



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

February 4, 1964

Honorable J. Lee Rankin

Mr. Malley again contacted Chief Curry at 12:50 p.m. on November 27, 1963, and brought to his attention the President's concern over the publicity that was still being released. Chief Curry advised that he was not making any press releases of any kind, that he had specifically requested individuals in his Department to refrain from making comments to the press, but was having difficulty in controlling this phase of the Police Department's activities. Chief Curry assured Mr. Malley that he would make every effort to see that no comments were made and said that he personally had not made any comments since this matter had been discussed with him on Sunday, November 24, 1963.

Sincerely yours,

Honorable J. Lee Rankin  
General Counsel  
The President's Commission  
200 Maryland Avenue, N. E.  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Rankin:

Reference is made to my letter of February 3, 1964, setting forth information concerning a slip of paper bearing four telephone numbers which was found in one of the pockets of the trousers worn by Oswald at the time he was shot by Jack Ruby. Inquiry concerning this matter has been made by our Dallas Office and the following information is submitted:

Captain J. W. Fritz, Homicide and Robbery Bureau, Dallas, Texas, Police Department, advised that Oswald requested permission to call Attorney John Abt in New York City but did not have his telephone number. Captain Fritz told Oswald he could call collect and that he would have to give the operator the name of the person he wanted without the number and it being an attorney in New York, the operator would locate Abt and furnish the telephone number to him. Captain Fritz also told Oswald the operator would want to know the number he was calling from. In this connection, it is noted the telephone number RI 8-9711 appears on the dial of the telephone in the jail and this was one of the four numbers on the piece of paper found in Oswald's trousers.

Captain Fritz advised that when Oswald was permitted to use the telephone, one of the jail officers, Jim Poppelwell, took Oswald from his cell to the phone and Oswald tried to call his attorney collect. He obtained the telephone number from the operator and Oswald then commented he could not recall the number and asked Poppelwell to get him paper and a pencil in order to write the number down. Captain Fritz stated that the calling of an attorney and the furnishing of a pencil and paper to the prisoner to write were all within the regulations of the city jail.

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Officer Poppelwell advised he tore off a small piece of paper from the corner of what is called a Telephone Contact Slip and, after receiving permission from his superior officer, furnished the piece of paper and pencil to Oswald so Oswald could write down the telephone number. Poppelwell advised that Oswald again attempted to call Abt but was unable to get the call through. He states he later took Oswald to the phone again and Oswald made two or three attempts to call. He states he does not know if the calls were completed or the identity of the person Oswald was trying to call. The police department kept no records of the numbers Oswald tried to call. Captain Fritz advised that the following morning, November 23, 1963, he talked with Oswald and inquired if Oswald had made his call. Oswald told Captain Fritz he had been allowed to make the call but had been unable to contact Attorney Abt. With reference to the piece of paper furnished by Officer Poppelwell to Oswald, it is noted this paper was two and one-fourth inches long by one and a quarter inches wide and that two telephone numbers were written down each side.

Our New York Office has advised that the office address for Attorney John J. Abt is 320 Broadway, New York City, the same address as the law firm of David Freedman and Abraham Unger. The telephone number for the law firm of Freedman and Unger is CO 7-3110 and this same telephone number is listed in the New York telephone directory for John J. Abt.

It is noted that the telephone number AC 2-4611, which appeared on the slip of paper in Oswald's trousers, is listed to Attorney John J. Abt, 444 Central Park West, New York City.

Telephone number RI 8-9711 is the general telephone number for the City of Dallas, Texas, and it is noted Captain Fritz states that this number appears on the dial of the telephone which was utilized by Oswald in making his calls.

The reason why the telephone number OR 9-9450, the number for "The Worker," 23 West 26th Street, New York City (East Coast Communist Party newspaper), appears on this slip of paper is not known. The possibility exists that the operator, at Oswald's request or on her own initiative, may have attempted to reach Attorney Abt at this number.

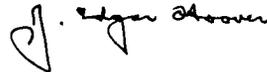
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COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2073—Continued

Honorable J. Lee Rankin

The foregoing is submitted to you for your assistance in the inquiry you are conducting.

Sincerely yours,



COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2073—Continued