



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

March 17, 1964

By Courier Service

Honorable J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel
The President's Commission
200 Maryland Avenue, N. E.
Washington, D. C. 20002

Dear Mr. Rankin:

Reference is made to your letter of March 11, 1964, concerning possible discrepancies between the photograph of Lee Harvey Oswald holding a rifle and the rifle which is designated as FBI Exhibit C14. The photograph appears as Commission Exhibit 133 and is the photograph which is enlarged as Commission Exhibit 134.

Pursuant to your request, the FBI Laboratory has made photographs of the rifle at the same angle as it appears in Commission Exhibit 133. Transmitted herewith is a copy of a photograph made by the FBI Laboratory of the Oswald rifle, FBI Exhibit C14, being held in a similar pose to that shown in Commission Exhibit 133 photograph; the photograph made by the FBI Laboratory was taken with the Duo-lens Imperial reflex camera furnished to the FBI by Robert Oswald on February 24, 1964, and identified by Marina Oswald as the camera with which she took the photographs of Lee Oswald holding a rifle and wearing a pistol. Also transmitted is a copy of the photograph in Commission Exhibit 133, of approximately the same size. In addition, there is transmitted herewith an enlarged copy of the photograph in Commission Exhibit 133, together with an enlarged photograph made by the FBI Laboratory using a four-inch by five-inch camera of the Oswald rifle being held in a pose similar to the picture in Commission Exhibit 133.

With respect to the suggestion that the rifle stock shown in Commission Exhibit 133 is straight, attention is invited to a bright spot or "high light" in both rifle stock photographs taken by the FBI. This high light is observed to coincide with a sharp change in the stock contour at the point of the hand grip. A similar high light in a corresponding position is likewise present in the photographic copies of Commission Exhibit 133.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

Enclosures (4)