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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON
INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES
INTERVIEW OF SPECIAL AGENT
ROBERT M. BARRETT,
DECEMBER 17, 1975

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT CONCERNING
INTERVIEW OF SPECIAL AGENT
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On advice received from the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Activities, a transcript of the testimony of Special Agent Robert M. Barrett given December 17, 1975, was made available for review by Agent Barrett on January 27, 1976, at the Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C. From 9:20 AM until 12:37 PM, a detailed review of this transcript was made by Agent Barrett and some 20 to 30 minor typographical and/or spelling errors were noted - none bearing on substance. A list of these was furnished to the Senate Select Committee Staff at the conclusion of the review.

The review of the transcript refreshed the memory of Agent Barrett and notes were made of excerpts not covered in the prior letterhead memorandum of December 24, 1975, which reported the results of the interview of Agent Barrett on December 17, 1975.

This supplemental report, therefore, is being submitted to expand in pertinent areas the letterhead memorandum of December 24, 1975, and to include other miscellaneous matters not previously reported, but which were noted during the review on January 27, 1976, and which refreshed Agent Barrett's recollection of such matters.

At one point during the interview, on December 17, 1975, there ensued a series of questions by Committee Staff

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Member Mr. Paul Wallach, set out below, which led to the statement comprising the penultimate paragraph on Page 13 of the December 24, 1975, letterhead memorandum as follows:

"At this point, Mr. Wallach asked if it was not true that Mr. Shanklin or some other Bureau official had given explicit directions that the investigation was to establish that Oswald acted alone in connection with the assassination. Before I could answer this question, Mr. Wallach stated that such information had been received from other FBI Agents. I stated that this was not so, that I did not believe any other Agents had made such statements, and further, that we had, to the contrary, been given instructions to conduct our investigation in an effort to establish all the facts to identify all persons involved."

This statement was based on the questions asked by Mr. Wallach as follows:

1. Did Agent Barrett recall a meeting held by Dallas Special Agent in Charge Gordon Shanklin the morning of November 23, 1963, during which Shanklin relayed instructions he had received from Washington, D. C., to which Agent Barrett answered he did not recall such a meeting or any specifics, but there was possibly such a meeting. As to whether or not Mr. Shanklin relayed instructions received from Washington, D. C., Agent Barrett had stated he could not recall this.

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2. Did Agent Barrett recall any comments by Mr. Shanklin about the handling of the internal aspects of the case to which Agent Barrett answered in the negative.
3. Did Agent Barrett recall any comments by Mr. Shanklin about the investigation of leads as to whether or not Oswald had any Cuban or Russian connections. Agent Barrett could not recall any such comments.
4. Did Agent Barrett recall Shanklin advising the Agents investigating the assassination that they should follow up any leads of international conspiracies in a very quiet manner, or not to alarm the public about these (international conspiracies). Agent Barrett's reply was in the negative. Agent Barrett was asked if he recalled any discussions at that time (November 23, 1963) about Oswald's possible foreign connections and investigations of these. Agent Barrett said he could not recall any such discussions.
5. Agent Barrett was asked about Mr. Shanklin's demeanor on November 23, 1963, followed by a question had Agent Barrett ever seen Shanklin yell or scream at an FBI Agent. Agent Barrett stated he could not recall Shanklin's demeanor and never heard him yell or scream at an Agent.
6. Agent Barrett was asked if he recalled "instructions being given out that the documents and memoranda produced during the course of

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the investigation were not to be serialized until reviewed at headquarters" and "or reviewed by Inspector Malley himself personally". Agent Barrett replied he never recalled any such instructions.

- 7. Agent Barrett was asked of his knowledge of any censure of Bureau Agents for their handling of the Lee Harvey Oswald case prior to November 22, 1963, and if such censure had been made known to the Warren Commission. Agent Barrett replied he had known of some disciplinary action taken against some Agents but had no knowledge whether or not this had ever been made known to the Warren Commission because with the exception of the censure of James P. Hosty other disciplinary action took place subsequent to the Warren Commission report.
8. Mr. Wallach asked Agent Barrett "did you at any time during the investigation of the assassination of the president become aware that the FBI was investigating leads in an attempt to determine whether Oswald acted alone?" When Agent Barrett replied that he thought Mr. Wallach was asking for a personal conclusion, Mr. Wallach said he would rephrase the question and then asked "at any time after the assassination did you discuss with any FBI Agents whether or not Oswald had acted alone?" to which Agent Barrett replied that he probably had, but would be unable to furnish any details as to specifics of such discussions.

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9. Mr. Wallach asked "do you recall if you discussed any particular theory or facts which suggested Oswald did not act alone?" to which Agent Barrett replied that he did not recall such discussions and that it was his conclusion (Agent Barrett's; that Oswald acted alone. Wallach asked "when was this reached?" to which Agent Barrett replied a year afterwards or maybe during the investigation and further stated that "our investigation was being pointed all the time - was there someone else, who did he know, who did he contact, what other persons could possibly be involved?" The conclusions were drawn by Agent Barrett himself from looking at the facts as they developed.
10. Mr. Wallach stated "Well, we have been told by other Agents, Mr. Barrett, that the investigation could more properly be labeled as one to prove that Oswald did act alone rather than finding out if he did act alone", to which Agent Barrett replied "I wouldn't say that". Mr. Wallach said "you disagree?" to which Agent Barrett said "I would say it was directed toward finding out the facts of who all was involved".

Following the above there ensued a series of questions and answers in which Mr. Wallach obtained information as to what aspects of the investigation Agent Barrett had taken an active part.

As to the statement in the December 24, 1975, letterhead memorandum in the penultimate paragraph of Page 13, Mr. Wallach "stated such information had been received from other FBI Agents". This was based upon Mr. Wallach's statement as set out above, namely "Well, we have been told by other Agents, Mr. Barrett, that the investigation could more properly be labeled as one to prove that Oswald did act alone rather than finding out if he did act alone".

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MISCELLANEOUS

The following are some other matters noted by Agent Barrett during the review of the transcript which refreshed his recollection and which are being included as an addendum to the matter set out in the letterhead memorandum of December 24, 1975.

1. In Paragraph 4, Page 4 of the letterhead memorandum of December 24, 1975, Agent Barrett had stated that he had been asked by Mr. Wallach if he knew that Jack Ruby was a potential criminal informant of the Dallas Office and if Agent Barrett knew the identity of the FBI Agent in Dallas, a "red headed fellow", who had had Ruby assigned to him and which Agent was later disciplined and transferred. A correction of this statement by Agent Barrett based on the review is as follows: Agent Barrett was told by Mr. Wallach "it was my understanding there was an Agent who attempted to develop him (Jack Ruby) as an informant and subsequently was transferred or resigned from the Bureau." Later Agent Barrett was asked if he knew any FBI Agents assigned to the Houston Office and in particular if he knew a red headed Agent assigned to the Houston Office. Agent Barrett had replied in the negative to both of these questions and further stated he had no knowledge of any Agent who had attempted to develop Ruby being transferred or resigning from the Bureau.

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2. Agent Barrett was asked as to his knowledge about Lt. Jack Reville, Intelligence Unit, Dallas Police Department, liking the president (President Kennedy) to which Agent Barrett replied he had never discussed politics with Lt. Reville. Agent Barrett was then asked if he had knowledge that Reville was a supporter of non-violent right-wing organizations such as the John Birch Society to which Agent Barrett answered in the negative.
3. During a series of questions concerning the arrest of Oswald in the theater Mr. Wallach asked "Have you (Agent Barrett) ever met any of your informants or sources in a movie theater?" Agent Barrett replied by asking Mr. Wallach if he was implying that Oswald was an informant or source of Agent Barrett's which implication Mr. Wallach categorically denied.
4. Mr. Wallach asked if Agent Barrett had any knowledge that Oswald was a source or informant of the Dallas Police Department and whether or not any inquiry of the police department had ever been made as to whether or not Oswald was such a source or informant of that agency. Agent Barrett replied he had no knowledge either that Oswald was a source or informant or whether any inquiry had ever been made of the Dallas Police Department.
5. Mr. Wallach asked if Agent Barrett knew of any security informants being utilized by the FBI in the Dallas area to which Agent Barrett replied in the negative.

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6. Mr. Wallach inquired if Agent Barrett had ever asked why he was being instructed, November 23, 1963, to conduct some investigation into the assassination when the FBI had no jurisdiction at that time. Agent Barrett's reply was that he had been instructed to conduct certain investigation by his superiors and had thereafter done same.

7. Mr. Wallach asked Agent Barrett "Do you recall an airtel or teletype that was received from FBI Headquarters instructing all Agents to check right-wing, organized crime, etc. informants and then shortly after Oswald was apprehended or later on the 22nd that those instructions were rescinded"? This question had followed some prior questions about contacts with sources and informants concerning Lee Harvey Oswald. Agent Barrett's reply was "No, if it had been organized crime I know specifically that I would have been contacted and instructed to do that and I know that did not happen".

Mr. Wallach then said "So in any event, you are saying that you might have but you really don't remember?" Agent Barrett replied "No. No. I am saying that ...", at which time Mr. Wallach interrupted Agent Barrett's reply stating "forgetting for a second" and continued with another question concerning Bureau instructions for contacts with informants and sources.