

Mr. C. J. Simons

Miami

S. J. Minissale

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Investigation Absolving EAL
Pilot in Suspected Gun Smuggling.

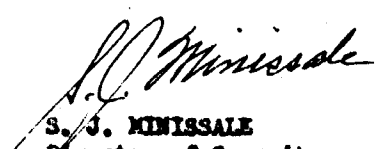
14 August 1959

CONFIDENTIAL

On 8/13/59 Customs Agents E. Langford and J. Vandiver appeared in this office to report they had Pilot David William Ferris placed under surveillance since they had a tip that Ferris may be involved in a gun smuggling operation. Their tip came from the Federal Bureau of Investigation here when an informant advised the FBI that he had overheard a long distance telephone conversation between Ferris and a male in New Orleans regarding the handling of guns, use of tennis shoes and rope and the apparent takeoff of an airplane after the moon went down. Ferris was transferred here temporarily from New Orleans and is staying at the Travelers Hotel, across the street from the old EAL terminal.

After a 26 hour surveillance and background investigation, Langford called to notify us that Ferris was not involved in any nefarious acts of wrongdoing. The Customs Agent investigators learned later in the investigation that Ferris, who is a scout leader, had been trying to promote transportation to South America with the Air Force Transportation Corps. The conversation about the guns, tennis shoes and rope was in reference to a proposed hike at the termination of their proposed flight.

Captains John Halliburton and George Diggs, who had been notified of the investigation, were contacted to let them know that Pilot Ferris was not involved in any acts of wrongdoing. We also advised them that Ferris had forwarded most of his \$200.00 advance to New Orleans to defray expenses regarding the preparation for the proposed flight for his boy scouts.


S. J. MINISSALE
Director of Security

SJM:m

cc: Mr. T. E. Creighton
Capt. J. H. Halliburton