UNITED STATES CERNMENT

Memorandum

m) : Mr. Gallagher

FROM : J. S. Peelman

SUBJECT: AS. ASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY 11/22/63 DAVIAS, TEXAS DATE: 2/25/77

1 - Mr. Adams 1 - Mr. Gallagher

1 - Mr. Ingram

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PURPOSE: To advise of a JFK cover-up conspiracy theory recently received in the Baltimore Division involving Secret Service, FBI, Attorney General Kennedy, Kennedy family, and unknown Government officials.

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SYNOPSIS: Baltimore Division has advised of information received that gun dealer, Towson, Maryland, has developed theory that while Lee Barvey Oswald did fire at President Kennedy, the fatal head wound received by Kennedy was fired, accidentally, by "Secret Service Agent" Kenneth O'Donnell (O'Donnell is in fact the former Presidential Assistant to John F. Kennedy) and that the Kennedy family and the highest Government officials in the country have hidden these true facts. Indicated that a feature story relating to his information will appear in the Baltimore Sun papers within the next 30 days but that Donohue will at this time make available to the FBI all of his research material and data.

RECOMMENDATION: (1) That no attempt be made to obtain this research material from prior to the release of the story by the Baltimore Sun since:

conspiracy proportions is the thick thesis of investigative and historical fact. SI-126

(b) while expressing his current concern for the reputation of the 21, made no attempt to furnish his theory to the FBI prior to making his material available to the Baltimore Sun.

Enclosure

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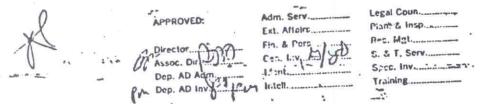
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(c) Any immediate interest by the FBI in this research material could be construed as adding credibility to this theory.

(2) That the information furnished by the Baltimore Division be disseminated to the Criminal Division, Department of Justice, and to Secret Service Residuarters in view of the fact that this theory may be published in the near future.



DETAILS: By teletype to FBIHQ dated 2/23/77. (attached), Baltimore Division advised that ..., a Towson, Maryland gun dealer, has developed the theory that while Lee Harvey Oswald did fire at President Kennedy, the fatal shot, the head wound suffered by John F. Kennedy, was in fact fired accidentally by a Secret Service Agent named Kenneth O'Donnell, riding in the follow-up car. This shot, according to ... was fired in the general direction of the 'grassy knoll which was located in front of the Kennedy car and that the driver of this car, Secret Service Agent Emory Roberts, felt the shot go over his head. ... concludes that the Kennedy family and the highest Covernment officials decided to cover up the true facts and that Attorney General Robert Kennedy ordered the Secret Service and the FBI to cover up this matter.

Review of pertinent files and related material at FBIHO reveals the following pertaining to the follow-up car to President Kennedy's limousine:

The driver of this vehicle was Secret Service
Agent (SA) Samuel Kinney; Assistant Agent in Charge (ATSAIC)
Emory Roberts was in the right front seat; Mr. Kenneth O'Donnell,
Special Assistant to the President, Presidential Appointments
Secretary, was in the left jump-seat; Mr. David Powers, White
House Staff, was in the right jump-seat; SA George Hickey,
left rgar seat; SA Glen Bennett, right rear seat; SA Clinton

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Hill, left front running board; SA William NcIntyre, left rear running board; SA John Ready, right front running board; SA Faul Landis, right rear running board. There was no Secret Service Agent named O'Donnall in the Dallas contingent.

The follow-up vehicle did carry one AR-15 rifle which was "cocked and loaded" by SA Hickey when Mr. Hennedy was lit. When interviewed, all of the occupants of the follow-up vehicle indicated that they believed the shots were fired from the "right rear" and Mickey stood up in the vehicle and faced in that direction. No shots were fired from the follow-up vehicle.

A review of the Zapruder film confirms that at the time the head wound was inflicted, the grassy knoll was not "ahead of the President" but at an elevated direct right angle to the Presidential vehicle. Additionally, the position of the President's head, turned to the left and slumped on his chest, negates theory of the fatal bullet being fired from the left rear. Additionally, a review of the testimony of Commander James Humes, Senior Pathologist, Dethesda Naval Hospital, before the Warren Commission concerning the fatal head wound (Exhibit 368) indicate that the characteristics of this wound are not consistent with the characteristics of a wound inflicted by a bullet fired from an AR-15.

Most witnesses agree that they heard three shots fired. Three shell cases were found at the sixth floor window, southeast corner of the Texas Book Depository, and were identified as having been fired from the rifle which was also found on the sixth floor of the Texas Book Depository.

Finally, the conspiracy as outlined by Mr. would of its very nature have to have enveloped not only the highest chelons of Government and various federal, state, and local agencies and the individual citizens of Dallas who viewed the motorcade in the vicinity of the Texas Book Depository at the time of the assassination, but also the members of the Warren Commission and other Congressional committees, innumerable researchers, scholars, and interested citizens subsequent to the assassination of John F. Kennedy more, than 13 years ago.

Donohue based upon available identifying data.