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MEMORANDUM

Int

March 20, 1964

IN V 8

TO: J. Lee Rankin

FROM: Edward A. Conroy
John J. O'Brien

SUBJECT: Items for Possible Inquiry

At your suggestion we have set forth below specific questions which have occurred to us while working on the chronology. We have not included such broad areas of inquiry as Oswald's Mexican trip or Ruby's Cuban trip, etc. In all probability many of these items may have already been considered. However, some of them may be worthy of further study or action.

1. Jack Ruby maintained a safe-deposit box (No. 448) at the Merchants' State Bank in Dallas. In Commission #86, page 379 it states that Captain Will Fritz accompanied by Detective B. L. Shenkle and William F. Alexander, Assistant District Attorney, Dallas County, opened Ruby's safe-deposit box. It was empty. Virtually all banks require individuals opening safe-deposit boxes to sign a book or sheet. However, it is obvious that under certain circumstances this could be circumvented. Therefore, in view of the box being empty, perhaps it would be desirable to make inquiries of bank personnel to determine if any access was had to the box by unknown persons in the interim period between Ruby's last recorded entry into the box and Captain Fritz' examination of the box?

2. No fingerprints were found on the three spent cartridge casings found by the window. Would the firing of a cartridge of this type in the rifle have the effect of removing prints from the cartridge casing?

3. Oswald was taken into custody by the Dallas police at approximately 2:00 p.m. on November 22, 1963. He remained in their custody until he was shot at approximately 11:25 on November 24, 1963. Does the Commission have any direct testimony or information from the individuals who were guarding him regarding his comments, actions, etc., as distinguished from official statements by Dallas police spokesmen, most of which seem to be in the nature of a summary?

cc: Mail Room Files
Mr. Rankin's Chron File
Mr. Conroy

4. In 1959 Oswald subscribed to "The People's World," a West Coast communist newspaper (per Report No. 113 by FBI Agent Orton, dated December 5, 1963). Would the FBI have had the mailing list for this newspaper? It would appear that on and about this period Oswald (a) was known by the FBI to have subscribed to the communist newspaper, (b) applied for a passport to the State Department, and (c) managed to get a dependency discharge from the Marine Corps allegedly to take care of his mother. It would appear that if any two of these items had been associated, they would have been significant to the agencies involved.

5. On January 22, 1960, Mrs. Marguerite Oswald states she sent a foreign draft in the amount of \$26.85 to Oswald in c/o the Hotel Metropole, Moscow. This was assigned foreign transfer number 142688. Was this negotiated in the U.S.S.R., and, if so, where was the exchange made?

6. Tom Howard, Dallas Attorney for Jack Ruby, was at the Dallas jail on November 24 at the time Oswald was shot. Has there been an adequate explanation and verification of how he got in and why he was there?

7. The home telephone of Dallas Chief of Police Curry was "out of order" on November 24; therefore, he could not be reached or consulted regarding the plans to transfer Oswald. Had this phone disorder been previously reported to the telephone company? Is there a record of it?

8. Jack Ruby on his 1960 income tax return filed on May 22, 1961 gave his address as 4727 Homer Street, Dallas. George Bouhe, listed as a reference by Oswald on a job application filed October 4, 1963 with the Padgett Printing Company, has an address of 4740 Homer Street, Dallas. Would Bouhe and Ruby know each other?

9. On November 22, 1963, Oswald had orders to secure books located on the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository Building. The orders were dated November 22, 1963. Would he customarily work on that floor? Were these orders a coincidence?

10. Passport application executed by Lee Harvey Oswald in New Orleans contains photos of him. The passport was issued on June 25, 1963. When and where were the photos taken?

11. Oswald's rifle was shipped by railway express. Do any of the employees of railway express remember Oswald picking up the gun? Where was it received? Are packages such as these labeled as containing firearms?

12. The number of people in Dallas, such as prominent Dallas citizens, members of the Democratic National Committee, publicity advance men, etc., must have been aware of the planned trip by the President. Have any of these people had background checks? Who would they talk to about the President's proposed visit. (It would seem most natural for people not trained in security matters to discuss a matter of this type.) Would any of these people know any of the individuals associated with Oswald?

13. Mr. Riggs, landlord at 2703 Marsalis Street, Fort Worth, has stated that Post Office inspectors made inquiries in 1962 regarding subversive literature reported received at that address while the Oswalds occupied that premises. Is there any detailed information regarding this?

14. Did Oswald ever make a tape recording for Radio Moscow, and, if so, was it broadcast? (See FBI Exhibit No. 43, Volume 2 of Commission No. 1.)

15. According to the available report (Commission 5, p-270) on October 17, 1962, the Oswald baby was baptized at the Greek Orthodox Church, 4203 Newton Street, Dallas, Texas. At that time Marina Oswald was reportedly residing with Elena Hall. A check of church records would verify this and would provide a firm date in connection with establishing the actual period during which Marina resided at the Hall residence.