREMIST PRO-CASTRO CROWD."

THESE DISCLOSURES WERE CONTAINED IN 40,001 PAGES OF RAW FBI INTERNAL REPORTS MADE PUBLIC TODAY UNDER TERMS OF THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.

HOOVER'S REPORT DID NOT STATE WHO WROTE THE LETTERS FROM CUBA, REFERRING TO OSWALD.

IN A MEMO TO THE FBI'S TOP ECHELON, DATED DEC. 12, 1963, HOOVER WROTE:

"... WE HAVE SEVERAL LETTERS, NOT IN THE REPORT (TO THE WARREN COMMISSION) BECAUSE WE WERE NOT ABLE TO PROVE IT, WRITTEN TO HIM (OSWALD) FROM CUBA REFERRING TO THE JOB HE WAS GOING TO DO, HIS GOOD MARKSMANSHIP AND STATING WHEN IT WAS ALL OVER HE WOULD BE BROUGHT BACK TO CUBA AND PRESENTED TO THE CHIEF."

BUT HOOVER'S MEMO SAID, "WE DO NOT KNOW IF THE CHIEF WAS CASTRO AND CANNOT MAKE AN INVESTIGATION BECAUSE WE HAVE NO INTELLIGENCE OPERATION IN CUBA."

"I PERSONALLY BELIEVE OSWALD WAS THE ASSASSIN," HE WROTE, BUT HE SAID HE WAS GREATLY CONCERNED AS TO "WHETHER HE WAS THE ONLY MAN."

HOOVER SAID THIS WAS THE REASON HE "URGED STRONGLY" TO LEE RANKIN, SPECIAL COUNSEL TO THE WARREN COMMISSION, THAT NO CONCLUSION BE REACHED THAT OSWALD WAS THE ONLY PERSON INVOLVED IN THE ASSASSINATION.

HOOVER ALSO CHALLENGED SPECULATION OSWALD COULD NOT HAVE ACTED ALONE, SAYING HE TOLD RANKIN:

"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; THAT WE ALSO FOUND THE FINGERPRINTS AND THE BULLETS SO CONCLUSIVELY FIRED FROM THE GUN; THAT WE HAVE ALL THIS AND WE HAVE ALL THE PHOTOGRAPHS."

MORE

UPI 12-07 11:04 AES

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PM-JFK 5THLD-2TAKES PICKUP12THGRAF A100 12-7

URGENT

- BY MIKE FEINSILBER

UPI SENIOR EDITOR

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- FOUR HOURS AFTER THE MURDER OF JOHN KENNEDY, J. EDGAR HOOVER TOLD GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS LEE HARVEY OSWALD -- "IN THE CATEGORY OF A NUT" -- WAS THE PROBABLE KILLER. BUT 20 DAYS LATER HOOVER WOULD NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF AN ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACY.

HOOVER'S CONCERN ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A CONSPIRACY -- PERHAPS ONE WITH CUBAN OVERTONES -- CAME TO LIGHT TODAY IN THE RELEASE OF 40,001 PAGES OF INTERNAL FBI MEMOS. THEY WERE MADE PUBLIC UNDER THE TERMS OF THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.

ON THE DAY OF THE KILLING, THE MATERIALS SHOWED. HOOVER WAS ASKED BY THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT FOR INFORMATION ON THE ASSASSINATION THAT COULD BE INCLUDED IN A PROCLAMATION BY NEWLY INAUGURATED PRESIDENT LYNDON B. JOHNSON.

RESPONDING, THE LATE FBI DIRECTOR SAID OSWALD WAS "VERY PROBABLY" THE ASSASSIN AND SAID HE WOULD PUT THE 24-YEAR-OLD EX-MARINE "IN THE CATEGORY OF A NUT AND THE EXTREMIST PRO-CASTRO CROWD."

BUT ON DEC. 12, 1963, HOOVER CAUTIONED AGAINST RULING OUT A CONSPIRACY, CITING LETTERS FROM CUBA TO OSWALD "REFERRING TO THE JOB HE WAS GOING TO DO."

HE SAID HE WAS PERSONALLY CONVINCED THAT OSWALD "WAS THE ASSASSIN" BUT HE COUNSELED THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT AGAINST ADVISING THE WARREN COMMISSION THAT "OSWALD WAS THE ONLY MAN."

IN THAT MEMO, ADDRESSED TO THE TOP ECHELON OF THE FBI, HOOVER SAID THE FBI HAD IN ITS POSSESSION LETTERS WRITTEN TO OSWALD FROM CUBA. HOOVER APPEARED DUBIOUS ABOUT THE VERACITY OF THE LETTERS.

HE SAID HE DID NOT WANT TO TURN THE LETTERS OVER TO THE WARREN COMMISSION AT THAT POINT "BECAUSE WE WERE NOT ABLE TO PROVE IT."

MORE

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PM-JFK 1STADD-5THLD A218 12-7

XXX PROVE IT."

THE KEY PASSAGE IN THE HOOVER MEMO READS:

"...WE HAVE SEVERAL LETTERS, NOT IN THE REPORT (THAT THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT WAS PREPARING FOR THE WARREN COMMISSION) BECAUSE WE WERE NOT ABLE TO PROVE IT, WRITTEN TO HIM (OSWALD) FROM CUBA REFERRING TO THE JOB HE WAS GOING TO DO, HIS GOOD MARKSMANSHIP AND STATING THAT WHEN IT WAS ALL OVER HE WOULD BE BROUGHT BACK TO CUBA AND PRESENTED TO THE CHIEF."

BUT HOOVER'S MEMO SAID, "WE DO NOT KNOW IF THE CHIEF WAS (FIDEL) CASTRO AND CANNOT MAKE AN INVESTIGATION BECAUSE WE HAVE NO INTELLIGENCE OPERATION IN CUBA."

ON THE SAME DAY, HOOVER INFORMED THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF OTHER LETTERS FROM CUBA TO OSWALD WHICH APPEARED TO BE "AN ATTEMPTED HOAX."

SHORTLY AFTER THE SHOOTING, THE FILES SHOW, HOOVER SENT A TELETYPE MESSAGE INSTRUCTING FBI BUREAUS AROUND THE COUNTRY TO "IMMEDIATELY ESTABLISH WHEREABOUTS OF BOMBING SUSPECTS, ALL KNOWN KLAN AND HATE MEMBERS, KNOWN RACIAL EXTREMISTS AND ANY OTHER INDIVIDUALS WHO, ON THE BASIS OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE IN YOUR FIELDS, MAY POSSIBLY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED."

THE FBI DOCUMENTS ALSO SHOWED:

--HOOVER BROKE THE NEWS TO ROBERT KENNEDY, ATTORNEY GENERAL AND BROTHER OF THE PRESIDENT, 15 MINUTES AFTER THE SHOOTING OCCURRED AT 12:20 P.M. CST, NOV. 22, 1963, IN DALLAS BUT IT WAS ROBERT KENNEDY WHO INFORMED HOOVER THE PRESIDENT HAD BEEN DECLARED DEAD IN DALLAS' PARKLAND HOSPITAL.

--MARINA OSWALD, RUSSIAN-BORN WIFE OF THE SUSPECTED ASSASSIN, TOLD

FBI AGENTS AFTER KENNEDY'S KILLING HER HUSBAND HAD TRIED TO KILL FORMER ARMY MAJ. GEN. EDWIN WALKER IN DALLAS EIGHT MONTHS EARLIER AND ESCAPED FROM THE SCENE ON FOOT AND BY BUS -- THE SAME METHOD USED IN THE KENNEDY CASE. SHE SAID WHEN SHE FIRST HEARD OF KENNEDY'S KILLING, SHE FEARED HER "CRAZY" HUSBAND WAS THE VILLAIN.

--UNDER QUESTIONING BY DALLAS POLICE CAPT. J.W. FRITZ THE DAY AFTER THE SHOOTING, AN FBI REPORT SAID, OSWALD "FRANTICALLY DENIED SHOOTING DALLAS POLICE OFFICER (J.P.) TIPPITT OR SHOOTING PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY." NO STENOGRAPHIC RECORD OF OSWALD'S INTERROGATIONS WERE MADE. OSWALD ALSO DENIED EVER OWNING A RIFLE.

--THE FBI RECEIVED THOUSANDS OF WORTHLESS LEADS, BIZARRE THEORIES AND HOAXES -- AND INVESTIGATED THEM ALL. MORE THAN 1,300 PAGES IN TODAY'S REPORT REFLECTED THIS MATERIAL. HUNDREDS OF PERSONS WHO HAD AT ONE TIME SAID SOMETHING LIKE, "KENNEDY WILL GET HIS" WERE QUESTIONED. SIX MONTHS AFTER THE KILLING, AGENTS WERE SENT OUT TO QUESTION A MAN WHO TOLD OF FINDING "JOHN WILKS BOOTH" AND "JOHN F. KENNEDY" WRITTEN ON THE FRONT OF A TELEPHONE DIRECTORY AT SCOTTSDALE, ARIZ.

--THE OSWALDS WANTED TO RETURN TO RUSSIA IN 1963. THEY MADE SEVERAL INQUIRIES TO THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, THE LAST ONE 13 DAYS BEFORE THE ASSASSINATION.

PICKUP12THGRAF: HOOVER ALSO

UPI 12-07 01:58 PES