UNCLASSIFIED



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Electronic Communication

Title: (U) Migration to Sentinel and Serial Date: 12/10/2012

Numbering Issue.

From: LOS ANGELES

LA-C-1

Contact:

Approved By: SSA

Drafted By:

Case ID #: 89A-LA-156 (U) KENSALT

Synopsis: (U) To document purpose of migrating case to Sentinel and to address case management issues.

Full Investigation Initiated: 12/07/2012

Details:

On October 9, 2012, FBI Los Angeles was advised of a request to re-examine evidence in the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy by his son, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. The basis of the request was a claim by Forensic Scientist and Electrical Engineer Philip Van Praag that his examination of an audio recording of the event revealed thirteen shots, not eight, were fired during Senator Kennedy's assassination. If true, this would necessitate a second gunman as convicted assassin Sirhan Sirhan used an eight-shot .22 caliber Ivar Johnson revolver and was unable to reload during the incident.

The tape reviewed by Van Praag was a tape made by Stus Pruszynski, a reporter for Harper and Row Limited, Publishers, London. Van Praag obtained a copy of this tape from the State of California Archives in Sacramento, California. Van Praag used a scientific procedure for gun shot analysis, Frequency Selective Integrated Loudness Envelope Analysis, which he developed. Van Praag claims this method has undergone peer review and satisfies the Daubert Rule regarding the admissibility of scientific evidence in court proceedings. Based on

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Title: (U) Migration to Sentinel and Serial Numbering Issue.

Re: 89A-LA-156, 12/10/2012

this analysis, Van Praag claims 13 shots were fired from two opposing locations. The tape in the State of California Archives was provided by Los Angeles Police Department ("LAPD.")

FBI case file LA 56-156 was opened on June 5, 1968, to document the investigation conducted by the FBI. Evidentiary item 1B 4 contained one copy of a magnetic tape

recording from Prusznski provided to the FBI by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (hereafter referred to as "RCMP Tape") and two filtered copies of the RCMP Tape made by FBI Laboratory in 1969. One of the filtered copies was subsequently provided to LAPD. It is unknown at this time if the tape reviewed by Van Praag was the filtered copy provided to LAPD by the FBI or a copy made of the tape provided to LAPD. On 10/25/2012, a lead was set and the tapes from evidentiary item 1B 4 were sent to the FBI Laboratory to determine if Van Praag's claims can be substantiated.

FBI case file LA 56-156 was closed on 12/07/1977, but maintained for historical purposes. To maintain chain of custody, all evidentiary items from LA 56-156 were entered into ACS after the system came online. However, the numerous serials and sub files from LA 56-156 were not entered into ACS.

In order to maintain chain of custody of all evidentiary items, LA 56-156 was migrated to Sentinel on 12/6/2012. Due to the implementation of the Uniformed Case File Number, the case could not be migrated using case number LA 56-156. Therefore, the case was migrated to above captioned case file, 89A-LA-156.

In addition, due to the absence of serials and subfiles from LA 56-156 in ACS, no serials or subfiles were migrated into Sentinel. Thus, the serial count in the migrated case, 89A-LA-156, begins at 1. In order to reduce confusion, any reference to previous serials will be referenced using the file number and then serial number, i.e., LA 56-156 serial 1 or 89A-LA-156 serial 1.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Title: (U) Migration to Sentinel and Serial Numbering Issue.

Re: 89A-LA-156, 12/10/2012

***** *

UNCLASSIFIED