Washington, D. C.
September 8, 1975

I, Kenneth C. Howe, being duly sworn, hereby make the following voluntary statement to Assistant Director Harold N. Bassett and Special Agent in Charge of the New York Office Philip A. McNiff.

In July of this year I furnished three statements relative to my knowledge of information that had been brought to the attention of the FBI indicating that Lee Harvey Oswald had come to the Dallas Office of the FBI some time prior to the assassination of President Kennedy on 11/22/63, that he had left a note and that the note had subsequently been destroyed.

In the second statement that I furnished I made reference to the fact that while I could not recall what the note said I did recall that it contained what appeared to be a threat and that there was no question in my mind but that the note was from Lee Harvey Oswald.

I still can't remember specifically why I knew this note was from Oswald but I know it was either signed by Oswald or Oswald's wife's name, Marina, was mentioned therein. Since we currently had a case on Marina at that time and I, of course, knew her to be the wife of Lee Harvey Oswald, the name Marina, coupled with the fact that Hosty had interviewed Marina, left no doubt in my mind that the note was from Lee Harvey Oswald, since I knew he had talked to Marina.

KCH

I do not recall the specific wording of the note. As I recall at the present time it was on plain paper and was either hand written or hand printed and was threatening in nature either concerning some action Oswald said he was going to take possibly against Agent Hosty himself or against the FBI office.

I am not able at this time to chronologically place the date or how long after the assassination I found this note, whether it was before or after Oswald was shot by Ruby. I do very definitely know that it was after the assassination and I believe it was after Oswald was shot by Ruby. The first time I learned of the existence of this note was when I had occasion to look for a serial or something in Hosty's workbox in connection with a case assigned to Hosty. I do not recall what case this might have been, whether it was the Oswald case or some unrelated matter. In any event, that is where I came upon the letter and that was my first knowledge of it.

I considered the note of sufficient import that it should be brought to the attention of the SAC and I took it immediately to SAC Shanklin's office. I cannot say what wording I used to convey to SAC Shanklin what I had but it probably was something to the effect that "Here is a note from Oswald which I found in Hosty's workbox." It was my intention in taking the note to SAC Shanklin to discuss with him what action should be taken with reference to it. Although I cannot recall the exact words I used, I know SAC Shanklin

was made aware by me of what I had and his reaction was to wave me away and say, "Don't tell me about it, I don't want to hear, or I don't want to know, anything about it." From his reaction it was my impression that he had possibly heard about the existence of this note before. I do not know this to be a fact.

I don't remember whether I left this note with SAC Shanklin. I feel that at this point one of three things had to have occurred: (1) I left the note with Shanklin, (2) I returned the note to Hosty's workbox, or (3) I held the note and personally gave it to Hosty. I subsequently told Hosty what had happened but I do not recall having had any discussion with him concerning it. At that stage I felt it was a matter for the SAC to resolve with Hosty and having told both about the matter I took no further action. I did not subsequently discuss the matter with SAC Shanklin, Jim Hosty or anyone else.

I never instructed Agent Hosty to destroy the letter nor did I ever receive any instructions from anyone else that I should tell him to destroy the letter. I do not know what happened to the letter after the incident I have described in the foregoing. I never subsequently saw it and its ultimate disposition is unknown to me. I have no recollection of having prepared a memorandum or having made any written record of the note or the foregoing incident.

KLB

I have been told that my then secretary has stated that she heard from another employee of Oswald's visit and the leaving of a note and she informed me of this. Further, that I emphatically told her to forget about it. I do not recall this nor under the circumstances of the situation as it existed at that time can I categorically deny it didn't happen. At that time the matter was still in the hands of the SAC and until some adjudication of it by him I felt the matter should not be discussed.

I have been advised that SA Hosty in his statement related that on the evening of the assassination he was preparing a detailed statement as to exactly what he had done on the case prior to the assassination as well as what he had learned during Oswald's interview of 11/22/63 at the police department. I was further informed SA Hosty stated to the best of his recollection he was going to include reference to Oswald's visit to the Dallas Office and his leaving of the note for SA Hosty. According to SA Hosty's statement, after further consultation with he believes SAC Shanklin and Supervisor Howe, he was instructed by SAC Shanklin to disregard and destroy this letter.

I recall that the initial teletype to the Bureau in connection with the assassination was prepared by me from information furnished by Agents who were conducting investigation and telephonically and otherwise making known to the office their findings to that time with respect to the assassination. I cannot recall whether my initials appear on the teletype but I recall that I was the Agent who correlated information which was included in the

KLH

teletype to the Bureau. I did not at that time have any knowledge of the note and if any decision was made that information concerning the note should or should not be included in the teletype, I had no part in that decision, it would have been made by Hosty himself.

Kenneth C. Howe
KENNETH C. HOWE

Subscribed and sworn to before me
on 9/8/75 at Washington, D. C.

Harold N Bassett
HAROLD N. BASSETT
Assistant Director, FBI

Philip A McNiff
PHILIP A. MC NIFF
SAC, New York Office

San Diego, California
September 12, 1975

Harold:

Here is a statement of the events I have to date been able to bring back to mind about the "Oswald note" matter, some of them only after the interview with you and Phil McNiff in your office on September 8, 1975.

I have been able to fix these things in my mind, some with a good degree of clarity, some only vaguely, by going all the way back to the assassination itself, sifting through the kaleidoscopic multitude of events which were then occurring in the Dallas Office in rapid fire succession, and picking out the bits and pieces pertinent to the present question.

Admittedly, there are still blank spots.

Sincerely,

Kenneth C. Howe

FBI
San Diego

San Diego, California
August 12, 1975

It was after the assassination of President Kennedy and the rest of Oswald as the probable assassin I first knew of Nan Fenner's ntention an individual who had been into the Dallas Office sometime eviously and had left a note for Jim Hosty, had been Oswald. I be- me aware of this information by hearing Nan Fenner herself comment oncerning it, either to me directly, or to someone else within my earing.

I do not have any distinct recollection of having gone to AC Shanklin with reference to this matter at that time, but it is in- onceivable to me I would not have done so.

The next episode to my best recollection is talking to Hosty bout the matter. He recalled he had been given a note which had been left at the office for him. He said there had been nothing in it to in- dicate from whom it had come, and it said only something about "Keep away from my wife," or words to that effect. When asked what he had done with the letter he replied it had been meaningless to him, did not seem important, and he had consequently discarded it.

I have a vague, but inconclusive recollection this talk with Hosty took place in Shanklin's office, and that he was there, but I cannot be sure. The conclusion reached at this time, as factually as I can remember it, was, since Hosty assertedly had discarded the note, there was no way of resolving the matter. There was only Nan Fenner's belief the one who had left the note had been Oswald. The matter was dropped as of relative unimportance in view of the pressure of the many other things going on in the Dallas Office in those hectic and con- fusing early days of the assassination case.

The next event I clearly remember. It is that some time later,

I'm not sure how much later, I was searching through Hosty's workbox looking for a serial in a case assigned to him and was startled when I came across a note I associated immediately with the note to which Nan Fenner had been referring. I specifically remember I took this note directly to SAC Shanklin's office. I told him what I had found, and where I had found it. I remember his reaction was immediate and very definitely indicative of the fact he did not want to, and was not going to, discuss the matter with me.

I cannot clearly bring back to mind exactly what I then did, but, presumably, I did one of three things - either I left the note on Shanklin's desk; returned it to Hosty in some fashion personally; or placed it back in Hosty's workbox. In any event I do recall telling Hosty I had found the note, what I had done about it, and that he should see the SAC. I did not feel it was my perogative to make an issue of the matter. Even if the note was from Oswald, at this stage it was after the fact, the assassination had occurred; the note provided no leads which could be pursued; and was of no investigative importance in the assassination case since it did not give any evidence anyone else was possibly implicated in any of Oswald's actions. It thus, to my mind, constituted only an administrative matter for the SAC to resolve.

I have no recollection of ever having seen the note thereafter, or of knowing the eventual disposition of it until told recently Hosty has said he later discarded it.

I have been informed it is alleged I, on two different occasions and to two different persons in the Dallas Office after some reference to the note was made by these parties, told them they should forget the note and not discuss it. I cannot recall having done this, but feel it is possible I did on the basis I would have still felt the

matter to be an administrative one in the hands of the SAC and should not be discussed by others indiscriminately without having full knowledge of the facts.

I have found it impossible to bring back to mind a visualization of the note or its content. It is my best recollection it was threatening in nature to some extent, but in what exact manner I cannot say. I have some recollection its tenor was to the effect its author was perturbed because Hosty had been talking to his wife and he wanted him to desist "or else", but the whole thing in this respect is not clear.

I have said in all interviews on this matter that I could not visualize the note. In attempting to explain why, then, I associated it with the Oswald case when I found it, I had surmised it might have, or must have had in it some mention of the name Marina or Oswald. I now clearly know without qualification, when I found the note I associated it, not with the Oswald case as such, but, rather, with the note Nan Fenner had been talking about. With my present more accurate recollection of the events preceding my finding of the note, I find it necessary to say there well might not have been anything in the note itself to identify it with Oswald or any other specific individual.

FD-302 (REV. 11-27-70)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 9/16/75

On September 16, 1975, Assistant Director Harold N. Bassett, FBI Headquarters, received in the mail an envelope directed to his attention, postmarked September 14, 1975, PM, U. S. Postal Service, California, #920. Contained in this envelope was a personal letter dated September 12, 1975, addressed to "Harold" from SA Kenneth C. Howe, San Diego Office, FBI, which reads as follows:

"Here is a statement of the events I have to date been able to bring back to mind about the 'Oswald note' matter, some of them only after the interview with you and Phil McNiff in your office on September 8, 1975.

"I have been able to fix these things in my mind, some with a good degree of clarity, some only vaguely, by going all the way back to the assassination itself, sifting through the kaleidoscopic multitude of events which were then occurring in the Dallas Office in rapid fire succession, and picking out the bits and pieces pertinent to the present question.

"Admittedly, there are still blank spots."

Also contained in this envelope from SA Howe was a three page statement dated August 12, 1975, at San Diego, California, signed Kenneth C. Howe, which reads as follows:

"It was after the assassination of President Kennedy and the arrest of Oswald as the probable assassin I first knew of Nan Fenner's contention an individual who had been into the Dallas Office sometime previously and had left a note for Jim Hosty, had been Oswald. I became aware of this information by hearing Nan Fenner herself comment concerning it, either to me directly, or to someone else within my hearing.

"I do not have any distinct recollection of having gone to SAC Shanklin with reference to this matter at that time, but it is inconceivable to me I would not have done so.

Interviewed on 9/16/75 at Washington, D. C. File #

by Assistant Director H. N. Bassett Date dictated

"The next episode to my best recollection is talking to Hosty about the matter. He recalled he had been given a note which had been left at the office for him. He said there had been nothing in it to indicate from whom it had come, and it said only something about 'Keep away from my wife,' or words to that effect. When asked what he had done with the letter he replied it had been meaningless to him, did not seem important, and he had consequently discarded it.

"I have a vague, but inconclusive recollection this talk with Hosty took place in Shanklin's office, and that he was there, but I cannot be sure. The conclusion reached at this time, as factually as I can remember it, was, since Hosty assertedly had discarded the note, there was no way of resolving the matter. There was only Nan Fenner's belief the one who had left the note had been Oswald. The matter was dropped as of relative unimportance in view of the pressure of the many other things going on in the Dallas Office in those hectic and confusing early days of the assassination case.

"The next event I clearly remember. It is that some time later, I'm not sure how much later, I was searching through Hosty's workbox looking for a serial in a case assigned to him and was startled when I came across a note I associated immediately with the note to which Nan Fenner had been referring. I specifically remember I took this note directly to SAC Shanklin's office. I told him what I had found, and where I had found it. I remember his reaction was immediate and very definitely indicative of the fact he did not want to, and was not going to, discuss the matter with me.

"I cannot clearly bring back to mind exactly what I then did, but, presumably, I did one of three things - either I left the note on Shanklin's desk; returned it to Hosty in some fashion personally; or placed it back in Hosty's workbox. In any event I do recall telling Hosty I had found the note, what I had done about it, and that he should see the SAC. I did not feel it was my perogative to make an issue of the matter. Even if the note was from Oswald, at this stage it was after the fact, the assassination had occurred; the note provided no leads which could be pursued; and was of no investigative importance in the assassination case since it did not give any evidence

"anyone else was possibly implicated in any of Oswald's actions. It thus, to my mind, constituted only an administrative matter for the SAC to resolve.

"I have no recollection of ever having seen the note thereafter, or of knowing the eventual disposition of it until told recently Hosty has said he later discarded it.

"I have been informed it is alleged I, on two different occasions and to two different persons in the Dallas Office after some reference to the note was made by these parties, told them they should forget the note and not discuss it. I cannot recall having done this, but feel it is possible I did on the basis I would have still felt the matter to be an administrative one in the hands of the SAC and should not be discussed by others indiscriminately without having full knowledge of the facts.

"I have found it impossible to bring back to mind a visualization of the note or its content. It is my best recollection it was threatening in nature to some extent, but in what exact manner I cannot say. I have some recollection its tenor was to the effect its author was perturbed because Hosty had been talking to his wife and he wanted him to desist 'or else,' but the whole thing in this respect is not clear.

"I have said in all interviews on this matter that I could not visualize the note. In attempting to explain why, then, I associated it with the Oswald case when I found it, I had surmised it might have, or must have had in it some mention of the name Marina or Oswald. I now clearly know without qualification, when I found the note I associated it, not with the Oswald case as such, but, rather, with the note Nan Fenner had been talking about. With my present more accurate recollection of the events preceding my finding of the note, I find it necessary to say there well might not have been anything in the note itself to identify it with Oswald or any other specific individual."

As a matter of background, as the record will disclose, Howe furnished his fourth affidavit concerning this matter on September 8, 1975. On the morning of September 9, 1975, Howe telephonically contacted Mr. Bassett and advised that

Washington, D. C.

Assistant Director E. S. Bassett

he had been giving this matter considerable thought and had some other observations which he wanted to bring to Mr. Bassett's attention. Upon doing so it was evident that Howe had no exact recollection and the information furnished was really no different than that which he had already furnished. Howe was told to return to San Diego and if he so desired, put these thoughts in a note to me together with any other recollection that he might have concerning the situation.

Washington, D. C.

Assistant Director E. N. Bassett