


7 January 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: O/DDO (Attn: Mr. ⁰³Burns)SUBJECT : German Magazine Attempts to Tie Howard Hunt/
Frank Sturgis to the Dallas Assassination of
President Kennedy

1. Recent publicity against CIA in the U.S. has stimulated the German weekly Der Stern to intensify previous efforts to tie Howard Hunt and Frank Sturgis to the Dallas assassination of President Kennedy. According to ⁰²CASHAKER/1, a cooperative (Senior editor of Stern) the magazine plans to fly reporter Gerd Heidemann to Dallas about 9 January for interviews. The reporter working on the story at Stern, Frank Heigl, claims to be in touch with "dissident CIA staffers who were forced out after Dallas." Heigl supposedly picked up these contacts in Ankara and Frankfurt.

2. In October 1974, Der Stern paid Dallas photographer Jack Beers \$1,000 for copies of pictures he had taken of persons being led away by the police from the book depository after the assassination of President Kennedy. The magazine was attempting to identify Watergate defendants Howard Hunt and Frank Sturgis with persons shown in the Dallas photographs to build up a story implying Hunt (and by inference CIA) involvement in the assassination. To buttress this conjecture, the magazine hired Professor Rainer Knussmann of the Anthropological Institute of the University of Hamburg to do a "scientific" comparison of the Dallas photos with stock shots of Hunt and Sturgis. His findings are that there is a high probability that Hunt and Sturgis could be identical with two persons shown in the Dallas snapshots and that the matter should be pursued further. A summary translation of the Knussmann findings is attached.


Chief, E/G

Attachment:
As Stated, Herewith

E2 IMPDET
CL BY 057018

SECRET

4/17

14-00000
Officially Registered Court
Expert for Hereditary Biology

Prof. Dr. Rainer Knussmann
Examining Laboratory
Duesseldorf, Markenstr. 5

TRANSLATION

TO: The Editorial Board of the STERN.

ATTENTION: Frank P. Heigl
2 Hamburg 1
Pressehaus

SUBJECT: Personnel Identification "Watergate" (Your reference
Number FPH/RAD)

Dear Herr Heigl:

I refer to our conversation of 29/10/74 and your written
assignment of 5/11/74 and set forth in the following the
principles of poly-symptomatic resemblance analysis based
on

ANTHROPOLOGICAL IDENTITY EVALUATION

whether the persons, Frank Stergis and Howard Hunt are
identical to persons shown in comparative photographs.

A. Introduction

1. Material

With your letter of 5/11/74 a total of 47
photographs in different formats and differing sharpness were
sent me. After telephone re-querying with Frau Radiziwill*
9 further photos were sent to me. I have designated the
back sides, lower left, of these 56 shots with green symbols
and with numbers where different snapshots were in question.
I added small letters in cases where different enlargements
of detail from the same snapshot were involved. In the
following report I will refer to these designations of the
photos.

(Comment: the total report is 37 pages, of
which only the introduction and conclusion
were provided. The translation commences
with page 35)

* Secretary at STERN.

d. Conclusions

The given question about the identity of Stergis and Hunt with the two designated persons on the Death Site (DS) pictures can only be answered clearly to the extent that a firm identity denial is not possible from the photographic documentation placed at my disposal. In this connection there is a noticeable discrepancy in the amount of protrusion of the ear in the photos of the man who could be Hunt which, however, fails by far to be sufficient for a sure negative identification.

In all, the resemblance analysis with respect to both persons led to a clear majority of positive resemblance factors, which above all for Stergis were in part very convincing. Since it concerned a clearly established similarity in relatively rare distinguishing marks. Because of the indifferent quality of the source photos which handicaps a scientific comparison and because of unsimilarities which cropped up in the course of the analysis--though these were nearly all of minor nature--the total result is not adequate for the establishment of an absolutely sure identity. Such a result from photo materials such as were furnished me is in principle very difficult to achieve. The symptoms of identity nevertheless are so convincing that it must be advised in any case that the material be pursued further. A successful identity establishment could truly be expected if photos of Stergis and Hunt, which should be obtainable, were prepared showing the subjects from the same head angle and under similar lighting as in DS photos.

The probable identity from the resemblance analysis is given a special weight because the margin of error is significantly reduced when both Hunt and Stergis are analyzed in combination. This is on the common sense ground that while an accidental resemblance between Stergis or Hunt on the one side and one of the persons shown in the DS pictures would be understandable, there is a very narrow probability that Stergis accidentally resembles one and Hunt accidentally the other of both persons shown in the DS photos.

Possibly what is finally expected of me is a precise probability quotient for the possible identity of Stergis and Hunt with the questioned persons on the DS pictures. Such a numerical probability estimate can certainly be produced by mathematics, but would show a false exactness. However, to give a preliminary evaluation I estimate that the positive resemblance between Stergis and the questioned person #1 in

the DS photos has a probability of 0.1 (10% error, that is 90% for an identity). The similiar value for Hunt being person #2 I estimate at 0.3 (that is 30% chance of error and 70% probability of identity). From this a theoretical error probability for the combined results figures at only 0.03 (that is 3%, therefore, 97% probability).

In closing I should like to assure you that in preparation of this evaluation I have taken pains to work according to the best conscience and knowledge without any political presumptions. I hope I have served you with my evaluation and send you my sincere respects.

Professor Dr. R. Knussmann