



DAILY NEWS

Partly sunny, 30s.
Rain/snow tonight.
Rain tomorrow.
Details page 127.

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FBI Chief Hoover:

DOUBTED OSWALD ACTED ALONE

—Feared Cuba Plotted JFK Death

Hoover Had Doubts on Oswald

By JOSEPH VOLZ
and NEIL LEWIS

Washington (News Bureau)

—The late FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover was convinced that Lee Harvey Oswald assassinated John F. Kennedy, but he was so troubled by the possibility of a Cuban conspiracy that he urged the Warren Commission at one point not to find officially that Oswald had acted alone.

Hoover's concern about a possible Cuban connection was shown in a Dec. 12, 1963, memo to his top aides, one of thousands of documents contained in the 40,000 pages of FBI investigative files on the JFK assassination that were released yesterday under the Freedom of Information Act. A second 40,000-page installment will be released next month.

"I personally believe Oswald was the assassin," Hoover wrote in the memo. "The second aspect as to whether he was the only man gives me great concern."

Hoover went on to say that "We (The FBI) have several letters, not in the report (to the Warren Commission), because we were not able to prove it, written to him (Oswald) from Cuba referring to the job he was going to do." He said the Cuban letters praised Oswald's marksmanship and said that "when it was all over he would be brought to Cuba and presented to the chief."

What Became of Letters?

Reporters studying the voluminous "raw" FBI files could not learn immediately whether Hoover might have inter-



Jack Ruby (r.) shoots Lee Harvey Oswald as he was being transferred from city to county jail.

UPI photo

Lee Letter Hinted at Dark Fate

By NEIL LEWIS

Washington (News Bureau) — An undated letter in Russian, found in the home of Lee Harvey



(The FBI) have several letters, not in the report (to the Warren Commission), because we were not able to prove it, written to him (Oswald) from Cuba referring to the job he was going to do." He said the Cuban letters praised Oswald's marksmanship and said that "when it was all over he would be brought to Cuba and presented to the chief."

What Became of Letters?

Reporters studying the voluminous "raw" FBI files could not learn immediately whether Hoover might have later abandoned his conspiracy suspicions or what became of some of the alleged get-Kennedy letters that the director said had been written to Oswald from Cuba.

Although there was a wealth of new material in the documents, there appeared to be no direct new evidence to contradict the Warren Commission's much-disputed finding that Oswald was the sole assassin and that the ex-marine, who defected to the Soviet Union and then returned to the U.S., acted alone.

The disclosure of Hoover's doubts was only one item in an avalanche of

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See Santa story on page 51

Jack Ruby (r.) shoots Lee Harvey Oswald as he was being transferred from city to county jail.

Lee Letter Hinted at Dark Fate

By NEIL LEWIS

Washington (News Bureau)—An undated letter in Russian, found in the home of Lee Harvey Oswald's wife, Marina, shortly after President Kennedy's assassination, indicated that Oswald expected shortly to become notorious and possibly a convict because of something he planned to do.

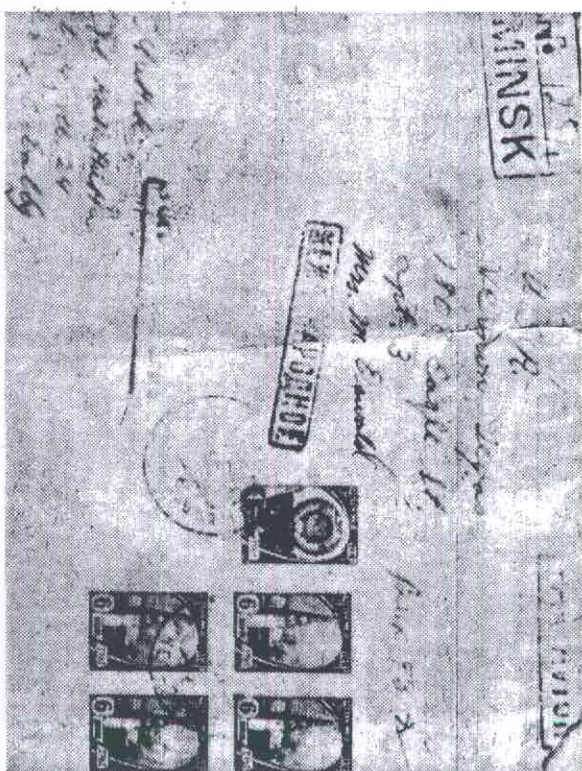
The letter, which was translated by an FBI agent, appears to be from Oswald to his wife, assuring her she will be taken care of even if he goes to jail.

She Was Watching TV

"I paid the rent on the house so don't worry about it," the letter said. "I left you as much money as I could." The letter also asks that any information about what happens to him, including possible newspaper clippings, be sent to "the Embassy," otherwise unidentified, but a possible reference to the local Soviet consulate, since Marina was a Soviet citizen.

The translation is contained in 40,000 pages of FBI files on the Kennedy assassination released yesterday. The note is referred to in the Warren Commission report.

When questioned about the apparent farewell letter found in a cookbook, Marina told another FBI agent it followed an assassination attempt by Oswald, against right-wing former Gen.



Letter envelope from Minsk, Russia to Marina Oswald, from Ruby Lee Harvey.

Egypt Boots Envoys of Five Red Lands

Cairo (Combined Dispatches)—Egypt ordered the Soviet Union and four Eastern European allies to close most of their offices in Egypt yesterday because the Communists were "trying to provoke a bloody class conflict" and sabotage President Anwar Sadat's peace overtures to Israel.

Prime Minister Moudouh Salem, who announced the action after a special cabinet meeting, said the Soviet bloc has been recruiting "local agents to incite opposition" to Sadat's drive for Middle East peace.

The order, which carried no deadline, would force the Soviet Union, East Germany, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland to close all of their consulates outside Cairo and all cultural centers throughout Egypt, Bulgaria, Romania,

and Yugoslavia were excluded from the order. Salem said that the Soviet bloc nations could maintain consulates in Cairo "just as we have consulates only in the capitals of these countries."

Salem gave no indication that Cairo was planning a complete break in relations with Moscow. Those relations have been strained over the Soviets' refusal to rescind Egyptian war debts and provide spare parts to Egypt's Soviet-

however, as herding tightened Egyptian-U.S. coordination in the search for a Mideast settlement.

Meanwhile, King Hussein of Jordan attempted to ease growing tension among Arabs by making a trip to Syria yesterday to try to mediate differences between Sadat and Syrian President Hafez Assad. Hussein and Assad met privately for about five hours yesterday and the king reportedly urged Assad not to carry his opposition to Sadat's peace moves to the point of no return. Hussein will fly to Cairo today and then go to Saudi Arabia.

Sadat ordered the closing of the Communist bloc offices after warning over the weekend that the Soviets "can-

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Oswald clenches manacled fists as he arrives in police station.



Oswald is placed in ambulance after being shot by Jack Ruby.

Hoover Had Doubts That Oswald Acted Alone

(Continued from page 2)

paper and documents — nearly a half a ton in a floor-to-ceiling stack — made public in response to a Freedom of Information Act suit. The 25,000 internal memos and raw investigative reports, censored to delete sensitive sources, rumors, and false leads, indicated that despite the initial confusion and chaos, Hoover immediately directed an all-out probe and was able to report within hours after the Dallas shooting that Oswald was the likely killer and was probably "a nut" from the "extremist, pro-Castro crowd."

The files also showed that:

- While the Secret Service chief at the time, James J. Rowley, shared Hoover's early belief that Oswald was the killer, he also shared Hoover's concern over a possible wider conspiracy.
- The FBI apparently never gave to

married a Russian woman before returning to the U.S., made several inquiries at the Soviet embassies in Washington and in Mexico City about the assassination.

• Marina Oswald, the assassin's Russian-born wife, told FBI agents after the shooting that her husband had tried eight months earlier to shoot and kill former Army Maj. Gen Edwin Walker in his Dallas home. She said Oswald told her he escaped on foot and by bus, the same method used in the Kennedy assassination. Mrs. Oswald told agents that when she heard that Kennedy had been shot, she feared that her "crazy" husband might have done it.

• A memo to Hoover dated Nov. 27, 1963, quotes the deputy attorney general at the time, Nicholas Katzenbach, as saying that he had learned that Abe Fortas, a close friend of the new President Lyndon B. Johnson, and later a

In 40,000 Pages...

Washington (UPI) — Highlights of the 40,000 pages of FBI Kennedy assassination documents.

• J. Edgar Hoover harbored some doubts that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in killing John F. Kennedy. Three weeks after the Nov. 22, 1963 murder, Hoover advised aides that he had some letters in which someone in Cuba had apparently encouraged Oswald to kill Kennedy and urged the Warren commission not to release an early official finding that "Oswald was the only man."

• Hoover, however, never doubted that Oswald was the trigger man. He advised President Lyndon Johnson of that belief within hours of the shooting, describing Oswald as "in the category of a nut and the extremist pro-Castro crowd."

• In an early interview with FBI agents, Marina Oswald said her husband "never gave any indication whatsoever that he intended any harm to the President." The agency memo raised speculation that Oswald might have been aiming at someone else — presumably Texas Gov. John Connally, who was riding in Kennedy's car — because "one shot would have been enough" if he were firing only at Kennedy. The Warren Commission said Oswald fired three shots.

and aides, moved immediately, directed an all-out probe and was able to report within hours after the Dallas shooting that Oswald was the likely killer and was probably "a nut" from the "extremist, pro-Castro crowd."

The files also showed that:

- While the Secret Service chief at the time, James J. Rowley, shared Hoover's early belief that Oswald was the killer, he also shared Hoover's concern over a possible wider conspiracy.

- The FBI apparently never gave to the Warren Commission some of the provocative letters supposedly written to Oswald from Havana, because the bureau could not authenticate them o Hoovers' satisfaction.

- Hoover broke the news of the President's assassination to Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy 15 minutes after the shooting, but it as Robert Kennedy who later informed Hoover that the President had been pronounced dead at Dallas' Parkland Hospital.

- The FBI had to cope with thousands of worthless leads, hoaxes, crank calls, letters, and wild theories, and it investigated them all. For instance, hundreds of persons notified the FBI of the identities of persons who, at one time or another, had suggested that Kennedy should be killed; each allegation was meticulously checked out. Even six months after the slaying, agents were sent to question a Scottsdale, Ariz., service station attendant who found "John Wilks (sic) Booth" and "John F. Kennedy" scrawled on the front of a telephone directory. (Booth was the assassin of Abraham Lincoln.)

- Relations between the FBI and CIA wore thin during the tense days after the assassination. At one point, Hoover accused the CIA director at the time, John J. McCone, of telling Rep. Gerald R. Ford (R-Mich.), a member of the Warren Commission, that Oswald was paid \$6,500 in Mexico City to kill Kennedy. Hoover was linked because the FBI had told McCone personally that there was no truth to that story.

- Oswald "frantically denied" shooting Dallas Police Officer (J.D.) Tippitt or shooting President John F. Kennedy," when questioned by Dallas Police Capt. J.W. Fritz, an FBI report said. The report said Oswald also denied ever owning a rifle. But no stenographic notes were kept of Fritz' interrogation of Oswald.

- Oswald, who defected to the Soviet Union from the Marine Corps and

in his Dallas home. She said Oswald told her he escaped on foot and by bus, the same method used in the Kennedy assassination. Mrs. Oswald told agents the when she heard that Kennedy had been shot, she feared that her "crazy" husband might have done it.

- A memo to Hoover dated Nov. 27, 1963, quotes the deputy attorney general at the time, Nicholas Katzenbach, as saying that he had learned that Abe Fortas, a close friend of the new President, Lyndon B. Johnson, and later a Supreme Court justice, was opposed to the idea of a special presidential commission looking into the assassination. "Certainly something sinister here," read a note in Hoover's handwriting. (Fortas, contacted yesterday, denied he had ever opposed formation of the Warren Commission, and Katzenbach said that LBJ was not a reliable source when it came to quoting someone else.)

- On Dec. 2, 1963, the U.S. Embassy in Rome sent Hoover a report that an American newspaper columnist there—the name was censored—said that the Spanish ambassador to Italy, Sanchez Bellas, had showed him a report prepared by Spanish intelligence alleging that Kennedy's assassination was the work of Fidel Castro. The State Department cable said in part:

"(censored) stated that, as he understood the report, Fidel Castro was very much disturbed by the deaths of the Diem brothers in Vietnam and felt certain that these deaths had been caused by the CIA... (Castro) had been most upset by the apparent rapport established between President Kennedy and Premier (Nikita) Khrushchev... and felt that some dire act was needed to destroy this rapport."

Four days later, the FBI cabled the U.S. Embassy in Madrid asking it to check if Spanish intelligence had any information as to whether Oswald "was acting as a Cuban agent."

The FBI's own evidence of a possible Cuban link, referred to in the Hoover memo to his top aides, was apparently a letter with a Havana postmark that was sent to Oswald on Nov. 29, six days after the assassination and four days after he was killed on national TV by Jack Ruby. That letter was signed by a "Pedro Charles."

The same last name was contained in a second letter, written on the same day to Attorney General Kennedy by a "Mariano del Rosario Molina" of Havana. The Rosario Molina letter alleged that Oswald had killed the President at "Charles" direction.

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- FBI agent said that Oswald "frantically denied" shooting either Kennedy or Dallas Patrolman J.D. Tippitt, another victim that day, when officers questioned him before his own murder by Jack Ruby. The Warren Commission included extensive paraphrased recollections of what Oswald had told his captors, since no tape recordings or stenographic transcripts were kept. But those reports described the suspect as poised and even defiant rather than "frantic."

- Ruby insisted "no one else was involved" in the murder of Oswald on Nov. 24. FBI agents quoted Ruby as saying he had simply brooded over the Kennedy assassination "until he reached the point of insanity."

Lee's Letter to Marina Hinted at Fateful Future

(Continued from page 2)

Edwin Walker, the previous spring. The letter concludes by telling her the site of the city jail house "I am alive and taken prisoner."

The files show that Marina told the FBI she was watching television with a friend when the bulletin about the President's shooting was broadcast that Friday noon. When she heard that the shots might have come from the Texas Schoolbook Depository, she said she exclaimed: "Did my crazy one do it?"

She then ran to garage where Oswald kept his mail-order Italian rifle wrapped in a blanket and saw that the blanket was still there in its usual shape and assumed the rifle was still inside.

Marina Oswald also said that on the night before Kennedy was killed, her estranged husband visited her and stayed the night, once again wearing his wedding ring. After the shooting, she noticed that he had left the ring on her dresser, something he never did before. She speculated that he left it "because he thought he was coming back."

Although J. Edgar Hoover identified Oswald hours after the shooting as

suspect, describing him as a "leftist nut", the files show the FBI had trouble at first in evaluating a man who one day would hand out leaflets on a New Orleans street corner for the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, then walk into a storefront headquarters for an anti-car-tro group the next day and offer his services. He boasted that as an ex-marine he had familiarity with "guerrilla tactics."

The files also show that Oswald and his wife wanted to return to Russia as late as two weeks before Kennedy's death.

In a Nov. 9 note to the Soviet Embassy in Washington, Oswald asked to return and referred to his recent trip to Mexico City where he had stopped at the Soviet Embassy there.

He said they were "unprepared" for him at the embassy in Mexico City and added, "Had I been able to reach the Soviet Embassy in Havana, as planned, the embassy there would have had time to complete our business."

It has been known that Oswald visited both the Cuban and Soviet consular offices in Mexico City.

Jack Ruby: I Just Lost My Senses

By FRANK VAN RIPER

Washington (News Bureau) — All Jack Ruby said he could remember of the man he murdered was that the man emerged from nowhere between two men. "That's all I can remember. Naturally, I know who he is. To me he had this quirky, smug, vindictive attitude."

"I can't explain what impression he gave me, but that is all I can... well, I just lost my sense. The next I knew I was on the ground and five or six policemen were on top of me," Ruby told the FBI.

From thousands of pages of newly released FBI documents, Ruby emerges as a tormented, sometimes belligerent, often emotional man whose decision to kill Lee Harvey Oswald appears to have been made on the spur of the moment, minutes after he managed to walk unnoticed into the basement of Dallas Police Headquarters on Nov. 24, 1963.

"No one knew I was going to shoot him," Ruby, a Dallas night-club operator told FBI agents. "I didn't discuss anything with anyone about shooting him."

Always Carried a Gun

It was easy, Ruby told the agents. He always carried a gun. You had to in the night-club business in Dallas, he said. There were so many stickups and he often carried large amounts of cash. For months, the FBI tried to deter-

Others simply were moved by strong emotion. A Key West, Fla., woman was in her doctor's office, being treated for a cold, when she and her doctor watched Ruby murder Oswald on television.

She told agents she immediately wrote Ruby a warm letter of praise. It was a spur-of-the-moment thing. She probably would not have done it had she thought more about it.

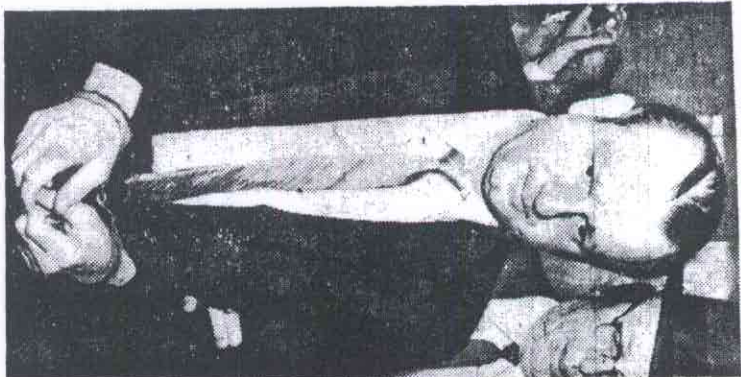
It might have been that way with the Oswald killing, too.

"When he shot before me like he did, something in my insides tore out," Ruby said. He said he thought about Oswald "being associated with communism and how he blemished this beautiful city," and Mrs. Kennedy having to come back for the trial.

Reached Into His Pocket

Then, Ruby said, he reached into his pocket and took out his gun.

Ruby, convicted of Oswald's murder, died of cancer three years later, after being transferred from Dallas County jail to Parkland Hospital, where both Kennedy and Oswald were also pronounced dead.



Jack Ruby
Oswald slayer later died

Kennedy's Last Words?

Washington (UPI)—John F. Kennedy's last words may have been either "get me to a hospital" or "My God, I've been hit," according to two different versions by the chief Secret Service agent in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

Roy Kellerman, assistant agent in charge of the White House detail and the ranking Secret Service agent that day, was riding next to the driver of the presidential car. His first-person accounts of Kennedy's shooting were contained in 40,000 pages of FBI documents released for the first time yesterday.

Kellerman gave two separate accounts to the FBI. In one, he recalled that the car had just traveled through a crowd of 250,000 persons and he had "breathed a sigh of relief" as they approached an underpass.

He said he then heard a shot, "observed the President slump forward and heard him say, 'Get me to a hospital.'"

Mrs. Kennedy said, "Oh, no!" Kellerman said it took eight minutes to get to the hospital, and on arrival "the President was breathing and gasping for breath, but did not appear

Oswald Said Kennedy Was a Good President; His Wife Told the FBI

Washington (UPI)—Portion of an FBI report on an interview with Marina Oswald, widow of President Kennedy's assassin, on Dec. 4, 1963:

On the morning of Nov. 22, 1963, the alarm rang at 6:40 a.m. and she woke and Oswald remained asleep. She began feeding the baby and at about 7 o'clock



Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

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Kellerman said it took eight minutes to get to the hospital, and on arrival "the President was breathing and gasping for breath, but did not appear conscious."

In a separate interview, Kellerman said he "distinctly and positively" heard Kennedy say, "My God, I've been hit."

Mrs. Kennedy said: "My God, what are they doing to you?"

In this second version of the events, Kellerman said he was sure of what Kennedy said because he had been "in almost daily contact, for the past three years, with the President, and could pick his voice out from any group of people."

JFK-Killing Probe Drew 'Em Out of the Woodwork

By FRANK VAN RIPER

Washington (News Bureau)—One woman wrote to Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy that his brother, the President, had been killed by "the highest echelon of the Syndicate, called 'The Members of the House of Ax.'" She said she knew this because "demons and werewolves" continually spoke to her in private.

Another letter-writer from Albany said she had a dream two weeks before the Nov. 22, 1963, assassination in which she saw the local newspaper with headlines of JFK's death and she just had to tell somebody about it.

An El Paso, Tex., man told a complicated story about a Mexican search for Lee Harvey Oswald that got him into the newspapers and tied up two FBI agents nearly a week checking it out. His doctor later told agents that the man "seemed to delight in getting himself into difficult situations with his own imagination."

"Examine contents of suspect Oswald stomach and intestines for traces of chicken," wired a California man. In another telegram, a New York man said: "Suggest analysis of feces of suspect Oswald... for traces of chicken." The preoccupation with chicken came from the fact that chicken bones were found near the spot where probers said

Oswald was standing when he shot Kennedy.

The investigation of the Kennedy assassination seemed to attract most of the nation's weirdos, and the thousands of documents made public by the FBI yesterday showed that the bureau had to look into every one. The files also showed that agents thought some of these citizen "tips" obviously did not warrant a second glance—a frequent notation was that the tipster was "a mental case"—but they still had to check them out.

One New Yorker "confessed" he had something to do with the assassination because he had a "light beam gun" that forced Oswald to kill JFK. He said he had told Robert Kennedy about the "light beam gun" and RFK had done nothing about it, thus RFK was to blame for what ultimately happened.

His Wife Told the FBI

Washington (UPI)—Portion of an FBI report on an interview with Marina Oswald, widow of President Kennedy's assassin, on Dec. 4, 1963:

On the morning of Nov. 22, 1963, the alarm rang at 6:40 a.m. and she awoke and Oswald remained asleep. She began feeding the baby and at about 7 o'clock she awoke Oswald and told him he had better get up or he would be late for work.

He got up and as he finished dressing said he would take care of his own breakfast. He then went into the kitchen, but she does not believe he fixed anything because the coffee pot was not warm when she went in later, about 7:20, and she saw no signs of breakfast preparations.

She said the last time she saw Oswald was when he left her bedroom to go to the kitchen.

It wasn't convenient

On Nov. 21, 1963, the previous evening, Oswald told her that he would not be able to come to the Paine residence (family friends) on the coming weekend, Nov. 22-24, 1963. She asked him why and he said it was not convenient to disturb people so often. She also remembers that on Thursday, Nov. 21, she came running from the kitchen to see Oswald in another part of the house, and asked him how it would be to see a real live President.

She was referring to the visit of President Kennedy, scheduled for the next day. Oswald was extremely short in his answer, said something like "I don't know," and abruptly terminated the conversation.

She stated she had asked Oswald on one occasion what kind of a President Mr. Kennedy was and he had replied that Kennedy was a good President. She said Oswald never gave any indication whatsoever that he intended any harm to the President.

She said she feels intuitively that if Oswald was trying to kill the President, that one shot would have been enough, and that she feels, therefore, that he might have been aiming at the other person (Texas Gov. John B. Connally). She said Oswald never mentioned any possible plans that he might have about assassinating the President. She said she cannot understand this thing.

She recalled on one occasion, quite a while ago, she made the remark to Os-



Marina Oswald
Oswald wrote her from USSR

wald that she couldn't imagine one person killing another. She asked him if he could kill another person and he replied: "Hitler needed killing," and implied that by killing Hitler, others could be saved.

The rifle that was owned by Oswald she had seen many times. She recalled specifically seeing it when they lived on Neeley Street... She advised she did not know that the rifle had a scope on it.

A Mountain Of Evidence

Washington (Special)—The size of the material on the Kennedy assassination released by the FBI yesterday was monumental—40,000 pages.

Copies were made for the press by FBI workers. Each set was packed in cartons—15 cartons per set. The total package weighed 800 pounds.