

Promotions Director
Atlantic Monthly Press
19 Union Square West
New York, N.Y. 10003

7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Md. 21701
12/29/87

Dear Promotions Director,

This is intended for Mrs. Leslie Cockburn but on the chance that she is promoting her excellent Out Of Control and that you may be interested in the content I write her through you.

When Meese had his White House press conference 11/25/86 he represented that he had just learned about the mess. He was asked if he had the FBI investigating. On pages 230-41 there is indication that Meese knew much earlier. In response to the question about the FBI investigating, Meese represented himself as a true civil-libertarian and proclaimed that absent reason to suspect violation of any federal law that would be entirely wrong. He lied, he knew he was lying, the FBI knew he was lying and certainly some in the White House knew.

I enclose a copy of J. Edgar Hoover's testimony before the Warren Commission, Volume 5, page 98. (I added the marks when I first read this testimony.) As you can see, the FBI is supposed to conduct special investigations not of a law enforcement nature for the president. Its massive "investigation" of the assassination of President Kennedy was and is not a law enforcement investigation.

By his inaction, covered by his lie, Meese assured time to destroy evidence. If the FBI had been asked to investigate the Washington Field Office would have sent enough agents immediately to protect everything and probably enough to question witnesses and have reports at headquarters in the morning. (FBIHQ does not conduct investigations.)

There are several references to Soldier of Fortune Magazine but I recall none to Robert K. Brown, who publishes it. The committees did not follow up when Robert Owen testified that North had sent him to Colorado to confer with people he named, including Robert K. Brown. I once knew him well. Beginning with some copies of FBI records from the Warren Commission's files that I enclose. Thereafter we knew each other well enough for him to ask my help with an anti-CIA book. I declined.

Brown is so exemplary a patriot that he didn't report it when he was propositioned to kill the President, and others. He admitted this when someone he had told informed the FBI after JFK was killed. All that happened to Brown is that the Army reserves promoted him from captain to major.

I also enclose a Miami police report that mentions him and others in connection with a bombing and a page of a reporter's notes. I believe this was Dan Christensen of the Miami Herald or News, I think now in or near St. Petersburg. No, it is the News, office phone 305/376-3627, home, 305/763-8778. "Scherer" in the notes is corrected illegibly.

Before ^{Brown} ~~his~~ started the current magazine he provided probably as much if not more information that could be used by terrorists than anyone else in this country. He did business under the name "Palladin Press" where he now is and he provided all kinds of information on all kinds of weapons and explosives, to a substantial audience. Of course, that also was patriotism. So, Ollie really knew who to send Owen to, huh?

You refer to Summit aviation in passing. It was given some attention when a U.S. plane crashed into an El Salvador volcano one night several years ago. Right away the wrong volcano, one 20 miles ^{away} rather than right at the capital was identified, incorrectly. Necessary to one of the cover stories, that it was tracking Nicaraguan planes delivering munitions to the rebels. Something they'd hardly do right over the capital. But the plane might have been there using VN technology for locating rebels

The part of what came out about Summit is that it had a large runway, paid for by the U.S. Government, so that corporate jets bound for Philadelphia could save time by landing there. I think the location is Greenwood, Delaware. This is so false it has to have been a rushed cover story because there is no time saving in landing about 30 miles south of Wilmington. Which has a modern and underused airport. (I used to live there and worked on the morning paper.) Moreover, unless they have all been developed, there used to be many small airports all around Philadelphia, including in New Jersey which, by the bridges, is quite close to most of Philadelphia.

Summit equipped the plane that crashed. Just before he left the ambassador F spoke to Jack Terrell about this. He was interested but I don't know if he ever did anything about it.

But I wonder if getting that taxpayer money under fraudulent misrepresentation is criminal, even if the CIA was behind it.

If you are interested in Brown, I can't find my file of his publications. I may have loaned them and not gotten them back or given them to someone but I feel certain the information can be obtained.

If you want better copies of any of the enclosures, please let me know.

Good luck and thanks for an important job so well done!

Sincerely,



Harold Weisberg

will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?
Mr. Hoover, I do.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Rankin will carry on the examination, Mr. Director.
Mr. RANKIN. Mr. Chief Justice, do you want to tell him briefly what our purpose is?

The CHAIRMAN. Oh, yes; it is our practice to make a brief statement before the testimony of each witness, and I will do it now.

Mr. Hoover will be asked to testify in regard to whether Lee H. Oswald was ever an agent, directly or indirectly, or an informer or acting on behalf of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in any capacity at any time, and whether he knows of any credible evidence of any conspiracy, either domestic or foreign, involved in the assassination of President Kennedy.

What he has to say about an article in the National Enquirer, Commission Exhibit No. 887, and concerning the failure to include the name and information concerning special agent Hosty in the initial report of the Oswald address book and any suggestions and recommendations he may have concerning improvements or changes in provisions for the protection of the President of the United States. Now, Mr. Rankin, you may proceed.

Mr. RANKIN. Mr. Hoover, will you state for the record your name and position?

Mr. Hoover. J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the Department of Justice.

Mr. RANKIN. Where do you live, Mr. Hoover?

Mr. Hoover. I live at 4838 30th Place, Northwest, Washington, D.C.

Mr. RANKIN. And you have been Director of the Bureau for some 40 years according to the newspapers?

Mr. Hoover. That is correct; since 1924.

Mr. RANKIN. You have furnished us a considerable amount of information, acting for the Bureau in any capacity as informer or otherwise at any time. Are those statements correct?

Mr. Hoover. They are correct. I can most emphatically say that at no time was he ever an employee of the Bureau in any capacity, either as an agent or as a special employee, or as an informant.

Mr. RANKIN. I call your particular attention to Exhibit 835, and suggest that you will find that that is your letter, together with your affidavit about his subject matter, and other matters that you furnished to us concerning this particular subject.

Mr. Hoover. That is correct.

Mr. RANKIN. Do you wish to add anything?

Mr. Hoover. No; there is nothing that I desire to add to what appears in this letter and my affidavit which accompanied it to the Commission.

Mr. RANKIN. You have provided many things to us in assisting the Commission in connection with this investigation and I assume, at least in a general way, you are familiar with the investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy, is that correct?

Mr. Hoover. That is correct.

When President Johnson returned to Washington and communicated with me within the first 24 hours, and asked the Bureau to take up the investigation of the assassination because as you are aware, there is no Federal jurisdiction for such an investigation. (It is not a Federal crime to kill or attack the President or the Vice President or any of the continuity of the President who would succeed to the Presidency.)

However, the President has a right to request the Bureau to make special investigations, and in this instance he asked that this investigation be made. I readily assigned a special force (headed by the special agent in charge at Dallas, Tex.) to initiate the investigation, and to get all details and facts concerning it, which we obtained, and then prepared a report which we submitted to the Attorney General for transmission to the President.

Mr. RANKIN. From your study of this entire matter of the assassination and in connection with it, do you know of any credible evidence that has ever come to your attention that there was a conspiracy either foreign or domestic involved in the assassination?

Mr. Hoover. I know of no substantial evidence of any type that would support any contention of that character. I have read all of the requests that have come to the Bureau from this Commission, and I have read and signed all the reports that have gone to the Commission.

In addition, I have read many of the reports that our agents have made and I have been unable to find any scintilla of evidence showing any foreign conspiracy or any domestic conspiracy that culminated in the assassination of President Kennedy.

Representative Foss. May I ask this, Mr. Hoover. As I understand your testimony, it is based on the evidence that has been accumulated thus far? Mr. Hoover. That is correct, sir.

Representative Foss. Is the Federal Bureau of Investigation continuing its investigation of all possible ramifications of this assassination?

Mr. Hoover. That is correct. We are receiving and we, I expect, will continue to receive for days or weeks to come, letters from individuals that normally would probably be in the category of what we would call crank letters in which various weird allegations are made or in which people have reported psychic vibrations. We are still running out letters of that character and in making a report to this Commission upon it, notwithstanding the fact that on the face of it the allegation is without any foundation. Individuals who do not have known any of the facts have made some very strange statements. There have been publications and books written, the contents of which have been absurd and without a scintilla of foundation of fact. I feel, from my experience in the Bureau, where we are in constant receipt over the years of these so-called crank letters, that such allegations will be going on possibly for some years to come.

I, personally, feel that any finding of the Commission will not be accepted by everybody, because there are bound to be some extremists who have very pronounced views, without any foundation for them, who will disagree violently with whatever findings the Commission makes. But I think it is essential that the FBI investigate the allegations that are received in the future so it can't be said that we had ignored them or that the case is closed and forgotten.

Representative Foss. Could you give us some idea of how many agents are currently working to one degree or another on any aspects of this case?

Mr. Hoover. I would estimate, Congressman Ford, that there are at the present time at least 50 or 60 men giving their entire time to various aspects of the investigation, because while Dallas is the office of origin, investigation is required in auxiliary offices such as Los Angeles or San Francisco, and even in some foreign countries like Mexico. We have representatives in Mexico City.

At the outset of the investigation, following the assassination, it was the desire of the President to have this report completed by the Bureau as quickly as possible, and as thoroughly as possible, and I would say we had about 150 men at that time working on the report in the field, and at Washington, D.C.

Now, all the reports that come in from the field are, of course, reviewed at Washington by the supervisor in charge of the case, and then in turn by the assistant director of the division, and then in turn by Mr. Belmont, who is the assistant to the Director.

Reports in which there is a controversial issue or where statements have been made of the existence of some particular thing that we have never heard of before, I myself go over these to see that we haven't missed anything or haven't had any lead in the investigation so it can be tied down.

Recently the National Enquirer had a fantastic article in it as to the existence of a letter that had been written or a request that had been made by the Department of Justice to Chief Curry of the Dallas Police Department, to withhold arresting Rubenstein, or Ruby, and Oswald after the Oswald attempt on General Walker's life.

First, I had the agent in charge at Dallas interview Chief Curry and I have sent to the Commission a letter as to what Chief Curry had to say. He branded it as an entire lie—that he had never received any request of that kind. Our files searched to be certain we had not received any request of that kind.

CITY OF MIAMI, FLORIDA
INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Lieut. H. Swilley
Intelligence Unit

DATE: Sept. 15, 1967.

FILE:

SUBJECT: Investigation

FROM: Sgt. E. W. McCracken
Intelligence Unit

REFERENCES:

ENCLOSURES:

This office received information from Asst. State Attorney Dave Goodhart, that the persons responsible for the recent bombings in the Dade County area have run out of explosives and are attempting to purchase some from revolutionary groups or organizations.

Various informants utilized by this office were given the above information in an effort to determine which revolutionary groups have explosives and if anyone is attempting to buy same.

On Aug. 31, 1967 information received from a reliable confidential informant that a revolutionary group, residing at 1925 S.W. 4 Street, had in their possession a warehouse loaded with arms, ammunition and C4 explosives. An immediate surveillance of the aforementioned location was established by this office and the following was learned.

A number of persons, most of which appear to be "American soldiers of fortune" residing and meeting in a large downstairs room at 1925 S.W. 4th Street, are some sort of a revolutionary group. It later developed that several of these persons were under indictment by the U.S. Government for attempt to leave from Cooca Plum Key, Monroe County, Fla. on a mission to invade Haiti.

By keeping these persons under surveillance and through license tag check the following names were developed:

— Martin Francis Xavier Casey, 1925 S.W. 4th St. (no vehicle)	"	"
— Joseph Cavendish Garman,	"	" - 57 Plym. 1-144971 (67 Fla)
— Ralph Elmer Slafter,	"	" - 60 Cad. 1WW-0991 (67 Fla)
— James Arthur Lewis,	"	" - 67 Red Rambler 1E12212 (67 Fla)
— Ralph Grant Edens,	"	" - 66 Triump 1D-28083 (67 Fla)
— Alfredo Dominquez	"	" -Red V.W. V-43406 (67 Wisc)
— Harry G. Worley	"	" -59 Ford-HWJ 938 (67 Arizo)
— Robert Kenneth Brown	"	" -Grey Volvo-MP 2946 (67 Co)

Persons who visited the above subjects:

Peter Ojtozy, 101 W. B St, Hialeah. -61 Green V.W. 1D-270 (67 Fla.)
Donald Willis, address unknown - 66 Comet -HW 661 (67 Illinois)

Most of the aforementioned persons were tailed by officers of this unit from Aug. 31, 1967 to Sept. 14, 1967 with negative results. No warehouse was ever visited by any of the above during our surveillance. Contact with this office was made by subject Martin Casey and further information is being learned; however it is doubtful that the above mentioned organization has access to C4 explosives.

ewMc:rh

MEMORANDUM TO THE FILES - MAY 28, 1968:

It was learned that one of the largest gun dealers in the country is run by Tony Sherar, who has a large establishment near O'Hare Airport in Chicago.

After the JFK assassination, the FBI informed the Treasury Department that Sherar had a cannon or a mortar that was capable of sighting on O'Hare Airport.

When LBJ scheduled a trip to Chicago, A&T tried to divert Sherar from his property until LBJ had come and gone. However, they were unsuccessful and Sherar sued Treasury Dept. for \$100,000. The suit went to the U. S. Supreme Court and it was held that Federal agents guarding the President could take said actions which might be unconstitutional under other circumstances.

Sherar travels widely, makes much money, but has no criminal record.

It is believed that one of Sherar's closest friends is Robert K. (Pete) Brown.

Sherar is licensed to sell any kind of a gun, including machine guns.

It was suggested that someone else in whom we might have an interest is Dr. Torres, a medical doctor Near Pekin, Illinois, who has an FAA license.