

RE: ASSASSINATION OF
PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY
11/22/63, DALLAS, TEXAS
62-109060

For your information, the picture on the February 21, 1964, issue of Life Magazine is the same photograph as our exhibit D-20 except for retouching that has been added to enhance the detail for publication. Such retouching of photographs is a common practice in photoengraving to intensify highlight areas and separate shadow details. There has been a highlight retouched along the stock of the rifle in the Life Magazine reproduction of the D-20 picture. This retouched highlight does not follow the actual contour of the stock of the rifle. There is also evidence of retouching in other areas of the picture on the rifle and around the head and shoulders of Oswald.

Delivery of the items of evidence to the Commission on March 11, has been confirmed by appropriate letter to the Commission. It is further noted for record purposes that Mr. Cunningham brought back with him from the Commission evidence items C-14, C-10, and C-10a, which were returned by the Commission.

RECOMMENDATION:

In anticipation of a request from the President's Commission and in connection with the field's current effort to ascertain the source of the picture appearing in the afore-mentioned copy of Life Magazine, it is recommended that the field be instructed to determine whether the photograph was retouched by Life Magazine or retouched before Life Magazine obtained it.

In connection with the cover photograph appearing on the 2/21/64 issue of "Life" magazine which shows Oswald carrying rifle and wearing a pistol, the following is pointed out:

This Bureau has never inferred or advised the Commission that the rifle Oswald is shown holding is the same as the rifle used in the assassination of President Kennedy. This may logically be inferred; however, we have never in fact stated this since it is not possible through examination of the photograph to locate sufficient characteristics to state it is one and the same rifle. Our investigation to date has also failed to disclose information wherein Oswald's wife or close associates can state this is in fact the same rifle. Therefore, determining whether "Life" has retouched the photograph appearing on the cover of the above issue does not appear pertinent to our investigation. The President's Commission, as noted above, has been furnished a copy of this photograph and in the absence of a specific request, it is not felt any further action should be taken in this matter.

As you are aware, based on a President's Commission request, we have been endeavoring to establish the source of these photographs which have received fairly wide publication since the publication of the above issue of "Life." Our investigation in this particular matter discloses that numerous copies of this photograph were available in the Dallas Police Department and that no system of control was established. It is known that many of these photographs are missing. This information has been furnished to the President's Commission.

pk

*If you will
please check this
that the
Life magazine does
not necessarily
depict a
different
rifle as alleged.*