83

Date:02/26/94
Page:1

JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM

IDENTIFICATION FORM

AGENCY INFORMATION

AGENCY : FBI
RECORD NUMBER : 124-10044-10081

RECORDS SERIES :
HQ

AGENCY FILE NUMBER : 62-109060-4132

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

ORIGINATOR : FBI
FROM : ROSEN, A.
TO : DELOACH

TITLE :

DATE : 06/06/66
PAGES : 7

SUBJECTS :
WC, BOOK, WEISBERG, HAROLD, "WHITEWASH"

DOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT
CLASSIFICATION : U
RESTRICTIONS : OPEN IN FULL
CURRENT STATUS : O
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 10/26/92

OPENING CRITERIA :

COMMENTS :

[R] - ITEM IS RESTRICTED

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

UNCLASSIFIED
NARA ms DATE 6/13/

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27
5010-106

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Tolson
DeLoach
Mohr
Wick
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

TO Mr. DeLoach

DATE: June 6, 1966

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. Shroder
1 - Mr. Raupach
1 - Mr. Conrad
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Wick

FROM A. Rosen

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY
NOVEMBER 22, 1963
DALLAS, TEXAS
MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING

SYNOPSIS:

A letter was received from Harold Weisberg of Hyattstown, Maryland, enclosing his book, entitled "Whitewash - the report on the Warren Report." He believed that immediate and unequivocal explanations are required from the FBI in connection with the FBI's report to the President's Commission. He specifically demanded answers to three items.

(1) Relating to the number of bullets which were involved in the assassination he suggests five were fired. The Commission's report concludes three shots were fired.

(2) He states that in testimony before the President's Commission evidence was not introduced as to the spectographic analyses of a bullet and fragments. This is absolutely incorrect, since the testimony of a FBI Laboratory expert concerning spectographic analyses is set forth in the Commission's report.

EX-103 REC 53 62-109060-4182

(3) Weisberg alleges the whole bullet (located on Governor Connally's stretcher) had been wiped clean and that the FBI Laboratory expert testified that the cleansing of the bullet was not complete and that foreign matter remained in the grooves of the bullet. This is inaccurate since our Laboratory expert testified the bullet was clean when he received it and that there was no blood or tissue present.

6 JUL 1 1966

Weisberg formed his opinions after reading the FBI reports to the President's Commission dated 12/9/63 and 1/13/64. Both of these are located in the National Archives and are available to the public.

MR:me:eem

Enclosures

CONTINUED - OVER

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN

JUL 7 1966

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
Re: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY

In connection with our original report to the Commission on 12/9/63, the Commission credited the Bureau by saying this report was of principal importance to them. Weisberg, in his book, describes this report in part as "neat, clean, colorful and optically attractive rendition of such tenuous content that a self-respecting undergraduate lawyer would hesitate to take it into an uncorrupted court."

His 208-page book has been reviewed. It is a vitriolic and diabolical criticism of the President's Commission, the FBI, the Secret Service, police agencies and other branches of the Government relating to the assassination investigation. Weisberg attempted to have his book published by 103 different publishers both in the United States and Europe, all of whom refused. He thereafter personally published a limited number and had it copyrighted in August, 1965. Weisberg, in his own comments stated, "In writing this book the author has had but one purpose. That was to show that the job assigned to and expected of the President's Commission on the assassination of John F. Kennedy has not been done." Weisberg has distorted the truth regarding the investigation of the assassination and has set forth his own theories and deductions of what should have been done. Illustrative of this, he contends the President was shot from both the front and back, and that another conspirator was therefore involved with Oswald. His book is full of errors and inconsistencies.

Due to the inaccuracies, falsehoods and deliberate slanting of facts to fit his own purpose, coupled with Weisberg's subversive background (memorandum Mr. Rosen to Mr. DeLoach, 6/1/66, attached) it is not felt the Bureau should add dignity or credibility to him by acknowledging his communication.

ACTION:

That Weisberg's communication not be acknowledged.

- 2 - SEE OVER FOR DETAILS

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
RE: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY

DETAILS:

A letter was received from Harold Weisberg enclosing his book entitled " Whitewash - the report on the Warren Report." He stated, in the book will be found quotations from the Director's testimony and that of FBI Agents that he believes require immediate and unequivocal explanations. He specifically pointed to three items which, in his opinion, "It would seem no question of National security can be involved." Weisberg indicated that in the brief discussion of the assassination in the report to the commission it was said that three shots were fired, of which two hit the President and one the Governor. Weisberg is referring to our initial report of December 9, 1963, furnished to the Commission. He read into this comment that this report did not account for the bullet that hit the curbstone and that the bullet that did not kill the President struck him in the back, not the neck and did not go through his body. He said this did not account for the wound in the front of the President's neck and therefore theorized at least five bullets were fired.

This matter has been thoroughly covered by separate memorandum as it relates to the article published in "The Washington Post" dated May 29, 1966. Weisberg's theory is completely in error as it is obvious he has not conducted thorough research into this matter as all pertinent information is available in the "President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy Report."

In Weisberg's second point he states that in testimony before the Commission, evidence was not introduced as to the spectrographic analysis of a bullet and various bullet fragments. This is not correct since the Laboratory examiner's testimony to the Commission indicates that these items were examined spectrographically and were found to be similar in composition. The Laboratory examiner further pointed out that such similarity of composition does not necessarily mean that the fragments came from a particular bullet. Testimony as to the spectrographic comparison appears in Volume V, pages 67, 69, 73, 74 and in Volume XV, page 700.

In Weisberg's third point he states that the Laboratory expert testified that the bullet from Governor Connally's stretcher had been wiped clean. This is not

 DETAILS CONTINUED PAGE FIVE.

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
RE: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY

true. The expert testified the bullet was clean when he received it and that no blood or tissue which would interfere with the firearms examination was present. (Volume III, pages 428 and 429). With regard to Weisberg's further inquiry as to whether the bullet could be associated through residues with either the President's body or the Governor's body, there was, in fact, no blood or tissue on the bullet for such an examination when the evidence was received in the FBI Laboratory.

The bullets, one from Governor Connally's stretcher and the two bullet fragments from the front seat area of the limousine were identified with Oswald's rifle and were found to be physically the same as Western 6.5 mm Mannlicher-Carcano ammunition components. The other possible bullet fragments from the limousine, the President's head and the Governor's wrist, were only pieces of lead, similar in metallic composition to the lead core portion of Western 6.5 mm ammunition. These lead fragments and the lead smears on the windshield of the limousine and the lead residue found on the curbing at the scene, which the Commission thoroughly investigated, do not possess characteristic compositions or shapes which would permit their positive identification as fragments or smears of specific bullets.

In connection with the background of Weisberg himself, he was the subject of a separate memorandum, a copy of which is attached.

Weisberg's book has been reviewed. It is a 6" by 9" paperbound book, obviously cheaply prepared and its selling price is indicated as $4.95. The book was copyrighted by Weisberg in 1965, and on the cover it states "The book that couldn't be printed." In this respect it is of importance to note in the preface Weisberg stated the book was offered to 63 United States book publishers during a 14-month period and of these 63 publishers, 21 had so little interest they declined even to read the book. In addition, 11 offers were made by Weisberg to publishers in 8 foreign countries, none of whom accepted his offer. In all Weisberg stated 103 offers of this book were made, not counting repeaters. He indicated following refusals of publishers to print his book he prepared a limited edition and copyrighted it in August, 1965.

CONTINUED OVER

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
RE: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY

In Weisberg's own words he says his book is more than an analysis of the investigation of the assassination of the late President. "It is a commentary of the freedom of the press, the underpinning of the democratic society, and a measure of the state of that society."

Following a review of this book it was determined it is nothing more than a vitriolic and diabolical criticism of the President's Commission and the FBI relating to the assassination of President Kennedy. He indicated the superficial and immature manner in which the report deals with the possibility of a conspiracy or of a different assassin is only one of the ways in which the Commission may have crippled itself. He contended it would have been better if the Commission had had its own staff of investigators and restricted the use of the FBI and Secret Service to technical services.

Weisberg indicated his book is an attempt to "analyse the report itself exclusively on the basis of the Commission's own information." It is noted that of the 13 chapters in this book he quotes the Commission's findings extensively but thereafter inserts his own comments and theories as to what should have been done. In every instance concerning all phases of the investigation and the findings, he was critical. In Chapter 9 where he discusses the witnesses and their treatment he stated there are always those people who suddenly see a chance to become important, to themselves, to those for whom they will testify, to their circle of friends and to the world at large. He also said that there are nervous people and neurotics inevitably there are those who have axes to grind - hatreds or dislikes to be indulged, and political objectives to be attained. From these comments it would appear that Weisberg is adequately describing himself.

Weisberg said in respect to the Commission's report, "What is most lacking in this report is analysis." He has delved into the scientific findings and arrived at his own conclusions without apparent background relating to scientific research.

Weisberg claimed the Commission's report was abundantly clear that it distorts and misrepresents the Commission's information on Oswald's politics. He claims when the Commission did this, "Can there be any reason for this except a desire to fool the public?" He also contended whenever possible the Commission's report infers inefficiency of the Federal bureaucracy.

CONTINUED - OVER

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
RE: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY

Weisberg referred to the "Investigation of a Possible Conspiracy" involving Oswald. The Commission concluded there is no credible evidence that Lee Harvey Oswald was part of a conspiracy to assassinate President Kennedy. Weisberg said "On both counts the report is wrong. First, it had more than evidence of a conspiracy; it had irrefutable proof. Second, the Commission had highly credible evidence that Lee Harvey Oswald was, in fact, part of this conspiracy." Weisberg continues page after page in this particular vein of thinking. He criticized the Secret Service, the results of the autopsy examination and the bullet and fragments recovered, and the nature of the wounds of President Kennedy. It is quite obvious he has failed miserably in attempting to reconstruct the facts in their proper light.

In the author's conclusion he indicated in writing this book, the author has had but one purpose. That was to show that the job assigned and expected of the President's Commission on the assassination of John F. Kennedy has not been done. He then continues can the job really be done regardless of the consequences. Weisberg said, "Who can solve this crime?" Not the courts, for there is no question which can be taken to court. Not the Commission, for it has already both failed and closed up, its work unfinished." Therefore he said "Only Congress remains."

Based on Weisberg's inadequate research he contended the President was shot from both front and back. "Nothing else makes sense. Nothing else is possible." He stated "There was not a single assassin, Oswald or any other. Thus, there was at least one conspiracy - to kill the President."

Weisberg referred to an FBI report he observed in the National Archives which was carefully prepared document and one of the initial reports furnished to the President's Commission which the Commission commended us for. Weisberg described this report as "a tissue so thin and a polemic so undisguised that it would demean labors of a hick police force investigating the purloining of a desiccated flounder." He further described this report as a "Neat, clean, colorful and optically attractive rendition of such tenuous content that a self-respecting undergraduate would hesitate to take it into an uncorrupted court."

 CONTINUED - OVER

ITEM IS RESTRICTED

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
RE: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY

It appears Weisberg, by publishing his book, is attempting to establish controversy and to expound his personal theories and deductions concerning the assassination investigation. This book is full of errors and inconsistencies and Weisberg has distorted the truth relating to the assassination investigation. Due to information contained in his book and Weisberg's background, the Bureau should not add dignity or credibility to him by answering his communication.