U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Dallas, Texas
October 1, 1980

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY,
DALLAS, TEXAS
NOVEMBER 22, 1963

The information set forth in this memorandum was obtained as result of a request by Department of Justice Attorney Jeffrey I. Fogel, Washington, D. C. Mr. Fogel has requested that the FBI contact the Dallas, Texas Police Department, and obtain, if at all possible, information concerning the type of radio/transmitting/receiving equipment in use by that Department at the time of the John F. Kennedy Assassination. The information obtained should include, but not be limited to, the type of radio used on the Dallas Police Department motorcycles, the type of microphones on those motorcycles, the range of frequency, the type of repeaters used, the method of transmission to the Dallas Police Department Headquarters, the type of transmission recording equipment, and pertinent Headquarters radio console equipment data.

On August 27, 1980, and September 15, 1980, Captain James C. Bowles, Community Service Division, Dallas, Texas Police Department, furnished the following information:

Captain Bowles was a supervisory police sergeant in the Communications Division of the Dallas, Texas Police Department from 1956-1966. Captain Bowles stated that he does not have a great deal of expertise concerning the technical specifications of the Dallas Police Department communications equipment in use on November 22, 1963. Captain Bowles stated that he thinks he probably has the best over-all knowledge of all the personnel still employed by the Dallas Police Department of the way the communications system generally operated at the Dallas Police Department during that period of time. Captain Bowles stated that he obtained this knowledge by working in the Communications Division during 1963 and by considerable

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Captain Bowles maticulously reviewed the original belts and discs in order to prepare a transcript. It was necessary to stop and start the playback machine many times in order to prepare an accurate transcript. The stylus of the dictaphone playback machine was inserted into previously recorded track on many occasions and in many different locations. It is Captain Bowles' opinion that the playback process, including the numerous placings of the stylus on the previously recorded track, may have created degradations of the original recorded material, as well as actually adding new impulses to the track.

Captain Bowles stated that he made a reel-to-reel tape recording of the original dictaphone belts using a Wollensak recorder provided him by the FBI during the time he was transcribing the original belts in the early part of 1964. One original copy was provided to the FBI, and he personally retained another copy. The reel-to-reel recordings were made by playing the originals on the appropriate playback devices and placing the microphone of the tape recorder next to the playback speaker. There was no direct wire connection between the playback device and the tape recorder.

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On September 17, 1980, Mr. [redacted], Communications Services, City of Dallas, 3920 Forest Avenue, Dallas, Texas, was contacted and advised that he would prefer that Mr. [redacted] Communications Services, City of Dallas, be initially contacted for the desired equipment information.

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On September 19, 1980, Mr. [redacted] Communications Services, City of Dallas, 3920 Forest Avenue, Dallas, Texas, and [redacted] who in 1963 was a radio engineering supervisor for the City of Dallas, furnished the following information to Special Agents [redacted] and Radio Maintenance Technician [redacted]

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Mr. [redacted] and Mr. [redacted] stated that the information they are providing concerning the Dallas Police Department Communications System as it existed on November 22, 1963, is based on Mr. [redacted] personal recollection and the composite recollection of other employees with whom Mr. [redacted] discussed this matter.

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