

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. Rogge

Mr. Belmont

2/3/64

A. Rosen

LEE HARVEY OSWALD
INTERNAL SECURITY - RUSSIA

PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION
ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT

On January 30 and 31, 1964, Mr. Melvin Eisenberg, Norman Redlich, and Charles N. Shaffer of the President's Commission staff came to the Bureau and examined certain items of an evidentiary nature which were in the possession of the Bureau. During their examination an official request was made through Charles N. Shaffer to have made available to the President's Commission the items of clothing worn by Lee Harvey Oswald at the time of his arrest in Dallas on November 22, 1963, by the Dallas Police Department.

After checking into this matter it was determined the only item of clothing in the Bureau's possession was a brown sport shirt which had been obtained for examination purposes from the Dallas Police Department and was still in our possession. The other items of clothing worn by Oswald at the time of his arrest were retained by the Dallas Police Department for evidence in connection with the trial of Jack Ruby who shot Oswald.

The request was then made that the items of clothing available in the Dallas Police Department be made available to the President's Commission and to have such material available during the questioning of Marina Oswald, which was to commence at 10:00 a. m. on February 2, 1964. This request was confirmed in writing on February 1, 1964, in a letter signed by Honorable J. Lee Rankin. After appropriate contact with District Attorney Wade and officials of the Dallas Police Department, arrangements were made for all items of clothing worn by Oswald to be brought to the Bureau on Sunday, February 2, 1964, by an Agent of the Dallas Office. In order to obtain these items of clothing, it was necessary to guarantee to the Texas authorities that these items would be returned to Dallas not later than the end of this week, inasmuch as a local hearing in the Ruby case was scheduled in Dallas on February 10. It was also necessary to agree with the Dallas authorities that these items of clothing would remain in the custody of Special Agent Vincent Drain until returned to the Dallas Police Department in order to maintain the chain of evidence.

- Tolson
- Belmont
- Mohr
- Casper
- Callahan
- Conrad
- DeLoach
- Evans
- Gale
- Rosen
- Sullivan
- Tavel
- Trotter
- Tele. Room
- Holmes
- Gandy

- 1 - Mr. Conrad
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan

162-109090
NOT RECORDED
199 FEB 24 1964

DUPLICATE YELLOW

IRM:mod (10) ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

ORIGINAL FILED IN 1828

Section 3

Memo to Mr. Belmont from A. Rosen
Re: Lee Harvey Oswald

Prior to making these articles of clothing available to the Commission, Mr. Rankin was located in New York and telephonically advised of the circumstances under which the clothing was obtained and it would therefore be necessary that these items of clothing be returned to Dallas by the end of this week. Mr. Rankin stated that the request would be complied with and if any difficulty arose he would personally contact the local authorities in Texas in order to try and work out appropriate arrangements; otherwise, it would be returned as requested.

Upon receipt of the clothing and prior to making it available to the President's Commission, it was checked by Laboratory personnel only for the purpose of seeing if any extraneous items might be in the pockets of the clothing. A slip of paper bearing four telephone numbers was located in the right-hand side pocket of the trousers. These telephone numbers are as follows: OR 9-9450; RI 8-9711; AC 2-4611; and CO 7-3110. Inquiry by our Dallas and New York Offices has resulted in these numbers being identified as follows:

RI 8-9711 is the general telephone number for the City of Dallas, Texas;

OR 9-9450 is the telephone number for "The Worker", 23 West 26th Street, New York City;

CO 7-3110 is the telephone number for the law firm of David Freedman and Abraham Unger, 320 Broadway, New York City. (The firm of Freedman and Unger has represented the Communist Party and various members on numerous occasions for a period of years.)

AC 2-4611 is listed to John J. Abt, residence 444 Central Park West, New York City. (Abt is an attorney and has represented individuals in the Communist Party for a number of years.) This number is also listed to Jessica Smith, who is the wife of John J. Abt and uses her maiden name as a practicing attorney. (Both Abt and Smith have represented members of the Communist Party for a number of years.)

The clothing was taken to the President's Commission offices 2/3/64 at which time Norman Redlich and Melvin Eisenberg advised they did not know when these items of clothing would be needed in connection with the questioning of Mrs. Oswald. They were advised of the circumstances under which the clothing was

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obtained, the necessity for maintaining the chain of evidence, which both fully understood, and the clothing was therefore returned to the Bureau for safekeeping and will be made available to the Commission upon their request.

In conversation today with Mr. Howard Willens, Willens advised the questioning of Marina Oswald relative to the clothing would be handled at the earliest possible time in order that it could be returned to the Dallas authorities.

ACTION:

There is attached a letter to Mr. Rankin in response to his letter of February 1, 1964, relative to these items of clothing and information regarding the telephone numbers.

It is significant that the last three numbers were in Oswald's pants at time of arrest. It raises question as to his possibly anticipating trouble from some act of his. Also I don't know why our Dallas office didn't go over these articles at time of Oswald's arrest.

H