



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

New Orleans, Louisiana
July 5, 1968

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY,
DALLAS, TEXAS,
NOVEMBER 22, 1963

Mr. John E. Whelan, 428 Hillary Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, Telephone Number 866-7609, who is employed by the New Orleans Juvenile Court System, contacted the New Orleans Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation on June 28, 1968, and advised that during the evening of June 27, 1968, Layton Martens was involved in a police case wherein Martens stabbed one Darryl Gerstenschlager as a result of a neighborhood dispute involving a so-called "love triangle" over the affections of one Laural Ecke. According to Whelan, the stabbing occurred in the French Quarter section of New Orleans and according to news accounts, appeared to have been an act of self-defense.

Mr. Whelan stated that Layton Martens is currently under indictment in state court on a charge of perjury stemming out of District Attorney Jim Garrison's investigation of the assassination of John Fitzgerald Kennedy.

Whelan stated that right after the stabbing incident, prior to the time the police took Martens to the Central Lockup, Martens asked Whelan to make certain that the U. S. Attorney at New Orleans, the FBI, and Martens' attorney, Milton E. Brenner, Room 1304 National Bank of Commerce Building, were notified of his arrest by the police.

Whelan stated that he has already notified the U. S. Attorney by letter and that he notified Attorney Milton E. Brenner early on the morning of June 28 of Martens' arrest and Brenner claimed he was going to try to get Martens out on bond on the local charge.

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ENCLOSURE

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Whelan related that Martens in the past had told him that during 1962, Martens was employed by the FRD (Revolutionary Democratic Front), which he thinks was a CIA project. Whelan said that although Martens did not tell him exactly why he wanted the notification of his arrest made known, he believes that Martens may possibly have some apprehension that something unusual might happen to him while in local custody as a result of Martens' past involvement with Garrison. Whelan stated that when Martens asked him to notify the FBI, Attorney Brenner and the U. S. Attorney of Martens' arrest, they were in the presence of police officers and that possibly Martens at that time did not want to be more specific.

Whelan stated that Martens furnished to him the name of the Special Agent of the FBI to notify but that he could not recall the name of this Agent.

Mr. Whelan stated that he was also picked up along with Laural Ecke and taken to the First District Police Station where they furnished signed statements to the police regarding the stabbing incident in which Martens was involved.

Whelan furnished copies of the statement that he gave to the police as well as the statement of Laural Ecke, both of which are attached to this memorandum.