

PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION
ON THE
ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

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Washington, D.C. 20002
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AUG 28 1964

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director, Federal Bureau
of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C. 20535

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Written Commission

I refer to page 640 et seq. of the report of Special Agent Gemberling, dated December 23, 1963, at Dallas, Texas; page 18 et seq. of the report of Special Agent O'Connor, dated December 31, 1963 at Miami, Florida; and to page 558 of the report of Special Agent Clements, dated December 14, 1963, at Dallas, Texas, which concern the allegations of Mrs. Silvia Odio of Dallas, Texas that she observed Lee Harvey Oswald in the company of two Cuban or Mexican men sometime in late September or early October 1963. I also refer to your letterhead memorandum, dated July 30, 1964 at Miami and August 5, 1964 at Dallas concerning the same subject. I enclose transcript of the testimony Mrs. Odio gave to Mr. Wesley J. Liebeler of our staff in Dallas on July 22, 1964 as well as a letter to me from James J. Rowley of the United States Secret Service, dated May 5, 1964 and the memoranda covered by Secret Service Control Numbers 3670, 1426 and 1476, all of which relate to the above subject.

It is a matter of some importance to the Commission that Mrs. Odio's allegations either be proved or disproved. From the report of Special Agent O'Connor mentioned above there is at approximately the time Mrs. Odio said she saw Oswald in Dallas there was considerable activity in that area on the part of "DRE", another organization composed of anti-Castro Cubans. It is possible that Mrs. Odio has confused "JURE" and "DRE" and that the representatives she saw allegedly in the company of Oswald were from "DRE", or from some other anti-Castro organization. It is also possible that they were in fact pro-Castro individuals attempting to infiltrate the anti-Castro groups in Dallas.

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Mrs. Odio's report to Special Agent Gemberling, dated Dec 23, 1963, at Dallas, Texas, and to Special Agent O'Connor, dated Dec 31, 1963, at Miami, Florida, and to Special Agent Clements, dated Dec 14, 1963, at Dallas, Texas.

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Would you please conduct the investigation necessary to determine who it was that Mrs. Odio saw in or about late September or early October 1963. Reference is made in particular to "Guillermo Othon," a "DRE" delegate present in Dallas at or about that time, referred to on page 26 of the report of Special Agent O'Connor. We also note that Mrs. Odio's description of one of the men allegedly with Oswald corresponds to some extent with the description given by Evaristo Gilberto Rodriguez of a man who was allegedly with Oswald in the Habana Bar in New Orleans in August of 1963, in that both of them had a bald spot on the forepart of their hairline. In that connection we note your letterhead memorandum dated July 31, 1964 at New Orleans and we enclose a transcript of the testimony of Mr. Rodriguez.

We also note that the report of Special Agent Heitman dated March 13, 1964 refers to an Osvaldo Aurelio Pino Pino. He should be interviewed on the possibility that Mrs. Odio may have confused his name with that of Lee Harvey Oswald.

We are also concerned about the possibility that Oswald may have left New Orleans on September 24, 1963 instead of September 25, 1963 as has been previously thought. In that connection Marina Oswald has recently advised us that her husband told her he intended to leave New Orleans the very next day following her departure on September 23, 1963. She also indicated that he told her an unemployment check would be forwarded to Mrs. Ruth Paine's address in Irving from his post office box in New Orleans. We also have testimony that Oswald left his apartment on the evening of September 24, 1963 carrying two suitcases. It also seems improbable to us that Oswald would have gone all the way back to the Wynn-Dixie store at 4303 Magazine Street to cash the unemployment check which he supposedly picked up at the Lafayette branch of the post office when he could have cashed it at Martin's Restaurant, where he had previously cashed many of his Reily checks and one unemployment check. That is particularly true if he received the check on September 25, 1963, as previously thought, and had left his apartment with his suitcases the evening before.

On the possibility that Oswald may have stayed in New Orleans on the night of September 24, 1963 at some place other than at his apartment, would you please check the guest lists of inexpensive hotels in the vicinity of the Greyhound and Continental Trailways bus depots, the Lafayette branch of the post office and such other

areas in the City of New Orleans that you deem appropriate to determine whether or not Oswald stayed in any of them on the night of September 24-25, 1963.

The above investigation seems indicated to check Mrs. Odio's story that Oswald was in her apartment in late September of 1963. Since he was with his wife in New Orleans until she left on September 23, 1963 and was in Mexico after September 26, 1962, the only time he could have been in Odio's apartment appears to be the nights of September 24 or 25, 1963, most likely the latter.

In that connection we note that the Continental Trailways bus that left Dallas at 11:00 p.m. on September 25, 1963 for Laredo, Texas, made a connection in Alice, Texas with the Trailways bus that left Houston, Texas at 2:35 a.m. on September 26, 1963, also bound for Laredo. Thus, Oswald could have been in Dallas on the night of September 25, 1963 and still have been on the bus on which he was seen by Dr. and Mrs. John B. McFarland, according to your letterhead memorandum on Oswald dated December 23, 1963 at Washington, D. C.

Would you please determine whether or not any tickets were sold in Dallas on September 24-25, 1963 covering transportation on Continental Trailways buslines from Dallas to Laredo or beyond.

Please conduct whatever additional investigation you deem appropriate to determine the possible validity of Mrs. Odio's testimony. We think it might be in order to determine Mrs. Odio's veracity in other areas by checking on some of the testimony she gave concerning her background. We note that she claims to be acquainted with Manolo Rey, (Tr. 364), an anti-Castro leader in Puerto Rico, and that her father is a political prisoner of Fidel Castro.

In connection with the above, in addition to the reports mentioned above, we note, among others, the reports of Special Agent Callendar dated December 24, 1963 at New Orleans, Special Agent Fults dated December 11, 1963 at Houston, Special Agent Dalrymple dated December 4, 1963 at Houston, Special Agent Dalrymple dated February 20, 1964 at Houston, Special Agent Callendar dated December 16, 1963, at New Orleans, Special Agent Kemmy dated December 23, 1963 at San Antonio, and Special Agent Callendar dated April 16, 1964 at New Orleans, and your letterhead memorandum dated April 15, 1964 at New Orleans.

Would you please keep Mr. Wesley J. Liebeler of our staff generally advised of your investigation as it proceeds. In view of our time schedule we would appreciate receiving a report as soon as possible.

Your continued cooperation is appreciated.

Sincerely,



J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel

Enclosures (4)

Transcript of Testimony (Mrs. Odio)
USSS ltr, dated May 5, 1964
Memoranda (SSC Nos. 3670, 1426, 1476)
Transcript of Testimony (Mr. Rodriguez)