



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Boston, Massachusetts

May 15, 1964

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

LEE HARVEY OSWALD

Re: Appearance of Attorney  
Mark Lane at the  
University of Massachusetts  
Amherst, Massachusetts  
On April 28, 1964

A source advised on May 4, 1964 that Attorney Mark Lane, former counsel to Mrs. Marguerite Oswald, addressed about 1500 students and faculty members at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts, on April 28, 1964.

Lane spoke for over four hours on what he alleged were mistakes and lies concerning the assassination of President KENNEDY by the "supposed" assassin Lee Harvey Oswald. He attempted to discredit evidence which would suggest Oswald was responsible for the assassination and to imply a large conspiracy was at work to frame him for the shooting. He questioned the sincerity of the Warren Commission, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Secret Service. He criticized the national press with specific emphasis on "Life" magazine for its conclusions and "doctored" photographs.

The source advised that Lane spent much time in relating his own encounters with various government agencies in an apparent effort to win sympathy for himself from his audience. Lane's stated purpose was to stimulate debate on the matter and to emphasize the constitutional distinction between proven guilt and accusation, no matter how strong the evidence presented.

He specifically noted discrepancies in that the Dallas Police Department originally identified the weapon in the Texas Book Depository as a German make, while the Federal Bureau of Investigation later reported it to be an Italian Carbine. He claimed the absence of residue on Oswald's face in a paraffin test proves he could not have fired a rifle. He said witnesses to the shooting of Officer Tippit describe someone completely different from Oswald and presented a tape recording of a woman witness in the area of the Texas Book Depository who claimed to have heard four to six shots fired.

RE: LEE HARVEY OSWALD

The "New York Herald Tribune" newspaper dated January 15, 1964, page 7, column 1, contained an article entitled "Oswald's Mother Hires Lane". This article stated that on January 14, 1964, Mrs. Marguerite C. Oswald, mother of accused assassin Lee Harvey Oswald, announced she had hired Mark Lane to represent her slain son before the Warren Commission investigating the murder of President John F. Kennedy. According to this article, Mrs. Oswald stated she had been in contact with Lane during his stay in Fort Worth, Texas, the previous weekend. It was also pointed out that Lane had accepted the case although Mrs. Oswald stated she had no funds with which to pay him.

The April 2, 1964 issue of the "New York Times", page 37, column 5, contained an article captioned "Mother of Oswald Ends Tie with Lane". The article indicated Mrs. Marguerite Oswald said she had dismissed Mark Lane, her New York lawyer, and that he should stop any "organized campaign" on behalf of her son through his "Citizens Committee of Inquiry."

A characterization of the NYCAHUAC is contained in the appendix hereto.

Pages 3 and 4 (two appendices) are withheld  
from research under 5 U.S.C. 552 (4)(7)(D).