

Memorandum

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- Asst. Dir.
- Adm. Serv.
- Ident.
- Intell.
- Lab.
- Legal Coun.
- Plan. & Insp.
- Rec. Mgmt.
- Tech. Serv.
- Training
- Off. of Cong. & Public Affairs
- Director Sec'y

TO : Mr. Moore

DATE: 2-27-76

FROM : J. H. Campbell

SUBJECT: BOOK REGARDING ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY BEING WRITTEN FOR "READER'S DIGEST" BY EDWARD JAY EPSTEIN

BACKGROUND:

By memorandum dated February 3, 1976, I advised you that Edward Jay Epstein had visited the Bureau to discuss his plans to write a book about the assassination of President Kennedy and that Epstein stated his book would be devoted primarily to Lee Harvey Oswald. My memorandum of February 3rd pointed out that Epstein had asked questions concerning former SAC Guy Banister, civilian employments Oswald had held which might have required "clearances," and the identities of other Americans who defected to the Soviet Union about the same time (1959-62) as Oswald.

ACTION TAKEN:

In response to Epstein's requests, he has been advised that former SAC Banister entered on duty in November, 1934, and retired in December, 1954 -- at which time he was SAC at Chicago. Epstein has been told that Banister was Assistant Superintendent of Police in New Orleans from 1955 to 1957 and that he subsequently operated Guy Banister Associates, Inc., in New Orleans until he died in June, 1964. Epstein plans to visit New Orleans, and it has been pointed out to him that the morgues of New Orleans-area newspapers should contain a large number of clippings regarding Banister's activities in that city from 1955 to 1964.

With regard to Epstein's request for the identities of other defectors to the Soviet Union, he was told that extensive publicity has been given to the defection to Russia and subsequent return to America of Robert Edward Webster of Ohio, Nicholas Petrulli of New York, and Libero Riccardelli of Massachusetts -- in the 1959-62 period.

- 1 - Mr. Moore
- 1 - Mr. Gallagher
- 1 - Mr. Wannall
- 1 - W. E. Nettles

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Campbell to Moore memo
RE: BOOK REGARDING ASSASSINATION
OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

In response to his inquiry concerning civilian employments which Oswald held, it was pointed out to Epstein that Oswald did not hold any type of position which would have resulted in his being the subject of an applicant-type investigation of the FBI -- nor did it appear that another Federal agency would have conducted an applicant-type investigation of him. Whereas Epstein thought a "clearance" might have been required for the job which Oswald held for a period in 1962-63 at a company in Dallas (Jaggars-Chiles-Stovall) which had contracts with the Army, testimony on page 191 of Volume X of the Warren Commission Report shows that the department in which Oswald was employed had no contact or connection with the Army contract work -- and this testimony has been brought to Epstein's attention.

RECOMMENDATION:

For information and record purposes. As Epstein's work on this book continues, more inquiries and requests for assistance undoubtedly will be received from him.

*WJ
NP*

per

M/R

Sum