

January 10, 1973

Dear Mrs. Meagher,

It has been a long time between letters, but I have a few questions and some filling-in on what has occurred since my last letter.

I finally received an answer from the Italian Army regarding the rifle clip, in September. I had a neighbor translate it for me and "I was informed that the pertinent information had been sent to the proper U.S. authorities." You can guess who that was.

About a week later, I received a call from the local FBI office and an agent came out the same day. He was very pleasant, but I only learned that "several thousand" had been manufactured in 1952. I did not learn who the importers or wholesalers were in the U.S. The question still remains, if it was in the rifle, who brought it, & where?

Concerning observations after more reading and receipt of a few documents from the Archives:

- ① Ruth Paine certainly had "free-reign" to cut Oswald - plus she and Marina conflicted on some important elements of testimony. Those men could it have been listening. Paine said she never believed Oswald was involved - but Walters said, she said, "Come on in, we've been expecting you." Interesting!!
- ② I asked for the "Moorman" photo of Depository from Archives (your book, p. 23) and was told they

had no such item. Archives sent memo of SA Patterson to Inspector Kelley dated 3/7/64. The former said photo was of such poor quality, that no detail of building, windows was shown. It was turned over ~~to~~ FBI on 23rd or 24th after receipt of call. Last sentence reads, "It has been learned that this photo has been returned to Mrs. Moorman and is still in her possession." I'm going to send the memo to Mrs. Moorman and ask her if such is the case.

③ In the next paragraph (your book, p. 23) you mention the Hughes' film. You probably have a copy of Mr. Thompson's book and he had quite a number of frames from this film portrayed. He was pointing out the possibility of another figure on the 6th floor. I don't know whether there is a figure there or not, but in the comparative photos at bottom of p. 246, I don't believe he took into account the fact that Murray was much closer to Depository than Hughes. The top photo on p. 246 certainly does show a different arrangement of the "shield" than in CE 723.

I was interested in the Hughes photos for another reason. You mentioned on page 12 of your book that James Jarman's affidavit didn't even mention that he watched motorcade from 5th floor. It may be due to the quality of the photos, clothing, his position, the fact all were Negroes - but on (pages 136, 137, 184, 185, 245, 247 - Thompson)

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I can make-out only two figures on the 5th floor. Both are in far-right window. The W Report (p. 69) shows the positions of the three men, supposedly, which by interpretation would put (in order of distance from camera) Jarman, Williams, Norman. Perhaps, in some of the other photos in the Exhibits the picture is clarified.

(4) I received material on Tippit Autopsy. The S. Service got copy on 12/8/63; FBI on 3/13/64. The Autopsy Report, itself, is a work of art compared to the Bethesda-job. Full description of wounds, easily read body & head charts using midline & top-of-head for location of wounds. The accompanying gun-wound chart is very descriptive - except where the box concerning calibre is concerned: the word recovered is inserted in each of the three cases. The fourth bullet was recovered at Methodist Hosp. prior to going to Dr. Rose at Parkland. One S. Service report accompanied material of SA E. Moore reported on 12/8/63 that the four bullets were in possession of FBI. Of course, the FBI reports beginning 3/13/64 show that they were attempting to find the ⁽³⁾bullets from Dallas Police and recovered same on 3/19/64. I let Dr. Wecht know about this story in more detail and he said he would ask Dr. Rose about this story in Feb. at convention.

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I don't know if you have Jim Bishop's book, "The Day Kennedy Was Shot", but his wound descriptions suffered by Tippit differ substantially from Dr. Rose's. Doctor Rose made no mention of recovering any button in Tippit's stomach; Tippit received one head-wound - in the rt-temple, and one of the chest wounds was described as "superficial" by Dr. Rose. It is interesting though, that Bishop cites Agent Odum as receiving the bullets from Dr. Rose - (page 370). Perhaps Odum gave them to Det. Corkery - who supposedly received them according to the "official version."

Bishop evidently had sources of information The Commission could have used; on page 450, he describes how Lt. Day photographed the palm print - prior to lifting it. I have some questions about this item, later.

(6) Finnair informed me that their passenger-lists for 1959 no longer exist. I haven't heard from BEA or SAS.

(7) I just finished Jim Garrison's, Heritage of Stone, and I understand now about what you said about his investigation. Penn Jones believes "too-hard," too in some instances.

(8) I was informed by the Archives that the files do not contain the RFA receipt for Oswald's pistol and the (Co) draft paying for same. Rep. Rooney evidently backed away from

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asking the REA office in Dallas about these items; I'm working on Senator Schweiker, now.

(9) I wrote to Mr. Jenner about the Hosty - license number and received the same reply you did - none. Have you heard anything new on this item? I am working on something in this area, and will let you know if anything turns up.

(10) Dr. Wecht said he was going to publish a report on his examination of the autopsy material in Jan. or Feb.

(11) Just an aside - in Garrison's book he mentioned that Oswald had read one of the spy novels by Howard Haycraft (p. 104). I wonder if that's the pseudonym of our friend Mr. Hunt - of the Watergate? It wouldn't hurt to compare the photos of the men involved with the photo Odum showed to Marguerite Oswald? I don't think, though, that the CIA is that incompetent.

(12) I agree with you, the Odio episode certainly bears out the idea of impersonation. I'm going to try and see if Mr. Schweiker has enough backbone to ask about this.

I have a few questions, if you can answer them.

(1) In the N.Y. Times, paperback, The Witnesses, one of the exhibits shown was CE 673. The caption read, Shirt worn by Oswald on day of assassination:

I thought this shirt had been termed CE 150.

What is the problem here?

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(2) Does the Oswald Autopsy, the Marine Corps ^{medical} records, or other exhibits describe the condition of Oswald's teeth at various times? Of there is info on this item - I would like to hear about it.

(3) Concerning the famous palm-print "lift" — you mentioned, in your book, (p. 127) the "curving-of-the-hand." On page 135, part of Latona's testimony stated that the portion of Oswald's palm involved was "the ulnar side of the lower portion of the palm... down near the base of the palm toward the wrist... the right palm." Then, he pointed this area out on a photo.

Depending on just how near the wrist this was, this would be an odd place to come in contact with a cylinder - less than one inch in diameter.

Could you mark on the enclosed ^{tracing} ~~photo~~ of the hand the area marked by Latona?

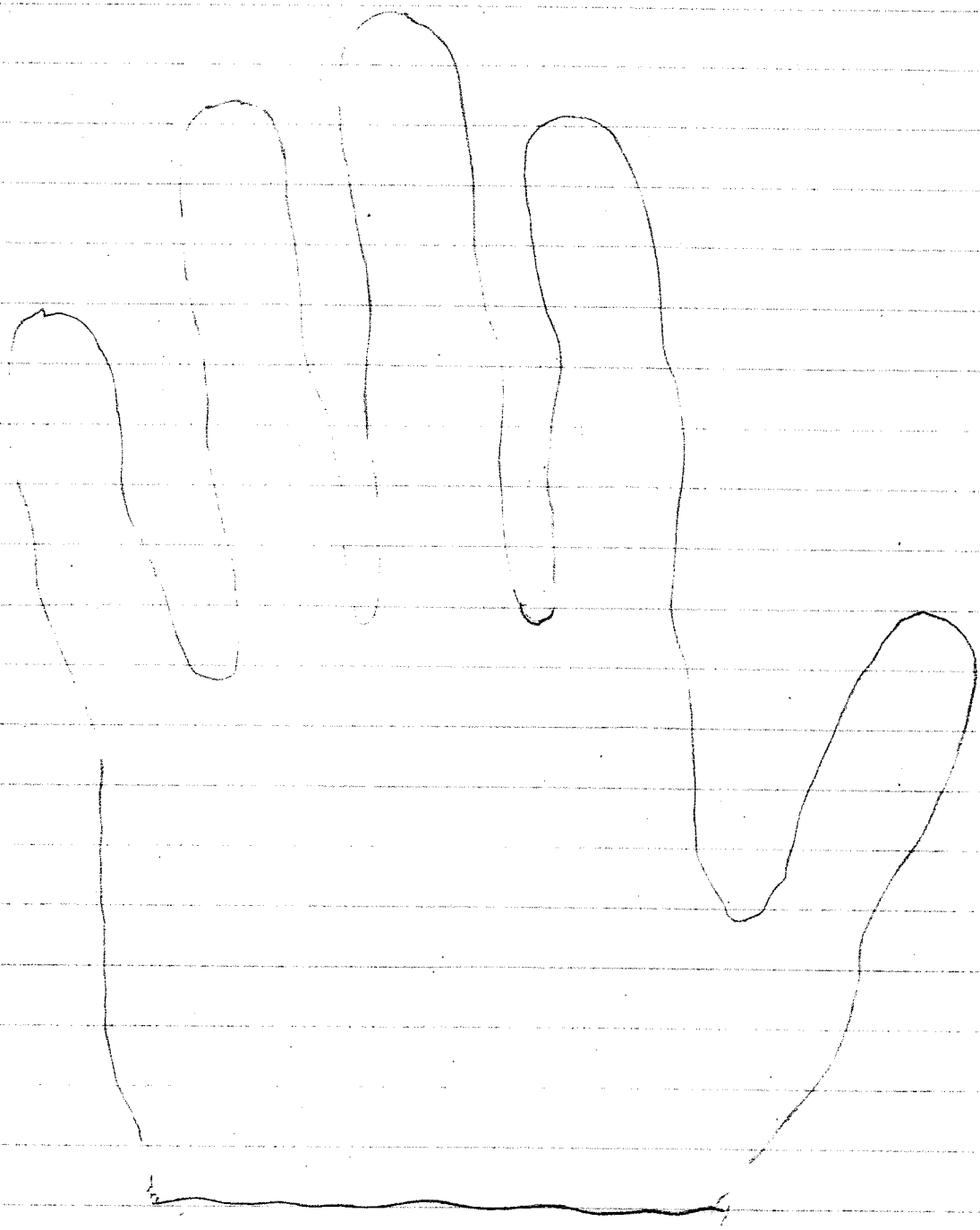
I have rambled on long enough, but will keep you informed if anything develops, in any area.

Sincerely,

Ed Slemmer

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Location of palm-print area on rifle?