

King Panel Might Call Miami Man

House Panel Contacts
Ex-Police Lieutenant

By JIM BUCHANAN

Herald Staff Writer

A former Miami police lieutenant said Sunday that he may be called to testify before a congressional committee about receiving a pre-assassination tip in 1968 that Martin Luther King might be killed.

Charles Sapp, the former policeman, said the information came in April 1968 from a Miami Police Department paid informant, Willie Somerset, who five years earlier had claimed advance notice of President John Kennedy's assassination.

"I've been contacted by a spokesman for the House Assassinations Committee," Sapp said Sunday, "and I've told them I'd be happy to testify as to what I know."

SAPP SAID he "can't recall the exact time element, but it was shortly before King was killed." King was killed on April 4, 1968.

Other sources told The Herald that the telephoned tip was received by the lieutenant April 3. Sapp, who retired in 1971, headed the department's intelligence-gathering unit.

Somerset, an admitted racist who then was trying to organize his own National Foundation of Labor, "claimed to have overheard the death threat at a union affair in Washington," according to Sapp.

"He said he overheard two men condemning King for meddling in union affairs. If you remember, King was helping the Memphis sanitation workers, who were out on strike," Sapp said.

"Somerset told me the men said they'd have to 'take care of King,' or words to that effect."

"SOMERSET called me because he wanted me to know he was in Miami and shouldn't be suspected if something happened."

Somerset was once a member of the National States Rights Party and claimed to have heard, during a conversation 13 days before the Kennedy slaying, of plans to shoot him.

Sapp said Sunday, "I can't remember the exact day he called me, but I'm certain the FBI got an immediate report on the tip, because the agents were in our office every day, and they got the same information I sent on to the chief."

Sapp's distant connection with the King case came to light last September as part of a Miami magazine article dealing with the assassinations of King and Kennedy.

Two weeks ago, Sapp said, he was contacted by an investigator for the House committee.

"WE TALKED for a while, and he said they'd be in touch with me. But I haven't heard anything from them yet," Sapp said.

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☒ Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ E F T O
☐ CLEAR

Date 3/25/77

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
 FROM: SAC, MIAMI (62-6603) (P)
 SUBJECT: HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE
 ON ASSASSINATIONS

Re Bureau airtel to Miami dated 3/17/77.

Enclosed for the Bureau is one copy of the following described "Miami Magazine" articles:

1. Article entitled, "JFK, KING; The Dade County Links" by DON CHRISTENSEN, which appeared in the September, 1976, issue of "Miami Magazine".

2. Article entitled, "KING Assassination; FBI Ignored Its Miami Informer", by DON CHRISTENSEN, which appeared in the October, 1976, issue of "Miami Magazine".

Also enclosed are seven copies of an LHM reflecting information concerning "Miami Herald" newspaper article, dated March 14, 1977, captioned, "KING Panel Might Call Miami Man".

Enclosed for the Memphis Division is one copy each of the foregoing described enclosures.

In regards to the inquiry by the House Select Committee into the Kennedy assassination and their request for "the listing of all FBI Agents present at the November 10, 1963, meeting in Miami, Florida, with members of the Miami Police Department Intelligence Section, at which time the taped conversation between JOSEPH A. MILTEER and WILLIAM SOMERSETT was made available to the FBI", Miami FBI records do not contain any information that FBI Agents were present at such a meeting.

3 - Bureau (Encs. 9)

2 - Memphis (Encs. 3)

4 - Miami (1 - 62-6603) (1 - 44-18540)

(1 - 89-35) (1 - 170-1)

DJD:mes

Approved: (9)

Transmitted

(Number)

(Time)

Per

FBI - MEMPHIS

MM 62-6603

Miami files do contain information that WILLIAM SOMERSETT telephonically contacted Miami Division on 11/10/63, and advised that a conversation between JOSEPH A. MILTEER and himself had been tape recorded by the Miami Police Department.

This information was furnished to the Bureau by Miami teletype dated 11/10/63, under the caption, "THREAT TO KILL PRESIDENT KENNEDY BY J. A. MILTEER", at Miami, Florida, on 11/9/63.

Miami records reflect that on November 11, 1963, Sergeant CHARLES SAPP, Miami Police Department, advised the Miami Division of the FBI that a conversation between WILLIAM SOMERSETT and JOSEPH A. MILTEER, had been tape recorded by his department.

Miami records show that on November 12, 1963, the Miami Police Department furnished a transcribed copy of the taped conversation between SOMERSETT and MILTEER to SA LEONARD C. PETERSON of the Miami Division.

Copy of this transcript was furnished to the Bureau by an airtel dated 11/13/63, under the "J. A. MILTEER, RACIAL MATTERS, OO: ATLANTA" caption.

Miami records show that WILLIAM SOMERSETT was a discontinued informant who had been turned over to the Miami Police Department and was not being contacted by the Miami Division of the FBI per Bureau instructions dated 11/13/61.

However, any information SOMERSETT volunteered to the Miami FBI was accepted and appropriately disseminated.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Mystery Witness Set To Testify On Assassination

Washington (UPI) — The House assassination committee called a meeting today to prepare a budget the House can swallow and to deal with a mystery witness who may have information on the murder of President John Kennedy.

Beyond that, the purpose of today's gathering was unclear.

A televised appearance by James Earl Ray — the convicted assassin of Martin Luther King Jr. — may change all that. Ray indicated on the CBS program *Who's Who* Tuesday night he might be willing to testify before the panel, but not in a closed session and not if his guilt was presumed by the committee.

The identity of the alleged Kennedy witness was not divulged Tuesday, but staff investigator Robert Tannenbaum interviewed Dutch journalist Willem Oltmas for two hours after which a brief statement was released saying Oltmas "supplied us with some unique and sensitive information which requires further checking."

In any case, the committee

was expected to continue its efforts to right the inquiry under the stewardship of new chairman Louis Stokes, D-Ohio.

The committee's funding runs out March 31 and members are trying to produce some rationale for renewed funding.

Chief Counsel Richard Sprague, a former Philadelphia prosecutor, told the committee in open session last week investigators so far had only uncorroborated, unchecked evidence leading to the possibility Ray was assisted in the King assassination and that others may have had foreknowledge of the Kennedy killing.

Sprague earlier proposed a "bare bones" budget of \$6.5 million a year for the investigation he said would last two years. He envisioned a roster of 170 lawyers, investigators and staff.

Right now the staff numbers about 70 and Sprague says he still needs more if the King and Kennedy investigations are to proceed simultaneously.

The committee now is reported to be thinking of a budget in the \$2 to \$3 million range.

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

PAGE 29

NASHVILLE BANNER

NASHVILLE, TENN.

SEARCHED

SERIALIZED

INDEXED

Date:

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title:

66-2197-23

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

☐ Being Investigated

COPIES OF THIS REPORT SENT TO
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (FBI/KARCA)
DATE 8/3/94

For Informational Purposes Only

The originals removed from this file and replaced with duplicate copies of the original were accessioned to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) pursuant to the JFK Records Collection Act of 1992. Provision of the JFK Act allowed for certain information to be postponed from public release until the year 2017; therefore, the pages have **NOT** necessarily been released for public review in their entirety.

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The copies contained herein do not necessarily show the most up-to-date classification.

To attain a copy of the publicly released version of any materials maintained in the JFK Collection at the NARA facility in College Park, MD, you may contact the JFK Access Staff, at 301/713-6620.

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File & Serial Number

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ME 66-219729

HSCA

For Informational Purposes Only

HQ0107 3410155

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R 262325Z DEC 77

FM DIRECTOR

TO ALL SACS ROUTINE

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EFTO

PERSONAL ATTENTION

FOIPA RELEASE: JFK ASSASSINATION, DALLAS, TEXAS, NOVEMBER 22,
1963.

ON DECEMBER 7, 1977 FIRST SEGMENT OF FILES OF JFK ASSASSINATION INVESTIGATION WILL BE RELEASED AT FBIHQ. MAJOR NEWS SERVICES WILL EXTENSIVELY REVIEW THESE RAW INVESTIGATIVE FILE MATERIALS WHICH INCLUDED SUBMISSIONS FROM EVERY FIELD OFFICE OF FBI. YOU MAY ANTICIPATE LOCAL NEWS COVERAGE OVER NEXT SEVERAL DAYS PROMPTED BY REVIEW OF HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS.

MATERIALS FOR FIRST SEGMENT RELEASE TOTAL 40,000 PAGES COMPILED DURING EARLY MONTHS OF ASSASSINATION INVESTIGATION. DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION WERE INCORPORATED INTO REPORTS THE FBI FURNISHED IN 1963 AND 1964 TO WARREN COMMISSION. IN SPITE OF

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ORIGINAL DOCUMENT SENT TO
NATIONAL ARCHIVES (JFKARCA)
DATE 8/5/94 dca

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FBI - MEMPHIS	

PAGE TWO E F T O

POSSIBLE PRESS EFFORTS TO CURRENTLY SENSATIONALIZE OUR FOIPA RELEASE, MANY OF FBI INVESTIGATIVE REPORTS ON ASSASSINATION BECAME PART OF THE DOCUMENTARY RECORD MADE PUBLIC WITH THE WARREN COMMISSION'S TESTIMONY AND EXHIBITS IN 1964 AND SUBSEQUENTLY MADE AVAILABLE IN THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES. OUR FOIPA RELEASE OF RAW INVESTIGATIVE FILE MATERIALS WILL MAKE PUBLIC THE UNDERLYING FBI INTERNAL DOCUMENTS WHICH CONTRIBUTED TO OUR REPORTS TO WARREN COMMISSION.

ALL LEGATS, PARTICULARLY MEXICO CITY, SHOULD BE AWARE THAT LIAISON CONTRIBUTIONS FROM COOPERATIVE GOVERNMENTS IN THEIR TERRITORIES RELATING TO BACKGROUND OF THE ASSASSIN OSWALD, WERE MADE PUBLIC BY WARREN COMMISSION IN 1964. FBI WAS PORTRAYED AS A FEDERAL AGENCY WITH SPECIAL COMPETENCE IN FIELD OF FOREIGN INVESTIGATION IN MEXICO AND ELSEWHERE. A DETAILED CHRONOLOGICAL ACCOUNT OF OSWALD'S SEPTEMBER 26 - OCTOBER 3, 1963 TRIP TO MEXICO CITY WAS PUBLICLY RECONSTRUCTED BY WARREN COMMISSION FROM OFFICIAL REPORTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO, SUPPLEMENTED BY CONFIDENTIAL U.S. SOURCES IN MEXICO.

THE ABOVE IS FOR INFORMATION AND BACKGROUND ONLY OF EACH SAC, LEGAT AND APPROPRIATE PERSONNEL. NO PRESS RELEASE

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PAGE THREE E F T O

SHOULD BE MADE. REQUESTS FOR DOCUMENTS WHICH MAY BE PROMPTED BY LOCAL NEWS COVERAGE SHOULD BE REFERRED TO FBIHQ FOR DIRECT HANDLING. APPROXIMATELY ONE-HALF OF FBI FILES ON ASSASSINATION WILL BE RELEASED WITH BALANCE TO FOLLOW EARLY NEXT YEAR.

ALL LEGATS ADVISED SEPARATELY.

BT

ME-1 JSD

CLH

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FM DIRECTOR

TO ALL SACS ROUTINE

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E F T O

PERSONAL ATTENTION

FOIPA RELEASE: JFK ASSASSINATION, DALLAS, TEXAS, NOVEMBER 22,
1963.

ON JANUARY 18, 1978 SECOND SEGMENT OF FILES OF JFK ASSASSI-
NATION INVESTIGATION WILL BE RELEASED AT FBIHQ. YOU MAY ANTICI-
PATE THE SAME TYPE OF NEWS COVERAGE IN NEXT SEVERAL DAYS THAT
FOLLOWED FBIHQ FIRST SEGMENT RELEASE DECEMBER 7, 1977.

MATERIALS FOR SECOND SEGMENT RELEASE TOTAL 58,754 PAGES.
TOTAL PAGES FIRST AND SECOND SEGMENT EQUAL 98,755 PAGES. TOTAL
PROCESSING COST TO THE FBI FOR THESE TWO SEGMENT HAS BEEN
ESTIMATED AT MORE THAT \$187,000.00, WHICH ESTIMATE IS SUBJECT
TO UPDATING. FIRST AND SECOND SEGMENTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR
REVIEW BY THE PUBLIC IN THE FBIHQ READING ROOM AND INDIVIDUAL

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT SENT TO
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DATE 8/5/94 clw

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PAGE TWO E F T O

DOCUMENTS MAY BE PURCHASED AT COST OF TEN CENTS PER PAGE. COST TO REQUESTERS OF ENTIRE SECOND SEGMENT REDUCED FROM \$5,875.40 TO \$5,060.40 AS DUPLICATION COSTS FOR BEING "WARREN COMMISSION" FILE NOT BEING CHARGED. THIS FILE ESSENTIALLY DUPLICATION OF DOCUMENTS INCLUDED IN OTHER PORTIONS OF SECOND SEGMENT RELEASE. MANY OF FBI INVESTIGATIVE REPORTS ON ASSASSINATION BECAME PART OF THE DOCUMENTARY RECORD MADE PUBLIC WITH THE WARREN COMMISSION'S TESTIMONY AND EXHIBITS IN 1964 AND SUBSEQUENTLY MADE AVAILABLE IN THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES.

ALL LEGATS, PARTICULARLY MEXICO CITY, SHOULD BE AWARE THAT LIAISON CONTRIBUTIONS FROM COOPERATIVE GOVERNMENTS IN THEIR TERRITORIES RELATING TO BACKGROUND OF ASSASSIN OSWALD ARE NECESSARY PART OF OUR FORTHCOMING FOIA RELEASE.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE NUMBER OF PAGES, PROCESSING COST AND FBIHQ READING ROOM MAY BE FURNISHED IN RESPONSE TO PRESS INQUIRIES; HOWEVER, NO PRESS RELEASE SHOULD BE MADE.

6-2191

PAGE THREE E F T O

REQUESTS FOR DOCUMENTS AND ANY OTHER INQUIRIES WHICH MAY BE
PROMPTED BY LOCAL NEWS COVERAGE CAN BE REFERRED TO FBIHQ FOR
DIRECT HANDLING.

ALL LEGAT ADVISED SEPARATELY.

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ME 66-2197-35

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FM DIRECTOR FBI

TO FBI MEMPHIS (62-117290) ROUTINE

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UNCLAS

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA); BUDED: APRIL 12, 1978.

CAPTIONED COMMITTEE IS CURRENTLY CONDUCTING INVESTIGATION INTO THE ASSASSINATIONS OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY AND MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. IN CONNECTION WITH THE KING INVESTIGATION, THE HSCA HAS REQUESTED ACCESS TO FIELD OFFICE FILES OF MEMPHIS PERTAINING TO THE UNITED KLANS OF AMERICA (UKA) AND OTHER KLAN GROUP FILES IN THE MEMPHIS DIVISION FOR THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER 1, 1967, TO JUNE 30, 1968.

SINCE THE MEMPHIS SUBFILE OF THE UKA AT FBIHQ HAS BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO THE HSCA FOR THE ABOVE PERIOD, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO FURNISH FBIHQ ONLY ONE COPY OF THE FIRST PAGE OF ANY DOCUMENT IN THE UKA FILE WHICH HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN FURNISHED TO FBIHQ. ANY DOCUMENTS

66-2197-35
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ORIGINAL DOCUMENT FROM THE
NATIONAL ARCHIVES (NARA)

DATE 3/5/97 LSCA-AM

B. Plinson

PAGE TWO DE HQ 0081 UNCLAS

IN THE MEMPHIS UKA FILE WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN PREVIOUSLY FURNISHED TO FBIHQ, AND ANY OTHER DOCUMENTS REGARDING OTHER KLAN GROUPS ACTIVE DURING THAT PERIOD, SHOULD BE REPRODUCED IN THEIR ENTIRETY. ITEMS WHICH CANNOT BE READILY PHOTOCOPIED, SUCH AS PHOTOGRAPHS, MAGAZINES, OR OTHER BULKY ITEMS, SHOULD BE DESCRIBED IN THE COVER AIRTEL SUBMITTING THE MATERIAL TO FBIHQ.

MEMPHIS SHOULD FURNISH ONE LEGIBLE COPY OF EACH ITEM OUTLINED ABOVE. ALL MATERIAL SHOULD BE FORWARDED BY COVER AIRTEL TO FBIHQ, ATTENTION CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION, BY APRIL 12, 1978.

BT

0081

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ME66-2197-59

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FM DIRECTOR FBI (62-117290)

TO ALL FBI FIELD OFFICES ROUTINE

ALL FBI LEGAL ATTACHES ROUTINE

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)

RE BUTEL TO ALL FIELD OFFICES AND LEGAL ATTACHES DATED
NOVEMBER 24, 1976.

REFERENCED TELETYPE ADVISED IN PART THAT HSCA WAS CREATED
TO INVESTIGATE THE ASSASSINATION OF JOHN F. KENNEDY AND
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., AND THAT RECIPIENTS WERE TO BRING TO
THE ATTENTION OF FBI HEADQUARTERS (FBIHQ) ANY ATTEMPTS BY HSCA
STAFF MEMBERS TO INTERVIEW FBI PERSONNEL.

THE HSCA HAS INTENSIFIED ITS INVESTIGATION INTO BOTH
ASSASSINATION CASES, REVIEWING VOLUMINOUS FBI FILES INVOLVING
MANY ASPECTS OF OUR OPERATIONS. HSCA STAFF MEMBERS ARE CON-
DUCTING INTERVIEW OF CURRENT AND FORMER EMPLOYEES AND HAVE

66-31
ORIGINAL DOCUMENT SENT TO
NATIONAL ARCHIVES (JFKARCA)
DATE 8-15/94 JAL

66-2197-59

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FBI - MEMPHIS	
B. JOHNSON	

PAGE TWO DE HQ 0193 UNCLAS E F T O

TRAVELED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND ABROAD CONDUCTING INTERVIEWS OF MANY INDIVIDUALS. SOME OF THESE PERSONS ARE LIKELY TO BE PRESENT OR FORMER INFORMANTS AND CONFIDENTIAL SOURCES OF THE FBI WHO MAY BE SUBPOENAED TO TESTIFY BEFORE THE HSCA. BASED ON INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT FBIHQ, THE HSCA PLANS TO CONDUCT APPROXIMATELY 40 DAYS OF PUBLIC HEARINGS DURING FALL OF 1978 AND RELEASE OF ITS FINAL REPORT IS SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER, 1978.

RECIPIENTS ARE REMINDED TO PROMPTLY ADVISE FBIHQ CONCERNING ANY ATTEMPTS BY THE COMMITTEE TO OBTAIN INFORMATION THROUGH YOUR PERSONNEL, OR THROUGH YOUR PRESENT OR FORMER INFORMANTS AND CONFIDENTIAL SOURCES. INFORMATION SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE ATTENTION OF THE CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION.

BT

0193

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ME 66-2197-62

#BCA

For Informational Purposes Only

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : EACH SUPERVISOR AND SENIOR RA

DATE: 6/14/78

FROM : SAC, MEMPHIS (66-2197)

SUBJECT: HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS
(HSCA)

Re Bureau teletype to all Field Offices, dated 6/7/78.

Referenced teletype contained the following information:

The HSCA has intensified its investigation into both the assassination of President JOHN F. KENNEDY and MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. This investigation involves the reviewing of voluminous FBI files involving many aspects of FBI operations. HSCA staff members are conducting interviews of current and former employees and have traveled throughout the country and abroad conducting interviews of many individuals. Some of these persons are likely to be present or former informants and confidential sources of the FBI who may be subpoenaed to testify before the HSCA. Based on information available at FBIHQ the HSCA plans to conduct approximately 40 days of public hearings during the fall of 1978 and release of its final report is scheduled for December, 1978.

All Offices are reminded to promptly advise FBIHQ concerning any attempts by the committee to obtain information through office personnel, or through present or former informants and confidential sources. Information should be forwarded to the attention of the Congressional Inquiry Unit, Records Management Division.

- 1 - Each Supervisor
- 1 - Each Senior RA
- ① - 66-2197
- 1 - 66-31
- 1 - SC NELSON
- 1 - SC MOORE
- 1 - SC PECK
- 1 - SC CALK

1 - OSM BRADY

1 - AOSM SCHMEIDT

1 - AOSM SARTAIN

BJF:sad:GA

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
NATIONAL ARCHIVES
DATE 8/9/94

JUN 15 1978



5010-108

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

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ME 66-2197-
serials 19 thru 19B

HSCA

For Informational Purposes Only

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (66-2197)

DATE: 9/8/78

FROM : *[Signature]* ASAC RICHARD H. BLAY

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN F. KENNEDY, 11/22/63

Re ASAC, Memphis, telephone call to FBIHQ
Supervisor GEORGE FOSTER, 9/8/78.

In view of the nature of information contained in the letter from ANTHONY A. LAPHAM, General Counsel, Central Intelligence Agency, to SAC SWANSON, Knoxville, dated 8/24/78, the referenced call was made. It was decided in view of the limited information available in the above mentioned letter the FBI should interview Mr. NOBEL PEPPER to obtain the entire details concerning the allegation. Upon completion of this interview, and if deemed appropriate, an LHM should be prepared under the above caption and forwarded to the attention of the Congressional Inquiry Unit, FBIHQ. The letter from CIA should be incorporated in this LHM.

Be file 62-10960

RHB:jap
(2)
jap

Rec'd Nashville RA 9/15/78
to OVA
lead

Recently King 9/18/78 - No other information received who is Pepper? DZ King

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT SENT TO
NATIONAL ARCHIVES (NARA)
DATE *8/9/94 dca*
66-2197-79

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 10 1978	
FBI - MEMPHIS	
<i>KING OK</i>	

nashville



5010-108

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



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Post Office Box 10368
Knoxville, Tennessee 37919
August 30, 1978

Mr. Anthony A. Lapham
General Counsel
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Lapham:

Reference is made to your letter of August 24, 1978, wherein you refer to a telephone call from Mr. Nobel Pepper of Hermitage, Tennessee, on August 1, 1978, to CIA Headquarters.

Inasmuch as both Hermitage and Nashville, Tennessee, are in Davidson County, which is covered by the Memphis Office of the FBI, I have taken the liberty of forwarding your communication to Mr. Joseph Trimbach, Special Agent in Charge of the Memphis Division of the FBI.

If in the future you have any further information to furnish concerning this matter, please contact Mr. Trimbach of the Memphis FBI Office, 841 Clifford Davis Federal Building, Memphis, Tennessee, phone (901) 525-7373.

Sincerely,

Harold C. Swanson,
Special Agent in Charge

cc: SAC, Memphis

MEMPHIS DIVISION

For information of Memphis, no record of this communication is being retained in the Knoxville Office.

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT SENT TO
NATIONAL ARCHIVES (CPKARCA)
DATE 8/31/94 dcs

66-2197-79A

62-109060
Associating
Knoxville
11/22/63
ad camp, dngan
Knoxville
King
DK

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

24 August 1978

Harold C. Swanson
Special Agent in Charge,
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Room 800
1111 North Shore Drive
Knoxville, Tennessee 37919

Dear Mr. Swanson:

This report is sent to you pursuant to the requirements of Executive Order 12036 to report possible violations of Federal criminal law by any person.

On 1 August 1978 Mr. Nobel Pepper called CIA Headquarters requesting a meeting with an Agency representative to discuss information concerning the assassination of an alleged CIA agent in connection with the Warren Commission's investigation. Mr. Pepper refused to elaborate further but stated that he was an attorney with the law firm of Pepper and Hayes, 5181 Lebanon Road, Hermitage, Tennessee, and could be contacted by telephone (615 758-0425) if we wished to meet with him in the Nashville, Tennessee, area.

We have not had further contact with Mr. Pepper and believe this matter more properly falls within your investigative responsibilities. It would be appreciated if you would keep Mr. Edmund Cohen of my Office (703 351-6410) informed as your investigation proceeds.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT SENT TO
NATIONAL ARCHIVES (JFKARCA)
DATE 8/5/94 dca

Anthony A. Lapham
General Counsel

62-106-2197-798

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 28 1978	
FBI - KNOXVILLE	

King

Jofferson CASE

ASSASSINATION
President John F. Kennedy
11/23/63

Remex 62-0-106-2197-798

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Nashville

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The following materials were removed from this file and are maintained in the JFK Collection at NARA:

File & Serial Number

JFK Subject Identifier
(for NARA purposes)

ME 66-2197-
serials 82-11484

JSCN

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 10/3/78

Mr. NOBEL PEPPER, Attorney, Pepper and Hayes,
5181 Lebanon Road, Hermitage, Tennessee, telephone number
615-758-0425, furnished the following information:

PEPPER has a client that has "bad character" and is a "criminal type". The client is not one to talk needlessly and he believes the client to be truthful. He believes his client could "kill in a minute", and if the client said he were going to kill PEPPER, PEPPER would believe him. PEPPER stated he could in no way identify his client due to attorney/client privilege and because of the confidential relationship between he and his client. He did say his client's age is in the 50s.

Approximately two months ago, he cannot remember the date, he was in conversation with his client about attorney fees owed by the client to PEPPER. PEPPER was concerned about receiving fees owed him, and in conversation the client mentioned he may receive some money from a letter that may be sold to ex-Senator of Tennessee WILLIAM BROCK. The client then told PEPPER the following story:

The client told PEPPER an ex-CIA Agent had gotten in trouble and was in prison. While in prison, he wrote his wife a lengthy letter detailing unfavorable information concerning former President of the United States JACK KENNEDY and his brother BOBBY KENNEDY. He stated this letter reportedly had nothing to do with the assassination of either of the two men, but was unfavorable in that it contained information of "alleged excesses of the KENNEDYS". The client told him the letter would be "a skeleton in the closet of the KENNEDYS" and would be similar to the Watergate scandal. He stated the letter would document things that the KENNEDYS had done not generally known. The client stated the ex-CIA Agent died while in prison and hinted the CIA may have killed the inmate. The wife allegedly had placed the letter in a safe, but somehow entertainer in Nashville JERRY REED, and his friend, a promoter named BOATWRIGHT, and possibly PEPPER's client obtained the letter.

PEPPER stated the client indicated JERRY REED and

Investigation on 10/2/78 at Nashville, Tennessee File # Memphis 66-2197 - 82
by SA DONALD L. KING:sle *DLK* ORIGINAL DOCUMENT SENT TO 10/2/78
NATIONAL ARCHIVES (KARCA)
DATE 8/5/94 *da*

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.

ME 66-2197

BOATWRIGHT have been in contact with ex-Senator BROCK in an attempt to sell him the letter. PEPPER stated he did not know if BROCK was interested or not, but there was an implication by the client that BROCK was interested. It was his belief the client told him this to let him know he may be receiving money owed by the client.

PEPPER stated his memory of the details of the interview with his client are not clear. He was mainly concerned about being paid at the time and due to passage of time, he could not remember the details. He knew of no way to identify the ex-CIA Agent or wife. He again stated he heard nothing to suggest any information in the letter contained assassination information concerning the KENNEDYS. He did not know how or if his client was involved in the selling of the letter to ex-Senator BROCK, but the client did indicate he may receive some money from this. The letter was allegedly written in prison prior to the inmate's death, and allegedly JERRY REED and the promoter named BOATWRIGHT have the letter.

PEPPER stated he telephoned the CIA in Washington, D.C., concerning this matter, but they apparently were not interested. He stated his purpose in advising the CIA or the FBI was purely to pass on information that may or may not be helpful. He personally liked the KENNEDYS and would not like to see a scandal printed in the newspapers. He again emphasized he did not want to be embarrassed by his passing on information, and stated it was necessary for him to maintain his confidential relationship with his client and not divulge the client's name. He believes the letter allegedly held by JERRY REED and BOATWRIGHT could possibly damage the reputation of the KENNEDYS. He is not sure his client is involved, and it is possible that either BOATWRIGHT or REED may owe the client money and may intend to pay him money owed when they sell the letter.

Memphis, Tennessee
October 12, 1978

RE: INFORMATION FURNISHED BY NOBEL PEPPER,
ATTORNEY, HERMITAGE, TENNESSEE, ON
OCTOBER 2, 1978, REGARDING FORMER
PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY AND FORMER
ATTORNEY GENERAL ROBERT F. KENNEDY

By letter dated August 24, 1978, Anthony A. Lapham, General Counsel, Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), Washington, D. C., furnished Harold C. Swanson, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Knoxville, Tennessee, the following information:

On September 1, 1978, Mr. Nobel Pepper, an attorney with the law firm, Pepper and Hayes, 5181 Lebanon Road, Hermitage, Tennessee, called CIA Headquarters requesting a meeting with a representative of the CIA to discuss information concerning the assassination of an alleged CIA agent in connection with the Warren Commission's investigation. ✓

On October 2, 1978, Mr. Nobel Pepper furnished the following information to a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation at Nashville, Tennessee:

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5 - Bureau
① - Memphis (66-2197)
BFJ:cjs
(6) *CF*

66-2197-83

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT SENT TO
NATIONAL ARCHIVES (JFKARCA)
DATE 8/5/94 *dd*

nae
nae

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 10/3/78

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Investigation on 10/2/78 at Nashville, Tennessee File # Memphis 66-2197
by SA DONALD L. KING:sle 2 10/2/78
Date dictated

ME 66-2197

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10/12/78

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
ATTN: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT,
RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (66-2197) (C)

SUBJECT: INFORMATION FURNISHED BY NOBEL PEPPER,
ATTORNEY, HERMITAGE, TENNESSEE, ON
10/2/78, REGARDING FORMER PRESIDENT
JOHN F. KENNEDY AND FORMER ATTORNEY
GENERAL ROBERT F. KENNEDY

Re Memphis telephone call to Bureau 9/8/78.

Enclosed for the Bureau are original and 4 copies
of an LHM dated and captioned as above.

In the letter dated 8/24/78, sent by ANTHONY A.
LAPHAM, General Counsel, Central Intelligence Agency (CIA),
Washington, D. C., to the Knoxville Office, FBI, Mr. LAPHAM
requested that Mr. EDMUND COHEN of the General Counsel's
Office, CIA, Washington, D. C., telephone 703-35146410, be
informed of the investigation conducted by the FBI. Mr.
LAPHAM stated CIA had no further contact with PEPPER and this
matter more properly falls within the FBI's responsibilities
than within that of CIA.

No further action is contemplated by the Memphis
Office, UACB.

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT SENT TO
NATIONAL ARCHIVES (NPKARCA)
DATE 8/5/94 dcl
66-2197-84

2 - Bureau (Encs. 5)
1 - Memphis

BFJ:cjs
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(for NARA purposes)

ME 66-2197-94

HSCA

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12/27/78

SAC, MEMPHIS (66-2197) (C)

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)

DIRECTOR, FBI (62-117290)
ATTN: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT

A review of the Memphis file on captioned matter revealed no outstanding leads or other work to perform. In view of this, the Memphis Office is placing this case in a closed status.

2 - Bureau
① - Memphis

BRJ:cjs
(3)

ef

Chavez
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1/2

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT SENT TO
NATIONAL ARCHIVES (JFKARCA)
DATE 8/5/94 dck

66-2197-94

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mtj