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FBI

Date: September 25, 1964

Transmit the following in _____

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VIA COURIER

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TO: Director, FBI (105-82555) Attention: Criminal Section

FROM: Legat, Ottawa (163-364) (P) *200... 11/11/64*

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD, aka *11-2-64*
IS - R - CUBA *11-11-64*

Re Ottawa airtel dated September 24, 1964.

Enclosed are original and five copies of letterhead memorandum setting out results of interviews of COLIN DAVIES and KENNETH G. ARMSTRONG [redacted]

[redacted] ARMSTRONG's statement indicates that SIMILAS knowingly deceived ARMSTRONG into buying the story by promising him pictures which he knew to be non-existent. The paragraph on page 13, center column, of the July issue of LIBERTY Magazine wherein he states a picture he took showed two figures beside the gun barrel, etc., was actually the main point of interest of this story. There is doubt that such a picture ever existed or exists now. [redacted] if SIMILAS had taken the picture showing the assassin or assassins, it would have been exclusive and every medium would have been after it. According to COLIN DAVIES, the reporter, it would have been "The Million-Dollar Picture." No news editor would miss the opportunity of a scoop of this nature. SIMILAS told ARMSTRONG he had mailed this photograph, along with others, to the LIBERTY Magazine fully three months after he had been paid for the pictures lost by the Toronto Telegram and which supposedly contained this picture.

[redacted] SIMILAS' story [redacted] both DAVIES and ARMSTRONG, contains too many inconsistencies and "outright lies" to be taken seriously. [redacted] he is an opportunist who saw a chance to cash in on the fact that he had witnessed the assassination and in order to do so, he had to make his story as convincing as possible, and that it is unfortunate that by a coincidence the negatives which would prove the lie have been lost.

- 6 - Bureau (Encs. 6)
- (2 - Dallas, Liaison direct)
- 1 - Ottawa

MLI:MEG
Approved: *[Signature]*
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

105-82555-5026

SOCKET SECTION

Extra copies of this airtel are furnished for
the Dallas office (100-10461).

INNES



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

September 25, 1964

LEE HARVEY OSWALD

COLIN DAVIES, reporter and photographer of the Toronto Telegram. DAVIES advised he was the reporter who interviewed NORMAN MITCHEL SIMILAS on the night of November 23, 1963, and subsequently examined the negatives in SIMILAS' possession. DAVIES stated SIMILAS was very excited at the time of the interview. While viewing the negatives SIMILAS was said to have pointed out the window and asked DAVIES if he didn't think there were two people there. SIMILAS drew his attention to the article written by a Dallas reporter in which two people were mentioned as being in the window. DAVIES said he felt it was the power of suggestion and that SIMILAS wanted to see the two people in the negative so badly that he actually believed he did. It was DAVIES' opinion that the negatives were worthless from a news standpoint, but due to SIMILAS' state of excitement he did not have the heart to disappoint him. DAVIES decided to take the negatives and let the Photo Editor decide what should be done. During the next day or so, the negatives became lost and the Telegram, feeling responsible, sent SIMILAS a check to pay for them. DAVIES did not know the amount but he later met SIMILAS who told him he had received \$300 for his negatives. (Actually he received \$50.00).

DAVIES was questioned as to his impression of SIMILAS and his story. He said he had no doubt that SIMILAS had witnessed the assassination but "he was sure going to get a lot of mileage out of the story." There appears to be a complete reversal of the roles played by SIMILAS and DAVIES, depending on whose story is told.

On September 21, 1964, KENNETH G. ARMSTRONG was interviewed. The following statement was obtained from him:

"Sometime in about February, 1964, while I was editor of Liberty Magazine, I attended a press reception at Yorkdale Plaza. I met JOHN VIRGIN, whom I knew as a Public Relations Consultant and writer. During the luncheon he mentioned that

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he knew a Toronto man who had witnessed the assassination of President Kennedy and would I be interested in the story.

"Following this discussion, I subsequently contacted NORMAN SIMILAS and met him at the Park Plaza Hotel. On our first meeting we discussed his visit to Dallas and the events leading up to the assassination. This discussion probably lasted three hours and I got a lot of background.

"There were two subsequent meetings at which I got the remainder of the information that I wanted for my story.

"SIMILAS offered to supply me with pictures which were taken prior to and during the assassination. These were to be used to illustrate the story. SIMILAS supplied me with some pictures and he said he was having prints made of the other ones. It was my understanding that one of these pictures was the one in which two persons and the gun barrel could be seen, and these were to be forthcoming when developed. I phoned SIMILAS a day or so later and he said they had been mailed to me from a Post Office on Yonge St. I felt that they may have been misdirected and would be arriving at any time. After a week had gone by, ✓ Albert Plock, Art Director of Liberty, and I went through the entire amount of mail received during the previous weeks but we found nothing. I mention this because it was so important to the story to have that picture which contained the two faces at the window. We still held out hope that they might arrive in time for the second installment; however, they never did arrive.

"As I completed each portion of the manuscript I submitted it to SIMILAS for his approval or whatever changes he might suggest. I also went back and double checked on facts he had mentioned previously and his account was basically the same each time.

"The paragraph appearing in the center column on page 13 of the July issue of Liberty beginning, 'Will the investigation committee ...,' was discussed between SIMILAS and me, and originally this appeared in LIFE Magazine.

"It was obvious to me that SIMILAS must have done considerable research and read most of news and views published in order to form the opinion expressed in the next column regarding the assassin's perch.

"The second installment was completed and was set in galley-type, but was never published. Liberty Magazine ceased publishing after the July issue was released.

"I cannot think of anything else which would be of assistance to you except that before the story was used I showed HAROLD COOK, the publisher, SIMILAS' signature of approval which would eliminate the possibility of a misunderstanding between us.

(Signed) Kenneth G. Armstrong"