To: Edgar Tatro
From: Bill Cheslock
Re: Notes on "Motives, Means, Opportunities" panel
Date: November 16, 1991 JFK Symposium Dallas, Texas

Mark Lane started the panel discussion by stating, "The CIA murdered President Kennedy." He added that the city of Dallas did not Kill JFK, look at all of those Dallas residents in Dealey Plaza that day who ran after the riflemen.
E. Howard became a problem for the CIA. Richard Helms asked, "What can we do about Hunt being in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963?"
Mr. Lane submitted that the CIA put the assassination together, with help from the Mafia and Anti Castro Cubans, working for the Agency. Earl Warren was held hostage by the Mexico City lie. David Phillips admitted that it was a lie. Mr. Lane added, for the sake of saving time, this entire scenario can be read about in Plausible Denial.

David Lifton wasn't originally scheduled to be on the panel, but was a late addition. He looks at the withdrawal from Vietnam motive for the assassination. He cites the Pentagon Papers, Johnny We Hardly Knew Ye, and NSAM #263 as proof of JFK's plan to withdraw from Vietnam. However, President Johnson's NSAM #273 shows a picture of escalation, rather than withdrawal. Final proof is the Gulf of Tonkin incident, which actually never happened. Finally, Mr. Lifton announced that John Newman is writing a book on JFK and Vietnam, to be released in January 1992. It will deal with Vietnam being the real motive behind the assassination. The book will how JFK was being deceived about Vietnam, while Lyndon Johnson was being told the truth.

Jim Marrs continued the discussion with an elaborate chart which listed suspects, and either eliminated them or made them strong suspects, with respect to motive, means, and opportunity. The following are suspects which Mr. Marrs eliminates from complicity as the culprits:
Fidel Castro, due to the fact that his motive was weak, and didn't have the opportunity to get his assassins in and out of Dallas by himself.
Nikita Kruschev, because he viewed Lyndon Johnson as a "red neck, and segregationist." If it were the Communists who assassinated JFK, the CIA would"ve leaked this during the war protests of the 1960"s..
Oil men, although they had the means and motives, Marrs feels that they could not cover it up by themselves.
Segregationists, too, had means and motives. However Marrs points out that their assassins could not have escaped Dallas after the assassination.

At this point, I would like to add that the Civil Rights movement did not disappear after the assassination, but rather accelerated under Johnson. It doesn't seem logical that the KKK would've placed a man in the White House who became obsessed with civil rights legislation.

The following suspects were put forth by Marrs as strong possibilities in connection to the assassination:

The CIA(including Anti Castro Cubans) had the means, motives, and opportunity to kill JFK. The Bay of Pigs and the knowledge that President Kennedy was going to dismantle the Agency looms high on Marrs' list.

The FBI, certainly had a desire to survive as it was, with the knowledge that Hoover was going to be forced into retirement. The FBI did have a small group of assassins at its disposal.

Military/Defense Contractors had the three ingredients that Marrs speaks of. The pullout in Vietnam, detente with the Communists, and reconciliation with Fidel Castro are reasons Marrs suspects the Military Industrial Complex.

Lyndon Baines Johnson, positively had reasons to see JFK out of office, one way or the other. Johnson knew that he would be dropped from the Democrati ticket in 1964, and that his political career would be over. Marrs points out that Johnson had personal hit men, and told of the Billy Sol Estes story about Henry Marshall.

The Mafia, although it had the means and motive, Marrs feels that it didn't have the opportunity. He feels that the Mafia was part of the conspiracy, but not the main culprit.

The Secret Service . Jim Marrs wondered if the driver, William Greer, had a motive for his actions during the shooting. The Nix film clearly shows the brake lights on, and he is seen looking back to the President until the final head shot. At this point, he takes his foot off the brakes, and accelerates the limousine. Marrs concludes that the 120 degree turn onto Elm was in violation of regulations.

Author John Davis completed this panel's presentation with an overview of the Mafia's motives, means, and opportunities. Carlos Marcello was supported by U.S. intelligence, Anti Castro Cubans, and J. Edgar Hoover. Marcello's motives was enmompassed in the known fact that the Truman and Eisenhower administrations never came close to what the Kennedy administratio was doing to the Mafia. Marcello's kidnapping and deportation by Robert Kennedy didn't make him any happier. Edward Becker was at Marcello's farm, and overheard a plan to assassinate the President. Mr. Davis also mentioned the Jose Alleman Jr. allegation, that Trafficante told him that

JFK was going to be hit. Marcello and the Mafia would lose a perfect cover in J. Edgar Hoover, if the FBI chief was to be retired by JFK.

After listing the above mentioned motives, Mr. Davis then went on to list the means the Mafia had at its disposal. First, Dallas was in Marcel territory, and had a perfect in with Jack Ruby and the Dallas Police. In addition, Marcello knew that Oswald was in Dallas, he had pools of assass to do the job, and he knew intelligence people.

Added to the means part of his presentation, Mr. Davis gave the audience an "means of cover up" scenario for use by Marcello. The Mafia boss had a silent ally in Hoover, and the support of agent Regis Kennedy. Marcello had a connection with Hoover through Frank Costello. On Nov. 24, the day Oswald was shot by Ruby, Patrick Dean was in charge of security in the basement. It was later revealed that he knew Dallas Mafia boss Joseph Civello. To complete the means of cover up, Mr. Davis submits that Marcell knew of the CIA plots to kill Castro, and used this information to receive aid from the Agency, and possibly blackmail it.

Finally, Mr. Davis lists the opportunities Marcello had to successfully assassinate the President. Dallas is part of Marcello's territory. He knew that the CIA, and the FBI would not move on the assassins, and Robert Kennedy, to save his brother's image, would not move either, as Marcello knew of JFK's love affairs while in the White House.

Mr. Davis concluded his presentation by sharing how the federal government can throw obstacles in the way of investigators probing the assassination. He worked long and hard to get Marcello's taped recordings of conversations. the judge said, finally, release the tapes. However, the FBI has appealed the case, and Mr. Davis finds himself back to step zero again.