

11/22/63

TO : MR. CONRAD

DATE: 3/12/64

Callahan	
Conrad	
Felt	
Gale	
Rosen	
Sullivan	
Tavel	
Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Holmes	
Gandy	

FROM : R. H. JEVONS

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY
11/22/63, DALLAS, TEXAS

On the morning of March 11, 1964, SA Cortlandt Cunningham of the Laboratory personally delivered to the President's Commission 12 items of evidence in accordance with the request contained in Mr. Rankin's letter of March 4, 1964. In response to requests of Commission staff members Oswald's rifle was dismantled and then reassembled in their presence. At that time Chief Justice Earl Warren inquired whether Mr. Cunningham could reassemble Oswald's rifle before the Commission, using only a dime as a tool, in order to make this possibility a matter of record for the Commission. It is noted that we have previously advised the Commission by letter that the rifle could be assembled with a screw driver, a dime or similar item.

Following coordination through your office with Mr. Belmont, Mr. Cunningham was sworn in before Mr. Warren and briefly testified to the ease with which this weapon may be dismantled and reassembled as well as to the type of instrument needed for its reassembly. Mr. Cunningham then reassembled the C 14 rifle before the Commission using a dime as a screw driver.

Also during the time the above material was being delivered, Mr. Warren observed a February 21, 1964, copy of Life Magazine and this copy of Life Magazine had a cover photograph of Lee Harvey Oswald holding a rifle. He pointed out the photograph to Special Agents Charles L. Killion and Cortlandt Cunningham and advised that someone representing the interests of Oswald had stated that the rifle in the photograph does not appear to be identical to the assassination rifle. This person claimed that the top of the stock of the rifle in the photograph appears straight its full length, whereas the stock of the assassination rifle is curved in the area of the comb. Mr. Warren commented that the area of the stock in the photograph in Life Magazine is somewhat shadowed and indistinct.

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Mr. Warren did not make any requests of the Bureau relative to the above comments.

CC:KO/dmg (10) MAR 18 1964
62-109060

- 1-Mr. Belmont
- 1-Mr. Malley, Rm. 5710
- 1-Mr. Rosen
- 1-Mr. Rogge, Rm. 5730
- 1-Mr. Sullivan

REC'D UNIT

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.

JWC



