

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (100-10461)

DATE: 2/18/64

FROM : DIRECTOR, FBI (Phone) (6:00 PM)

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD, aka
'IS-R-CUBA

LETTER FROM PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION - Dated 2/18/64.

"This will acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 2/17/64 advising the Commission regarding the information recently furnished by ROBERT OSWALD, through a Bureau confidential source to the effect that MARINA OSWALD, [REDACTED] business manager, JAMES HERBERT MARTIN, [REDACTED] sometime during her recent stay in Washington when she testified before this Commission. b7c

"After receiving this information from you, I inquired of the Secret Service as to their period of protective service, the rooms occupied by MARINA OSWALD and Mr. MARTIN during their stay in Washington, and the existence of any notice the Secret Service personnel may have had of the situation.

"The Secret Service has informed me that during the period of their surveillance, JAMES MARTIN and JOHN THORNE were assigned quarters in the Willard Hotel on a different floor than the one on which MARINA OSWALD was located, and that its personnel occupied a room which was part of MARINA's suite until the early afternoon of Friday, February 7, when, at MARINA OSWALD's request, protective surveillance was discontinued.

"I am informed also that after the surveillance was discontinued, [REDACTED] b7c

LAC

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If such were the case, however, it is possible that MARINA OSWALD and THORNE and MARTIN [REDACTED]

"I would appreciate very much if you would have your Bureau undertake an appropriate investigation of the matter in an effort to develop the full circumstances surrounding the referred-to incident. In the judgment of the Commission, it is important to ascertain:

- "(1) Whether [REDACTED] MARTIN and MARINA OSWALD occurred at a time when she was under the protective surveillance of the Secret Service.
- "(2) [REDACTED]
- "(3) When and with whose assistance she decided to dismiss JAMES MARTIN and JOHN THORNE from further association with her business interests, and
- "(4) The circumstances surrounding her taking up residence with the DECLAN P. FORDS.

"In pursuing your investigation, the Commission respectfully suggests that among the persons interviewed regarding the alleged incident your Bureau obtain, if practicable, signed statements from MARINA OSWALD, JAMES MARTIN, JOHN THORNE, ROBERT OSWALD and the DECLAN P. FORDS. The statements of the latter three will probably be limited to what, if anything, MARINA said to them about the alleged incident."

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I returned an earlier call from RANKIN. He wanted to thank me for the information about Mrs. MARINA OSWALD.

RANKIN commented that it does not make their problem any easier, or ours, easier. Commission felt that the Secret Service had a special problem here or right to make inquiry in the first instance because of the fact it was not clear whether this could have happened while they were supposed to have her under surveillance.

When Secret Service did talk to her, she said [redacted] that she consented to it. They also learned she called Mrs. MARTIN and told her about it. She said it happened after the surveillance was over and the Secret Service had moved out [redacted]

[redacted] That ROBERT OSWALD found out about it and he was complaining about her staying here in Washington and practically ordered her back to Dallas. She went back to Dallas and was staying at the MARTINS, then ROBERT got her to his house and then got this other counsel and fired THORNE and MARTIN. RANKIN asked us to check the whole thing out and get statements, etc.

RANKIN asked if there was any indication that this had happened before, and I told him that we did not have any information, that she had not been in our custody or surveillance and so we did not know.

Mr. RANKIN said that a Mr. SORRELS (phonetic), of Secret Service, is in Dallas; was the one who saw Mrs. OSWALD and we might want to talk to him. Also, Mr. KELLY of Secret Service, has been told by RANKIN that our people might want to talk to him.

LAC

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