

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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- Dep. AD Inv. _____
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- Director's Sec'y _____

TO : Mr. Gallagher

DATE: 11/18/76

FROM : B. H. Cooke

NOT FOIA DELETIONS

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF
PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

- 1 - Mr. Held
- 1 - Mr. Adams
- 1 - Mr. Gallagher
- 1 - Mr. Ingram
- 1 - Mr. Cooke
- 1 - Mr. Burton
- 1 - Mr. Cochran
(Attn: Mr. Balog)
- 1 - Mr. Leavitt
- 1 - Mr. Moore

PURPOSE: To advise of recent correspondence from Mr. R. H. Bennett, Jr., forwarded to FBIHQ by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), and to provide background data regarding voice-stress analysis and an analysis of the book "Appointment In Dallas" by Hugh C. McDonald.

SYNOPSIS: CIA forwarded correspondence from Mr. R. H. Bennett, Jr., President of the Hagoth Corporation, Issaquah, Washington, to FBIHQ. Bennett's corporation manufactures a voice stress analyzer called the "HS/1 Scanner." Bennett alleges that through use of the HS/1 Scanner he has determined that the book "Appointment In Dallas," by Hugh C. McDonald, is an accurate account of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. The voice stress analyzer has been tested under a Government contract and found to be far inferior to the polygraph and even inferior to merely observing a subject as a means of detecting deception. When McDonald's book was published in 1975 it was analyzed by FBI personnel most familiar with the investigation and the decision was made that McDonald should not be interviewed. This decision is reflected in Cooke to Gallagher memo dated 3/5/76, attached. In his current correspondence to CIA and the President, Bennett complains that McDonald has never been contacted by any Government agency regarding his theory of the assassination.

RECOMMENDATIONS: 1. That Hugh C. McDonald, author of the book "Appointment In Dallas" not be interviewed regarding allegations contained in his book.

ENCLOSURE

Enclosures
LSB:clc (10)

CONTINUED - OVER

DATE 1-25-89 BY SP8
PER CIA FILE 912388
b7c

REC-2 62-109060-7586



8 FEB 22 1977

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Memo Cooke to Gallagher
 RE: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

2. That no response be made to Mr. Bennett's letter and this memo be filed for future reference in the event Bennett should correspond directly with the FBI.

APPROVED:

VM 4

Director _____
 Assoc. Dir. _____
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DETAILS: By attached letter, with enclosures, [redacted] Deputy Director for Operations, CIA, furnished correspondence received from Mr. R. H. Bennett, Jr., President of the Hagoth Corporation, Issaquah, Washington. Kalaris advised that the Director, CIA, has responded to Bennett advising him that his correspondence has been forwarded to the FBI.

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Enclosed [redacted] were letters from Bennett dated 9/15/76 to Mr. George Bush, Director of the CIA, and to Mr. John A. McCone, former Director of the CIA, a copy of an open letter to President Ford dated 7/4/76, and brochures from the Hagoth Corporation regarding the Hagoth HS/1 Scanner. The gist of the letters is Bennett's contention that the book "Appointment In Dallas," by Hugh C. McDonald, is an authentic account of the assassination of President Kennedy. Bennett arrived at this conclusion after taping a telephone conversation with McDonald in which he asked several key questions regarding the book. He then subjected the taped conversation to a "thorough voice stress study" through use of his Hagoth HS/1 Scanner and determined that McDonald was truthful in his answers and his account of the assassination was authentic. Bennett, in his letters to President Ford and to the CIA, stresses the point that McDonald, in spite of his credentials as a former Chief of Detectives in Los Angeles County, California, and as a former CIA contract agent, has never been contacted by the Attorney General, the FBI, the CIA, the Senate, or any other agency of the Federal Government regarding his theory of the assassination. His primary motive, however, seems to be to gain publicity for his voice stress analyzer.

Bureau indices contain no reference identifiable with Bennett or operation "Click Beetle" to which he refers in his letter to the CIA.

Memo Cooke to Gallagher
RE: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

In hearings before a Subcommittee of the Committee of Government Operations, House of Representatives, 93rd Congress, on the use of Polygraph and Similar Devices by Federal Agencies, the voice stress analyzer was considered as a technique for the detecting of deception. The report of Joseph F. Kubis of Fordham University was considered by the Subcommittee. This report was the result of research conducted by Kubis under contract to the United States Army Land Warfare Laboratory in 1973. The major purpose of the research was to evaluate the voice-analysis technique for its suitability in lie detection application. The report states in part, "the findings indicated the clear inferiority of voice-analysis in its present state of development, not only to the polygraph, but also to the judgments made on the basis of simply observing subjects' behavior. The conclusion of this research is that neither of the presently existing voice-analysis instruments may be accepted as valid 'lie detectors' within the constraints of an experimental paradigm." u

The 11/7/76 edition of the "Washington Post" contained an article which stated that Bennett used his device to analyze statements made by President Ford and Presidential candidate Jimmy Carter in the first two Presidential debates. Bennett attempted to convince the President Ford Committee to use his findings which indicated that Mr. Carter experienced voice stress indicative of deception in some of his statements during the debates. The President Ford Committee refused Bennett's offer, however. u

It appears that Bennett is primarily interested in selling his voice-stress analyzer and attaches himself to popular issues and events in an effort to publicize the device. u

The major issue, perhaps, is the fact that Bennett, in letters to the President and the CIA, is calling attention to the fact that neither the FBI nor any other agency has ever interviewed McDonald regarding his theory of the assassination, in spite of McDonald's credentials. u

When the book "Appointment In Dallas" was published in 1975, it was thoroughly reviewed both at FBIHQ and in the field by Agents most familiar with the facts of the assassination investigation. It was the recommendation u

Memo Cooke to Gallagher

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following this analysis that McDonald not be interviewed as (the book) "appears to be another book based on a ridiculous theory, without any substantial foundation, solely for the purpose of financial gain." u

The decision was made at FBIHQ, as reflected in attached Cooke to Gallagher memo dated 3/5/76, that no investigative attention be directed to McDonald's allegations. This decision appears to remain valid. u

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

15 OCT
1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
ATTENTION : Intelligence Division
SUBJECT : The Assassination of President John-F.
Kennedy

Galley
Colp

1. I am forwarding herewith for your information and whatever action you deem necessary correspondence from Mr. R. H. Bennett, Jr., President, Hagoth Corporation, concerning subject which Mr. Bennett recently addressed to the Director of Central Intelligence.

2. The Director of Central Intelligence has responded to Mr. Bennett by informing him that he has referred Mr. Bennett's correspondence to the Federal Bureau of Investigation as the appropriate agency with jurisdiction over the matter Mr. Bennett addresses in his letter. Mr. Bennett has also been advised that a search of Central Intelligence Agency records did not reveal any document with the code name of "CLICK BEETLE," cited in Mr. Bennett's correspondence.

FOR THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS:

[Redacted signature block]

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T 30 USC 40
PM CIA

Attachment: Correspondence from Mr. R.H. Bennett, Jr., as stated

[Redacted attachment reference]

DECLASSIFIED BY SP6 [Redacted]
ON 1/25/89 #16458

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FBI

Per CIA letter 9/23/88

*Reed
10/15/76
161223*

ENCLOSURE

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