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GAI AEC

July 2, 1954

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Allan W. Dulles  
FROM: Norman Radtich

Enclosed herewith is a letter from the Federal Bureau of Investigation with reference to the neutron activation analyses on the paraffin casts. I believe that the conclusion reached in the proposed Readers Digest article is inaccurate for the following reasons:

1. At best the analysis shows that Oswald may have fired a pistol, although this is by no means certain.
2. There is no basis for concluding that he also fired a rifle, since the barium and antimony deposits from the pistol cartridges are indistinguishable from those of the rifle cartridges.
3. The presence of barium and antimony in the cheek cast is of no significance because Oswald might have touched his face with his hands after firing the pistol. Moreover, I have been advised by the FBI lab that there had been insufficient experience with this technique to enable conclusions as to what would be the normal amounts of these elements on a person's cheek whether or not he had fired a weapon.
4. We have been advised that barium and antimony are found on a variety of common substances other than cartridge primers.

Enclosure