Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Fred M. Vinson, Jr.
Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division

139-11

Assassination of President John F. Kennedy,
Dallas, Texas -- (November 22, 1963)

The appearance of Special Agent (SA) Regis L. Kennedy before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury on May 17, 1967, has caused concern in the Department and the Criminal Division has endeavored to evaluate the participation of all persons involved in the arrangements for the grand jury appearance.

There seems to have been no lack of appreciation that this Grand Jury appearance was considered to be of more than routine importance. It seems to be acknowledged that telegraphic instructions to the Special Agent and the guidance afforded to him by the United States Attorney were clear and were understood. It is suggested he received other advice which he recognized as calling for behavior different than that suggested by the above. There was ample opportunity before the appearance and during the appearance to be certain as to the desired behavior by recontacting the United States Attorney or the Special Agent in Charge. So far as we can determine, the Agent made no effort to account for the clear instructions he had received in writing as well as orally.

It is suggested that failure to seek any guidance in resolving conflicting requests or failure to adhere to clearly understood requests should be of serious concern to the Bureau.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Memorandum

TO : Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE:

FROM : Attorney General

124-11

SUBJECT: Assassination of President
John F. Kennedy - Dallas, Texas
November 22, 1963

This responds to your memorandum of May 19, 1967, concerning the appearance of Special Agent Regis L. Kennedy before the New Orleans grand jury on May 17, 1967.

As indicated in your memorandum a telegram was sent to SA Kennedy with explicit directions not to testify about material or information acquired in the performance of his duties or in his official status. That instruction was repeated by United States Attorney LaCour and Assistant United States Attorneys Ciolino, Palmisano, and Veters in an effort to impress upon SA Kennedy the necessity of invoking the executive testimonial privilege at the grand jury proceeding.

Assistant United States Attorneys Ciolino and Veters have categorically denied that they modified or attempted to modify the directions previously given to SA Kennedy by the Attorney General concerning his testimony before the grand jury; they would have no authority to do so, as SA Kennedy is aware.

SA Kennedy was informed of the agreement reached among Judge Bagert, Assistant District Attorney Alcock, and Assistant United States Attorneys Ciolino and Veters on the morning of May 17 that if any question arose about the propriety or necessity of the invocation of the privilege, SA Kennedy would be allowed to consult with Ciolino and Veters outside the room where the grand jury was convened.

FILE-J.R.R.

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SA Kennedy, as indicated by his memorandum of May 18, summarizing his recollections of his appearance before the grand jury, departed from the explicit directions of the Attorney General during that appearance by answering a number of questions relating to persons, places, and investigative efforts with which he was familiar only through his official duties. He did not leave the room at any time to confer with Assistant United States Attorneys Ciolino and Veters about the questions being propounded to him.

The Department has been closely observing the course of the investigation being conducted in New Orleans into the late President's assassination. We therefore regard the departure of SA Kennedy from his instructions as of grave importance.

Form DJ-96a
(Rev. 6-22-66)

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ROUTING SLIP

TO: NAME	DIVISION	BUILDING	ROOM
1. Ken Thurman			2117
2.			
3.			
4.			

- [ ] SIGNATURE
- [ ] APPROVAL
- [ ] SEE ME
- [ ] RECOMMENDATION
- [ ] ANSWER OR ACKNOWLEDGE ON OR BEFORE ______
- [ ] PREPARE REPLY FOR THE SIGNATURE OF ______
- [ ] COMMENT
- [ ] NECESSARY ACTION
- [ ] NOTE AND RETURN
- [ ] CALL ME
- [ ] PER CONVERSATION
- [ ] AS REQUESTED
- [ ] NOTE AND FILE
- [ ] YOUR INFORMATION

REMARKS

Pls make a draft

1) a response pointing up Regis [illegible] telegram — ability to double ck by leaving CT Rm — & to ck USA & SAC & such other factors as to indic Regis should have not departed from instructions

FROM: NAME	BUILDING & ROOM	EXT.	DATE
		5/30	

[redacted]

[redacted]

793

[redacted] [redacted]

Kossack

I'm not sure I agree. Let's see what a response looks like at least.

Fred Vinson

5/25/67

[redacted] [redacted]

Form No. OM-1a
(Rev. 11-20-63)

D[illegible]MENT OF JUSTICE

ROUTIN[illegible]

TO: NAME	DIVISION	BUILDING	ROOM
① 1. [illegible]			
2. [illegible]			
3. [illegible]			
② 4. Belcher			

- [ ] SIGNATURE
- [ ] APPROVAL
- [ ] SEE ME
- [ ] RECOMMENDATION
- [ ] ANSWER OR ACKNOWLEDGE ON OR BEFORE ____
- [ ] PREPARE REPLY FOR THE SIGNATURE OF ____
- [ ] COMMENT
- [ ] NECESSARY ACTION
- [ ] NOTE AND RETURN
- [ ] CALL ME
- [ ] PER CONVERSATION
- [ ] AS REQUESTED
- [ ] NOTE AND FILE
- [ ] YOUR INFORMATION

REMARKS

This sounds like a timid response for culprits. I'm inclined to let this sleeping dog lie. So far we ~~have~~ had no evil results. F

FROM: NAME	BUILDING, ROOM, EXT.	DATE
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL Criminal Division		[illegible]

This sounds like a timid response for culprits.

I'm inclined to let this sleeping dog lie. So far we have had no ~~[illegible]~~ evil results.

I'm not sure I agree. Lets see what a response looks like at least.

FV

[illegible]

IMPORTANT AND URGENT

GPO 16—64000-1

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