

1 SKINNER, Earle C. M.D.

2 TASHMA, Albert M.D.

3 WALKER, Richard Blaire

4 YANSHIN, Leonard J. M.D.

5 MISCELLANEOUS

6 CHRISTIAN, John G.

7 CROME, Walter S. Jr.

8 DUARTE, Jose A.

9 FARBY, John

10 GENDROE, Robert

11 GOLDEN CARTER (Alhambra)

12 KHAN, Khalil r

13 ROBBIE'S RESTAURANT (Pomona)

14 OWEN, Jerry

15 RANGE

16 ALTENBAUGH, Charlie

17 ATALIO, William

18 CARDONA, Jesse

19 EDWARDS, Corliss

20 EDWARDS, Robert E.

21 FARRELL, Thomas A.

22 FOSS, Brent C.

23 GOODELL, Maynard

24 GRIMALVA, Richard

25 GRIMALVA, Roberta

26 HAGER, Lloyd

27 HANSON, Leland B.

28 HARATEN, Parker

29 HICKS, Harry

30 HOLGATE, Mike Roy

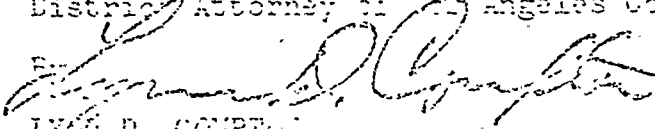
31 JENNINS, Charles

1 FENDALL, Charles
2 LEE, Harry
3 REES, Gilbert
4 WILKINER, Charles M. Jr.
5 KITCH, George S.
6 KITCH, Mara
7 MC CHESNEY, Grove
8 PACK, Dean
9 RENTZ, M.R.
10 RIPP, James F.
11 SEM, Kenneth Richard
12 SMOOTZ, Les
13 STEWARD, Richard
14 STEPP, Marion Henry
15 TESCHER, Joseph
16 THORN, Margie
17 THORNBROUGH, James J.
18 TRAWER, Ben
19 TRUMP, Orie
20 WEAVER, Russell Doyle
21 WHITE, Robert

22 DATED this 28th day of February, 1969.

23 Respectfully submitted,

24 SVELLE J. YOUNGER
25 District Attorney of Los Angeles County

26 
27 IVAN D. COMPTON
28 Chief Deputy District Attorney

29 Attorney for Plaintiff

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, LOS ANGELES (56-156) (P)

DATE: 4/16/71

FROM : SA R. J. LA JEUNESSE, JR.

SUBJECT: KENSALT

Mr. JOHN E. HOWARD, Chief Deputy District Attorney, Los Angeles County, on 4/15/71 made available a copy of an affidavit prepared by him in connection with a request made of ~~his office~~ ^{U.S. District Court} by the Committee to Investigate Assassinations, Inc., 927 - 15th Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

This affidavit is in connection with the prosecution of SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN for the murder of the late Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY.

Mr. HOWARD specifically pointed out that page 2 of the affidavit, starting with line 25 through and including line 31, and page 3, starting with line 26 through and including line 29, are pertinent with respect to information made available by his office at the time of the trial to the defense in conformance with a court order.

The affidavit by HOWARD was pursuant to a request from Deputy Attorney General WILLIAM S. LYNCH, assigned to Analysis and Planning, Internal Security Division, U. S. Department of Justice. The affidavit was requested in a letter from Mr. LYNCH dated 3/15/71.

RJLJ:CM *d.*
(1)



5010-108

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

H. O. [unclear]

56-156-3046

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 16 1971	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

San Francisco, California

April 15, 1971

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

NAJI MEEDI ALASH

Also Known As

Naji Baba

INTERNAL SECURITY - MIDDLE EAST

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 8-11-86 BY SP6 BJA/MD
C.N. 255,315

The following background data was obtained from File
A8 154 099 at the Immigration and Naturalization Service, San
Francisco (INS-SF):

Name:	NAJI MEHDI ALASH
Birth:	9/16/28 Baghdad, Iraq
Father:	MEHDI ALASH - Deceased
Mother's Maiden Name:	SALIMA AHMED - Residing Baghdad (1951)
Arrival in U.S.:	10/18/51 at New York City
Relative in U.S.:	SALEH ALASH - Brother, San Francisco State College (SFSC) (1951)
Friend in U.S.:	KAMEL AYOUB 570 Junipero Serra San Francisco (1959)
Marital Status:	Married on 11/25/58 at Reno, Nevada, to CARLENE MARIE ALASH (POLA) who was born 3/7/34 in Oakland, California
Organizational Memberships:	International Relations Club, SFSC, and Arabian Club of San Francisco (1959)
Immigration Status:	Adjusted to status of permanent resident as of 5/1/59 at San Francisco

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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FBI - LOS ANGELES	

Above INS file showed ALASH was enrolled as a student
at SFSC between September, 1951, and June, 1957, when he was
disqualified. He had been having scholastic difficulties.

INS file showed that in 1956 ALASH advised he had
periodically suffered from "very severe mental depression
attacks" which he first experienced after his arrival in the
United States. He received psychiatric treatment for this
illness.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions
of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your
agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside
your agency.

NAJI MEHDI ALASH

The 1971 Alien Address Report Card for ALASH shows he resides at 1293 Union Street, San Francisco, and is self-employed as a carpet layer, Social Security Number [REDACTED]. He is a citizen of Iraq.

The files of the San Francisco County Clerk reflect that CARLENE MARIE ALASH received final judgement of divorce from ALASH on October 25, 1960.

On April 14, 1971, ALASH advised he is self-employed as a carpet layer and lives in an apartment at the rear of his shop at 1293 Union Street. He stated he no longer is associated with the coffee shop called Naji's at 347 Columbus Avenue as he could not keep a satisfactory manager.

ALASH advised he had no knowledge of any possible terrorist activity on the part of the Arab people in the San Francisco area. He noted his primary organizational contact with other Arabs was through U.S. Omen which he described as a fund raising organization made up primarily of middle aged or older Arab businessmen. Funds go to educational and relief activity for Arabs in the Middle East.

ALASH advised he was not personally acquainted with SIRHAN SIRHAN and had met his mother only once about six months ago when she was in a car that brought ADEL SIRHAN to ALASH's shop.

ALASH further explained he had known ADEL SIRHAN and worked with him as a musician. ALASH plays the drums and SIRHAN a stringed instrument. ADEL SIRHAN lived at ALASH's shop for a couple of months in the Fall of 1970 and worked as a helper with ALASH but work was slow and he has returned to the Los Angeles area.

ALASH advised that ADEL SIRHAN did not discuss his brother in any detail but appeared to want to continue to live in the United States for ADEL commented he would have gone home if he did not like it in the United States. ALASH stated he believed that this was also the feeling of Mrs. SIRHAN and others in their family.

DIRECTOR, FBI (105-208313)

4/15/71

SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (105-26451) (C)

CHANGED
NAJI MEHDI ALASH, aka
Naji Baba
IS - MIDDLE EAST

OO:SF

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 8-11-86 BY SP6 BJA/uc
C.N. 255,315

Title is changed to show Subject's middle name as
obtained from INS file.

Re San Francisco letter to Bureau dated 1/6/71.

Enclosed herewith to the Bureau are five copies of
an LHM dated and captioned as above.

One information copy is furnished Los Angeles Office
in view of Subject's comments regarding ADEL SIRHAN whose
contact with Subject was the original basis of this investi-
gation.

It is noted ALASH was friendly during interview and
indicated he would advise the FBI if he received any infor-
mation concerning possible Arab terrorist activity in the
future.

Instant investigation is being closed but ALASH
will be contacted in the future concerning Arab matters should
logical reason arise.

- 2 - Bureau (Encls. 5) (RM)
1 - Los Angeles (Encl. 1) (Info) (ADEL SIRHAN) (RM)
2 - San Francisco
(1 - 105-26421) (ADEL SIRHAN)

RES/cmp
(5)

56-156-3048

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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APR 15 1971	
FBI-LOS ANGELES	

File - Serial Charge Out

FD-5 (Rev. 12-15-60)

File _____ Class. _____ Case No. _____ Last Serial _____ Date _____

☐ Pending

☐ Closed

Serial No. _____ Description of Serial _____ Date Charged _____

Serial 3049

Skipped During

Serialization

Employee _____

RECHARGE

Date _____

To _____ From _____

Date charged _____

Employee _____

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Sirhan Appeal Reply Filed

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The state filed a 291-page reply with the California Supreme Court Friday challenging Sirhan B. Sirhan's appeal from his conviction and death sentence for the fatal shooting of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy in Los Angeles June 5, 1968.

The brief was signed by Atty. Gen. Evelle Younger, Asst. Atty. Gen. William E. James and Dep. Atty. Gen. Ronald McGeorge.

The state argues that Los Angeles Superior Judge Herbert Walker did not err with respect to Sirhan's two unsuccessful attempts to plead guilty.

It also attacks claims of illegal search, illegal selection of the grand jury and trial jury and exclusion of jurors because of opposition to capital punishment.

A jury found Sirhan guilty of murdering Sen. Kennedy and of assault with intent to commit murder involving five other persons wounded in the incident.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

4-10 Los Angeles Times
Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 5/8/71
Edition: Saturday Final
Author:
Editor:
Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Los Angeles

☐ Being Investigated

56-156-3050

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MAY 10 1971	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

Adverse Be
also in s/fet
copy sent to [unclear]
Richard [unclear]

F B I

Date: 5/17/71

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (62-587)
FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (56-156)
RE: KENSALT

Re: Appeal of SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN

Re Los Angeles airtel to the Bureau, 5/13/71.

On 5/14/71, a copy of the respondent's brief to the appeal for SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN was obtained from Deputy Attorney General WILLIAM JAMES. This document contains 291 pages.

JAMES advised that his office has only one copy of the appeal filed by SIRHAN's attorney, but would make it available to this office for Xeroxing of extra copies. The appeal consists of four volumes totaling almost 800 pages.

The desires of the Bureau are requested as to whether the Bureau and/or the Department want a copy of either or both of the appeal and the answer to the appeal for the completion of their files in this matter.

One copy of the appeal and of the answer to the appeal will be made a part of the Los Angeles file.

2 - Bureau
2 - Los Angeles
AOR/jmb
(4)

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INDEXED _____
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Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____

Special Agent in Charge 2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

SAC, Los Angeles (56-156) ✓

May 28, 1971

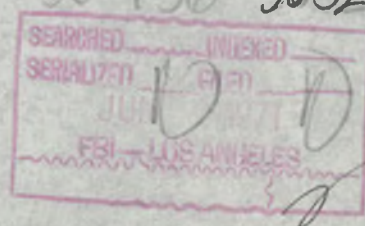
Director, FBI (62-587)

KENSA LT

Re Los Angeles airtel to the Director dated 5/17/71.

In order that our files may be complete with respect to this investigation, two copies of Sirhan's appeal and the respondent's brief to the appeal should be submitted to the Bureau.

One copy will then be furnished the Department.



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, LOS ANGELES (56-156) (P)

DATE: 6/1/71

FROM : SA R. J. LA JEUNESSE, JR.

SUBJECT: KENSALT

On 5/28/71, an individual identifying himself as JOSEPH M. HANNON, Chief of the Civil Rights Division, U. S. Attorney's Office, Washington, D.C. (telephone 202-426-7281), telephonically advised the writer as follows:

An organization known as the "Committee to Investigate Assassinations", has filed a request with the U. S. Department of Justice for admission of FBI files. In connection therewith, they stated, in part, "FBI Agent ROGER LA JEUNESSE was aware of ROBERT KAISER's access to the records and his plan to publish a book which was based in part upon such records, at the conclusion of SIRHAN trial." Mr. HANNON desired to know whether or not the foregoing was a true statement, at which time the writer advised him that he had no such knowledge of any FBI records having been made available to KAISER for the preparation of a book.

Mr. HANNON requested that an affidavit be prepared and submitted to his office in response to the foregoing. He further stated, upon determination of the telephone conversation, "You make a record of this conversation and I'm doing the same."

The foregoing is being made the subject of this memorandum in the event it is of possible future significance.

RJL/kap
(2)

Let Saint

56-156-3053

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FBI - LOS ANGELES	

[Signature]



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, Los Angeles (56-156) / 2

DATE: May 28, 1971

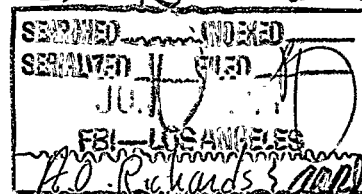
✓ FROM : Director, FBI (62-587)

SUBJECT: KENSALT

Re Los Angeles airtel to the Director dated 5/17/71.

In order that our files may be complete with respect to this investigation, two copies of Sirhan's appeal and the respondent's brief to the appeal should be submitted to the Bureau.

One copy will then be furnished the Department.



F B I

Date: 5/13/71

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (62-587)
 FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (56-156)(P)
 RE: KENSALT
 RE: Appeal of SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN

News article in Los Angeles "Times" of 5/8/71, states that State of California filed a 291-page reply with the California Supreme Court challenging SIRHAN's appeal from his conviction of the fatal shooting of Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY.

The state, in this reply, according to the news article, argues that Los Angeles Superior Court Judge HERBERT WALKER did not err with respect to SIRHAN's two unsuccessful attempts to plead guilty.

The reply by the state also attacks claims of illegal search, illegal selection of the Grand Jury and trial juries and exclusion of jurors because of opposition to capital punishment.

On 5/13/71, JOHN E. HOWARD, Chief Deputy District Attorney of Los Angeles County, was requested to furnish this office a copy of the appeal and of the state's reply to this appeal of SIRHAN.

2 - Bureau
 2 - Los Angeles

AOR/jmb
 (4)

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SS.

I am a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation,

Los Angeles, California. Following the shooting of the late

California, I was assigned liaison responsibility between the

That, in connection with those liaison responsibilities,

disseminated to the United States Attorney at Los Angeles, and

That, during the investigation of the murder of Senator

from June 5, 1968, through the termination of the guilt phase

April 4, 1969. I had no contact with any members of the

following surgery during the above period of time. In

Sirhan were continually present in court during the trial.

as an "investigator" member of the Defense Team.

Team, it would appear that Kaiser might have had access to

1 any records and or files made available to the Defense by
2 Court order.

3 On May 1, 1969, following completion of the guilt phase
4 of the trial, Mr. Kaiser telephonically advised me that he
5 was in the process of putting together a book concerning the
6 assassination of Senator Kennedy. In connection therewith,
7 he stated he had previously directed a letter to J. Edgar
8 Hoover, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation,
9 Washington, D. C., requesting to know specifically "how the
10 FBI went into action" in connection with the assassination.
11 He stated that he had advised the Federal Bureau of Investi-
12 gation that as a member of the Defense Team, he had already
13 had access to part of the investigation conducted by the
14 Federal Bureau of Investigation. Mr. Kaiser further
15 explained that he had received a letter from Mr. Hoover
16 advising him that the information contained in the files of
17 the Federal Bureau of Investigation is confidential.

18 Furthermore, on May 1, 1969, I had no personal know-
19 ledge of any alleged correspondence between Kaiser and the
20 Federal Bureau of Investigation. I had a subsequent
21 telephone conversation with Mr. Kaiser at which time I made
22 reference to a letter addressed to him from Mr. Hoover,
23 dated April 29, 1969, in which Mr. Kaiser was advised of the
24 confidential nature of Federal Bureau Investigation files
25 and telling him it would not be possible to furnish
26 information to him regarding Sirhan Bishara Sirhan.

27 That, at no time was any dissemination made by me to
28 Robert Blair Kaiser of any written matter, nor was there
29 any oral dissemination made to Mr. Kaiser.
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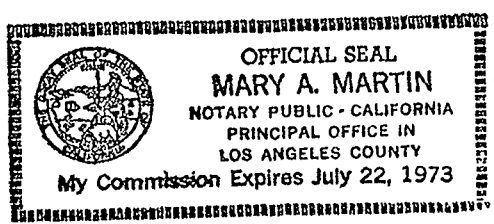
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Roger J. La Jeunesse, Jr.

ROGER J. LA JEUNESSE, JR.
Special Agent
Federal Bureau of Investigation

SUBSCRIBED and SWORN to before
me this 1st day of June, 1971.

Mary A. Martin
Notary Public in and for said
County and State



F B I

Date: 6/2/71

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL (REGISTERED)
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (62-587)
FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (56-156) (P)
SUBJECT: KENSALT

Re Los Angeles airtel to the Bureau dated 4/20/71.

Enclosed for the Bureau are the following:

The original and one copy of an affidavit prepared by SA R. J. LA JEUNESSE, JR. attesting to points regarding dissemination of Bureau reports and letterhead memorandum.

Also enclosed are two copies of an undated letter from ROBERT B. KAISER to the Director, and two copies of a letter from the Director to Mr. ROBERT BLAIR KAISER, 2762 Woodshire, Hollywood, California, 90028, dated 4/29/69.

For the information of the Bureau, Mr. JOSEPH M. HANNON Chief of the Civil Rights Division, United States Attorney's Office, Washington, D. C., telephonically advised SA LA JEUNESSE on 5/28/71, as follows:

An organization known as the "Committee to Investigate Assassinations" has filed a request with the U. S. Department of Justice for admission of FBI files. In connection therewith, the Committee has advised that "FBI Agent ROGER LA JEUNESSE was aware of ROBERT KAISER's access to the records and his plan to publish a book which was based in part upon such records at the conclusion of SIRHAN trial".

2 Bureau (Enc. 6)
2 Los Angeles

RJL/nc
(4)

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56-156-3057
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FILED

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____

Special Agent in Charge

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

LA 56-156

Mr. HANNON was advised by SA LA JEUNESSE that he had no such knowledge and, in fact, was advised that Mr. KAISER had made a previously written request of the Bureau for such information and was subsequently advised by the Bureau that information he was seeking would not be made available to him (see enclosed letters).

Mr. HANNON requested that SA LA JEUNESSE prepare the enclosed affidavit and that also copies of correspondence from KAISER to the Director, and from the Director to KAISER be likewise be made available to him. Copies of these letters are being made available to the Bureau in the event it is deemed desirable to furnish them to Mr. HANNON.

F B I

Date: 6/8/71

Transmit the following in PLAIN
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR (62-587)
FROM: LOS ANGELES (56-156)

KENSALT.

RELA AIRTEL TO BUREAU, JANUARY NINE, NINETEEN SIXTY NINE;
BUAIRTEL TO LOS ANGELES, JANUARY SIXTEEN, NINETEEN SIXTY NINE;
LOS ANGELES TEL TO BUREAU, JUNE TWO, LAST.

RICHARD HECHT, DEPUTY DA, LOS ANGELES, ADVISED IN VIEW
OF ADVERSE PUBLICITY CONCERNING BALLISTICS EXAMINATION IN
CAPTIONED CASE, IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO RE-EXAMINE BALLISTICS
EVIDENCE. HECHT STATED INASMUCH AS LAPD CRIME LABORATORY
IS SUBJECT OF CRITICISM, CREDIBILITY OF RE-EXAMINATION WOULD
BE QUESTIONED IF CONDUCTED BY LAPD LABORATORY. HECHT
COMMENTED IN VIEW OF JOINT INVESTIGATION IN CAPTIONED MATTER
BY FBI AND LAPD AND BECAUSE OF FBI LABORATORY PROMINENCE IN
LAW ENFORCEMENT FIELD, CONSIDERATION BEING GIVEN BY DISTRICT
ATTORNEY'S OFFICE TO REQUESTING FBI LABORATORY TO MAKE

RHB/gcw

(1)

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Approved: _____

Sent 440/p MPer deb

Special Agent in Charge

LA 56-156

PAGE TWO

RE-EXAMINATION. DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE AWARE OF BUREAU POLICY CONCERNING RE-EXAMINATION OF EVIDENCE BY FBI LABORATORY AND FOR THIS REASON, IS MAKING CONFIDENTIAL INQUIRY AT THIS TIME TO DETERMINE IF IN VIEW OF UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES, FBI LABORATORY WOULD MAKE RE-EXAMINATION.

IN VIEW OF LONG STANDING POLICY OF FBI LABORATORY CONCERNING SUCH EXAMINATIONS, AND THE CURRENT CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING LAPD CRIME LABORATORY AS SET FORTH IN LA TEL JUNE TWO, LAST IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT DA BE ADVISED THAT THESE RE-EXAMINATIONS CANNOT BE CONDUCTED BY FBI.

BUREAU REQUESTED TO SUTEL.

F B I

Date: 6/2/71

16

Transmit the following in PLAIN
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE NITEL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (62-587)
FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (56-156)

KENSALT.

RE BUREAU TELEPHONE CALL JUNE TWO INSTANT.

LOS ANGELES PRESS ^{ARTICLE} ~~AIRTEL~~ MAY TWENTY NINE LAST, STATED
CHARGE BY LOS ANGELES ATTORNEY BARBARA WARNER BLEHR THAT
CRIMINALIST DE WAYNE A. WOLFER ^{Los Angeles Police Department} ERRED IN BALLISTICS
INVESTIGATION OF SIRHAN CASE.

BLEHR ALLEGES THAT WOLFER NEVER TEST FIRED GUN
TAKEN FROM SIRHAN ON NIGHT SENATOR KENNEDY SHOT. SHE
FURTHER ALLEGES WOLFER TEST FIRED A DIFFERENT GUN AND
THAT BULLETS TAKEN FROM VICTIMS OF KENNEDY SHOOTING
MATCHED THIS SECOND GUN.

TWO PHOTOS FORWARDED BY BLEHR WITH HER LETTER TO
THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION IN EFFORT TO BLOCK WOLFER'S
APPOINTMENT AS PERMANENT HEAD OF LAPD CRIME LAB ARE OF

56-156
AOR/jmb
(1) *[initials]*

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Approved: *[Signature]*

Sent

WA-712

M

Per

56-156-3059
[Signature]

Special Agent in Charge 2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

LA 56-156

PAGE TWO

EXHIBIT FIFTY FIVE FROM THE SIRHAN TRIAL. EXHIBIT FIFTY FIVE IS ENVELOPE CONTAINING THREE BULLETS PURPORTEDLY FIRED FROM SIRHAN'S GUN. THIS EXHIBIT IS CURRENTLY IN SAN FRANCISCO AT STATE APPELATE COURT. ~~THE~~ ACCORDING TO BLEHR, ~~THIS EXHIBIT~~ ^{BEARS} ~~BEARING~~ IN WOLFER'S HANDWRITING NOTATION THAT SIRHAN'S GUN BORE SERIAL NUMBER H ONE EIGHT SIX ZERO TWO.

TRIAL RECORDS SHOW GUN TAKEN FROM SIRHAN BORE SERIAL NUMBER H FIVE THREE SEVEN TWO FIVE. BLEHR ALLEGES THAT ONLY CONCLUSION THAT CAN BE REACHED IS THAT TWO SIMILAR GUNS WERE FIRED AT SCENE OF KENNEDY SHOOTING.

JOHN E. HOWARD, CHIEF DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY, LOS ANGELES COUNTY, WHO WAS ONE OF THE SIRHAN PROSECUTORS, ADVISED ON JUNE TWO INSTANT THAT ON JUNE SIX SIXTY EIGHT WOLFER TEST FIRED GUN TAKEN FROM SIRHAN, SERIAL NUMBER H FIVE THREE SEVEN TWO FIVE. ON JUNE SEVEN SIXTY EIGHT, WOLFER TESTIFIED FOR GRAND JURY INDICTMENT OF SIRHAN THAT SPENT BULLET RECOVERED FROM KENNEDY'S BODY WAS FIRED FROM SIRHAN GUN SERIAL NUMBER H FIVE THREE SEVEN TWO FIVE. HOWARD ADVISED PRELIMINARY SKIM OF GRAND JURY AND TRIAL TRANSCRIPT SHOWS NO INCONSISTENCY IN WOLFER'S TESTIMONY. ^{SIRHAN} ~~THIS~~ GUN WAS ENTERED AS EVIDENCE AT GRAND JURY PROCEEDINGS JUNE SEVEN SIXTY EIGHT. LAPD INVESTIGATION

LA 56-156

PAGE THREE

SUMMARY OF THE SENATOR ROBERT F. KENNEDY ASSASSINATION ON PAGE SIX FORTY NINE, VOLUME FIVE, SETS FORTH THAT COMPARISON BETWEEN SIRHAN GUN AND SPENT BULLET REMOVED FROM SIXTH CERVICAL VERTEBRA OF SENATOR KENNEDY SHOWED BULLET FIRED FROM SAME GUN, SERIAL NUMBER H FIVE THREE SEVEN TWO FIVE.

JOHN HOWARD FURTHER ADVISED THAT WOLFER MADE ROUTINE REQUEST FOR GUN SIMILAR TO SIRHAN GUN FOR TEST FIRING FOR POWDER BURNS AND THAT THIS GUN, SERIAL NUMBER H ONE EIGHT SIX ZERO TWO, WAS LATER DESTROYED.

ON BASIS OF INQUIRY MADE TO DATE, POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT WOLFER PUT WRONG SERIAL NUMBER OF GUN ON EXHIBIT FIFTY FIVE.

HOWARD IS CONDUCTING COMPLETE INQUIRY INTO TRIAL TRANSCRIPT TO RESOLVE THIS MATTER. HOWARD IS DESIGNATING DEPUTY ATTORNEY TO THOROUGHLY EXAMINE GRAND JURY AND TRIAL TRANSCRIPT AND ~~TO EXAMINE~~ ALL PERTINENT EXHIBITS. HOWARD ESTIMATES COMPLETE REVIEW WILL TAKE SEVERAL DAYS.
Bureau will be kept advised.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, LOS ANGELES (56-156)

DATE: 6/4/71

FROM : SUPERVISOR RICHARD H. BLOESER *RHB*

SUBJECT: KENSALT

On 6/4/71, Mr. RICHARD HECHT, Deputy District Attorney, Los Angeles, contacted this office and asked to speak to the Special Agent in Charge. In your absence, he asked for the writer.

Mr. HECHT advised that he was calling in regard to the Sirhan case and the recent attacks made against the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) Crime Laboratory in connection with this case. Mr. HECHT indicated that there was some suspicion that the ballistics evidence in this case had been tampered with by a member of a black militant group and that because of the mounting publicity concerning charges made against the LAPD Crime Laboratory, it would probably be necessary to re-examine the ballistics evidence in this case.

He stated that inasmuch as the LAPD Laboratory is the subject of the criticism, that their credibility would be questioned if that Laboratory did the re-examination. He stated that inasmuch as the FBI conducted a joint investigation with the LAPD in the Sirhan case and inasmuch as the FBI Laboratory is so prominent in the field of law enforcement, consideration is being given to requesting the FBI Laboratory to make such a re-examination.

He stated that he realized that basic Bureau policy was that if evidence had previously been examined by another agency, the FBI Laboratory would not examine it. He stated that in view of this, he was making a confidential inquiry at this time to attempt to determine what the Bureau's answer would be if an official request were made.

RHB/gcw
(1)

56-156-3060

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JUN 7 1971	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

#1 *SAF* *ASAC* *B*



5010-108

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LA 56-156

He stated that in view of the unusual circumstances it is highly possible that a re-examination will be necessary and that the District Attorney's Office does not want to be in the position of making a public statement that the FBI will be requested to re-examine the material if the FBI, in effect, would decline to examine the evidence.

He was advised that this matter would be brought to your attention promptly and that he would be notified as soon as possible of the Bureau's decision.

For your information, the Criminal Conspiracy Section of the LAPD has advised that recently, LUKE MC KISSACK, who was SIRHAN's attorney and who is also the attorney for ELMER PRATT, a BPP functionary presently awaiting trial for murder in connection with the shooting of a Santa Monica couple several years ago, has reportedly made the statement that he will get PRATT off on the murder charges because of defects in ballistics examinations.

Recently, the Los Angeles Office determined that an individual sympathetic to the Black Panther Party was working in the County offices and had access to court records and evidence. This information was made available to the LAPD and the Los Angeles Sheriff's Office, and steps have been taken to insure that this individual is reassigned to a less sensitive position.

The LAPD has determined that while this individual was employed in the courts, certain evidence concerning the forthcoming trial of the Black Panther Party members arrested during the shoot-out, was missing for a period of time.

In view of statements made by MC KISSACK and the fact that a Black Panther Party sympathizer had access to evidence, the LAPD is now re-examining ballistics evidence in the PRATT case and documentary evidence in the Black Panther case to determine if it has been tampered with.

NR012 WA PLAIN

1203PM URGENT 6/10/71 ELR

TO LOS ANGELES 56-156

FROM DIRECTOR 62-587

KENSALT.

RELATEL TO THE DIRECTOR JUNE EIGHT SEVENTYONE.

THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE SHOULD BE ADVISED THAT
THE FBI WILL NOT CONDUCT BALLISTIC EXAMINATIONS OF THE
MURDER WEAPON AND BULLETS.

END

DLK

FBI LOS ANGELES CLR

*DDA Richard Hochstetler
advised 6/10/71
RMS*

(Handwritten initials in a circle)

#1 [Handwritten signature]

56-156-3061

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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JUN 10 1971	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, LOS ANGELES 56-156

FROM : SA AMEDEE O. RICHARDS, JR.

SUBJECT: KENSALT

DATE:

An article appeared in the 6/19/71 issue of the Los Angeles Times advising that Dist. Atty. JOSEPH P. BUSCH JR. announced that findings of his office in an investigation of alleged ballistics test irregularities in the Sirhan Bishara Sirhan case would be made public June 28, 1971.

On 6/23/71 JANET WARD of the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office was contacted concerning the obtaining of a copy of these findings before they would be made public.

JANET WARD was designated by JOHN E. HOWARD, Chief Deputy District Attorney Los Angeles to coordinate the findings of this investigation in the Sirhan matter.

WARD advised on 6/23/71 that there was presently a meeting in session with the District Attorney to determine what material would be publicly released and the date of the release. Later WARD called and advised that HOWARD had told her to furnish a copy of the results of the investigation prior to their being made public to this office.

WARD again called and advised that at the termination of the meeting it was decided that the findings of the investigation would not be released until 7/6/71.

WARD advised that she would maintain contact with this office and furnish a copy of the results before these results were made public.

56-156-3062

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 24 1971	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, LOS ANGELES (56-156)

DATE: 6/29/71

FROM : *ps* PHILIP R. SHERIDAN

SUBJECT: KENSALT

At 9:30 AM, 6/29/71, Los Angeles District Attorney JOSEPH BUSCH advised he was calling in connection with current situation relating to allegations that DE WAYNE WOLFER of the Los Angeles Police Department erred in ballistics test conducted in the SIRHAN case. He stated that the controversy centers around a mismarked envelope which related to certain projectiles test fired from a similar gun as utilized by SIRHAN which has now been destroyed. He stated that there is no question as to the integrity of the bullet projectiles which were in the body of Senator KENNEDY and which tests by WOLFER have established were fired from the SIRHAN gun. He stated that he has been attempting to have independent experts in the field conduct ballistics tests utilizing the SIRHAN gun and to independently examine and compare them with the actual bullets removed from KENNEDY's body.

He stated that he expects a great amount of press inquiry as this matter has been receiving news media attention, and that he believes he will be asked why this evidence was not turned over to the FBI Laboratory for examination.

Mr. BUSCH was informed of the Bureau's longstanding policy concerning examinations by the FBI Laboratory and that the Laboratory would not accept for examination evidence which had been previously examined by others. It was noted that requests have been already received from his office in this matter and that the Bureau's policy in these situations has not changed.

Mr. BUSCH was very friendly and cooperative, stating that he was calling because he did expect press inquiries along the lines indicated and that he was hopeful of obtaining a sufficient number of outside experts to refute the allegations

PRS:cea
(2) *ce*

Inlet Bw 56-156-3063
ce TT

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[Signature]



LA 56-156

relating to the SIRHAN case. He noted that he was seriously considering contacting RCMP experts to determine if they would come to Los Angeles to make appropriate examination.

ADDENDUM:

~~ASAC~~ SHERIDAN

6/29/71

At 11:30 AM, 6/29/71, District Attorney BUSCH called to advise he has tentatively scheduled a meeting with the press on Tuesday, 7/6/71, in connection with the controversy over the validity of the SIRHAN ballistics examination. He stated at that time he would announce arrangements concerning independent examinations by reputable ballistics laboratory. He stated that he again expects inquiries to be made as to why this examination is not being conducted by the FBI Laboratory, at which time he will advise the FBI Laboratory policy is not to conduct laboratory examinations where others have already examined the evidence.

F B I

Date: 7/2/71

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (62-587)
FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (56-156) (P)
SUBJECT: KENSALT

RE ALLEGATIONS REGARDING ERROR IN BALLISTIC TESTS
IN SIRHAN CASE.

Re Los Angeles teletypes to the Bureau, 6/2/71,
and 6/10/71.

Public disclosure of results of investigation by
Los Angeles District Attorney's Office into alleged error in
ballistic tests conducted on gun in SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN
case was originally for 6/28/71.

On 6/23/71, District Attorney JOSEPH BUSCH, JR.,
postponed release of findings of District Attorney's
investigation until 7/6/71.

On 7/2/71, Chief Deputy District Attorney JOHN E.
HOWARD advised that additional and extensive investigation
was being conducted concerning this matter and that this
office was still approximately a month away from any
definite findings.

This matter is being followed by this office.
However, any involvement in this investigation is being
avoided as request for ballistic examination by FBI has been
denied. Bureau will be kept advised.

2 - Bureau
② - Los Angeles

AOR/ljh
(4)

A. O. Richards *AKR/jh*

SEARCHED _____
INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED *31*

FILED

56-156-3064

Approved: _____ 2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176 _____ M Per _____

Special Agent in Charge

DIRECTOR, FBI

7/20/71

SAC, SAN JUAN

ASSASSINATION OF ROBERT F. KENNEDY
AFC

On 7/14/71, JOSE LOPEZ, U.S. Marshal (USM), San Juan, Puerto Rico, telephonically contacted the SJC and advised that LILA HURTADO, an individual who had filed an application for employment at his office, had requested an interview with him and with an agent of the FBI, who could be "trusted," regarding information that involved "national security." LOPEZ stated that he did not consider HURTADO for employment in his office, since she is not bilingual, as is required of his office.

On the same date, SA STANLEY A. PIMENTEL and LOPEZ interviewed HURTADO at the USM's office, whereupon she advised that she was currently residing at Caleta Las Monjas #50, old San Juan, P.R., and was employed by the Ford Motor Company, District Sales Office, old San Juan, P.R. Thereafter, she furnished the following information:

In October, 1968, she began employment for WILLIAM R. HUNTINGTON, an interior decorator, whose office was located at 9000 Sunset Boulevard, Los Angeles, California. HUNTINGTON was a well known interior decorator and did work on a regular basis for many of the Hollywood film stars to include SAMMY DAVIS, JR., MILTON BERLE, and PETER LAWFORD. He was also a close friend of President JOHN F. KENNEDY and the late senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY.

The day following the 1968 elections, when RICHARD NIXON was elected president, HUNTINGTON appeared at his office in a distraught state and commented, "I don't believe what the American public has just done." HURTADO was of the opinion that HUNTINGTON was referring to President NIXON winning the elections; however, she did not have an opportunity to question the statement made by HUNTINGTON.

- 2 - Bureau (RM)
- 2 - Chicago (INFO) (RM)
- 2 - Los Angeles (INFO) (RM)
- 2 - San Juan

SAP:mjd
(8)

56-156-3065

Indy Hill Harvey

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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JUL 26 1971	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

Bo Richards

Several weeks later, HUNTINGTON informed HURTADO on a confidential basis and instructed her never to tell anyone that he had heard a tape recording shortly after the assassination of ROBERT F. KENNEDY in Los Angeles of a private party that had taken place shortly prior to KENNEDY's assassination. HUNTINGTON told HURTADO that the tape had been made by RONALD BUCK, an attorney in L.A., and who at that time, was the manager of a private club called, "The Factory," and that he had recorded the tape at a party where many wealthy individuals and top military and government officials were in attendance. HUNTINGTON informed HURTADO that the individuals at the party appeared to be gloating over the deaths of President JOHN F. KENNEDY and MARTIN LUTHER KING, that they appeared to be making plans for the assassination of ROBERT F. KENNEDY.

HUNTINGTON informed HURTADO that he had called ROBERT F. KENNEDY shortly after he had heard the tape in BUCK's office, and asked him to go with him to BUCK's office in order to listen to the tape. According to HUNTINGTON, BUCK played the tape for KENNEDY, and upon hearing the tape, the late senator reportedly stated, "I can't do anything about that until I become president, as that will be the time when I will have the power to do something about it." HURTADO learned from HUNTINGTON during this time, the names of three individuals who had attended the private party; however, she could only recall the name of a Mr. HUNT, who was a millionaire from Texas.

HURTADO stated that from the time that she began employment with HUNTINGTON, HUNTINGTON was in serious financial troubles. However, at times he would appear with a great deal of money, and was always more than willing to share his wealth with other people. She stated that HUNTINGTON resided in a fashionable apartment in the L.A. area with another individual who was the president of a bank (not further identified), namely, ROBERT A. MUELLER, whom HURTADO described as the "housemate and confidante" for HUNTINGTON. HUNTINGTON traveled frequently between L.A. and Chicago, where he was designing the interior decoration for "The Factory," a subsidiary of "The Factory" in L.A. HUNTINGTON on one occasion, was arrested in L.A. in a little park located directly across the street from 9000 Sunset Boulevard for reportedly "soliciting a male" in a restroom.

SJ

According to HURTADO, HUNTINGTON had four coronary attacks, and just prior to his death on 3/7/71, he visited his personal physician, Dr. D'ALLESANDRO in Chicago for a complete physical checkup. HUNTINGTON reportedly informed the doctor that his life had been threatened; however, HURTADO was not aware how his life was being threatened.

HURTADO remained employed with HUNTINGTON until approximately May of 1970, when she went to St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, and worked under a temporary contract for the Peace Corps. In September, 1970, she contacted HUNTINGTON telephonically indicating to him a desire to return as his employee; however, he emphatically informed her to stay with friends in Puerto Rico, since if she came to Chicago, she might possibly be harmed. HURTADO stated that the reason that HUNTINGTON may have made this statement was because of her knowledge of the tape recording. She suspected that HUNTINGTON was being pressured by possibly JOSEPH BORENSTEIN, an attorney with offices on South Dearborne Street, Chicago, Illinois, and BUCK, in order that he not reveal the contents of the tape.

HURTADO stated that she does not have any proof whatsoever that this was the case; only that she knew that HUNTINGTON was an honest, sincere, and sane person, and that he would at times make comments to the effect that his life was in danger. It was HURTADO's opinion that BORENSTEIN was blackmailing HUNTINGTON and that he was able to control RONALD BUCK and his activities. She believes that BORENSTEIN may have connections with La Cosa Nostra, and because of the contents of the tape, BORENSTEIN was able to pressure BUCK and HUNTINGTON. She stated that she is fearful for her life, since when she last spoke to BORENSTEIN in March, 1971, he indicated to her that he would be coming to San Juan, Puerto Rico to see her. She stated that this would be strange, inasmuch as she and BORENSTEIN were never romantically involved, except that HUNTINGTON in confidence may have informed BORENSTEIN that HURTADO was aware of the contents of the tape.

HURTADO stated that the following individuals may be able to furnish more information regarding the tape recording:

SJ

ROBERT A. MUELLER, ^Nhousemate and confidante
of HUNTINGTON *no val*

ROBERT B. BROMBERG, associate of BURENSTEIN
in LA.

LEA PERWIN (phonetic), RONALD BUCK's former
secretary, now employed with Diamond Jim's
in L.A.

Dr. D'ALLESANDRO, Chicago, Illinois - personal
physician for HUNTINGTON.

MOSITA HARLAN, 6220 La Mirada Avenue, Apt. 23,
Hollywood, California - close, personal friend
of HUNTINGTON.

FRANCISCA RIVIERE; husband JEAN CLAUDE, San
Francisco, California - worked in BUCK's office.

The above is being submitted to the Bureau, since
the SJC is not aware of the extent of investigation surrounding
the assassination of ROBERT F. KENNEDY. Copies of this
communication are being furnished to Chicago and L.A. for
information, since the Bureau may desire to have investigation
conducted at these two divisions.

56-156-3066

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
JUL 26 1966	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	
<i>A. O. Richardson</i>	

STATEMENT OF
JOSEPH P. BUSCH, JR., DISTRICT ATTORNEY
OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY
JULY 10, 1971

On May 28, 1971, attorney Barbara Warner Blehr made certain charges against Los Angeles Police Department criminalist DeWayne Wolfer, including the allegation that he was guilty of violating proper procedures in the ballistics investigation of Senator Robert F. Kennedy's assassination.

Mrs. Blehr's charges were contained in a letter to the City Civil Service Commission in an effort to block the appointment of Wolfer as permanent head of the police crime laboratory.

On June 4, 1971, after conferring with Police Chief Edward Davis, it was decided that this office would conduct an independent investigation of the charges since they involved a member of the police department.

Since the District Attorney's Office was responsible for the prosecution of Sirhan B. Sirhan, I felt that it was incumbent upon this office to conduct this investigation so that there would be no loss of confidence on the part of the public as to whether the facts as presented in the courtroom were correct.

Because the original exhibits were protected by a court order which would prevent their being directly handled, we felt at the outset of the investigation that we could proceed simply by determining the validity of Mrs. Blehr's charges against Mr. Wolfer.

However, we have had to delay our findings after learning that this court order protecting the exhibits has been ignored and that the exhibits have not been properly protected by the County Clerk's Office. Indeed, there is evidence the exhibits have been directly handled by numerous persons.

We are currently in the midst of an investigation to determine whether there has been any intentional or unintentional tampering with the key exhibits involved in the trial -- including the murder weapon and the bullets taken from the body of Senator Kennedy.

Although this office has launched a full investigation into this matter, I have been authorized by the Los Angeles Police Department to state that there has been no reactivation of the Special Unit Senator section which conducted the initial comprehensive probe into the Senator's assassination.

At the conclusion of our investigation we will take appropriate action and make a full report to the public.

We are still confident at this point that the original investigation was thorough and that the subsequent trial outcome was valid. Our concern now is whether there has been any violation of the integrity of the exhibits. We are terribly concerned about the possibility that they have been tampered with.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, LOS ANGELES (56-156)

DATE: 7/26/71

FROM : SUPERVISOR RICHARD H. BLOESER *RHB*

SUBJECT: KENSALT

Several months ago, investigation by the Los Angeles Division determined that one DASHELL HART, a sympathizer of the Black Panther Party (BPP), was employed in the County Clerk's Office. This information was furnished to the Los Angeles Police Department and to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office, inasmuch as it was believed that HART, in this sensitive position, could possibly compromise activities of the Los Angeles PD or the Los Angeles SO.

Shortly after this, the Los Angeles PD received information indicating that LUKE MC KISSACK, the Attorney in the SIRHAN case who is also the Attorney for ELMER PRATT, a BPP functionary presently charged with murder, had commented that he intended to get PRATT acquitted on the basis of ballistics examination.

On 7/26/71, Deputy District Attorney RICHARD HECHT, Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, advised the writer that the above two incidents caused his office to make an inquiry into the functions of the County Clerk's Office, particularly in regard to the safekeeping of evidence.

Mr. HECHT stated that in regard to the SIRHAN case, the evidence, because of its historical value, had been ordered sealed by the court. However, inquiry at the Clerk's Office revealed that the evidence had been made available to a large number of individuals who had no official reason for reviewing the evidence. HECHT advised that this was in strict violation of the court order and that because of this indiscriminate handling of the evidence, the evidence now is practically worthless.

RHB/gcw
(1)

56-156-3067

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JUL 27 1971
FBI - LOS ANGELES

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Mohr
Boyle
Starnes
Wong



LA 56-156

HECHT stated that after determining the nature of the handling of the SIRHAN evidence, he then inquired of the Chief Clerk PETER J. TALMACHOFF as to whether or not the evidence in the PRATT case had been securely safeguarded. TALMACHOFF insisted that he had personally kept the evidence under lock and key.

HECHT stated that his office then conducted an intensive investigation and interviewed practically all members of the County Clerk's Office and then placed a number of individuals on a polygraph. The polygraph examinations indicated possibly that money had changed hands among members of the Clerk's Office in connection with the handling of evidence. The polygraph of TALMACHOFF indicated that he had not safeguarded the PRATT evidence and that he had indeed shown it to a number of individuals.

HECHT advised that his investigation has shown that in a number of prominent cases presently pending, that either a portion or the entire package of evidence has disappeared.

HECHT advised that in view of this, his office is contemplating bringing this matter before a local grand jury in secret hearings in approximately three weeks. This grand jury proceeding will be civil in nature and the transcriptions of the proceeding will then be made available to the court, to the County Clerk's Office, the District Attorney's Office, the Los Angeles PD, and to other interested parties to determine if the administrative procedures of the County Clerk's Office should be changed.

HECHT intimated that in addition, this proceeding will lay a foundation for showing the method under which the SIRHAN evidence was handled inasmuch as HECHT believed that it would be necessary to re-examine the gun involved in the SIRHAN case and if such re-examination shows that the incorrect gun is in the evidence locker, a foundation will have been laid to show that the evidence has possibly been tampered with.

LA 56-156

HECHT further stated that it is hoped that possibly during this proceeding, witnesses from the Clerk's Office may "break" and confess to mishandling of evidence.

HECHT stated that he was contacting the FBI for a number of reasons; the first being that the FBI did conduct a joint investigation in the SIRHAN case and, therefore, has a vested interest in the case. HECHT requested that if possible, the Los Angeles Division furnish him with any information in our files obtained from confidential sources or otherwise which would tend to prove that evidence in the County Clerk's Office has been tampered with.

He further requested that inasmuch as the constitutionality of electronic surveillances approved by the President is now being tested, that should the Bureau or the Department wish to enter evidence obtained from such surveillances concerning tampering of evidence into a civil proceeding to show the value of a domestic electronic surveillance, that this grand jury proceeding would be an excellent forum for such a matter.

Mr. HECHT was advised that his request would be made a matter of record and would be reviewed by proper authority for a decision.

F B I

Date: 7/29/71

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (62-587)
 FROM: *WJS* SAC, LOS ANGELES (56-156) (P)
 SUBJECT: KENSALT

RE: ALLEGATIONS REGARDING ERROR IN BALLISTIC
 TESTS IN SIRHAN CASE.

Re Los Angeles airtel to the Bureau, 7/2/71.

As set forth in referenced communication, JOHN E. HOWARD, Chief Deputy District Attorney of Los Angeles County, advised on 7/2/71, that he did not expect that the investigation into this matter by the District Attorney's Office would be completed for at least one month.

On 7/10 and 7/11/71, articles appeared in the Los Angeles press quoting District Attorney JOSEPH P. BUSCH, JR. to the effect that exhibits from the trial of SIRHAN "have not been properly protected and have been directly handled by numerous persons."

Further, District Attorney BUSCH is quoted "we currently are in the midst of an investigation to determine whether there has been any intentional or unintentional tampering with the key exhibits involved in the trial, including the murder weapon and the bullets taken from the body of Senator KENNEDY."

2 - Bureau
 ② - Los Angeles

AOR/jmb
 (4)

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56-156-3068
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Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per. _____

Special Agent in Charge

LA 56-156

This, according to the press articles, explains the reason for the delay in the scheduled 7/6/71 statement concerning the alleged irregularities in the ballistic examination in the SIRHAN trial.

Set forth below is a copy of the prepared press statement of JOSEPH P. BUSCH, JR., District Attorney of Los Angeles County on 7/10/71:

LA 56-156

STATEMENT OF
JOSEPH P. BUSCH, JR., DISTRICT ATTORNEY
OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

JULY 10, 1971

On May 28, 1971, attorney Barbara Warner Blehr made certain charges against Los Angeles Police Department criminalist DeWayne Wolfer, including the allegation that he was guilty of violating proper procedures in the ballistics investigation of Senator Robert F. Kennedy's assassination.

Mrs. Blehr's charges were contained in a letter to the City Civil Service Commission in an effort to block the appointment of Wolfer as permanent head of the police crime laboratory.

On June 4, 1971, after conferring with Police Chief Edward Davis, it was decided that this office would conduct an independent investigation of the charges since they involved a member of the police department.

Since the District Attorney's Office was responsible for the prosecution of Sirhan B. Sirhan, I felt that it was incumbent upon this office to conduct this investigation so that there would be no loss of confidence on the part of the public as to whether the facts as presented in the courtroom were correct.

LA 56-156

Because the original exhibits were protected by a court order which would prevent their being directly handled, we felt at the outset of the investigation that we could proceed simply by determining the validity of Mrs. Blehr's charges against Mr. Wolfer.

However, we have had to delay our findings after learning that this court order protecting the exhibits has been ignored and that the exhibits have not been properly protected by the County Clerk's Office. Indeed, there is evidence the exhibits have been directly handled by numerous persons.

We are currently in the midst of an investigation to determine whether there has been any intentional or unintentional tampering with the key exhibits involved in the trial -- including the murder weapon and the bullets taken from the body of Senator Kennedy.

Although this office has launched a full investigation into this matter, I have been authorized by the Los Angeles Police Department to state that there has been no reactivation of the Special Unit Senator section which conducted the initial comprehensive probe into the Senator's assassination.

At the conclusion of our investigation we will take appropriate action and make a full report to the public.

LA 56-156

We are still confident at this point that the original investigation was thorough and that the subsequent trial outcome was valid. Our concern now is whether there has been a violation of the integrity of the exhibits. We are terribly concerned about the possibility that they have been tampered with.

On 7/13 and 7/14/71, additional articles appeared in the Los Angeles press indicating that the recent disclosure concerning the handling of evidence in the SIRHAN case led to developments which focused attention on the Los Angeles County Clerk's Office.

These developments included an order to Los Angeles County Clerk WILLIAM SHARP to inspect his office for possible security breaches, to re-evaluate its control system and to inventory exhibits and transcripts from the SIRHAN trial.

SHARP issued a statement that a personnel investigation failed to disclose any mishandling of key exhibits, although further investigation remains. SHARP stated that after the trial of SIRHAN was concluded Superior Court Judge HERBERT V. WALKER ordered certain key exhibits "sealed" by a court order. However, this order permitted "counsel of record" and attorneys for both the prosecution and defense, as well as agents for these attorneys, access to crucial exhibits. .

RICHARD HECHT, Deputy District Attorney of Los Angeles County, advised this office that polygraph examinations were being given to employees of the County Clerk's Office and that they expect to convene a civil grand jury in approximately three weeks to make inquiries into the administrative handling of evidence by the County Clerk's Office.

This investigation of the Office of the County Clerk may delay the original investigation into the alleged irregularities in the SIRHAN ballistics examination.

In a news article dated 7/24/71, information was contained that police ballistics specialist, DE WAYNE WOLFER, had filed a suit in Superior Court, which charged that Los Angeles Attorney BARBARA WARNER BLEHR's 5/28/71 letter to the City Personnel Commission intended to block WOLFER's appointment as Crime Lab Chief, was a malicious, unjustified publication of defamation and untruthful accusations.

This matter is being followed by this office and the Bureau will be kept advised.

F B I

Date: 8/2/71

Transmit the following in _____

(Type in plaintext or code)

Via _____

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (62-587)

FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (56-156)

SUBJECT: KENSALT

RE: Allegations Made by LILA
HURTADA Regarding Tape
Concerning Assassination
of ROBERT F. KENNEDY

Re San Juan letter to the Director dated 7/20/71,
and Bureau airtel to Los Angeles 7/28/71.

In response to referenced Bureau airtel, Chicago
is requested to identify Dr. D'ALLESANDRO and interview him
concerning his knowledge of HUNTINGTON and for information
he has concerning the allegations by LILA HURTADO of the tape
allegedly prepared by RONALD BUCK.

Information received from Chicago will be incorporated
into a letterhead memorandum to be prepared by Los Angeles.

2 - Bureau
2 - Chicago
2 - Los Angeles

AOR/nc
(6)

OFFICE COPY

SEARCHED _____

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Approved: [Signature]

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

M

Per _____

Special Agent in Charge

F B I

Date: 8/10/71

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (62-587)
FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (56-156)
SUBJECT: KENSALT
RE: ALLEGATIONS REGARDING
ERROR IN BALLISTIC TESTS
IN SIRHAN CASE

~~Re~~ Los Angeles airtel to the Bureau dated 7/29/71.

News article dated 8/4/71, in Los Angeles press relates that as of 8/2/71, Attorney GODFREY ISAAC was named as the new defense counsel for SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN.

ISAAC disclosed to the press that he did not contest that SIRHAN was armed and fired shots in the pantry of the Ambassador Hotel on the night KENNEDY was shot.

However, ISAAC stated new evidence has arisen that points to the existence of a second gunman, unrelated to SIRHAN, who used SIRHAN's gunshots as a cover for his own and actually fired the fatal bullet while SIRHAN's straying gunfire wounded five other persons.

ISAAC is the same attorney who previously filed a complaint for disclosure of information concerning this case on behalf of Investigative Journalist THEODORE CHARACH who claimed that information concerning a second gunman was withheld or not sufficiently investigated.

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