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JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM

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MEMO - 3/23/77

TO: Tanenbaum

001026

FROM: Fonzi

Re: Dr. Joseph Dolce - ballistics consultant

Enclosed is a tape recording of my interview with Dr. Joseph Dolce yesterday at his office in Riviera Beach, Florida. Dr. Dolce is a surgeon and a nationally recognized expert on ballistics and firearm wounds. He holds the rank of an Army Colonel (Reserves) and still does consulting work for the Army. At the beginning of the tape, I read, at his suggestion, two significant honors the Army has awarded him, one the highest civilian award possible.

*Fonzi
3/23/77
10:00 AM*

Dr. Dolce was called by the Warren Commission to serve as a consultant in analyzing the wounds of Kennedy and Connally but, from what I gather, it was on a limited basis. He was present when ~~xxx~~ Connally viewed the Zapruder film and helped question him. He also suggested the types and structures of the tests which the Commission did on the bullets. He was questioned by staff counsels of the Warren Commission but he does not know and has never seen the commission documents relating to his questioning. In Six Seconds in Dallas, Tink Thompson refers to Dr. Dolce's opinion but does not cite the specific CD in which he is mentioned. The two ballistics experts who were called to testify before the Commission, Dr. Dolce's associates in the area, were not medical doctors.

Dr. Dolce would like to testify before our Committee and I think his testimony would be strong and sensational, within limitations. He is very disturbed at the fact that, despite being the ranking and obviously most qualified expert of all the ballistics consultants, he was not called to testify before the Warren Commission. He was later told that they did not want to "bother him" and "besides, he was way down in Florida." His testimony, he insists, would have contradicted that of his colleagues who did testify.

Dr. Dolce very strongly feels that the single bullet theory is impossible. The key to his opinion, he says, is a test report which proves that a bullet could not have gone through Connally's wrist and emerged as undamaged as CE 399. He has a copy of the report which he wants to present to the Committee personally. He declined to let me copy it.

However, despite the fact that Dr. Dolce claims the single bullet theory is impossible, he also strongly feels that Oswald was the lone assassin and that all the shots came from the rear. This part of his opinion, however, is based on faulty knowledge of evidence outside his field.

indicates that at least one bullet had to miss the motorcade completely, which the Warren Commission acknowledged.

Down through the recent years, Dr. Dolce has been vocal in expressing publicly his contradictory opinion on the Warren Commission's ballistics evidence (an article about him appeared prominently in the Palm Beach Post-Times, November 18, 1973), but I feel there is a need for further exploration regarding why he did not immediately voice his dissent when he found he was deliberately not called to testify before the Commission.

I told him we would contact him regarding the possibility of his testifying before the Committee. I think the tape is worth listening to (it runs about an hour) before making that decision.

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