

FBI

Date: 6-1-65

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (105-82555)  
FROM: SAC, DALLAS (100-10461)(P)  
RE: LEE HARVEY OSWALD, aka  
IS - R - CUBA

Re Denver airtels to Bureau, 5-18, 28-65;  
Bureau airtel to Dallas, 5-21-65; Denver teletype to  
Bureau, 5-28-65; and Dallas teletype to Bureau, 5-28-65.

Enclosed to the Bureau are 10 copies of  
letterhead memorandum concerning information furnished  
by PENN JONES, JR., on 5-28-65. One copy furnished Denver.

As stated in referenced Dallas teletype to  
Bureau, JONES was interviewed by two Agents in a Bureau  
car in front of his newspaper office and was not at any  
time furnished any documents. The information attributed  
to him as a source by JOHN RUSSELL FREEMAN was discussed  
with him in detail in order to obtain his version.

For the information of the Bureau, PENN JONES,  
JR. was the subject of Dallas file 100-2057 (Bufile  
100-395874). JONES apparently was the subject of ill-  
founded and malicious rumors accusing him of being a  
communist sympathizer. It was further noted JONES was  
primarily involved as the victim in Dallas file 157-187  
entitled, "UNSUB; Incendiary Device Thrown into  
'Midlothian Mirror', Midlothian, Texas, 4-30-62".

- 3-Bureau (Enc. 10) (RM)
- 1-Denver (89-41)(Enc. 1) (RM)
- 3-Dallas (2 - 100-10461)  
(1 - 44-1639)

JBA/lfm  
(7)

ENCLOSURE

JUN 2 1965

CC - [unclear]

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

Section 77

870 B  
Ref: [unclear]

100-395874-573  
4/1/65  
5-28-65

COPY FILED IN

SOVIET  
[Signature]



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Dallas, Texas

June 1, 1965

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

LEE HARVEY OSWALD

On May 28, 1965, the following information was furnished by Penn Jones, Jr., owner and editor of "Midlothian Mirror", a weekly newspaper published at Midlothian, Texas, in reply to information furnished by John Russell Freeman, owner and editor of the "Farmer and Miner", a weekly newspaper in Frederick, Colorado, as set out in Denver, Colorado, letterhead memoranda dated May 18 and 28, 1965. The information furnished by Freeman was discussed in detail with Jones, but no documents were shown to Jones.

Jones first met Freeman in Dallas, Texas, in October, 1963, after Jones had made a speech at the Unitarian Church. The speech had been made against the conduct of the ultra-right wing element in Dallas at the time Adlai Stevenson was a guest speaker in Dallas.

After the speech, Freeman introduced himself and stated he was in full accord with Jones' ideology and wanted to know what he could do in this regard. Jones suggested he purchase a small newspaper with which to publish his Democratic ideas.

Following the assassination of President Kennedy in Dallas, Jones covered the trial of Jack Ruby on a part-time basis as a newsman. Freeman assisted him somewhat by covering part of the Ruby trial.

As to Freeman's statement that Jones has a theory about the assassination that Lee Harvey Oswald was paid a large sum of money to commit the act by two brothers from Texas who are very high up in the Government of the United

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ENCLOSURE

LEE HARVEY OSWALD

States, Jones emphatically denied ever having such a theory or ever mentioning to Freeman or anyone else that a large amount of money was paid to Oswald by anyone. He denied knowing any brothers from Texas or anyone else referred to by Freeman.

During the spring of 1964, Jones did visit in Washington, D. C. and met Theodore Sorenson, who was formerly on President Kennedy's White House staff, and had Sorenson autograph a copy of his book, "Decision Making at the White House". Jones had only a brief visit with Sorenson and did not discuss any theory he had of the assassination with Sorenson. Sorenson did not refer him to Attorney General Robert Kennedy.

During the same trip to Washington, D. C., he did contact Attorney General Kennedy for the purpose of having him autograph Jones' copy of a book entitled "Profiles in Courage" written by the late President Kennedy. This visit was very short, and he did not discuss any theory he had concerning the assassination with Kennedy.

Kennedy introduced Jones to his assistant, Nicholas Katzenbach, in order to get rid of Jones. Jones then talked to Katzenbach five or ten minutes, during which time he expressed his sorrow for the assassination. Jones stated he did not discuss any theory he had concerning the assassination with Katzenbach and did not mention anyone he suspected of paying Oswald to assassinate President Kennedy.

He has had no further contact with Katzenbach at that time.

As to Freeman's statement that Jones had much information in his possession which he could document, for example, proof that Oswald was in Atlanta, Georgia, about one year before the assassination of President Kennedy and that a scheduled stop President Kennedy was supposed to make at Atlanta was called off, Jones advised he recalled that President Kennedy was supposed to have stopped at Atlanta but the plans had been changed. He further recalled that according to the news media, Oswald had stayed at a motel in Atlanta where he had left his rifle and had to return for it. Jones continued the news media subsequently stated the story was a hoax and the motel operator had admitted Oswald had not stayed there.

LEE HARVEY OSWALD

Concerning the "Postal Advisor" who was supposed to have been in Atlanta on the date Oswald was there, as well as being in Dallas on the date of the assassination of President Kennedy, Jones stated he knows of no postal advisor in Dallas or anywhere else as referred to by Freeman and knows of no postal official taking a leave of absence at the time Lee Harvey Oswald was reportedly in Mexico.

Jones volunteered the following information concerning the Jack Ruby case:

He is planning to print a story in his June 2 issue of the "Midlothian Mirror" concerning George Senator, Ruby's former roommate, lying to the Warren Commission. In the Warren report, Senator stated on the date of Oswald's murder in Dallas, after being interrogated by the Dallas Police Department, he was released. He then went to the TV Bar, where he stayed a while and later went home with Attorney Jim Martin. According to Jones, Senator failed to tell about a conference the same night in his apartment between himself, Tom Howard, reporter; Bill Hunter of a Long Beach, California, newspaper; Jim Koethe, a reporter and Dallas Attorney C. A. Droby.

Jones declined to furnish his source on this information but stated Attorney Droby and George Senator set up the conference for the purpose of taking pictures and getting the story at Ruby's apartment. Jones pointed out Tom Howard has since deceased with a heart attack, Bill Hunter has also deceased, as well as Jim Koethe, who allegedly had been killed in Dallas by Larry Earl Feno with a Judo chop.

Jones stated he had interviewed Droby concerning the above conference, but Droby did not discuss it other than to state the conference was set up at the request of an unidentified newsman. Droby told Jones he was at the conference but did not hear any conversations as he sat down in the living room while the others walked around the apartment conversing.

FBI

~~SECRET~~

Date: 5/18/65

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plain text or code)

via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (105-82555)  
FROM: SAC, DENVER (89-41) (RUC)  
LEE HARVEY OSWALD, Aka.  
IS - R - CUBA

*Handwritten initials/signature*

Attached for the Bureau are six copies of a letterhead memorandum concerning information furnished by JOHN RUSSELL FREEMAN, Frederick, Colorado, on May 17, 1965.

Two copies of this letterhead memorandum are attached for the Dallas Division.

Mr. PENN JONES, JR., has reportedly been in contact with NICHOLAS KATZENBACH, Attorney General of the United States, concerning his theory and his investigation behind the assassination of President KENNEDY.

In view of this, the Dallas Division should hold in abeyance any contact with JONES, UACB.

Denver Division is taking no further action concerning this matter, UACB.

- 3 - Bureau (Encl. 6) (RM)
- 2 - Dallas (Encl. 2) (100-10461) (RM)
- 1 - Denver

RLC:nl  
(6)

cc: RUC

*6-3-65 RUC/MLP*

ENCLOSURE

21 MAY-10 1965

5428

*Handwritten signature*  
SOVIET SECTION

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge



In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Denver, Colorado

May 18, 1965

✓  
JOHN RUSSELL FREEMAN  
OWNER AND EDITOR OF THE  
"FARMER AND MINER"  
A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER IN  
FREDERICK, COLORADO

Lieutenant Guy Miles, Colorado State Patrol, Lafayette, Colorado, advised on May 14, 1965, that he had heard that the owner of a newspaper in Frederick, Colorado, had information that \$125,000 was paid to Lee Harvey Oswald for the assassination of the late President John Fitzgerald Kennedy. Lieutenant Miles further advised that this amount of money was reportedly paid to Oswald by someone in the Pentagon in Washington, D. C. Lieutenant Miles stated that he did not obtain this information directly from the owner of the newspaper and that he had heard it from a lady, not further identified.

Mrs. Elaine Freeman, wife of John Russell Freeman, Frederick, Colorado, advised on May 14, 1965, that her husband was not available for interview on that date inasmuch as he was out of the city; however, he would be available on May 17, 1965.

Mr. John Russell Freeman, Frederick, Colorado, was contacted on May 17, 1965. He is a male Caucasian, born on January 2, 1934, in De Leon, Texas. Mr. Freeman advised that he has lived in the State of Texas most of his life and that he attended North Texas State University and Southern Methodist University, pursuing a journalism course; however, he did not receive a degree in journalism. He continued that after leaving school he began working for the "Dallas Morning News" as a reporter and later as a printer. He stated that he was employed by this newspaper for about eleven years and was employed there until July, 1964, when he purchased the "Farmer and Miner" in Frederick, Colorado.

4 COPIES DESTROYED

21 MAR 12 1965

ENCLOSURE

JOHN RUSSELL FREEMAN

Mr. Freeman stated that while in Dallas, Texas, he became acquainted with Mr. Penn Jones, Jr., Editor of "The Midlothian Mirror," a weekly newspaper published in Midlothian, Texas, a community located about 24 miles north of Dallas, Texas. He advised that Jones was the winner of the 1963 Elijah Parish Love Joy Award for Courage in Journalism. Mr. Freeman stated that both he and Mr. Jones are strong Democrats and are dedicated in finding and printing the truth.

Mr. Freeman further advised after the assassination of President Kennedy, Mr. Jones began a very thorough, painstaking investigation on his own to determine the entire truth behind the assassination. He stated that after hearing Mr. Jones speak, he (Freeman) approached Mr. Jones and asked what he could do to help. Jones informed him that he should leave the "Dallas Morning News" and purchase a weekly newspaper where he could express his views. Mr. Freeman stated that he took Mr. Jones' advice and has also been aiding him in this investigation of the assassination.

Mr. Freeman continued that Mr. Jones has a theory about the assassination that Lee Harvey Oswald was paid a large sum of money to commit the act by two brothers from Texas who are very high up in the Government of the United States. Mr. Freeman stated he knows of no exact amount paid to Oswald and he does not know the source of the figure, \$125,000.

Mr. Freeman stated that he knows the identity of the two brothers; however, he is not at liberty at this time to divulge their identities to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). He stated that he is not trying to work against the FBI but that this theory is Mr. Jones' theory and Mr. Jones has not authorized him to divulge the identities of these two men. He did state, however, that the older brother has been associated with President Lyndon B. Johnson

JOHN RUSSELL FREEMAN

for many years prior to Mr. Johnson becoming President and that he is at the present time a "right-hand man" of President Johnson in the White House. He advised further that the younger brother is a disreputable drunk, however has, through the efforts of his older brother, served in the United States Government as a "Postal Advisor" in the Post Office Department. Mr. Freeman stated further that since Mr. Johnson became President, both of these brothers have risen rapidly to become high Government officials. He stated that Mr. Jones believes the motive behind the assassination was to further the positions of the two brothers in Government. He added that neither he nor Mr. Jones believes that there is any connection between Oswald and the communists or the ultra-right; however, they are both convinced that Oswald could not have possibly been alone in the commission of this crime.

Mr. Freeman stated that both he and Mr. Jones have conducted much investigation concerning this theory and that in about February or March, 1964, Jones contacted Theodore Sorenson, formerly on President Kennedy's White House staff, and discussed his theory on the assassination with Sorenson. Mr. Freeman advised that Mr. Sorenson referred Jones to Mr. Robert Kennedy who was at that time still Attorney General of the United States. He continued that Jones personally contacted Mr. Robert Kennedy in Washington, D. C.; however, when Kennedy learned the purpose of the visit, he stated that he did not wish to hear about it himself and suggested that he furnish the information to the Assistant Attorney General Nicholas Katzenbach.

Mr. Freeman stated that Jones did discuss this entire matter with Mr. Katzenbach and that Mr. Katzenbach advised that it was just a theory and that facts were needed to support it. Mr. Freeman added that he felt sure Mr. Jones furnished the names of the two brothers to Mr. Katzenbach during the initial contact and subsequent contacts that Jones has had with Mr. Katzenbach.



JOHN RUSSELL FREEMAN

He advised further that he does not believe that Mr. Jones has contacted the Dallas Division of the FBI concerning this matter since he has been furnishing all of his information to Mr. Katzenbach who is now the Attorney General of the United States.

Mr. Freeman stated that Mr. Jones has much information in his possession which he can document and for example stated that Jones has positive proof that Oswald was in Atlanta, Georgia, about one year before the assassination on the day that President Kennedy was scheduled to make an Atlanta stop; however, for some reason, the Secret Service did not allow his plane to land in Atlanta on that occasion. He added that Jones can also prove that the "Postal Advisor" referred to above, was in Atlanta, Georgia, on the same date that Oswald was there and also was in Dallas, Texas, on the day of the assassination. He stated that Mr. Jones can also prove that this same official took a leave of absence from the Dallas Post Office at the same time Oswald was in Mexico; however, he has no proof that he met Oswald in Mexico.

Mr. Freeman concluded that the best source for additional information and documentation concerning the above theory is Mr. Jones in Midlothian, Texas. Mr. Freeman added that he (Freeman) is scheduled to give a speech on May 21, 1965, before the Journalism Department of Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado, and that it was his intention to mention this theory slightly, however, not to go into it in detail.

1 - Mr. Belmont; 1 - Mr. DeLoach; 1 - Mr. Rosen; 1 - Mr. Sullivan;  
1 - Mr. Branigan; 1 - Mr. Lenihan

5-21-65

AIRTEL

EX 100

TO: SAC, DALLAS (100-10461)

FROM: DIRECTOR, FBI (105-82555) - 5428

LEE HARVEY OSWALD REG-50  
IS - R - CURA

Re Denver airtel 5-13-65 enclosing a letterhead memorandum setting forth results of an interview of John Russell Freeman.

Dallas should immediately contact Mr. Penn Jones, Jr., and obtain full details of any information he possesses bearing on the assassination of Lee Harvey Oswald. Mr. Jones should be asked to furnish specifics concerning allegations attributed to him by Freeman and he should be asked to furnish proof of such allegations. Jones should also be asked to identify the two individuals who hold high positions in Government who allegedly paid Oswald to assassinate the late President Kennedy.

This matter must be handled immediately and results furnished to the Bureau in a form suitable for dissemination.

1 - Denver (89-41)

REL:hrt  
(10)

See memo Branigan to Sullivan 5-21-65, same caption, REL:hrt.

MAILED 5  
MAY 21 1965  
COMM-FBI

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JUN 10 1965

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