

November 24, 1999

Dear Harold,

Just a note to say thanks for allowing me access to your files once again, and for that delicious lunch I had with you and Lil. (Let's just say I'm glad I had some Tums for the trip home that night!) My wife also conveys her thanks for the leftovers you sent. You were right; they are good heated up.

In light of what we have discussed lately, I would appreciate your comments on the attached documents:

1. Page 1 is part of an FBI report re: Carl Day. It mentions that the cartons where the rifle was found were dusted for prints. I see nothing of the results of those tests on those particular boxes. Do you know anything of this?

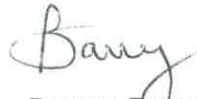
2. You showed me pictures of curtain rods being replaced in Oswald's room on the afternoon of the assassination. According to the enclosed report of Gladys Johnson, they were being replaced because the DPD bent them during a search of the room. Do you think your pictures reflect that action and there is nothing more to this story?

3. Page 3 is a news clip on the "Hunt" letter. Do you think the KGB actually did this, or is this just another example of CIA misinformation?

Chip's program, "The Warren Commission," aired on the History Channel here Monday night. You were featured in two spots.

Hope you and Lil are doing well. I'll think of you having your meal at Nicole's on Thanksgiving day.

Best to both,



Barry Ernest
542 Blanchester Road
Harrisburg, Pa. 17112

P.S. Ever hear of a Secret Service agent named Thomas

Fridley? He was assigned to JFK, but resigned before Dallas. He lives in Mechanicsburg, about five miles from here.

Also, since the CIA apparently did not release copies of the McCone-Kennedy meetings prior to 1963, do you think the JFK Library may have those? If you would like, I can follow up with a letter of inquiry to them. Let me know.

Also, despite the obvious, what else don't you like about Cornwell's book?

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"could be done. Agent Odum, Dallas office of the F.B.I. drove Lieutenant Day to the City Hall. The rifle had no manufacturer's name and had a telescope sight mounted on it which was marked as follows:

4 x 18 coated Ordinance Optics
Inc., Hollywood, California.
There was a small cloverleaf
design with 'OSC' stamped
inside the cloverleaf.

"Lieutenant Day returned to 411 Elm Street about 2:45 P.M. and continued the investigation with other Crime Scene Search officers.

"About fifty photographs were made of the area involved in the shooting and a scale drawing was made of the sixth floor by Detectives J. B. Hicks and R. L. Studebaker.

"The cartons in the area where the rifle was found, and also the cartons near the window where the spent hulls were found were dusted for prints. A palm print was found on the top northwest corner of a carton that appeared to have been used by the assassin to sit on while aiming the rifle. This palm print was collected and preserved, along with the carton it came off of, and three cartons stacked by the window apparently to rest the rifle on.

"Lieutenant Day returned to the Identification Bureau about 7:00 P.M. and started checking the rifle for prints. Two fingerprints were found on the side

CO 897

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/26/64

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Mrs. A. C. (GLADYS) JOHNSON, 1026 North Beckley, and owner of that residence, advised she and her husband reside at that address and in addition rent several rooms to the public. Mrs. JOHNSON exhibited the room which was previously rented to, and occupied by, LEE HARVEY OSWALD immediately prior to the assassination of President JOHN F. KENNEDY, to interviewing agents. This room is located on the north side of the house and access to it is gained from the dining room through two thirty-two inch solid wooden double doors. The room measures approximately five feet in width and approximately thirteen and one-half feet in length. The entry doors are located on the south wall of the room and the north wall is comprised of four double-hung wooden sash windows each approximately thirty-two inches in width and equally spaced along the wall. The five foot east wall likewise has one thirty-two inch double-hung wooden sash window centered in the wall. The west wall is solid and the entire room is painted a light aqua color. All of the five windows are fitted with venetian blinds and the entire north wall is spanned with a room-length traverse rod on which is hung floor length draperies covering the entire north wall. The east wall is similarly spanned by a floor length drapery of the same material.

The room is furnished with a single iron-rail bed located in the northeast corner of the room, a large wooden movable wardrobe in the southwest corner of the room, a small plastic-top table north of the wardrobe, and a night stand next to the head of the bed in the southeast corner on which sets a table lamp. On the linoleum tiled floor are two small throw rugs. A light fixture containing only a light bulb and no shade is fastened in the center of the north wall.

Mrs. JOHNSON advised the room is in essentially the same condition as when occupied by LEE HARVEY OSWALD with the exception of the new window coverings, which she has since replaced.

Mrs. JOHNSON advised that the room formerly occupied by LEE HARVEY OSWALD at that address had curtains over all the windows at the time OSWALD occupied it. Mrs. JOHNSON said double doors opened into OSWALD's room and directly across from these doors running the

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on 3/20/64 at Dallas, Texas File # DL 100-10461
 by Special Agent A. RAYMOND SWITZER and EUGENE F. PETRAKIS:vm Date dictated 3/25/64

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entire length of the room were a series of wooden double-hung windows. Above these windows, Mrs. JOHNSON stated, was one flat type curtain rod composed of a number of sections of the five and ten cent store variety, which was fastened above the windows and extended the entire length of the room. At each end of the rod thirty-inch pink side-drapes were hung with white lace curtains in between. She advised that venetian blinds covered each window. Mrs. JOHNSON said upon entering this room there was on the right, or end wall, one wooden double-hung window which was also covered by a venetian blind and over which hung a white lace curtain. Mrs. JOHNSON said that because of all of the windows in this small room, it was very light and cheerful.

Mrs. JOHNSON stated that when the Dallas, Texas, police searched this room following OSWALD's arrest, they bent the rod which held the drapes and curtains. Consequently, she stated, she had the old rod taken down and replaced it with a traverse rod and aqua-colored acetate drapes. A traverse rod and the same color drapes replaced the lace curtain which was on the end wall window.

Mrs. JOHNSON said OSWALD had not been engaged by her to hang any curtain rods nor did he ask her permission to hang any curtain rods. Further, she stated, OSWALD did not at any time make any mention to her of replacing the curtains in his room.

KGB made up CIA-Kennedy slaying link, book says

By JAMES RISEN
OF THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — The Soviet KGB fabricated evidence linking the CIA to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and passed

the material to unwitting conspiracy theorists in the United States, according to a new book based on KGB files brought to the West by a defector.

According to the files turned over by a former KGB archivist to Brit-

ish intelligence and detailed in a new book, Moscow's Cold War spy service took several steps designed to link the CIA to the Kennedy assassination.

These steps included forging a letter from Lee Harvey Oswald to a

CIA officer, E. Howard Hunt, asking for information "before any steps are taken by me or anyone else," according to the new book.

"The Sword and the Shield," written by Christopher Andrew and the former KGB officer, Vasily Mitrokhin,

the book is to be published by Basic Books later this month.

The Oswald letter was supposed to have been written about two weeks before Kennedy was gunned down in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963, but was actually created by the KGB in

the mid-1970s, after Hunt's name had surfaced in the Watergate investigation, according to KGB files copied by Mitrokhin while he served as a KGB archivist.

The letter was then passed anonymously to three conspiracy buffs and entered circulation in the United States when it was picked up by one writer of self-published assassination books, the authors report.

The letter led to a brief flurry of interest when a Dallas newspaper reported that a handwriting expert declared it to be genuine, but a congressional panel that re-investigated the Kennedy assassination in the late 1970s later concluded that the letter was probably a forgery.

The KGB's clumsy propaganda campaign never had much of an impact on the debate over the Kennedy assassination in the United States. But the archives spirited out of Russia by Mitrokhin appear to support the longstanding assertions by CIA officials that the KGB conducted disinformation campaigns designed to raise dark suspicions about the U.S. government and prominent American leaders around the world.