

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

Mr. J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel
President's Commission on the
Assassination of President Kennedy
200 Maryland Avenue, N. E.
Washington, D.C., 20002

9 FEB 1964

Dear Mr. Rankin:

In response to your letter of 4 February 1964 asking for further information about the Soviet weapon mentioned in one of Lee Harvey Oswald's documents, we are able to provide the following information:

We believe that the weapon described is a 16 gauge single-barrel shotgun. It was probably manufactured in the town of Izhevsk, RSFSR (coordinates N 56° 51' E 53° 15'). It was probably made at Factory No. 622 in Izhevsk which is known to make small arms such as pistols and carbines. There are two other arms factories in Izhevsk: No. 524 which makes light and heavy machine guns, and No. 74 which makes submachine guns and anti-aircraft guns. It is believed that IZHK stands for Izhevsk, 59 is the model year (perhaps meaning the year in which the model was first produced, but possibly meaning the year of manufacture). The caliber is 16, and the serial number of the weapon is N 64621.

For comparison purposes, our files show that our experts once saw a Soviet 16 gauge single-barrel shotgun which bore the markings IZH 58 and a serial number of one letter and four - rather than five - digits. This would indicate that the nomenclature on the card belonging to Oswald is consistent with that of a Soviet-made 16 gauge shotgun.

The above information has also been provided to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Sincerely,



Thomas H. Karamessines
Acting Deputy Director
for Plans

