

# Memorandum

Tolson	_____
DeLoach	_____
Mohr	_____
Casper	_____
Callahan	_____
Conrad	_____
Felt	_____
Gale	_____
Rosen	_____
Sullivan	_____
Tavel	_____
Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holmes	_____
Gandy	_____

TO : Mr. Mohr

DATE: February 25, 1964

FROM : C. D. DeLoach

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT  
PHOTOGRAPH OF LEE HARVEY OSWALD  
WITH RIFLE AND REVOLVER  
"LIFE" MAGAZINE 2-21-64

J. Lee Rankin, General Counsel of the President's Commission, by letter dated 2-21-64 to Mr. Hoover stated that Congressman Ford requested that the Commission ascertain the circumstances under which a photograph of Lee Harvey Oswald, shown with a rifle and a revolver, was released to the press. Mr. Rankin stated he believed this particular picture was made available to "Life" magazine and various newspapers by Mr. Thorne or Mr. Martin on behalf of Marina Oswald.

ACTION TAKEN:

I had Wick contact Mrs. Martha Bucknell, Office Manager of Life Inc. Bureau in Washington who is very friendly. Mrs. Bucknell told Wick today that "Life" magazine purchased the photograph of Lee Harvey Oswald shown with a rifle and a revolver (which appears on "Life" cover of 2-21-64) from Mrs. Marina Oswald through her, then, agent James Martin. Mrs. Bucknell said she understood the photograph came from a family scrapbook maintained by Marina Oswald. Mrs. Bucknell further said that her New York Headquarters cautioned her in connection with this matter by stating that "Life" is concerned by the publication of the photograph, carried on "Life" cover, by other publications and is contemplating suit against those papers which published it. However, "Life" desires that this development be kept confidential. It will, however, be proper to so inform the Commission but it is hoped, said Mrs. Bucknell, that the matter not be widely publicized at this time prior to the actual filing of the suits by "Life."

Mrs. Bucknell said she did not know how any of the other papers obtained a similar photograph. She said she thinks that perhaps the Detroit News reporter in Dallas at the time of the assassination obtained a copy but she is not certain. She stated it would seem likely that Associated Press, which distributed the photograph, obtained a copy from the Dallas Police Department or through its contractual relationship with the Detroit News distributed it to AP clients.

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Evans
- 1 - Mr. Jones

REW : saj (6)

REC-9 - 2218  
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 [Handwritten initials and signatures]

DeLoach to Mohr 2-25-6.

Re: Assassination of the President, Photo of Oswald with Rifle & Revolver

Jerry O'Leary, Jr., of the Washington Evening Star, who arrived in Dallas the night of 11-22-63, advises as follows: Deputy Sheriffs and Dallas Police Department detectives, he believes, arrived at the Payne home in Irving around 2:30 p. m. or 3:00 p. m., Friday, 11-22-63. O'Leary understands that the officers started searching, Mrs. Payne objected, whereupon they told her they would get a search warrant. O'Leary thinks these officers took photographs back to the police department or the Sheriff's Office which they obtained in the Payne residence from Marina Oswald. O'Leary says he believes the photograph carried by "Life" on its 2-21-64 issue was among those taken by the police. O'Leary says that either late the night of 11-22-63 or the morning of 11-23-63, he saw a copy of the photograph in the hands of a police officer.

O'Leary said further that he learned confidentially from George Hunt, who is Managing Editor of "Life" in New York, and a good friend of O'Leary's, that "Life" paid Marina Oswald (through James Martin her agent) \$5,000 for the photo in question and others. O'Leary said he understood the Detroit News got the photo the same way, by purchase from Martin. At any rate, on 11-23-63, copies of this photograph were available in Dallas through the police. It is believed that the copy brought back to FBI Headquarters by Special Agent Vincent Drain was a copy obtained from the police.

Jerry ter Horst, Washington Bureau Manager of the Detroit News, today advised Wick that his paper, as well as others, obtained the photo utilized by "Life" on its 2-21-64 issue, from the Associated Press. He said the issue seems somewhat clouded because of the fact that so far as he knows, not a single publication printed the photo until "Life" magazine published it. He said he thought this had something to do with the fact that "Life" magazine claims the photo was purchased, and the other publications, including AP clients, were afraid to publish it before hand because they feared being sued.

RECOMMENDATION:

That this memorandum be referred to the General Investigative Division so that consideration may be given to having our Dallas Office contact the Dallas Police Department and the Sheriff's Office to determine who first obtained the photograph in question, whether copies were made therefrom, what happened to the copies. It may be necessary to interview Mrs. Marina Oswald and Martin to determine their role in this matter and thus clarify how various newspapers came to possess the photograph of Oswald holding the rifle and revolver.

*Handwritten signatures and initials:* J. Edgar Hoover, W. F. Sullivan, J. A. Mohr, J. C. Casper, J. P. ...