

my, Mike

8/4/69

Kaka-Petrnitsky files, Oswald's "suicide attempt", etc.

While I have never believed there was a different Oswald in Russia, others, including Mrs. Shirley Orr, of Cubao Missouri, have and do. I believe I have given both of you copies of the memo she did for me on the differing descriptions of LHO.

I seem to recall having sent you from the LHO autopsy a description of the wrist wounds. If I haven't, it is in Belli's book also, where the complete autopsy appears.

With reference to GAI-CIA, pp 34-5, just sent by Paul, what Marina may have said at any one time does not require crediting, but I am inclined to agree that I have seen nothing indicating to me that he ~~was~~ was a suicide-prone type, but that is also just opinion. That the passages in "Historic Diary" are overly-dramatic may also have no significance.

But the paragraph numbered "4" is interesting to me because of what it fails to say and does reflect. The Commission, allegedly interested in the identification of Oswald, allegedly inquiring into his suicide by slashing wrists, didn't send the autopsy and the pictures it did have of these wrists to the CIA? It doesn't make sense, nor is the uncertain language of the suggestion by the CIA that it would like to see the autopsy the formulation I would expect in a memo to Hoover. It had to know he had autopsy, pictures, etc.

It was all handled too gingerly. Much too delicately handled.

The hospital would not release the Oswald autopsy pictures without a subpoena and a subpoena was issued. This is all quite proper and got no attention in order to hide the improprieties with the JFK autopsy. Somewhere I have the stuff on this if either of you ever needs it.

I have long felt there is an aspect of this being covered. I do not know what it is. One of the things I have suspected is that the scars are not consistent with a fetal incision, that the suicide was put on.

Best,

Investigation and Evidence 3-14

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

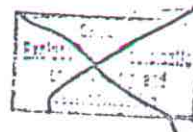
18 FEB 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Attention: Mr. S. J. Papich

SUBJECT: Assassination of President John F. Kennedy

1. According to entries for late October 1959 in Lee Harvey OSWALD's "Historic Diary," he attempted suicide in Moscow on 21 October 1959 by cutting his left wrist. In an interview of Marina Oswald, conducted by your Special Agents Anatole A. Boguslav and Wallace R. Heitman on 2 December 1964 at Dallas, Texas, as shown by memorandum dated 3 December 1963 furnished to this Agency, she stated that she never knew OSWALD to speak of or attempt suicide, that she did not think that he was capable of suicide and she did not believe he had ever attempted suicide. She also stated that she recalled seeing a scar on the inner left wrist of OSWALD after they were married. This scar she said was completely healed and she asked him about this and he evaded answering her.
2. In connection with our efforts to assist the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy by providing information which might be helpful in interpreting available materials relating to OSWALD's activities abroad, we have considered the entry with regard to attempted suicide. We consider this entry as being of considerable importance and one which might be subject to verification.
3. The only information we have received which would appear to have a direct bearing on the accuracy of the diary entry is that contained in the above mentioned memorandum of interview dated 3 December 1964. The information contained therein was provided by his widow, a Soviet citizen. We feel that statements on the part of Marina OSWALD are not adequate and that independent corroborative evidence on this point should be obtained if it is possible to do so.
4. We would appreciate receiving any other information, such as statements of observations by police or others, including the undertakers, copies of any reports, such as autopsy or other, which may contain information pertinent to this point.

~~SECRET~~



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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

5. The best evidence of a scar or scars on the left wrist would of course be direct examination by a competent authority and we recommend that this be done and that a photograph of the inner and outer surfaces of the left wrist be made if there has been no other evidence acceptable to the Commission that he did in fact attempt suicide by cutting his wrist.

(Signed) Richard Helms

Richard Helms  
Deputy Director for Plans

✓cc: Mr. J. Lee Rankin, Esq.