

Visit from Vincent Salandria Wednesday 7 pm-midnight 4 August 1965

The house phone rang at 7 o'clock and a voice announced "This is Salandria." I asked him to come right up, surprised and delighted by this unexpected visit. It appears that S wrote to me on Monday (airmail, which may account for the non-arrival of the letter thus far, since there is no air service between Philadelphia and NYC), asking me to phone him if a visit was not convenient. It did not matter at all, since I had no commitments and was really happy to meet him.

S told me first that he had contacted the Deputy Archivist and has made arrangements to see the Zapruder slides on Monday 9 August. He indicated that he wanted also to see the Nix and Muchmore films, and the Archivist seemed to feel that that could be done. I am sceptical about that, however, because there are no facilities for viewing motion pictures and so far as I know there is no set of slides for either of those films.

S gave me a set of photos, corresponding to some of the photos received from Mrs. Field. S had received them from David Lifton, who is the UCLA student about whom Mrs. Field has spoken. Lifton is actually a New Yorker and is expected to visit here soon; he must be the "cohort" whom Mrs. Field had in mind when she told me that someone would be visiting here, and Dallas en route to and from NYC, and intended to look me up.

S. sees in the Moorman (UPI) photo a new man, other than the ones we have already seen, who is near the man at the right-hand side; S believes that that man is wearing earphones. S and his brother-in-law Harold Feldman have been concentrating on two aspects of the case only, because they recognized that they could not hope to master the whole business: (1) the shots, trajectory, ballistics, and medical findings; and (2) the relationship between Oswald and the FBI/CIA/or other Govt agency, for which they consider there is compelling evidence.

I showed S part of my chapter "Where Did the Shots Come From?" and he became very, very excited about the Secret Service men and my theory that the assassins made their escape by posing as agents. He said I had actually discovered more than I myself realized--this was a major find, in his view, because it furnished an essential link in his own theory by indicating a method by which the assassins could take over an area of the grassy knoll, with immunity from interference or suspicion, by posing as agents. He pointed out that Secret Service personnel are always seen with communications equipment.....He believes that Oswald's departure from the Depository can be attributed to the standing instructions to undercover agents to leave the scene of any disturbance so that they would not become involved and lose their cover...and attaches great importance to Oswald's having taken a taxi, contrary to his usual habits. I pointed out that Milton Jones suggested another reason for LHO's leaving the bus and taking a cab; S had not known about the Jones story and was very interested.

S and Feldman have made personal visits to Dallas and spent considerable time with some of the principals. I am not too clear on this, but S is on to a man named Boganov or something similar; he has obtained considerable information about Boganov through the mechanics of a credit rating check. Boganov is a mentally unstable person and a crack shot; he departed for Dallas a few days before 11/22/63 taking with him a pistol, rifle, and new wife (who has since separated or divorced him). Boganov in appearance corresponds with the huge blond crew-cut man reported by several witnesses as carrying a rifle on the Dallas streets the day before or the morning of the assassination. After the shooting, Boganov left suddenly for Mexico City, and has since gone to a number of other locations in a wide geographical area. S believes that he may well be implicated in the events of 11/22.

S and Feldman have also investigated closely the auto demonstration incident and believe that it was actually Oswald who came to the agency and said he expected to have a large sum of cash soon...Oren Brown behaved very strangely on 11/22...he left the auto agency premises before the shooting and returned later in the day, obviously very agitated and sick (he went to the toilet and threw up)...his manner was so strange that Pizzo telephoned the FBI and reported him...this is of course not consistent with the H & E material...S believes that LHO did have the ability to drive a car and that he may have visited the Sports Drome Rifle Range....He sees a definite relationship between LHO's activities and the interests of Senator Dodd...for example, in the summer 1963 when Oswald showed so strong an interest in rifles to Adrian Alba, Dodd was gathering material for his bill restricting the sale of firearms; later in the summer Dodd switched to a campaign against FPCC with a view to having that organization placed on the Attorney-General's "list" and at the same time LHO began his campaign of infiltration and picketing for FPCC. S fails to see why the high echelons in Washington sent out the word right after LHO's arrest 11/22 that there was no communist plot or conspiracy...they had no grounds for that conclusion--on the contrary LHO had received a 4-page letter from Arnold Johnson of the C Party of America, which certainly indicated links.....S apparently has had a long collaboration with Shirley Martin (Mrs. Mark Martin) of Hominy Okla (Box 566), and will leave to spend his two-week vacation at the Martins, at the end of next week. Mark Martin is a pilot, Mrs. M. is a housewife. She dug up the information that Hosty and Surrey (General Walker's sidekick) were card-playing friends; that ties in with Duff's contacting Hosty to report the two men trying to engage him to kill General W.

S said also that Mrs. Martin had investigated and reached the conclusion that there was nothing to the Betty MacDonald/Nancy Mooney affair and that he wished Mark Lane would stop harping on it; when I asked why, he said that Nancy Mooney had never been a stripper and had made several previous suicide attempts. I then summarized my analysis of the affair, from my MS, and emphasized that even if there was nothing much to the affair, it still exposed the incomprehensible indifference of the FBI/WC/etc. to the Reynolds shooting and subsequent events, and the incompetence of the investigation which had "established" the available "facts."

S has spent considerable time with Marguerite Oswald; she is a very intelligent shrewd but somewhat paranoid woman, with a strange regard and respect for the Govt which he feels corresponds with LHO's own seeming inconsistency--that of some genuine leftist convictions (which I personally regard as continuous and strongly motivating in his life) and his seeming role of undercover agent. For example, Marguerite always felt that the leaks from Warren & co. re LHO's guilt were only a cover behind which they were truly and sincerely searching for the real assassins (!!!).

S. had a message from Katzenbach to "lay off" as this was a high Texas crime and the authors would not be punished...S says that Goldberg (the historian) is definitely CIA and had ultimate control over what went into the WR...Ed Epstein, the Cornell PhD candidate, succeeded in seeing everyone except Goldberg (surrounded by generals) Warren and Dulles.....S says also that George De Mohrenschildt was a known Nazi agent and is now a definite CIA agent...viz, his otherwise unaccountable intimacy with LHOs his walking trip to Guatamala, the 2 incidents in which he was shot at (Yugoslavia and Mexico (or California?)).....The Mark Lane group did succeed in getting a photo of Billy Lovelady; he is considerably heavier than Oswald and there is not the close resemblance which is suggested....The man who was the key figure in the doorway photo article in the NY Herald-Tribune (I forget his name for the moment) has continued to investigate one facet of the case (I forget which), spending \$500 on long distance phonecalls alone (Harris is his name). The auto agency (Bogard/Pizzo) is, as I had calculated, a stone's throw from the assassination scene.....Shirley Martin at first had a very poor opinion of Ruth Paine, later changed her mind somewhat...S believes that R Paine's white station wagon might well have been at the scene, per Roger Craig; Sheriff Walthers also says it was her station wagon at the scene; he says also that there was no jamming of the thumb to prevent LHO firing the revolver, per MM McDonald's testimony....Agrees there is strange lack of information re Tippit his life and activities. Gave him detailed analysis of radio log affair and my conviction log has been doctored and no instructions to Tippit to move into central Oak Cliff...also, Tippit's unlisted phone, for which no apparent reason...S believes Tippit could well have been in the political

Very interesting information from S was that Francis P Adams was originally scheduled to do the medical/ballistics work that was in fact done by Specter. Adams resigned early in the game, expressing his disgust at the goats/gelatin tests, which he considered made no attempt to reenact the original circumstances and were therefore meaningless. Adams' name was retained on the counsel list but in fact he had little or nothing to do with the WR....Willens, meanwhile (liaison with Dept of Justice), was locking exhibits away so that the Commissioners could not even see them....they complained to Warren, who put an end to Willens' practices apparently.....S believes that the ballistics work was a fraud...that military bullets were used which disintegrate on impact, and the rifle etc. planted....Specter told him that he would be willing to discuss the WR after the election in which he is running for office now...Specter said that he did see the photographs and x-rays taken during the autopsy (he personally, not the Commission) and that they were withheld at request of Kennedy family, who wanted the public to remember JFK at his glowing healthy attractive best...I said, "yeah, as in frame 313" to which S responded that that had been his reaction exactly...Re the disparity between the location (alleged) of the entrance wound in the back (neck) and the bullet hole in the coat, S discovered this independently at the same time that Curtis Crawford did, and called attention to it in a speech to the Bar Assn on the same day as CC's WBAI lecture on the WR....Believes that Mark Lane is ill-mannered but has made unique and important contribution, forcing the WC to confront a number of challenges which otherwise they would have ignored.....George and Pat Nash have reneged, too, like CC, and now support the official theory ie LHO lone assassin...I was aghast to hear that; S says they were never really very anti-WR, as witness their tributes etc. in the New Leader "The Other Witnesses"....they are not New Yorkers, does not know where they are now living....Has not read the Sauvage book because does not know French; believes that Sauvage has made solid case, however....Feels Mark Lane book could not fail to be interesting and important (some of the discoveries attributed to Shirley Martin above may actually have come from the Nashes; I am not certain now in my recollection).....S looked at my name index; feels very useful....also at my subject index, as far as it is completed....feels it is not only essential but could make a lot of money....25,000 libraries in USA, maybe one-fourth must have the H&E.

This exhausts my recollections of the 5-hour conversation.