

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date August 16, 1968

Mrs. RACHEL WHITE, South 2503 Teko, Spokane, Washington, furnished the following information:

WHITE advised that during the summer she is residing with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. HOWARD FOSTER, South 2503 Teko, Spokane, Washington, while her husband is working in Milton-Freewater, Oregon. She stated that during the school year she and her husband reside at 12D South Fairway, Pullman, Washington.

WHITE stated that on August 13, 1968, she and her sister-in-law, BONNIE WHITE, were returning from Milton-Freewater, Oregon, en route to Spokane, Washington. She stated that as they left Walla Walla, Washington, at approximately 11:30 PM, they observed a young man beside the road hitchhiking in the direction of Spokane, Washington. She stated that they felt sorry for the young man due to the time of night and decided to pick him up. The man gave his name as PHILLIP ETHRIDGE, age 19, and stated that he had come from Alaska and was on his way to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. He stated that he had been hitchhiking and as he had no place to sleep in Walla Walla, Washington, decided to keep going en route to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

WHITE stated that ETHRIDGE got into the back seat of the 1967 Chevrolet two-door hardtop, and sat behind BONNIE WHITE who was sitting on the passenger side of the front seat. WHITE stated that the vehicle in which she was driving belongs to her father, Mr. HOWARD FOSTER.

WHITE stated that at the time ETHRIDGE got into the vehicle, he had only a small creme-colored suitcase. She stated that she did not observe how he was dressed.

WHITE stated that as they proceeded toward Colfax, Washington, ETHRIDGE twice asked how far it was to Spokane, Washington. She stated that at approximately 15 miles from Colfax, Washington, he asked how far it was. She stated that this time BONNIE WHITE was dozing, and after telling ETHRIDGE that it was approximately 15 miles, she

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On 8/15/68 at Spokane, Washington File # SE 26-26371-15

by SA JAMES T. DAVIS /mm Date dictated

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heard him moving around in the back seat and assumed that he was getting in a more comfortable position.

She stated that approximately three miles from Colfax, Washington, he again asked how far it was. She once again told him that it was about three miles to Colfax and from there about an hours drive to Spokane. WHITE stated that at this time ETHRIDGE informed them that he had a gun pointed at BONNIE's head and that he was naked and if either girl looked back he would shoot. He told RACHEL WHITE to continue driving. WHITE stated that he did not tell her where to drive and so when she reached Colfax, Washington, she turned towards Pullman, Washington, instead of going toward Spokane. She stated that the reason she turned toward Pullman was that the traffic is usually heavier between Pullman and Colfax and there are more farm houses between Pullman and Colfax than there are between Colfax and Spokane.

WHITE stated that while going through Colfax, Washington, they observed a Colfax policeman and this seemed to make ETHRIDGE extremely nervous. He attempted to cover himself up and keep low as to not be observed. She stated that he also did not notice as they went through Colfax, Washington, that they were proceeding toward Pullman instead of Spokane. She stated that when he was aware that they were going toward Pullman it did not seem to upset him.

WHITE stated that after ETHRIDGE informed that he had a gun, he made several statements to convince them of his seriousness and, it seemed, to build up his own ego. WHITE stated that he informed them that he had killed two policeman and had wounded more men. WHITE stated that she asked him if he did this to everyone that gave him a ride and he informed her that it had just been men in the past that had given him trouble and that he didn't like to kill women. WHITE stated that he then asked them if they had heard of the KENNEDY assassination and the killing of MARTIN LUTHER KING. WHITE stated that ~~they informed that~~ they had informed him that they had and he then stated that he had been in on those killings and so he was not afraid to use a gun.

WHITE stated that as they proceeded toward Pullman, Washington, ETHRIDGE informed them that he was going to have

SE 26-26371

them undress and take their car and their money. ETHRIDGE emphasized the fact that he was not going to in any way molest either of them.

WHITE stated that outside Colfax, Washington, they passed a dirt road and at this time he ordered her to stop the vehicle and back up. She stated that she told him that she could not back up and then he informed her to turn around. WHITE stated that she turned the vehicle around and headed back toward Colfax, Washington. As they passed a road, now known to her as the Albion Road, he told her to turn. She stated that they drove about five miles up the road away from the highway at which time he ordered her to stop the vehicle.

WHITE stated that ETHRIDGE told her to get out of the vehicle and go to the left side of the road. She stated that ETHRIDGE then got out on the same side of the vehicle, the driver's side. He told BONNIE not to look but at this time BONNIE turned around to see what was happening and he then ordered her to get out of the vehicle on the driver's side of the car. Both girls were told to cross the road while ETHRIDGE stayed by the car. He then told them to undress. WHITE stated that they did as they were told and while undressing she noticed that ETHRIDGE had a gun in one hand and had a pair of dark pants on but did not have a shirt on. She stated she did not observe whether he had shoes on.

WHITE stated that after undressing, he then ordered the girls to leave their clothes where they had piled them on the side of the road and to walk in the direction of what is now known to them to be Albion. She stated that the car had been left running and the headlights were left on. She stated that they walked away from the vehicle until they were out of sight of the car headlights and then moved off the road in to the ditch where they stopped walking and sat down in an area which was hidden from the road. WHITE stated that at no time had ETHRIDGE made any advances whatsoever toward either girl. She stated that at the time they had undressed and were walking down the road, she looked at her watch and it was 2:30 AM, August 14, 1968.

WHITE stated that she and BONNIE remained in the side ditch for approximately ten minutes and didn't hear any sounds coming from the direction of the car. She stated

that she then heard what they thought was the trunk being closed and a short time after that the vehicle moved in their direction. She stated that ETHRIDGE drove past them and did not appear to notice either girl hiding in the ditch. She stated that he proceeded in the direction of Albion, Washington, and this is the last time that she had seen either ETHRIDGE or the vehicle.

WHITE stated that after ETHRIDGE drove past she and BONNIE proceeded down the road toward the Colfax Pullman Highway. She stated that they observed a road leading off the Albion Road and followed it to a farm house, reaching the farm house at approximately 3:00 AM. She stated that they knocked on the door until the people of the house answered. She stated that they were given clothing and the farmer called the Whitman County Sheriff's Office and reported the incident. A short time later Deputy BERT EATON of the Whitman County Sheriff's Office came to the farm house and began investigation of the incident.

WHITE furnished the following description of the individual known to her as PHILLIP ETHRIDGE.

| | |
|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Race | White |
| Sex | Male |
| Hair | Black |
| Height | 5' 7" |
| Weight | 150 pounds |
| Build | Medium |
| Complexion | Dark complected and had Indian features |
| Speech | Spoke with a lisp and had a very distinguishable voice. |

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date August 16, 1968

Miss BONNIE LOUISE WHITE, 1303 South Crestline, Spokane, Washington, furnished the following information:

WHITE advised that on August 13, 1968, she and her sister-in-law, RACHEL WHITE, were returning from Milton Freewater, Oregon, to Spokane, Washington. She stated that at approximately 11:30 PM they left Walla Walla, Washington, and observed a man standing on the side of the road hitchhiking near what is known as the Bacon Road. WHITE stated that she has hitchhiked before and therefore understands that it is hard to get a ride, especially late at night, and therefore they decided to offer assistance to the individual hitchhiking. She stated that the man got into the back seat of the vehicle and told them that his name was PHILLIP ETHRIDGE and that he was 19 years of age. She stated that when he entered the car he had with him a small creme-colored suitcase.

WHITE stated that ETHRIDGE told them that he was going from Alaska to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, where he had employment in a lime plant.

WHITE stated that as they proceeded toward Colfax, Washington, she was dozing in the front seat of the car but she heard the man ask RACHEL several times how far it was to Spokane, Washington. She stated that she also heard some moving in the back seat of the car but did not think anything of it. She stated that she then heard the man state that he had a gun at the back of her head and was naked and if either girl looked back he would shoot. WHITE stated that this was a short distance outside Colfax, Washington.

WHITE stated that as they proceeded to Colfax, Washington, the man made several statements which seemed to be an attempt to scare them and to build up his own confidence. She stated that he told them that he had killed two policemen and had wounded other men. She stated that he also asked them if they had heard of the KENNEDY assassination

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On 8/15/68 at Spokane, Washington File # SE 26-2637T

by SA JAMES T. DAVIS /mm Date dictated _____

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and the killing of MARTIN LUTHER KING. WHITE stated that they informed him that they had and he then told them that he had participated in the killing of these individuals and was therefore not afraid to use a gun. WHITE stated that she then asked him what kind of a gun he had, and he told them that it was a .36 Mauser which was larger than a policeman's gun and had a hairpin trigger.

WHITE stated that when they went through Colfax, Washington, they observed a policeman's car and this seemed to frighten ETHRIDGE a lot. She stated that he attempted to get out of sight and to hide in the back seat. She stated as they proceeded through Colfax, and toward Pullman, Washington, he emphasized the fact that he did not intend to molest either girl but was going to have them undress, take their car, and their money.

WHITE stated that following the man informing them that he had a gun pointed at her head, she heard some noise coming from the back seat that sounded like he was loading the gun, and possibly opening his suitcase which was on the seat beside him. She stated that he had warned them not to look back so she could not observe what was going on in the back seat.

WHITE stated that outside of Colfax, Washington, ETHRIDGE told RACHEL to stop after they passed a dirt road. RACHEL stopped the vehicle and turned around and proceeded back toward Colfax, Washington. When they passed a road leading toward what is now known as Albion, Washington, he informed RACHEL to turn up the road. WHITE stated that they proceeded down the road three or four miles at which time he informed RACHEL to stop the vehicle. He then informed RACHEL to get out of the vehicle and walk to the other side of the road. WHITE stated that the man told her not to look but at this time she had decided to look as the man obviously was going to use the gun on them or abandon them in the country. She stated that she turned around to see what was going on and at that time he ordered her to get out of the vehicle and join RACHEL on the other side of the road. She stated that he stood beside the vehicle and told both girls to undress. WHITE advised that they did as he ordered and he then told them to proceed down the highway. She stated that they walked away from the car toward Albion, Washington, until they were out of sight of the vehicle,

SE 26-26371

at which time they left the road and hid in the ditch beside the road. She stated that they stayed in the ditch for over ten minutes and during that period of time they heard what they decided was the trunk of the vehicle being closed.

WHITE stated that after ten to fifteen minutes the vehicle passed them and proceeded toward Albion, Washington. She stated that after ETHRIDGE drove past them they then got back on the road and proceeded to the Pullman-Colfax Highway. She stated that when they found a road leading off the Albion Highway up to a farm house, they proceeded to the farm house, beat on the door until they got the people of the house up, and informed them of what had happened. She stated that this was at approximately 3:00 AM. The people of the house gave them clothing and notified the Whitman County - Sheriff's Office.

WHITE furnished the following description of the individual known to her as PHILLIP ETHRIDGE:

| | |
|------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Race | White |
| Sex | Male |
| Hair | Black |
| Height | 5' 7" |
| Weight | 157 pounds |
| Build | Medium |
| Complexion | Dark complected like an Indian or Eskimo |
| Speech | Spoke with a lisp and had a very distinguishable voice. |

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

PhillipDate 8/23/68Born 3-4-1949

HOWARD PHILLIP/ETHRIDGE was advised of the personal and official identity of SA STEINAR E. GORUD, FBI, and Lieutenant E. L. LUCAS, Lewiston, Idaho Police Department. He was advised that he was being interviewed about his participation in the theft of a 1967 Chevrolet two door, Washington license CHX 332 from Colfax, Washington to Lewiston, Idaho.

Born Roslind

ETHRIDGE was warned of his rights and waived them as shown on an executed rights and waiver form.

Alaska

He furnished the following signed statement:

Address Route IEverson, Washington

"Lewiston, Idaho
8/14/68

"I, HOWARD PHILIP ETHRIDGE, furnish the following voluntary Statement to Steiner E. Gorud, who has identified himself to me as a Special Agent of the FBI and to Lt. E. L. Lucas, Lewiston Police Dept., Lewiston, Idaho.

"I have voluntarily signed a rights and waiver form.

"I was hitchhiking from Bullingham, Washington to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. I left Bullingham on Monday 8/12/68. I got a ride to Walla Walla, Washington arriving here about 12:30 PM the night of 8/13/68.

"I was hitchhiking north out of Walla Walla headed for Coeur d'Alene when I was picked up by two women traveling in a 1967 red Chevrolet 2 door sedan, on the outskirts of Walla Walla, Wash. They picked me up about 12:30 AM 8/14/68. They said they were headed for Spokane, Wash.

On 8/14/68 at Lewiston, Idaho File # BT 26-22889

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by SA STEINAR E. GORUD/imv/dld Date dictated 8/19/68

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BT 26-22889

"When we got close to Colfax, Washington, I told the women I had a gun and I told them not to turn around. I ordered the woman who was driving to drive off the main highway onto a side road. This was pretty close to Colfax, Washington. We drove for about 5 or 6 miles and I ordered the driver to stop the car.

"I then ordered both women to get out of the car. I had a gun in my right hand, pointed at the ground.

"I then ordered both women to take all their clothes off. They took their clothes off and placed their clothing on the ground. I then told them to start walking, the same direction the car was headed.

"I picked up their clothing and put them in the back seat of the car. I drove along the road the same direction the women were walking. I must have passed the women because I did not see them after I started driving the car.

"I drove for about 3 miles and got back on the main, blacktop, highway, the highway between Colfax, Washington and Pullman, Washington.

"I drove along the highway, towards Pullman, for about 5 miles where I stopped along the right side (west) of the highway. I got out of the car with the womens clothing, walked across the highway and tossed the clothing along the left side (East) of the highway.

"I then drove through Pullman, Washington and South toward Lewiston, Idaho.

3
BT 26-22889

"Just after I left Pullman, police cars started chasing me. I was traveling down a hill near Lewiston, Idaho when I was arrested.

"I stole the gun I used against the women at Monroe, Washington while on my trip from Bellingham, Washington to Coeur 'dalene, Idaho.

"I stole a white suit case, clothing, movie camera, clock radio, electric clock and items of jewelery at Bellingham, Washington just before I left here on 8/12/68.

"I wish to state that the only items of clothing I took off, while I was with the two women, was my shirt. I took my shirt off because it was stuffy in the car.

"I have read this statement, consisting of this page and two other pages. The statement is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

n "/s/ Howard P. Ethridge

"Witnesses:

"/s/ Stehar E. Gorud, Special Agent, FBI
"/s/ E. L. Lucas Lt of Police"

ETHRIDGE was shown the 7.65 Hauser Automatic Pistol, Serial Number 817,199, and he admitted that this was the pistol used by him when ordering the two women to disrobe.

4
BT 26-22889

Prior to furnishing the above signed statement, ETHRIDGE said that he had stolen the 1967 Chevrolet at Walla Walla, Washington, about 11:30 p.m., on August 13, 1968. He also claimed that he had purchased the items in the suitcase, which was in his possession when arrested.

The following is the physical description of ETHRIDGE as obtained from interview and observation:

| | |
|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Race | Half Indian |
| Sex | Male |
| Birth Data | March 4, 1949 Roslaud, Washington |
| Height | 5'9½" |
| Weight | 160 |
| Eyes | Brown |
| Hair | Black |
| Tattoos | "HOWARD" - upper left arm; Letter "E" - left forearm |
| Arrest Record | Admits one arrest at Sunnyside, Washington over one year ago for vagrancy |
| Father | VERNON ETHRIDGE Deceased |
| Mother | VIOLET HOY |
| Home Address | Everson, Washington Route 1 |
| Remarks | Everson, Washington ETHRIDGE claims to be one-half Cherokee Indian |

1
LA 56-156
JOS/pjc

INVESTIGATION CONCERNING ALLEGATION
THAT SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN WAS WELL
KNOWN TO THE WAITRESSES AT THE RED
LION RESTAURANT, POMONA, CALIFORNIA

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LA 56-156
JOS/rem

Information was received by the Los Angeles Office of the FBI in late June 1968, that SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN had eaten at the Red Lion Restaurant in Pomona, California, on a number of occasions. It was further indicated that SIRHAN was well known to the waitresses at the Red Lion Restaurant.

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LA 56-156
JEH/dey

The following investigation was conducted by SA
JAMES E. HOFFER:

AT POMONA, CALIFORNIA

Various attempts were made to contact LOUISE KALSO (phonetic) at the Red Lion Restaurant, Foothill Boulevard, and North Garey Avenue.

On July 30, 1968, CAROL TAVER, head waitress, Red Lion Inn, Foothill Boulevard and North Garey Avenue, advised that LOUISE KELLIS is a waitress employed by the Red Lion Inn, however she is on an extended vacation in the east and it is unknown exactly when she will return.

Mrs. TAVER was asked regarding her knowledge as to the information that SIRHAN SIRHAN was well known to the waitresses at the Red Lion Inn. Mrs. TAVER stated that this is strictly a rumor inasmuch as there was an individual who had eaten at the Red Lion Inn on several occasions prior to the murder of Senator ROBERT KENNEDY and that they have not seen the individual since the murder. She stated that after pictures came out in the newspapers of SIRHAN SIRHAN, there were remarks made that the individual who had eaten there resembled SIRHAN SIRHAN very much and it was felt possible by some of the girls that this was SIRHAN SIRHAN. She stated, however, that none of the waitresses at the restaurant were personally acquainted with the individual other than having waited upon him several times and that none of the waitresses know any personal background or any personal information whatsoever about this individual, in fact they do not even know his name, nor do they know that this is the same individual known as SIRHAN SIRHAN.

Mrs. TAVER stated that she is quite certain that LOUISE KELLIS has no further information than any of the rest of the girls regarding this individual.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 8/28/68

LOUISE KELLIS, waitress, Red Line Inn, Foothill Boulevard and North Garey Avenue, advised she heard other waitresses talking about seeing a patron at this location resembling SIRHAN SIRHAN, however, she said she had never seen such person and had no first hand knowledge of him.

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On 8/20/68 at Pomona, California File # Los Angeles 56-156

by SA FERD J. RAPP JR. /vld Date dictated 8/27/68

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LA 56-156
JOS/pjc

0 INVESTIGATION CONCERNING ADA BUTEAU,
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT, WHO TELE-
PHONICALLY CONTACTED THE WHITE HOUSE
ON JUNE 28, 1968, AND STATED SHE
KNEW A PERSON WHO ASSISTED SIRHAN
IN KILLING SENATOR KENNEDY

1
LA 56-156
JOS/pjc

~~B. APPROX~~

On July 6, 1968, U. S. Secret Service, Washington, D. C., advised that at 3:44 p.m., June 28, 1968, ADA BUTEAU, 51 Congress Street, Hartford, Connecticut, telephonically contacted the White House. BUTEAU was extremely upset and advised that she knew a person who assisted SIRHAN in killing Senator KENNEDY. BUTEAU stated she was walking on Congress Street on June 27, 1968, when this person, who identified himself as MERRILL ROGERS, came up beside her and followed her home and into her apartment. (unn)

ROGERS told BUTEAU he was a communist, and when BUTEAU asked him a question about Senator KENNEDY, ROGERS allegedly told her that he knew both President KENNEDY and Senator KENNEDY and that he helped SIRHAN kill Senator KENNEDY.

BUTEAU further stated that ROGERS had left a pocket knife on the table when he left on which appeared to be dried blood.

Following is result of an interview with ADA BUTEAU:

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 8/5/68

1

Mrs. ADA BUTEAU, who resides on the second floor at 51 Congress Street, Hartford, Connecticut, was interviewed and furnished the following information concerning her experiences on the evening of June 28, 1968:

She stated during the early evening of June 28, 1968, she was alone at the Metropole Restaurant on Main Street, Hartford, Connecticut, having a few drinks. She stated she later met a couple of friends at the bar and conversed with them briefly. A short time later, a man about 30, who was drinking at the bar struck up a conversation with her and a short time later asked if he could accompany her home. She stated she agreed and they walked to her apartment at 51 Congress Street, Hartford. BUTEAU stated that at the apartment he talked quite a bit and his line of conversation frightened her. She maintained that while both she and her guest had been drinking, they were not staggering or incoherent in their speech. She advised that he said he was a communist, of Arabic origin, and was "against the KENNEDY family". BUTEAU stated he claimed to know SIRHAN SIRHAN, the man who assassinated Senator ROBERT KENNEDY. BUTEAU stated she became very concerned for her safety and in order not to agitate the man, kept agreeing with him. She stated he was not rude while with her and made no "passes" at her. She advised that after about one half hour in his company at the apartment she asked him to leave because she had things to do. She stated he left without argument.

BUTEAU advised that the man left a penknife on the kitchen table. She exhibited the knife which was about two inches long of stainless steel with three blades, one of which is a combination can opener and screwdriver, one a nail file and the remaining a blunt knife blade. The knife bears the following inscription on the handle: "Palmdale Service Station, MERRILL ROGERS, PH 23631, P. O. Box 1200". The knife appears to be the type given customers for advertising purposes. The name MERRILL ROGERS is probably the owner of the service station. No stains were noted on the blades.

On 7/31/68 at Hartford, Connecticut File # NH 62-2477

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by SA JACK U. RICHARDSON/clf Date dictated 8/1/68

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NH 62-2477

BUTEAU stated the unknown male never furnished his name. She stated she has never seen him before or since. She described him as about 5 foot 8 inches or 5 foot 9 inches, 150 pounds, dark curly hair, dressed in slacks and sport shirt. She stated he had a dark complexion, and if he had not said he was Arabic, she would consider him to be of French extraction.

She stated he spoke very slowly and distinctly with a definite foreign accent. which accent she could not identify as to nationality. She recalled that the unknown male had advised that he had no formal religion, but worshipped the Sun God.

BUTEAU stated she was very nervous following the man's departure and about an hour later, called LINDA SLATER, age 14, a neighbor, to come up and discuss the matter. She stated they then decided to call the White House and report the information. She stated she placed the call, but was nervous and turned the telephone over to SLATER, who carried on the bulk of the conversation.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1.Date July 18, 1968

Records of the Hartford Police Department, Hartford, Connecticut, searched on July 16, 1968, reflected that ADA/BUTEAU, 51 Congress Street, Hartford, was born December 31, 1935, and has the following arrest record:

| <u>DATE</u> | <u>AGE</u> | <u>CHARGE</u> | <u>DISPOSITION</u> |
|-------------|------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| 9/3/64 | 28 | Intoxication | 10 days, execution suspended |
| 9/28/64 | 28 | Intoxication | 10 days, execution suspended |
| 12/15/65 | 29 | Intoxication | 30 days, execution suspended |
| 4/18/66 | 30 | Breach of Peace | Nolle |

With the record of the last arrest there appeared the notation "Mental outpatient".

The records of the Hartford Credit Rating Bureau contained no information concerning BUTEAU as of July 16, 1968.

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On 7/16/68 at Hartford, Conn. File # NH 62-2477

by SA EDWARD R. WHALEN/clf Date dictated 7/17/68

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LA 56-156
JOS/pjc

INVESTIGATION CONCERNING ALLEGED
STATEMENT BY JAMES RIDDLE HOFFA
MEMORIAL DAY, 1967, THAT HE HAD A
CONTRACT OUT ON SENATOR ROBERT F. KENNEDY

1
LA 56-156
JOS/pjc

Information was previously reported that about Memorial Day, 1967, while confined in the U. S. Penitentiary, Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, JAMES RIDDLE/HOFFA was alleged to have made a statement that he had a contract out on Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY, and if he, KENNEDY, ever got in the primaries or ever got elected, the contract would be fulfilled within six months.

Results of interviews of JAMES RIDDLE HOFFA and other inmates at the U. S. Penitentiary at Lewisburg have previously been reported.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date June 17, 1968

EDWARD HUGH POLE was interviewed at the El Paso County Jail, Colorado Springs, Colorado. On this occasion, POLE described himself as follows:

| | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Date of Birth | May 25, 1941 |
| Place of Birth | Philadelphia, Pennsylvania |
| Height | 5'9½" |
| Weight | 160 pounds |
| Hair | Brown |
| Eyes | Blue |
| Marital Status | Separated from wife |
| Wife | KATHLEEN KRAFT, age 22, street address unknown, Phoenixville, Pennsylvania |
| Son | One son, 22 months |
| Permanent Address | Route #1, Box 257, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania |
| Parents | Deceased |

POLE stated he has resided at Colorado Springs for the past six months, residing at 117 South Limit Street, and has been employed by the El Paso Garage, Security, Colorado, as an auto mechanic.

POLE advised that on June 13, 1968, he pled guilty to a charge of forgery involving the theft of a payroll check from his employer and expects to receive an extensive sentence to the Colorado State Penitentiary, Canon City, Colorado. He pointed out he was previously convicted in July, 1961, U. S. District Court, Lake Charles, Louisiana, for a violation of the Dyer Act. He stated under the Federal Youth Corrections Act, he received a sentence of 60 days to 6 years. He pointed out he served 29 months at the Federal Reformatory, Chillicothe, Ohio; was paroled; violated his parole four months later; was sent back to Chillicothe and served approximately one year; again was released on parole; was out 7 months; violated his parole again; and on December 31, 1966, was incarcerated at the Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, Federal Penitentiary, from which he was released after completion of his

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On 6/14/68 at Colorado Springs, Colorado File # Denver 62-2416

by SA ALVIN W. BERRY;
SA RANSOM A. WHITTLE:pmb Date dictated 6/14/68

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DN 62-2416
AWB & RAW:pmb
2

sentence on July 19, 1967.

He stated that on or about Memorial Day, 1967, he was in the dining hall at the Lewisburg Federal Penitentiary and at the table next to him was JAMES HOFFA, who was talking to the two following-described individuals:

#1:

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Race | White |
| Sex | Male |
| Nationality | American, of Italian descent |
| Name | Unknown |
| Age | 55-58 years of age |
| Height & Weight | Approximately the same height and weight as JAMES HOFFA |

He pointed out that this man used to run at the prison track with Mr. HOFFA.

#2:

| | |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| Race | White |
| Sex | Male |
| Nationality | American, of Italian descent |
| Name | (FIRST NAME UNKNOWN) deJOSEPH |
| Age | Early 40's |
| Height | 5'10" |
| Build | Heavy build |
| Peculiarities | Heavy, dark beard even after shaving |

He stated on this occasion, he overheard HOFFA state to these two individuals that, "I have a contract out on KENNEDY and if he ever gets in the primaries or ever gets elected, the contract will be fulfilled within six months." He pointed out that sitting with him, POLE, and who also overheard this conversation, were the following individuals:

#1:

| | |
|------|----------------------|
| Name | JAMES JOSEPH O'BRIEN |
|------|----------------------|

O'BRIEN was being transferred in June, 1967, to the Federal Penitentiary in Atlanta, Georgia.

DN 62-2416
AWB & RAW:pmb
3

#2:

| | |
|-------------|------------|
| Name | Unknown |
| Sex | Male |
| Race | White |
| Nationality | American |
| Age | Early 30's |
| Height | 5'8" |
| Build | Slender |
| Hair | Black |

He stated this individual had robbed a bank at Cleveland, Ohio; had been at Lewisburg for seven years; had been paroled; and after two years on the outside, had violated his parole and was back at Lewisburg. He pointed out this individual resided in D cellblock and was originally from St. Louis, Missouri, and would have been eligible for parole back to St. Louis about the present time.

Approximately two weeks after this conversation, POLE stated he was working in the clothing store and was there early in the morning prior to the store opening, and that JAMES HOFFA came to the gate. Recalling the prior conversation, he asked HOFFA what he thought about KENNEDY. He stated HOFFA immediately began an emotional tirade over KENNEDY's use of wire-tapping and HOFFA's conviction and incarceration at Lewisburg. He ended the conversation by stating, "Right now KENNEDY's in no danger; but if he gets into a primary or gets elected, I won't say how or when, but he'll get knocked off." POLE stated there were no witnesses to this conversation.

POLE advised that in view of HOFFA's power and influence in this country, he feared for his life and under no circumstances would he testify to the above information.

CV 175-16

SEP/klg

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The following investigation was conducted by SAs EDWARD M. HARGRAVE and STANLEY E. PETERSON at Youngstown, Ohio:

ROBERT M. WALKER, U. S. Probation Officer, Youngstown, was contacted on June 28, 1968, and he advised FRED COOPER is currently residing at 212 Broadway Avenue, Youngstown, with his mother.

FRED COOPER, 212 Broadway Avenue, Youngstown, advised on June 28, 1968 he had met JAMES HOFFA at the U. S. Penitentiary, Lewisburg, Pa., but stated they were not friends, and he had never engaged HOFFA in any conversation at any time. He stated he knew who HOFFA was, and recalls that when HOFFA entered the penitentiary, possibly in March, 1967, he overheard him say, "Well here I am, there's nothing I can do about it, and I'm just going to have to make the best of it." HOFFA also indicated that it was just a piece of paper that tripped him up, which resulted in his conviction, however, COOPER never heard what it was.

COOPER was questioned specifically about the statement allegedly made by HOFFA on or about Memorial Day, 1967, and COOPER stated that if HOFFA made such a statement regarding the late ROBERT KENNEDY he, COOPER, did not overhear the statement, and never at any time heard anyone comment about such a statement. COOPER added that he never heard the name of KENNEDY mentioned by HOFFA at any time.

1Date 9/5/68

DONALD L. GEORGE, 1007 Gordon Street, Lafayette, Louisiana, advised as follows:

From about April, 1966, to April, 1968, he worked as an investigator for J. MINOS SIMON, attorney, who has recently represented EDWARD GRADY PARTIN, Business Agent, Teamsters Local 5, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. When he became unable to carry on his relationship with SIMON because of personal disagreements, he obtained a position in May, 1968, as investigator for F. LEE BAILEY, attorney, Boston, Massachusetts, who has been retained by interests representing JAMES R. HOFFA.

He has never talked to anyone who claimed to have heard HOFFA say he "had a contract out on KENNEDY and if he ever gets in the primaries or ever gets elected, the contract will be fulfilled within six months", or any similar statement concerning Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY. He has had no direct contact with HOFFA at any time.

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On 8/26/68 at Lafayette, Louisiana File # NO 173-994

by SA's DONALD L. HUGHES and Date dictated 8/27/68
RICHARD A. SMALLWOOD/DLH/cem

Date 7/10/681

JACK S. MARTIN, SR., 1836½ Esplanade Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana, voluntarily appeared at the New Orleans Federal Bureau of Investigation Office in connection with another matter at which time he was questioned concerning the letter he sent to CHARLES D. WINTERS, Teamster Representative in New Orleans, wherein MARTIN asked, "Why did HOFFA once put out a 'contract' on both of the KENNEDY boys?".

MARTIN stated he has no first hand information that any "contract" was put out on either JOHN F. KENNEDY or ROBERT F. KENNEDY and that he merely made such a statement in his letter to WINTERS as a means of irritating WINTERS. MARTIN stated he merely wanted to see what the reaction of WINTERS would be.

MARTIN emphatically denied that he had any positive information that a "contract" had ever been put out for either of the deceased KENNEDY's.

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On 7/8/68 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 173-994
by SA EDWARD J. CARNEY, JR. and
SA WILLIAM E. DENT, JR. WED/kmt Date dictated 7/10/68

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 7/1/681

HOWARD W. WYNN, Correctional Officer, U. S. Penitentiary, advised that he is well acquainted with JAMES HOFFA inasmuch as HOFFA worked under his supervision for about nine months and he has continually been alert to HOFFA's activities. He advised he has never heard the name of (FNU) DE JOSEPH at the institution. He advised HOFFA's regular dinner companions are SAMUEL DESIST and ANTHONY PROVENZANO. He said, however, there are always a number of individuals following after HOFFA and seeking to gain his favor.

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On 6/24/68 at Lewisburg, Pa. File # Philadelphia 62-4929by SA DELMAR H. MAYFIELD, JR. / cad Date dictated 6/25/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 7/1/68

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HOWARD TWINNING, Clerk, Records Office, U. S. Penitentiary, made available the inmate files of SAMUEL DESIST, USP #32928-NE, and ANTHONY PROVENZANO, USP #32623-NE. A review of these files disclosed DESIST is a white male, Date of Birth January 11, 1923, Place of Birth Hepzibah, West Virginia, 5'6" tall, 185 pounds, black-grey hair. He is serving 18 years for narcotics violation. PROVENZANO is a white male, Date of Birth May 7, 1917, Place of Birth New York City, 5'7" tall, 155 pounds, black-grey hair. He is serving seven years for interference with interstate transportation and was the head of the Teamsters Union in New York. TWINNING advised there is no one in his file, past or present inmates, by the name of DE JOSEPH.

TWINNING advised that a review of the Bank Robbery Releasee file disclosed one FRED COOPER as being the best possibility for the person sitting at the table with POLE. COOPER's file was reviewed and the following information was obtained:

He was originally sentenced in the Northern District of Ohio for bank robbery on September 12, 1955. He was paroled on July 1, 1962, and reincarcerated on July 25, 1963, for parole violation, with 4820 days still to serve. He was re-paroled on November 13, 1967, and planned to live with his mother, Mrs. BERTHA COOPER, at 1238 Watts Street, University City, Mo. From January 6, 1967, until his release, he was assigned to living quarters in D-1 cell block. He is described as a white male, Date of Birth March 29, 1930, Place of Birth Youngstown, Ohio, 5'7" tall, 160 pounds, brown hair and eyes, occupation - salesman.

COOPER was sent to Springfield, Mo., in August of 1958 diagnosed as "Schizophrenic reaction, chronic undifferentiated type, as manifested by a history of disorientation, confusion, bizarre affect and thought content with delusions of persecution. The delusion of somatic illness persists along with his effective flattening, retarded thought processes with

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On 6/24/68 at Lewisburg, Pa. File # Philadelphia 62-4929

by SA DELMAR H. MAYFIELD, JR. / cgd Date dictated 6/25/68

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PH 62-4929

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"loosening of associations, mild depression and lethargy."
By April 1962, he was diagnosed as still retaining fragments of unusual beliefs concerning his bodily reaction, but not to the point it would interfere with his adjustment on the outside.

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LA 56-156
JOS/pjc

INVESTIGATION CONCERNING RUMOR
CIRCULATING IN ISRAEL, IRAQ, AND
EUROPE IN MID-MAY, 1968, THAT
SENATOR ROBERT KENNEDY HAD BEEN SHOT

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LA 56-156
JFM/amc

On June 11, 1968, Mrs. HUBERT RITCHIE, of CORNELIA, GEORGIA, advised the Atlanta, Georgia Office of the FBI that she was present in the Holy Land on a Brownell Tour from May 4 to May 20, 1968. On either May 16 or May 17, 1968, JACOB HENIGMAN, Israeli guide, advised members of the tour that ROBERT KENNEDY had been shot. The guide had no further information. The guide made the same statement on subsequent mornings in response to questioning from tour members, but never retracted his statement. Mrs. RITCHIE said there were eleven other members in the Brownell Tour No. 216 (Holy Land Portion) all of whom heard the statement made by the guide. She said these tour members were from all over the United States and she could only recall a Reverend Mc CRACKEN (phonetic) an Episcopal Minister from Cleveland, Ohio.

On June 12, 1968, Mrs. JACKIE WOOD, Brownell Tours, Birmingham, Alabama, advised the Birmingham Office of the FBI that thirteen people from throughout the United States were present in the group on the above described Holy Land Tour. This group was directed by Mr. C.E. (JACK) KERNS, 313 South Camac Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Other members of the tour group were as follows:

Mr. and Mrs. RALPH BRYCE
5925 Kayron Drive
N.E. Atlanta, Georgia;

Mrs. JUANITA Mc LAUGHIN
25151 Newton Place
Dearborn, Michigan;

Mrs. GENEVA VOLPE
25135 Newton Place
Dearborn, Michigan;

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JFM/amc

Miss ELIZABETH SINTON
29 Grant Street
Mt. Holly, New Jersey

Reverend W. Mc CRACKEN
3071 North Park Boulevard
Cleveland Heights, Ohio

Mr. JOHN KROGNESS
2509 Overlook Road
Cleveland, Ohio

Mr. and Mrs. J.B. LOVE
4631 Hickory Ridge Road
Jackson, Mississippi

Miss ALICE PEEL
701 Rio Grande
Austin, Texas

Mrs. WOOD further advised that KERNS would be the individual most likely to have established contact with Israeli guide JACOB HENIGMAN.

Reverend W. CHAVE Mc CRACKEN, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 3071 North Park Boulevard, Cleveland Heights, Ohio, advised the Cleveland Office of the FBI on June 12, 1968, that he was a member of Brownell Tour No. 216 in the Holy Land during the period of approximately May 14 to May 22, 1968.

On May 16, 1968, the group lunched at the Semadar Hotel Restaurant in modern Caesarea. At approximately 1:30 p.m., he heard the rumor that an attempt had been made on the life of Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Rumor further indicated that Senator KENNEDY was still alive, but in critical condition.

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JFM/amc

Mc CRACKEN advised that the news prompted highly emotional reaction which partially clouds his recollection, but that his current recollection is that information regarding Senator KENNEDY came from the tour guide, JACOB HENIGMAN. Mc CRACKEN stated that the tour guide advised he had heard news "on the air" implying radio broadcast. Mc CRACKEN stated the guide indicated the news was in Hebrew language. Mc CRACKEN possessed no information regarding identity or location of station.

Mc CRACKEN stated further attempts to confirm the rumor were completely negative. He stated that no information was heard on the radio and nothing appeared in Israeli newspapers concerning this matter. Mc CRACKEN then assumed the rumor to be false and made no further inquiries concerning it.

On June 13, 1968, SYLVIA FOGELSON, 45 A Linn Drive, Verona, New Jersey, advised the Newark Office of the FBI that on May 16 or 17, 1968, she was a member of a tour, name not recalled, in Jerusalem, and while in the Jordanian section, an unknown Arab male told them that Senator KENNEDY had been shot. Mrs. FOGELSON said the man gave no further details, and was not seen again. She said she supposed it was a joke and later after Senator KENNEDY was shot decided to make this information available.

On the same date, Mrs. ELIZABETH SINTON, 29 Grant Street, Mt. Holly, New Jersey, also advised the Newark Office of the FBI that she was on the Brownell Tour in Jerusalem during mid-May 1968, but at no time heard the guide or any other person mention that Senator KENNEDY had been shot.

On June 13, 1968, JOHN KROGNESS, stockbroker with Paine, Weber, Jackson, and Curtis, 1021 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio, advised the Cleveland Office of the FBI that he was present in the Holy Land with the Brownell Tour from approximately May 14 to May 22, 1968.

KROGNESS stated that on May 16, 1968, the tour group

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JFM/amc

had lunch at the Semadar Hotel Restaurent in modern Caesarea. At approximately 1:15 to 1:30 p.m., upon leaving the restaurant, he heard a rumor from a tourist, identity unknown to him, that an attempt had been made on the life of Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY in Nebraska, City unknown.

KROGNESS could not attribute this information to the Israeli guide JACOB HENIGMAN, however, he did inquire of HENIGMAN if he had heard any news regarding this incident, and HENIGMAN replied in the negative.

KROGNESS stated that he did not hear any further comments regarding this matter, that nothing was observed in Israeli newspapers, nor did he hear any broadcast concerning same, so assumed it was a rumor and made no further inquiries.

On June 13, 1968, Mr. and Mrs. J.B. LOVE, 4631 Hickory Ridge Road, Jackson, Mississippi, advised the Jackson Office of the FBI that they had been on a Brownell Tour in the Holy Land from May 14 to May 20, 1968. On about May 15 or 16, 1968, Mr. LOVE said he heard someone in the tour group mention that ROBERT KENNEDY had been shot in the United States. He could not recall which member of the group said it but believes that one member of the group had heard from a third party. The alleged shooting was discussed by members of the tour for about three hours on the day it was mentioned, however, no further mention of it was made on subsequent dates to their knowledge.

Neither Mr. nor Mrs. LOVE had ever heard JACOB HENIGMAN, Israeli tour guide known as "JAKE", make any statement concerning the United States or the political conditions of the United States. They did not hear the guide say that KENNEDY had been shot, and neither of them believed that the guide actually made the statement.

On June 19, 1968, Mrs. JUANITA Mc LAUGHIN, residing at

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JFM/amc

25151 Newton, and Mrs. GENEVA VOLPE residing at 25135 Newton, in Dearborn, Michigan, both advised they did not hear any comments or statements made by anyone during their tour of the Holy Land relative to Senator KENNEDY being shot. They both said one of the Israeli guides was called JAKE, however, they could not recall his full name. They said JACOB HENIGMAN could have been the guide whom they knew as JAKE. They said they arrived in the Holy Land on May 14, 1968, and left during the afternoon of May 22, 1968.

The following investigation was conducted by SA DAVID ROBERT EVANS at Austin, Texas, on July 3, 1968:

Miss ALICE DENTLER PEEL, Owner, Business Services, home residence 704 Rio Grande, advised she was on tour throughout Europe and the Middle East during the period from May 12 through July 2, 1968. She stated the first portion of her tour was sponsored by Brownell Tours.

PEEL advised she departed New York on the evening of May 13, 1968, via Transworld Airlines, Flight 840, and arrived in Tel Aviv on the afternoon of May 14, 1968. She remained in Tel Aviv through May 16, 1968, and then departed by bus en route to Haifa, Israel. She indicated that the guide for the tour during this portion of the trip was JACOB HENIGMAN. PEEL advised that on the morning of May 17, 1968, she and members of the tour were on a full-day excursion and were en route to Tiberias. While at a rest stop she recalled that a member of the tour, whose identity she did not recall, asked her if she heard that KENNEDY had been shot. Miss PEEL stated this was the first time that she had heard this remark but that later it seemed that the rumor then spread like wildfire and the tour members were questioning each other as well as the guide for further details. Miss PEEL indicated that she could only assume that possibly the tour guide, JACOB HENIGMAN, had told the director of the tour, Mr. JACK KERNS, that KENNEDY had been shot. Miss PEEL stated unequivocally that at no time did she hear either the director or the tour guide, JACOB HENIGMAN, make a direct statement concerning KENNEDY.

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JFM/amc

Miss PEEL stated she was not aware of the original source of the information that KENNEDY had been shot; however, she assumed that possibly the source was a broadcast over the Israeli radio. PEEL advised that tour members did question the guide, JACOB HENIGMAN, for further details; however, the guide indicated he had no further information. Miss PEEL advised that the guide, upon subsequent questioning the next day after periodically listening to the news broadcasts over the radio, replied that "No news is good news."

Miss PEEL advised that on the morning of May 18, 1968, tour members continued to question the tour guide for any further details regarding KENNEDY, however, the tour guide indicated again that he had no further information. She stated that the tour guide did periodically listen to news broadcasts on the radio and upon questioning would indicate to tour members that the broadcasts contained no news concerning KENNEDY. Miss PEEL advised she can only assume that possibly there may have been some error in reporting a news item concerning KENNEDY.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 7/22/68

MAX BERMAN, residing at 4629 Fulton Avenue, Apartment 202, home telephone 783-5526, furnished the following information:

Mr. BERMAN said he had previously given some information concerning Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY's assassination to the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), Rampart Division. He said he and his wife were on vacation during May and June, 1968, visiting various parts of the world. On May 16, 1968, they were in Caesarea, Israel, which is located near the Jordanian border. On this day at about 12:00 noon, they, along with other tourists, made a stop at the Semadar Hotel for lunch. As he and his wife entered the hotel lobby they heard a man demand that they be quiet. This man was wearing earphones and stated that Senator KENNEDY was shot in Los Angeles. BERMAN said he asked the man where he got his information and the man replied, "the BBC". This man did not give any more information. BERMAN said he then went to the hotel restaurant and told the other tourists of the news. The next day he bought a local newspaper but could not find anything in it pertaining to Senator KENNEDY being shot. He and his wife continued on their trip and arrived back in Los Angeles on June 3, 1968. He said on June 4, 1968, while watching television, he learned that Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY was shot at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles, California. Sometime later, when he heard on television that the Police Department had found a book in the house of accused assassin, SIRHAN SIRHAN, pertaining to the date Senator KENNEDY had to be shot, he felt he should call the police.

Mr. BERMAN said he was interviewed by Detective BELDING of the Rampart Division, LAPD, concerning his experience in Caesarea, Israel.

Mr. BERMAN said that his wife, ZELDA BERMAN, could furnish no further information other than he has already given.

On 7/20/68 at Sherman Oaks, California File # Los Angeles 56-156

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by SA WILLIAM L. BOURQUE/mlh Date dictated 7/22/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date October 2, 1968

Mrs. BERTHA BRYCE, 5925 Kayron Drive, Northeast, Atlanta, Georgia, was interviewed at her home and advised that she recalled an Israeli guide by the name of JACOB, last name unrecalled, while a member of the Brownell Tour Number 16. Mrs. BRYCE advised, however, she was unaware of any statement made by JACOB concerning Robert Kennedy and could offer no further information in this matter.

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On 10/2/68 at Atlanta, Georgia File # Atlanta 44-2412
by SA JAMES J. ROSE :bjc Date dictated 10/2/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date October 2, 1968

Mr. RALPH BRYCE, 5925 Kayron Drive, Atlanta, Georgia, was interviewed at his home and furnished the following information:

BRYCE acknowledged the fact that he was a member of the Brownell Tour Number 16 which traveled in the Holy Lands between May 14 and 20, 1968. BRYCE readily recalled the tour guide, JACOB HENIGMAN. According to BRYCE, HENIGMAN was an Israeli guide who was responsible for the above tour while in the Holy Lands.

BRYCE stated that HENIGMAN never made any mention to Robert Kennedy in his presence at any time during the above tour. BRYCE stated HENIGMAN made no mention to American politics at all, but did voice his anti-Arab feelings throughout the tour.

BRYCE stated that he recalled a Mrs. RICHIE from an unrecalled town in Georgia as having joined the above tour in the Holy Lands for two days. BRYCE was unaware of any statement made by HENIGMAN to RICHIE concerning Senator Robert Kennedy being shot. BRYCE stated that his contact by the FBI in this matter was the first time he had ever been made aware of any such statement by HENIGMAN and he could offer no further information in this matter.

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On 10/2/68 at Atlanta, Georgia File # Atlanta 44-2412

by SA JAMES J. ROSE :bjc Date dictated 10/2/68

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.

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LA 56-156
JFM/amc

On June 5, 1968, PAUL KULKA, 815 East Angelino, Burbank, California, advised SA JESSE V. MC NULTY that he received a letter from his cousin on May 29, 1968. The letter was written in the Czechoslovakian language and it was written on May 16, 1968. Mr. KULKA said the letter stated that radio reports indicated that ROBERT KENNEDY was shot. The cousin, whom he identified as a 68 year old widow named LUDMILA VLACIL, resides at Dölčplazy, Olomouc, Moravia, Czechoslovakia. The cousin requested that KULKA write the details to her. KULKA said that in view of the advance information concerning the shooting of Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY which actually occurred on June 5, 1968, this information might be of significance.

The above described letter was obtained from Mr. KULKA and was forwarded to the FBI laboratory for appropriate translation. The following is the translation of the letter as furnished by the FBI laboratory:

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LA 56-156
JFM/amc

One-page handwritten letter from:
Lucm. (ila) Vlacilova (Vlacil)
Doloplazy u (near) Olomouce
(CSSR)

To: Mrs. and Mr. (sic)
Paul Kulka
815 E. Angeleno Avenue
Burbank, California

Postmarks: (1) Dolopazy u Olomouce
5/16/68
(2) (3) Burbank, California
May 20, 1968

Translator's Note: Another address is written on the envelope:

665 Harrison Street
San Francisco
91407

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*

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Doloplazy 5/16/68

My dear ones,

I don't know whether I thanked you or replied to your last dear letter, but if this is the case, it was unintentional, and so now I will thank you twice. I am always very glad when I hear from you and your letters are very dear to me! The day before yesterday I received a letter from Greta Musilova which saddened me very much. Karel is gravely ill, as you know it well yourselves, and there is no hope for his recovery. The doctor gives him one year to live, and this is great suffering,

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IA. 56-156
JFM/amc

not only for him (he doesn't know it) but also for Greta. She has had more than her share of troubles already. I am very sorry for her and think of her all the time. Write to her soon, but in such a way that Karel could read it, too. So, I cannot write all about him (what Greta wrote to me). Mirek finished his course of study and now is waiting for a place (employment). He was here all of April when he finished his studies. He came down with his brother-in-law, who was going to Germany on official business, and so he stopped here, too. I was very pleased, because one never knows whether or not we will see each other again. We talked about you all. Last week he left and I wish very much that he finds something suitable; otherwise I suppose he will return (two illegible words). As you certainly know, things are a little more relaxed here. Freedom is the most precious thing one can have and we (the people) have not even suspected for the whole twenty years what an orgy has been carried on behind our backs. We hope for better times.

They announced over the radio this morning that Robert Kennedy was shot - for God's sake, what is going on - and it always happens to the best ones! When you write to me, Paul, tell me about it. As I became old, I became interested in politics and in everything around me. What about your house? Have you sold it yet? Do not hurry, you would miss it and the garden, and I would lose a pleasant memory about the place where I spent a number of nice days.

Is Lilinka well? I wish you both much health for as long as possible. I already feel my years, slowly but surely.

Irena will possibly fly again with Max to the U.S. for her (?) sons (?). She wrote to me to come with Emily to Vienna for three days. We shall see. Poor people, they have it so uncertain again - such is the world - disgusting!

I give my best regards to your children, also to the Goldsneiders - Tony and Flero (?). I think of you and kiss you.

Lučka (Ludmila).

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LA 56-156
JFM/amc

IRA KATCHEN, 384 Highland Avenue, Elboron, New Jersey, an attorney with offices at Longbranch, New Jersey, advised the Newark Office of the FBI on July 11, 1968, that on May 14, 1968, he was staying at Hotel Esplanarde in Prague, Czechoslovakia, with his son JULIUS KATCHEN, pianist. He said his son was playing in a recital on May 16 and May 18, 1968, at Prague.

On the morning of May 15, 1968, his son met some friends of his in the Hotel Esplanarde and they heard on the Prague radio that ROBERT F. KENNEDY had been shot in California. These friends were very upset and were determined to find out what the story was. About an hour later it was determined that this was not true but several people had already heard this on the Prague radio. KATCHEN advised that CHARLES GORDON, head of the Joint Distribution Committee, was killed six months ago in Prague, reportedly by Arabs. He said that he is just assuming that there may be a conspiracy between the killing of GORDON and KENNEDY. He stated he is reporting this only because he believes there is possibly some link between this and the KENNEDY assassination. He stated he has learned that a tape of this broadcast in Prague can be obtained from the manager of the Hotel Esplanarde, where he stayed.

On the same date, ANNA UHLIK, 154 Brookside Avenue, Irvington, New Jersey, also advised the Newark Office of the FBI that on May 21, 1968, she received a letter from her sister, MARIE KADLER, Village of Roster, Post Office in Malesov, County of Kutna Hara, Czechoslovakia, advising that some time prior to May 16, 1968, she had heard over a radio broadcast that Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY had been shot in the head and was not expected to recover. The letter continued that the next day there was a retraction denoting error in that information over the same radio station. According to ANNA UHLIK the letter gave no further information.

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LA 56-156
JFM/amc

On June 11, 1968, Colonel MERLE R. PREBLE, United States Army (Retired), and Field Representative of the National Rifle Association, Washington, D.C., furnished the following information to the Washington Field Office of the FBI.

On Thursday, June 6, 1968, Lieutenant Colonel WILLIAM PULLUM, United States Army (Retired), who is Officer in Charge, of the United States Army International Rifle Team, United States Army Advance Marksmanship Unit, Fort Benning, Georgia, told PREBLE that ten days to two weeks prior to the assassination of Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY the team was engaged in international competition in Czechoslovakia with European teams from there and the Soviet Union. PULLUM said that inquiries were made either of his team or of himself, as to whether they had heard of a plot to assassinate KENNEDY prior to the team's departure from the United States. PREBLE speculated that the inquiries could have originated from a GRU representative accompanying the Soviet team.

On June 12, 1968, Lieutenant Colonel WILLIAM C. PULLUM, United States Army (Retired), who is employed as coach of the United States Army International Rifle Team, Army Marksmanship Unit, Fort Benning, Georgia, furnished the following information to the Atlanta Office of the FBI.

On May 24, 1968, he was in Stockholm, Sweden, when Colonel ROBERT F. BAYARD, Commanding Officer of the Army Marksmanship Unit at Fort Benning, came to him from a shoot in Czechoslovakia. Colonel BAYARD asked PULLUM if he had read in a paper or heard an English broadcast, which BAYARD had heard in Czechoslovakia, that KENNEDY had been shot in the neck. PULLUM said he had not heard anything of this nature and told BAYARD he thought it was a rumor. BAYARD did not relate the exact source of information in Czechoslovakia, and PULLUM could not comment concerning the source.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 7/26/681

Colonel ROBERT F. BAYARD, Commanding Officer, United States Army, Marksmanship Training Unit, Fort Benning, Georgia, furnished the following information:

Colonel BAYARD and members of his shotgun team attended the Grand Prix de Brno at Brno, Czechoslovakia, May 17-18, 1968. On one of the above dates, the head clerk at the Grand Hotel, Brno, Czechoslovakia, where the members of the team were staying, mentioned that he had heard on the radio news that Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY had been shot, receiving a flesh wound in the neck and was in satisfactory condition. The same information was obtained from the head waiter in the dining room of the Grand Hotel.

The members of the unit attempted to purchase some newspaper that they could read to verify the information and the only newspaper available that they could read was an East German newspaper. A review of this newspaper failed to reflect any story concerning the alleged shooting. Colonel BAYARD and the members of his unit assumed that it was just rumor and that it had no factual basis.

Colonel BAYARD had no further information concerning the statements and was unable to furnish the names of the head clerk at the Grand Hotel or the head waiter.

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On 7/24/68 at Fort Benning, Georgia File # Los Angeles 56-156
Atlanta 44-2412
by SA CHARLES PAUL ROSE/cjm Date dictated 7/25/68

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JFM/amc

On June 7, 1968, Mrs. ANN REEVES, 19 Patricia Lane, Trenton, New Jersey, advised the Newark Office of the FBI that on June 6, 1968, in general conversation with her next door neighbor Mrs. CATHRINE LATOOF concerning the assassination of Senator KENNEDY, Mrs. LATOOF expressed sympathy concerning Senator KENNEDY's death. Mrs. LATOOF indicated to Mrs. REEVES that while visiting her brother JOSEPH HAGE, of New York City, on June 2, 1968, in the company of ANTOINE HAGE a citizen of Haiti, a discussion arose between them concerning Senator KENNEDY's current political campaign. Her brother ANTOINE then expressed surprise concerning the activities of Senator KENNEDY, indicating he had heard prior to leaving Haiti that Senator KENNEDY had been shot, or would be shot.

Mrs. LATOOF discounted this statement in New York City, as Senator KENNEDY was then alive. Mrs. REEVES stated she was naturally concerned over the statements of ANTOINE HAGE on June 2, 1968, to his sister and brother, that KENNEDY was dead or would be shot in the light of subsequent events concerning the death of Senator KENNEDY on June 6, 1968.

On June 7 1968, Mrs. CATHRINE LATOOF, 17 Patricia Lane, Trenton, New Jersey, advised the Newark Office of the FBI, that she and her brother left Trenton, New Jersey, on Sunday afternoon June 2, 1968, for New York City, as JOSEPH HAGE was to have surgery at a New York Hospital on East 68th Street. While in New York City on June 2, 1968, she and JOSEPH were joined by their brother ANTOINE HAGE, who had recently arrived from Haiti to visit his brother prior to his operation.

Mrs. LATOOF denied knowing any statement that her brother ANTOINE indicated to her and her brother on June 2, 1968, that he was surprised to hear that Senator KENNEDY was alive and that prior to leaving Haiti, ANTOINE had heard that Senator was shot or was going to be shot.

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The Oklahoma City Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation received a letter from Mrs. EZELL NELSON, Route 1, Amber, Oklahoma, on June 20, 1968. Mrs. NELSON enclosed a personal letter which was written by her son, ABBOTT O. NELSON, Post Office Box 3028, Baghdad, Iraq. The following is a quotation from the letter which was dated June 8, 1968:

"My Dear Mother and Daddy:

"About two weeks ago we heard a rumor that Robert Kennedy had been shot. This second time was not a rumor....."

The remainder of the letter was personal between Mr..NELSON and his parents.

Mrs. NELSON stated that her son was thirty-five years of age and a graduate of the University of Oklahoma, in 1955, with a degree in Public Relations in the School of Journalism. She said he was employed by C. BREWER, who has the contract with the Hawaiian Agrinomics (International), home office in Honolulu, Hawaii, for the Iraq project. She said the Iraq project is known as the Amarah Sugar Project, Post Office Box 3028, Baghdad, Iraq, and her son was employed as the Public Relations and Social Director for the project near Amarah, Iraq.

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On June 10, 1968, JIM ADAMS, Instruction Pilot for the Boeing Company, Seattle, Washington, advised the Seattle Office of the FBI that he and a colleague, DON SUPSINSKAS, Instructor, Flight Engineer for Boeing were engaged in making a survey of United Arab Airlines, in May 1968.

ADAMS said he and SUPSINSKAS boarded a United Arab Airlines flight in London for Cairo, by way of Paris and Rome. All crew members were described as being Egyptians. Outside of Paris, the captain of the flight, FAIAH OMAR, and a crew member asked ADAMS and SUPSINSKAS what they knew of an attempted assassination on ROBERT KENNEDY. ADAMS said that he and SUPSINSKAS did not know of any attempt. He said when he reached Cairo, he found no information regarding an attempt on the life of ROBERT KENNEDY in Cairo newspapers. He said these newspapers in Cairo were printed in the English language. ADAMS said he reached Cairo at 2:00 a.m. on May 12, 1968. He had no further information to offer regarding this matter.