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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

GA-1 CIA

Copy to:

Report of: SA J. STANLEY RCTZ Office: Baltimore, Maryland
Date: July 7, 1964
Field Office File No.: 105-7740 Bureau File No.:
Title: LEE HARVEY OSWALD

Character: INTERNAL SECURITY - R - CUBA

Synopsis:

Mrs. KATHERINE N. SHERWOOD, 6022 Trowbridge Road, Rosecroft, Oxon Hill, Maryland, alleged to a Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) employee that a former CIA courier in West Virginia had told her prior to the assassination of President KENNEDY that he would be assassinated and that his assassin, in turn, would be killed. Upon interview by FBI on 6/22/64, Mrs. SHERWOOD said that on 11/22/63, after President KENNEDY had been assassinated, a groom at Waterford Park Race Track, West Virginia, told her that he had known the President would be assassinated. Groom also commented that person who killed the President would not live to come to trial. Groom never mentioned connection with CIA, but implied he had been member of some type of Army Intelligence and was masquerading as groom. Mrs. SHERWOOD first considered groom to be a "nut," but after death of LEE HARVEY OSWALD, she believed him. Groom allegedly told Mrs. SHERWOOD President KENNEDY was member of a three-man conspiracy to take over the world, which conspiracy had been in existence for several hundred years. Groom identified other members of the group as BERNARD BARUCH and JOHN EDGAR HOOVER. Mrs. SHERWOOD unable to identify groom who furnished her these allegations. RUSSELL E. SHERWOOD, JR., son of Mrs. KATHERINE N. SHERWOOD, advised he recalls his mother mentioning something about a "master plan" but he did not recall its purpose or details of it. He added his mother, in the past, has forgotten details of events or added items which she did not know as fact. He indicated, to him it was merely a good story to listen to, but as far as any factual truth therein relating to the assassination, it would be a "million-to-one shot."

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DETAILS:

RE: KATHERINE N. SHERWOOD
6022 Trowbridge Road
Rosecroft, Oxon Hill, Maryland

By memorandum dated June 8, 1964, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), Washington, D. C. advised the Federal Bureau of Investigation that one KATHRYN N. SHERWOOD had furnished the following allegations to an employee of CIA by telephone on May 14, 1964.

Mrs. SHERWOOD had indicated that she resides in Prince Georges County, Maryland and had registered several months previously as a Republican in order to vote in the primary elections. She indicated she was one of the Delegates on the Republican ballot and was supporting Senator BARRY GOLDWATER. She said that although she had registered Republican, she held a deep respect for the late President KENNEDY. With regard to President KENNEDY's stand on Cuba, SHERWOOD said, "Too bad he was selling us down the river."

Mrs. SHERWOOD had also commented that an acquaintance in West Virginia, who said he was a former CIA courier, told her prior to the assassination of the late President KENNEDY, that President KENNEDY would be assassinated and that the assassin, in turn, would also be killed. Mrs. SHERWOOD said that her attempts to locate this person after the assassination were not successful. This person had lived in West Virginia where there was a cafeteria, but since the food did not agree with him, Mrs. SHERWOOD took him into town for meals. Mrs. SHERWOOD had further indicated that the "ex-CIA courier" told her he had too much knowledge, indicating that this was the reason he had left CIA. He also allegedly told her a lot of things relative to people in high places in the United States Government, which were quite shocking and the information worried Mrs. SHERWOOD very much. The CIA advised that due to the absence of any identifying data concerning the alleged "ex-CIA courier" this individual could not be identified.

"The Sunday Star," a Washington, D. C. newspaper, in its May 17, 1964, edition, contained an article entitled "36 Candidates Vie for 11 Party Seats." It described various slates of candidates running in Prince Georges County, Maryland for the position of Delegate to the Republican State Convention. One slate is described as an independent, grass roots group campaigning under the United Republican Organization; that although a majority of its members favor Senator GOLDWATER, it was an uncommitted slate. One of the candidates of the United Republican Organization slate is:

Mrs. KATHRYN N. SHERWOOD
Oxon Hill, (Maryland)

As checked by IC RICHARD A. MARCUS on June 15, 1964, the records of the Credit Bureau, Inc., Washington, D. C. contained only an inquiry dated May 21, 1964, concerning a KATHRYN N. SHERWOOD, husband, RUSSELL, 6022 Trowbridge Road, Rosecroft, Maryland. No record was otherwise indicated.

On June 19, 1964, Mrs. KATHERINE N. SHERWOOD, 6022 Trowbridge Road, Rosecroft, Oxon Hill, Maryland, advised Special Agents FRANCIS X. O'NEILL, JR. and ROBERT L. LANPHEAR that she is a horse trainer and as such was at Waterford Park Race Trace, West Virginia, on November 22, 1963.

Several days prior to November 22, 1963, she met a groom who was tending horses next to her stable. She became friendly with this person and provided him with transportation and dinners on several occasions.

On November 22, 1963, after President JOHN F. KENNEDY had been assassinated, the groom told her he had known the President would be assassinated. Further, he told her the person who killed the President would not live to come to trial if, in fact, he was ever caught.

SHERWOOD stated the groom, whose name she could not recall, implied he had been a member of some type of Army Intelligence unit for a number of years and was masquerading as a groom to protect his life because he had information in his head of such paramount importance that it would damage the reputation of persons in high authority in America. She said he told her his life would be nothing if he had not committed to paper and

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subsequently hid the paper, to be opened only in the event of his death, the information he possessed. The groom never mentioned that he had been connected with CIA.

SHERWOOD advised the man did a lot of talking and she, at first, considered him to be a "nut," however, after the death of LEE HARVEY OSWALD she said she was convinced the man had been truthful.

SHERWOOD stated this man told her President JOHN F. KENNEDY was a member of a three-man conspiracy "to take over the world." She said this conspiracy had been in existence for several hundred years and advised the other members of the group were BERNARD BARUCH and JOHN EDGAR HOOVER. She said that President KENNEDY incurred the displeasure of the other two conspirators and as a result a plot was formed to assassinate him, such plot being carried out by OSWALD.

Mrs. SHERWOOD stated she had never discussed the information she furnished to Bureau Agents telephonically with anyone. She said she recently ran as Republican representative to the Republican State Convention on a "GOLDWATER Slate" but denied using the aforementioned information during her campaign. She advised Bureau Agents she herself was not "nuts" although people might think so.

SHERWOOD is described as a white female, date of birth August 1, 1905, Chicago, Illinois, height 5' 2", weight 114 pounds, brown eyes, gray hair, divorced for the past 32 years, resides with son, RUSSELL, at 6022 Trowbridge Road, Rosecroft, Oxon Hill, Maryland. She presently is an unemployed horse trainer.

On June 25, 1964, RUSSELL E. SHERWOOD, Jr., Electronics Engineer, Federal Communications Commission, Washington, D. C., home address of 6022 Trowbridge Road, Rosecroft, Maryland, was interviewed by Special Agents JAMES F. MORRISSEY and ROBERT L. OLSEN of the FBI at his place of employment.

After identifying KATHERINE N. SHERWOOD of the same address as his mother, he was apprised of her June 19, 1964, remarks to Special Agents of the FBI, and asked if he possessed

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any information bearing on the reliability of his mother's information.

At the outset of the interview, he stated that he had received a phone call from his mother at 1:00 p.m. that day in which she advised him that she had been interviewed by FBI Agents on June 19, 1964. He said she had not told him of her interview previously but said to him she had told his wife who had apparently failed to mention the fact to him.

He said his mother was a horse trainer, but not a good one, who also owned a horse which she had raced in the past. In connection with trainer and owner activity she had been at the Waterford Park track in Newell, West Virginia, from June to December, 1963. Just prior to Christmas, 1963, she returned to live with him and his family at the Trowbridge Road address in the same insolvent financial condition as she left to go there.

Since her arrival she had related to him on four or five occasions a story of the prediction of a man whom she had met at the track at Waterford Park. This prediction was that LEE HARVEY OSWALD would never come to trial. As he recalled his mother's story, this prediction was made subsequent to the President's assassination, and prior to the death of OSWALD; that it was based not upon any previously obtained independent knowledge of this individual, but rather was merely a prediction based on that person's analysis of the tenor of the times, that is, that the violent reaction of people in Dallas to such a terrible act as the assassination, suggested that OSWALD might never live to come to trial. He felt that this prediction was probably more like the opinion of many people at the time of the assassination or was similar to those of the news columnist, DREW PEARSON, on the theory that if one makes enough predictions, one of them is bound to come true.

Concerning the individual, SHERWOOD stated that he did not recall his mother's mentioning his past or present employment. He recalled only that his mother mentioned this individual was an American Indian and was a member of the Cagala, which SHERWOOD described as a Jewish secret organization similar to Free Masonry.

SHERWOOD stated that his recollection of his mother's comments in this respect was sketchy and vague. He said he recalled she mentioned something about a "master plan," but he did not recall its purpose or details of it. He stated that his mother in the past has forgotten details of events or added items which she did not know as fact, but felt she was like most people in this respect. He said his mother is susceptible to stories of this kind.

SHERWOOD said that he has no other information bearing on the reliability of his mother's remarks. To him, it was merely a good story to listen to, but as far as any factual truth therein relating to the assassination, it would be a "million-to-one shot." He said he could not imagine any normal person claiming to have a connection, past or present, with Central Intelligence Agency or an intelligence unit acting in the manner described by his mother. He stated he considered it unfortunate that investigative time had to be expended to check the credibility of a story such as that related by his mother.

He suggested that his wife be contacted; that perhaps she might be able to offer some information or perspective relating to his mother's remarks.

On June 27, 1964, Mrs. BERNICE SHERWOOD, 6022 Trowbridge Road, Rosecroft, Oxon Hill, Maryland, mailing address Washington 22, D. C., advised that she has known her mother-in-law, Mrs. KATHERINE SHERWOOD, age 58, for approximately twenty years, during which time KATHERINE has been "horse or track happy." She further related that she has never had any reason to doubt the reliability of her mother-in-law's statements, but realizes that she mixes with a crowd of race track followers representing all types of personalities and characters. At the present time, KATHERINE SHERWOOD owns a horse which is being boarded somewhere in the vicinity of Waterford Park Race Track, located near Newell, West Virginia.

Mrs. SHERWOOD related that she and her mother-in-law are not too close and that she has never been a good listener with respect to the latter's conversations, and, in fact, most of the conversations she overhears are conversations between Mrs. KATHERINE SHERWOOD and other individuals or group conversations.

Mrs. KATHERINE SHERWOOD left Waterford Park Race Track in December, 1963, and came to live with her son, RUSSELL, at the Oxon Hill, Maryland, address. Sometime in January, or February, 1964, while KATHERINE was running as a candidate for the GOLDWATER Delegation to the Maryland Republican Convention, people were gathered for a meeting, location not recalled, which could have been held at her residence. During the meeting, the topic of communism arose, and Mrs. KATHERINE SHERWOOD related the following incident to this group:

While at Waterford Park Race Track, she had made the acquaintance of a groom whom she used to transport to and from the race track and the nearby town of Newell, WestVirginia. On the Friday that the President was assassinated, and on first hearing this news, and before LEE OSWALD had been killed, this groom made a statement in front of a group of horse trainers and entry personnel that the assassin would never live to be tried. This groom had also stated that the assassination was a pre-planned conspiracy. On the Sunday following the President's assassination when LEE OSWALD had been killed, most of the same people who had heard the groom's statement were amazed that it had been correct.

Mrs. BERNICE SHERWOOD stated that this was the first time that she had ever heard her mother-in-law relate this story and after the meeting, which in her opinion was attended by some highly excitable people, she asked her mother-in-law why she placed so much significance in the reliability of the groom's statement, whereupon KATHERINE informed her that the groom seemed to be well educated, was neat in appearance, and he had told her that during World War II he had been with an intelligence unit. He had also told her that she should not have been seen with him and that she should not continue to drive him into town since he was being watched. According to KATHERINE SHERWOOD, the groom apparently left the Waterford Park Race Trace area soon after the assassination and prior to her leaving for Oxon Hill, Maryland, in December, 1963.

Mrs. BERNICE SHERWOOD stated that she does not recall her mother-in-law ever saying that the groom had remarked that he knew so much about people in highly placed positions that would damage their character, that such was a threat to his own safety. When questioned, she related that she has never heard KATHERINE make statements that JOHN F. KENNEDY and others were

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part of a conspiracy to take over the world.

On terminating the interview, Mrs. SHERWOOD stated that she could not understand why so much emphasis and concern was being attached to the reported statement made by the groom since undoubtedly a number of people all over the country had made similar statements at the time that word was received of the assassination of the President.

Mrs. BERNICE SHERWOOD furnished the foregoing information to Special Agents JAMES W. SIBERT and RICHARD G. STILLING.