

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

U. S. SECRET SERVICE

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DATE: November 29, 1963

TO : Chief
Attention: PRS Section

FROM : SAIC Benavides, San Antonio *SB*

SUBJECT: Lt. Col. L. L. Rivers, U.S. Army Retired - Information
furnished by

Enclosed is a communication from the FBI dated 11-23-63, regarding information furnished by Lt. Col. L. L. Rivers, U. S. Army Retired, of Harlingen, Texas, concerning information obtained from a stranger who in turn had obtained it from an alleged pilot claiming to belong to an organization called the Minutemen, and it was stated that the President would be assassinated the next time he came to Texas. The pilot had told the stranger that he was leaving Harlingen, Texas, and was going to Snow Aeronautics in west Texas, and that this corporation is located at Olney, Texas, in the Ft. Worth-Dallas area.

No action will be taken by this office unless we are directed.

Encl.

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UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE
TREASURY DEPARTMENT

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Other Individuals and Organizations
Involved or Interviewed

ORIGIN CO 12/6/63 ROB OFFICE San Antonio, Texas

FILE NO. CO-2-34,030

TYPE OF CASE Protective Research	STATUS Closed	TITLE OR CAPTION Lee Harvey Oswald (Assassination of the President)
INVESTIGATION MADE AT Harlingen and San Benito, Texas	PERIOD COVERED December 10 & 11, 1963	Re: Lt. Col. LaVerne L. Rivers, USA Retired, Harlingen, Texas
INVESTIGATION MADE BY Special Agent Thomas D. Strong		

DETAILS

SYNOPSIS

This file covers investigation of FBI report of threat against President John Fitzgerald Kennedy. The identity of the person making the threat has not been determined. Prosecution not warranted.

(A) INTRODUCTION:

Subject FBI reports were received by the San Antonio office and forwarded to Washington by O/M of SAIC Benavides dated 11-29-63. Investigation predicated on receipt of file from Chief's Office dated 12-9-63.

(B) GENERAL INQUIRIES:

On 12-10-63 the writer personally interviewed Lt. Col. LaVerne L. Rivers, USA Retired, at his home, 802 Ebony Drive, Harlingen, Texas. Lt. Col. Rivers stated that on 11-22-63 he was at the offices of Navion Aircraft Company, Harlingen, Texas, applying for a job when he overheard a conversation between a Mr. Kelly, the Comptroller of the company, and a man who has now been identified as Kenneth Shand. Col. Rivers stated that the conversation he overheard was that Mr. Shand reported that in May or June of 1963 he had been in a tavern in Harlingen and had a conversation with an unidentified person who made comments regarding President Kennedy and talked of assassinating the President. Col. Rivers stated that he in turn reported this conversation to the local office of the FBI and they in turn interviewed Mr. Shand.

This same date the writer personally interviewed Kenneth A. Shand, 921 Cenizo Drive, Harlingen, Texas. Mr. Shand stated that in May or June of 1963 when he had first come to Harlingen, Texas, he was staying in an apartment above the Oasis Bar and that it was his practice to have a couple of drinks

DISTRIBUTION Chief San Antonio	COPIES Orig. 1 cc	REPORT MADE BY <i>Thomas D. Strong</i> Thomas D. Strong SPECIAL AGENT	DATE 12/12/63
		APPROVED <i>L. M. Benavides</i> L. M. Benavides SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DATE 12/12/63

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before retiring. He said that on the evening in question he was in the tavern and struck up a conversation with a man regarding flying and various attitudes regarding politics. Mr. Shand stated that this unknown subject stated that he was a member of a group called "The Minutemen" and he made comments about sending money to Communistic nations and stated, "The first time Kennedy sets foot in Texas we are going to kill him." Mr. Shand stated the man also asked, "Are you prepared to get a gun and scope and join us?"

Mr. Shand stated that this conversation took place in about a three or four hour time period and during this time both he and this unknown subject had several drinks. He said this unidentified male also advised he had been a World War II fighter pilot and was now employed as a crop duster. He also advised that in his off season he worked on guns as a specialty.

Mr. Shand described this unidentified person as a white male American, 5' 3", 150 pounds, in his early forties, brown hair, no distinctive marks or accent in speech, reasonably intelligent. Mr. Shand further advised that this unknown subject wrote down a Post Office box number in Norma, Tennessee, where Mr. Shand could write and obtain literature regarding "The Minutemen". Mr. Shand stated that he lost this box number.

It should be noted that Mr. Shand is employed as Chief Quality Control Designated Manufacturers Inspectors Representative for FAA at the Navion Aircraft Company, Harlingen, Texas.

Mr. Shand stated that he would not be able to identify this subject again and the only information he had was that this subject mentioned that he was going to go to Olney, Texas, to Snow Aircraft Company.

On 12-10-63 the writer personally interviewed Mr. Clyde Elliott, 513 West Alice Street, Harlingen, Texas. Mr. Elliott is in the business of leasing aircraft and crop dusting. Mr. Elliott stated that he knows most of the men employed as crop dusting pilots. It should be noted in the FBI report that Mr. Elliott when interviewed thought that the physical description furnished by Mr. Shand appeared to relate to a man named Chuck Rogers; however, when the writer interviewed Mr. Elliott he stated that he believed that this Chuck Rogers had died some time ago in Nicaragua.

Mr. Elliott was unable to furnish any pertinent information as to the identity of this unknown subject. He stated that during the dusting season there are usually about sixty firms represented and upwards of two hundred aircraft utilized in this work.

In the FBI report a John K. Medders was interviewed; however, the writer was unable to contact Mr. Medders. I telephoned his home in San Benito and his wife informed the writer that he was away and it was not known when he would return.

On 12-11-63 the writer telephoned the FBI office, Brownsville, Texas, and talked with Senior Resident Agent Clay Zachry, Jr. Special Agent Zachry advised that he had no other information than that contained in his report to this Service.

(I) DISPOSITION:

In view of the lack of investigative leads, this case is being closed. No further investigation is contemplated.

(J) CONCLUSION:

Attachments forwarded with Chief's O/M are returned herewith.