

UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE
 TREASURY DEPARTMENT

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OFFICE <u>New Orleans, La.</u>		FILE NO. <u>CO-2-34,030</u>
CHARACTER OF THE INVESTIGATION <u>Assassination of the President</u>	STATUS <u>Investigation Continued</u>	TITLE OR CAPTION <u>Assassination of President John F. Kennedy</u>
INVESTIGATION MADE AT <u>New Orleans, La.</u>	PERIOD COVERED <u>November 22, 1963 December 2, 1963</u>	<u>Lee Harvey Oswald</u>
INVESTIGATION MADE BY <u>SA's A. G. Vial; Anthony M. Garrets; Roger Counts, and SA's John W. Rice</u>		

DETAILS

SYNOPSIS

As best as can be determined at the present time, Lee Harvey Oswald arrived in New Orleans from Texas on 1/26/63. During the course of the investigation, various relatives of the subject were interviewed as were a former employer, M. B. Reilly Coffee Co., Inc. and employees of this company.

A former schoolmate of the subject was interviewed in addition to a number of people who came into contact with him.

Checks were made with the Retailers Commercial Agency, Inc. in the names, Lee Harvey Oswald, A. J. Midell, Alex or Alex Midell, Fair Play for Cuba and other names. Only the subject was of record. A check was made at the New Orleans Public Service in the names, Lee Harvey Oswald, A. J. Midell, Alex or Alex Midell and Fair Play for Cuba. Only Oswald was of record at 4907 Magazine St., City.

A check was also made at the New Orleans Better Business Bureau in the various names with negative results.

The New Orleans Office, La. State Unemployment Agency, furnished records to this office through the local FBI Office with reference to a claim filed by Oswald against the State of Texas.

Other agents of this office are in the process of preparing reports as to investigation as conducted by them.

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At 1:00 A. M. on 11-23-63 called the First District, NCPD, and attempted to contact Pt. W. Grillot, Ptn. F. Hayward, or Ptn. F. Wilson, as they had arrested Lee Harvey Oswald on 8-9-63. None of them was available for interview.

Deck Sgt. Ro. or Bacon, First District, advised that Oswald had been interviewed by Lt. Martello, who was formerly assigned to the Intelligence Unit, NCPD, but who was then assigned to the First District. Further, that Lt. Martello had gone off duty at 11:00 P. M., 11-22-63, and could probably be contacted at his home, telephone number UN 1-9397.

A phone call was made to Lt. Martello's home but he was not available. At 2:30 A. M. another phone call was made to Lt. Martello's home and he furnished the following information:

He had interviewed Oswald either on a Saturday or Sunday morning with reference to Oswald's arrest on 8-9-63. Oswald had furnished his date of birth as 10-13-38; said he had served three years in the U. S. Marine Corps and claimed he received an honorable discharge on 5-17-59 at the Marine Air Station, El Toro, Santa Anna, Calif. Oswald had stated he was married to the former Marino Prossa but later said his wife's name was Marino Prossakaya and that she was an alien R-1. He said he and his wife had one child, June Lee Oswald, 17 months of age, and they had been living at 4907 Magazine St., New Orleans, for about four months. Prior to coming to New Orleans, Oswald claimed he had lived at 4709 Mercedes St., Ft. Worth, Texas.

Oswald claimed his mother's name was Margaret Oswald, address not known, and that his father was Robert Lee Oswald, deceased. He said he had two brothers, Robert Oswald, who lived in Ft. Worth, Texas, and John Oswald, who lived in Arlington, Texas.

Oswald claimed he had attended the Seacoyard School, New Orleans; Warren Easton High School, New Orleans; and a grammar school, Reginald West, in Ft. Worth. He furnished his Social Security No. as 433-51-3937 and his Selective Service No. as 11-114-39532.

Oswald claimed he had become interested in Fair Play for Cuba organization in Los Angeles, California, during 1958, while he was in the U. S. Marine Corps. In addition, Oswald had claimed there were about 35 members of the Fair Play for Cuba organization in New Orleans at the time, but declined to furnish any names.

Lt. Martello said that at the time of Oswald's arrest, he had various pamphlets in his possession and these had been kept by Lt. Martello. He said he would turn them over to this office if we so desired. He also stated that before being transferred to the First District, he had been assigned to the Intelligence Division, NCPD, for about two years and that during this time he became familiar with various Communist front organizations.

He said that an address in the 1100 block of Pine St., New Orleans, seemed to be the center of activity in New Orleans for various Communist type front organizations. He said that a Dr. Reisman, a professor at Tulane University, lived at the Pine St. address where numerous meetings were held. He said he had learned from one of his

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express that Dr. James Dombroski was seen on several occasions at the home of Dr. Reissman and at the home of a neighbor of Dr. Reissman, name unknown, who is also supposed to be a professor at Tulane University. Dr. Reissman, the unknown professor, and Dr. Dombroski were all said to be active in the integration movement in New Orleans,

Dr. Dombroski is said to have migrated to the United States from Poland. In 1956 Senator Eastland had held hearings in New Orleans and during these hearings a person named Paul Crouch had allegedly identified Dr. Dombroski as a top member of the Communist Party in the South, along with Wyles Horton, St. Eagle, Folk School, St. Eagle, Tenn.

Lt. Martello said he had asked Oswald where meetings for members of the Fair Play for Cuba organization were held and Oswald had replied at various places in New Orleans. He said he had asked him if any of the meetings were held on Pine St. and Oswald had replied in the affirmative. He said he had asked him if he was acquainted with Dr. Reissman and Oswald replied he was. He said he had also asked him if he knew Dr. Dombroski and Oswald evaded the question and never did answer it.

He said although Oswald refused to furnish the names of any of the 35 members of the Fair Play for Cuba group in New Orleans, Oswald had admitted that this group met about once each month.

Lt. Martello said there was a group in New Orleans organized under the name of the New Orleans Council for Peaceful Alternatives, and that Reissman was affiliated with this group, as were two attorneys, Ben L. Smith and Bruce C. Wiltzer, Wiltzer being a law partner of Smith. Further, that when Dr. Dombroski appeared before the Eastland Committee in New Orleans in 1956, Bruce C. Wiltzer represented Dombroski.

Lt. Martello recalled that when Oswald was arrested on 8-9-63, Oswald's aunt, name and address not recalled, later determined to be Mrs. John Murrett, 757 French St., New Orleans, had called at the First District Police Station to inquire as to the reason for his arrest and after being informed that he had been distributing literature which was Pro-Castro, she refused to assist Oswald in any way.

This same aunt had told Lt. Martello that Oswald had married a Russian girl after he had defected to Russia. As a result of the information furnished by the aunt, Lt. Martello said he had re-interviewed Oswald while he was still in Jail and obtained the following information:

Oswald was a Lutheran by religion and he worked at the William B. Reilly Coffee Co., Inc., 640 Magazine St., New Orleans. He claimed to have worked on heavy machinery. Oswald said he made \$60 per week and said that he started work at the company in May, 1963, and had worked until July 17, 1963. He claimed that prior to that he had worked at the Jackson Brewing Co., New Orleans, for one and one-half months.

He said Oswald had told him that his aunt, Mrs. John Murrett, was related to a local New Orleans politician, the name of this person not recalled.

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Mr. Martello said Oswald spoke about his ideological beliefs and made the remark that he did not believe in free enterprise. He said he asked him if he believed in Communism, but Oswald laughed and said he did not go for that. He said he asked him what he did believe and Oswald replied that Kruschev was just like the politicians in America. He said Oswald told him that he had been very much impressed with the Russian system of Government but that the people in power there were nothing but politicians.

Mr. Martello was told that when time permitted, someone from our office would personally interview him at which time the literature which had been seized from Oswald would be picked up.

Shortly after the phone conversation with Lt. Martello, SA Anthony L. Gerrits, New Orleans, made a TD phone call to SA Robert Stuart, Dallas. SA Max Phillips, who was then in the Dallas Office, listened to the phone conversation. Information developed by us was furnished SA's Stuart and Phillips.

On the morning of Saturday, 11-23-63, called at the William B. Reily Coffee Co., Inc., 610 Magazine St., New Orleans, and jointly interviewed Mr. William I. Monahan, Vice President in charge of finance, and Mr. William B. Reily III, Vice President in charge of operations. Neither remembered Lee Harvey Oswald. They furnished the employment file with reference to Oswald which contained the following listed items:

Retail Credit Company - Character - Financial Report
Application for Employment

Both were photostated and copies were obtained for our use.

The Retail Credit Company - Character - Financial Report under Item 27, reflects as follows:

"1. Lee Harvey Oswald is employed as a Maintenance Man for the Standard Coffee Company, and has been so engaged in this occupation for the past one week, and enjoys a favorable business reputation. Previous to this, he was in the U. S. Marines for some three years. He enjoys a favorable business reputation, and his prospects for the future appear to be favorable. (The Standard Coffee Company is a branch of the William B. Reily Coffee Co., Inc.)

FINANCIALS: His present and past financial standing is good, and he is regarded as an individual who lives within his means. Learned of no illness or physical impairments that might affect his earning capacity.

CHARACTER-HOME SURROUNDINGS: His character, habits, and morals are good, and he is known to keep good associates, and well regarded. He resides with his wife and child. They live in a middle class residential section with frame homes that are well kept, and living conditions are adequate. Stability and class of residents in this section is good."

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On the Application for Employment form, it reflects that Lee Harvey Oswald, Social Security No. 433-54-3037, 757 French St., telephone number HU 8-4326, attended Benjamin Franklin Grammar School and Warren Easton High School, New Orleans, graduating from Warren Easton in 1959.

On the reverse of the application it reflects that from 1959 to 1963 he was in the U. S. Marine Corps and prior to 1959 in school.

Under Personal Character Reference, he listed the following names:

John Myrrett, pharmacist, 757 French St., HU 8-4326

W. S. Oswald, retired, 138 Elmwood St., VB 5-7369

The above is lined through, and the following name inserted

Sgt. Robert Kidell, active duty, USMC

Lt. Col. J. D. Vans, active duty, USMC

Both forms have been photostated and they are listed as attachments to this report, as well as Form W-4, Employee's Withholding Exemption Certificate, dated 5-10-63, and a form, Safety Instructions to Employees, dated 5-21-63, signed by Lee Harvey Oswald.

Records of the Reilly Co. reflected that a William Stout Oswald, 700 Division St., Metairie, La., a teacher at Metairie Grammar School, had been employed by the Reilly Co. the previous two summers as a route salesman. Various papers pertaining to his employment with the company were photostated and photostats furnished this office. They can be referred to for details.

Further, that Robert Oswald, 811 Cincinnatus Ave., Metairie, employed by J. J. Krebs & Sons, Surveyors, a brother of William Stout Oswald, had signed a Standard Coffee Company, Inc., Employee's Bond, on 4-23-63, as surety for William Stout Oswald.

Mr. Moohan, a former FBI Agent, stated that Jules J. Oswald, 8908 Westgate, Metairie, home phone 721-1340, had been employed by the company for the past 20 years in the I.D. Department and that Mr. Oswald had been attending a school in New York and should have returned to New Orleans on the night of 11-22-63.

It was learned that Charles Joseph Holman, maintenance man and Oswald's supervisor, William B. Reilly Coffee Co., Inc., worked to some extent with Lee Harvey Oswald. He was interviewed on 11-23-63 and stated the subject was very arrogant, did not do his work properly, and never associated with any of his fellow employees. According to Mr. Holman, during coffee breaks employees of the coffee company would usually go to the Crescent City Garage, which is located next to the coffee company. He said Oswald would also go but all he ever saw him do was to read the gun magazines at the Crescent City Garage.

It was learned that Mr. E. C. Baroo, Jr. was one of Oswald's supervisors at the coffee company. He was interviewed and he said that in connection with his duties, Oswald was required to keep written records in their Oil and Grease Maintenance Book. From this book he obtained and furnished the writer with seven pages of handwriting and a printing of Oswald.

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