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PARKLAND MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

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M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Robert K. Tanenbaum, Deputy Chief, JFK Task Force

FROM: Belford Lawson, Staff Counsel

DATE: January 12, 1977

SUBJECT: Untaped Telephone Interview of January 10, 1977, with Nathan Pool, employee of Otis Elevator Company, who was sent to Parkland Hospital to run the elevator while JFK and Connally were in the Hospital

Circumstances of Pool's Assignment to Parkland and Arrival at the Hospital. Mr. Pool was working at the Great National Life Insurance Building (GNLIB) when he heard a report indicating that President Kennedy had been shot. Mr. M. E. Flesner, District Service Manager of the Otis Elevator Company, called Mr. Pool and instructed him to go to Parkland Hospital to make sure there was no trouble with the elevator.

Mr. Pool recalls that he had begun eating lunch at approximately 11:30 and had finished lunch and returned to work when he received the assignment to report to Parkland. The GNLIB is approximately one mile away from Parkland. Pool drove, reaching the hospital at approximately 1:00 p.m. at the Hines Boulevard entrance. He was cleared to drive back to the emergency room parking area and was cleared to enter the hospital by Mr. Wright, Chief of Security at Parkland.

He places his arrival at the Hines Boulevard entrance at 1:00 p.m. and he estimates his arrival at the emergency room elevator at 1:15 p.m.

Pool's Co-Discovery of the "Tomlinson" Bullet; Surrounding Circumstances. Upon arrival in the emergency room, Pool was personally taken back to the elevator by what Pool alleges was a Secret Service agent who introduced Pool to a second person who Pool alleges was also a Secret Service agent. The second agent instructed to Pool to permit no riders to board the elevator without prior clearance by the second agent. Pool described the second agent as 5'8", 170 pounds, with dark hair, and stated that this agent was stationed immediately outside the elevator on the emergency room level and remained there throughout most or all of Pool's stay.

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At the time of his arrival at the elevator itself, Pool noticed a single stretcher standing immediately beside the elevator door, near the wall but not close to or parallel to it. Pool remembers that the stretcher had sheets on it, one that was balled-up on a tray beneath the upper surface and one crumpled bloody sheet that covered one-half of that surface area. At this time Pool also recognized D. C. Tomlinson, a Senior Engineer at the hospital plant who had been on duty in the elevator as of approximately 1:00 p.m. Since January of 1961, Pool's elevator maintenance route had included Parkland, and as a result he knew Tomlinson very well.

Prior to his discovery of the bullet, Pool recalls that he and Tomlinson gave another person a ride up to either the second or third floor. Pool cannot remember who the person was except to identify him as a third Secret Service agent. This was the only use of the elevator Pool remembers being involved with before he discovered the bullet. Pool then recounts the following. Upon returning to the first floor, Tomlinson and Pool exited from the elevator. As they stood in the hallway in front of the elevator, they noticed that the same stretcher which Pool had noticed when he first arrived was still in the same disorderly position. They then decided to push the stretcher so that its long side would stand flush with the wall next to this elevator. Pool cannot recall a specific reason for moving the stretcher other than to get it out of the way, nor can he remember who pushed the stretcher first. He definitely recalls that the bullet was not visible on the surface of the stretcher.

Pool heard an object fall from the stretcher as the stretcher was pushed. Pool bent over to pick it up and discovered a bullet which, based on his familiarity with guns, he judged to be a 6mm, i.e. less than a 30-30 caliber. He described the bullet as bronze, long, pointed, and smooth and gave this interviewer the opinion that the bullet didn't look like it had hit anything and didn't look like it had been in anything. A Secret Service agent was within ten feet when Pool delivered the bullet.

Pool gave the bullet to Tomlinson who in turn gave it to either a Secret Service agent or the security officer, Wright. Pool does not remember to whom Tomlinson delivered the bullet because Tomlinson went around a corner to deliver it.

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Pool worked the elevator until the time of Mrs. Kennedy's departure from the hospital with the JFK casket, then went home, having asked Mr. Tomlinson not to mention his name to anyone.

Analysis and Recommendation Pool's testimony contradicts or qualifies the testimony of the Warren Commission, D. C. Tomlinson (6 H 128 ff.) in re Tomlinson's assertions that (1) the bullet was visible on top of the stretcher; (2) that two stretchers were parallel to one another at the time Tomlinson discovered the bullet; (3) the Tomlinson had personally placed a second stretcher next to the stretcher already in position near the elevator; (4) that Tomlinson was alone when he discovered it. Further development of Pool's testimony may confirm that a Secret Service agent was for a significant period of time close enough to the elevator to plant a bullet; may lead to an identification of that agent; and will reveal the superficiality of the Warren Commission's approach (N.B. 6 H 131, where Tomlinson switches briefly from I to we; no one asked him what he meant by we).

Further interviewing of Pool and Tomlinson is recommended.

Approach to Pool He indicates that he is seldom home (214/544-3323) and asks that we call 214/RI8-4533 during work hours and page him.

BVL/slb

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