



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

February 20, 1964

Honorable J. Lee Rankin  
General Counsel  
The President's Commission  
200 Maryland Avenue, N. E.  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Rankin:

Reference is made to your letter dated February 18, 1964, requesting this Bureau to undertake appropriate investigation in an effort to develop full circumstances surrounding the incident involving Marina Oswald and James Herbert Martin.

For your information, we interviewed Mr. Robert L. Oswald, brother of Lee Harvey Oswald, on February 18-19, 1964, at which time he stated he first met James Herbert Martin approximately November 26 or 27, 1963, at the Inn of the Six Flags, Arlington, Texas. He met Mr. Martin through United States Secret Service agent, Mike Howard, at which time Martin was assistant manager of the Inn of the Six Flags. At that time Martin indicated a willingness to take Marina Oswald and her two children into his home at Dallas and consider them part of his family. Marina Oswald moved into Martin's home at 11611 Farrar, Dallas, Texas, on November 29 or 30, 1963, with the understanding she was not to pay anything for room and board.

According to Robert Oswald, on Saturday, December 7, 1963, Martin mentioned some business contracts he desired Marina to sign. On Sunday, December 8, 1963, Robert Oswald met John M. Thorne, an attorney, at Martin's home at which time a typed contract was reviewed by him which he discussed with Marina Oswald. Robert Oswald did not advise Marina to sign this contract on December 8, 1963, but on Monday, December 9, 1963, he consulted an attorney and later, on that same date at the home of Martin, Marina, on his advice signed a contract in the presence of Martin and Thorne.

Robert Oswald continued that at the same time a contract was drawn between Marina and Robert Oswald designating him as her assistant business manager and providing for his receipt of ten per cent of all funds received by Marina Oswald from personal engagements, books, pictures, movie rights and the like, and ten per cent of all increases in the trust funds

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received by Marina Oswald as donations.

Robert Oswald stated that during the period after December 9, 1963, Martin and Thorne did not come up with any positive results in the way of contracts and earnings for Marina Oswald and for this reason, he was dissatisfied with their handling of Marina's business.

On Wednesday night, February 5, 1964, James Wakefield Burke, an author, and Carl B. Schafer, business agent for Burke, visited Robert Oswald's home at Denton, Texas. Burke and Schafer had met with Martin and Thorne on two occasions to the best of Robert Oswald's recollection, negotiating with respect to writing a book on Marina Oswald's story. Robert Oswald stated Burke and Schafer were critical of the manner in which Martin and Thorne were handling Marina Oswald. Mr. Burke allegedly commented that Martin and Thorne were referring to Marina to the effect that they had the wife of the killer of the President of the United States in the palm of their hand. Robert Oswald stated he was upset by this conversation and after Burke and Schafer departed, Robert Oswald's wife, Vada Oswald, told him about a conversation she had with Marina Oswald Sunday, December 29, 1963, at which time Marina had told Vada that Martin was in love with Marina but that Marina was not in love with Martin.

Robert Oswald advised he was in telephonic contact with Martin at approximately 12:30 A.M. on the morning of February 6, 1964, at Washington, D. C., where Marina, Thorne, and Martin had gone so that Marina could appear before the President's Commission. Martin told Robert Oswald that Marina was in her room "three floors down" and Robert told Martin to have Marina call him at 6:00 P.M., February 6, 1964. According to Robert Oswald, he did not receive the call at the appointed time.


He stated he again telephonically contacted Martin at approximately 12:30 P.M. February 7, 1964, at Washington, D. C., at which time Marina was there and she came to the phone. Robert told Marina he wanted her to return home and she replied that they were planning a news conference and some sight-seeing and that she would return home on Saturday, February 8, 1964. Robert Oswald stated he called the Martin home at Dallas, Texas, at approximately 9:00 P.M., February 8, 1964, and talked to Marina Oswald telling her that he was coming to see her the next day.



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On Sunday, February 9, 1964, Robert Oswald and his wife visited Marina Oswald at the Martin home. Robert spoke with Marina privately and immediately Marina said, "You want to talk to me about Jim." Robert stated he told Marina that he did not think it was right for there to be any personal relationship between Marina and Martin and that he wanted her to come to Denton, Texas, with him and his wife to which Marina immediately agreed. Martin interposed several reasons, mostly business, as to why Marina should remain at his home, but Marina left at the request of Robert Oswald at approximately 6:30 P.M., Sunday, February 9, 1964. Robert Oswald stated he told Martin on that date that he wanted Marina Oswald to move out of the Martin home because there was something personal between him and Marina to which statement Martin did not answer. On Monday, February 10, 1964, Robert Oswald stated that after consulting with a Denton attorney, he was advised he should meet with Thorne and Martin and tell them he wanted them to terminate their connections with Marina.

Robert Oswald continued that on Monday afternoon, February 10, 1964, his wife called him at work and told him that Marina had told her that



After Robert Oswald received the call from his wife, he called Thorne and told him he wanted to meet with Thorne and Martin because of the personal involvement of Marina with Martin. According to Robert Oswald, Thorne seemed shocked and indicated it was the first he had heard of it and suggested that he meet with Robert Oswald without Martin present. That same night, Thorne and his wife came to the Robert Oswald home in Denton, Texas, at which time Thorne indicated Martin should be dismissed. Robert Oswald told Thorne on this occasion that he knew Martin had slept with Marina in Washington, D. C. Subsequently, at approximately 11:30 P.M., February 10, 1964, after Thorne had returned to Grand Prairie, Texas, Thorne telephoned Robert Oswald and stated that the best thing to do was to buy out Jim Martin's contract but Thorne did not mention a figure.



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Robert Oswald further stated that on Tuesday, February 11, 1964, Marina Oswald met Mrs. Martin at Mrs. Martin's home as Marina was getting some of her belongings from the Martin home. Mrs. Martin questioned Marina about the relationship between Marina and Mr. Martin. According to Robert Oswald, he learned of this through his wife, Vada, as he was not present at the time. On Tuesday night, February 11, 1964, when Robert Oswald arrived home from work, Marina was on the telephone and he understood that she had both Martin and his wife on the other end of the line. Marina proceeded to tell Mrs. Martin everything while Martin was listening. Robert Oswald heard very little of this conversation as it was almost over when he came in. Marina was crying after she hung up the telephone. Robert's wife, Vada, told him what the conversation was about and about an hour later Marina stopped crying and told Robert she hoped he understood. Robert told Marina he did not hold her completely blameless but that Martin was more at fault.

Robert Oswald further advised that that same evening Carl Schafer recommended William A. McKenzie of Dallas as an attorney with whom Robert Oswald might discuss the contract between Marina and Martin.

According to Robert Oswald, on Wednesday, February 12, 1964, Kathy Ford, a friend of Marina's, and John Thorne came to Robert Oswald's residence at which time Thorne said Martin wanted \$5000 to terminate his contract. Robert Oswald added that Marina returned to Dallas with Kathy Ford to spend the night at Kathy Ford's home. Thorne furnished the transportation.

On February 13, 1964, in accordance with Mr. McKenzie's suggestion to Robert Oswald, Marina decided to discharge Martin and Thorne. On February 14, 1964, Robert Oswald and his wife learned that Kathy Ford's husband had prepared two letters, one to Martin and one to Thorne, both of which Marina had signed, and that they had been mailed Registered Mail, Return Receipt Requested, to Martin and Thorne notifying each that his services to Marina Oswald were terminated immediately.


Robert Oswald further advised that on Sunday, February 16, 1964, Marina told him that she had been faithful to Lee Harvey Oswald while he was alive and that what had happened to her and Martin was after Lee had gone.





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Robert Oswald's wife had told him that Marina had said Martin loved her and that he was going to divorce his wife for Marina.



Robert Oswald further stated he had seen a picture of Marina Oswald and Martin sitting on the sofa in Marina's hotel room in Washington, D. C. He understood such picture was made by Thorne. Robert Oswald stated it was his belief that Marina moved from his home to the residence of Kathy Ford because she did not want to be a burden to him in his small home and because she feels at ease talking to someone who also has Russian for her native language.

For your added information, during our interview with Robert Oswald, he advised that on January 13, 1964, James Herbert Martin told him that Marina had told Martin that when Richard Nixon visited Dallas, date not indicated, Marina learned that Lee Harvey Oswald intended to shoot Nixon. Marina reportedly locked Lee Harvey Oswald in the bathroom all day to prevent him from doing so. Robert Oswald added that Marina related the same story to him on January 13, 1964, when they made a trip to the cemetery to visit the grave of Lee Harvey Oswald. Robert Oswald stated he does not know where Lee Harvey Oswald and Marina were living at the time of the alleged intention of Lee Harvey Oswald to shoot Nixon and he does not know the date of such incident but vaguely recalled that Nixon reportedly planned to visit Dallas during the summer or early fall of 1963. Robert Oswald also does not recall Marina stating how she knew Lee Harvey Oswald planned to shoot Nixon.

Mr. Maurice Carlson, President, Reliance Life and Accident Insurance Company, Dallas, Texas, who is a close friend of Richard Nixon, informed this Bureau February 19, 1964, that Richard Nixon was invited to Dallas in April, 1963, to the Southeast Dallas Chamber of Commerce to receive the Good American Award. Mr. Carlson stated that at the last minute Nixon was unable to attend. Mr. Carlson also stated he does not know if press coverage of this contemplated visit by Nixon was given

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in Dallas newspapers. Mr. Carlson also stated that Mr. Nixon did come to Dallas on November 21, 1963, arriving by private plane with the President of the Pepsi Cola Company.

We plan to continue our interviews with Marina Oswald on Friday, February 21, 1964. During our next interview with Marina, we will question her in detail concerning the allegation that Lee Harvey Oswald planned to shoot Richard Nixon. Results of such interview will immediately be furnished to the Commission.

We have obtained a signed statement from Robert Oswald in connection with the interview of him described above. This signed statement will be immediately furnished to the Commission upon receipt from our Dallas Office.

Sincerely yours,

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