PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION ON THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY 200 Maryland Ave., R. E.

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20002

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JAN 7 1964

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation Department of Justice Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

CHARD . RUSSELL SHERMAN COOPER

HALF BOOKS GERALD R.

JOHN J. MCCLOY

ALLEN W. DULLES

Enclosed is a copy of a letter from the Atomic Energy Commission referred to me by Assistant Attorney General Miller.

As you will note, the letter suggests that the application of nuclear analytical techniques might supply some useful information relative to the investigation conducted by your Bureau. I would appreciate your advice regarding the feasibility and desirability of taking advantage of this offer by Mr. Aebersold, Director, Division of Isotopes Development.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely, J. Lee Rankin

General Counsel

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L' ED STATES A LO:VIC ENERGY COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20045

December 11, 1963

Wr. Herbert J. Hiller Assistant Attorney General Criminal Division U. S. Department of Justice Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hiller:

Discussions have been held with various persons in your Alency during the past few weeks regarding that additional light muclear activation white analysis might be able to shed upon the case of Mr. Kennedy's assassination. Within less than 24 hours of the assassination, we had off and verbelly our assistance, and that of our laboratories experienced in obtaining criminalistics evidence by means of nuclear analytical techniques, to responsible officials in the FBI, Secret Service and Dallas police force. We believe it is not too late to outline what may yet

First, had it been possible to examine by nuclear methods the paraffin casts from Cswald's hands and face before chemical tests ware run on them, we feel sure that more useful information may have been obtained. It has been conceded for some time that present chemical tests are not entirely reliable and conclusive. However, that is beside the point now, in this particular case. It may be, nonetheless, that the chemnot ruin them for possible later examination by activation analysis for positive traces of antimony and barium (from the bullet primer), "

Earlier activation analysis work by our contractor, General Atomic, with revolvers and automatic pistols is now being extended to work method will give useful information to distinguish between smoke deposits from revolvers and those from rifles -- by means of their distributions on the body of the person firing them, and by the levels of antimony and barium (and perhaps other elements) deposited. In the current study, we will also ascertain whether the usual chemical tests on paraffin casts preclude later meaningful examination by nuclear activation analysis. If the results are promising, we ining the actual casts obtained on Oswald. The method will destroy that part of the sample analyzed, but does not require use of the / =

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Mr. H. J. Hiller

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Second, should it be of value, it may be possible to determine by trace-clouded measurements whether the fatal bullets were of composition identical to that of the purportedly unfired shell found with the loli time le. If the same batch of anounition was used in the shiper cullet fired at General Walker, the mothod might show a correlation in that case.

Third, there may be other pieces of physical evidence in the case, such as clothing or hair, that might lend themselves to characterization by means of their trace-element levels.

Waturally, we do not wish to appear to be intruding in the investigation and we are not curtain that our techniques can now give added useful information. On the other hand, we wish to indicate our eagerness to be of any possible help. Our work leads one to expect that the tremendous sensitivity of the activation analysis method is capable of providing useful information that may not be otherwise attainable. Should you wish us to be of assistance, our research contractor in the criminalistics work, General Atomic in San Diego, would carry out the measurements -- working directly with the appropriate government investigators and with proper safeguards regarding the physical evidence and information. The scientist in charge of this work at General Atomic is Dr. Vincent P. Guinn.

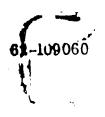
If you prefer, we can also provide experienced activation analysis services at a number of locations, including Oak Ridge, Tennessee and Tenas ASI University.

We look forward to hearing from you in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Psul C. Aebersold, Director Division of Isotopes Development

cc: G. T. Scaborg, Chairman, AEC S. G. English, AGMRD, AEC V. P. Guinn, AI



January 10, 1964

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Henorable J. Los Rankin General Counsel The President's Commission Loc My Alexande, Northeast Mashington, D. C. 20002

D...r Lee:

I have received your letter of January 7, 1934, in which you inquire as to the fongibility of applying nuclear analytical techniques to items relating to the assassination of President Kennedy.

The IDI Laboratory is well acqueinted with the analytical technique of neutron activation analysis. Through arrangements worked out with Dr. Clevn T. Senborg, Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, work is already in progress applying this technique to certain phases of the current investigation.

We were advised that Dr. Seaborg also has reported the existence of this joint effort to Honorable Earl Warren, Chairman of your Commission, by letter dated January 7, 1964.

Your office will be further advised of the results of these analyses when they have been completed.

MAILED 10 Sincerely, JAN 10 1964 L Edgar Hoover Datim-FB( -Bufile 105-82555 llano NOTE: See memo R. H. Jevons to Mr. Conrad dated 1/9/64, naod re "LEE HARVEY OSWALD, AKA.; IS - R-C" 221961 2 ∠ 1171.0X JFG:fch gen JAN 15 1964 (13) MAIL ROOM C TELETYPE UNIT MENT REPORT OF THE TRANSPORT Antiperstational and a subscription of the factor