



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

January 17, 1964

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

Dear Mr. Rankin:

For your information, on January 4, 1964, I received a telegram from Attorney Clyde J. Watts of 219 Couch Drive, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, in which Mr. Watts stated as attorney for retired General Edwin A. Walker, he was requesting the FBI to officially confirm or deny news reports that Lee Harvey Oswald confessed to his wife that he attempted to murder Walker on April 10, 1963. He also desired the FBI to furnish a transcript of all evidence and information pertinent to the alleged attempt by Oswald so that appropriate action could be taken to protect the general.

Mr. Watts and Attorney A. V. Grant of St. Jo, Texas, initially contacted our Dallas Office on December 7, 1963, and indicated they were representing General Walker. Watts stated that aside from being Walker's legal representative he was also a very close personal friend. Watts was of the opinion that there had been an official leak somewhere concerning the disclosure that Marina Oswald had stated her husband was responsible for the attempt on General Walker's life. At this time, the attorneys were advised the FBI had made no such disclosure.

Watts stated he was not asking for information but asked that any information developed relating to Walker's safety be furnished to Walker or the Dallas Police Department. Watts was, of course, advised any such information received would be handled in the same manner as a threat against any individual in that the FBI would promptly advise not only the individual but appropriate local authorities.

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Watts concluded by stating he was considering an interview with Marina Oswald as it might aid him in his efforts to protect Walker. He was told whatever decision he made in this matter was entirely up to him and we would not suggest or recommend any course of action.

Of possible interest, immediately following the attempted murder of Walker in April, 1963, our Dallas Office discussed the case with the Dallas Police Department and volunteered to forward the bullet recovered from Walker's home to the FBI Laboratory for examination; however, no such request was ever made. During the course of our current investigation into the assassination of President Kennedy and prior to the interview of Mrs. Oswald on December 3, 1963, wherein she indicated her husband may have been responsible for the shooting at Walker, the possibility that Oswald may have fired at Walker was considered. Our Dallas Office, therefore, on the weekend of November 30, 1963, requested the Dallas Police Department to make available the recovered bullet for examination by the Laboratory. On December 2, 1963, the bullet was forwarded to our Laboratory where it was examined. This examination revealed that the distorted and mutilated bullet had the same general characteristics of bullets from the rifle used by Oswald in the assassination of President Kennedy. However, it was not possible to definitely establish whether or not the recovered bullet was fired from Oswald's gun.

The files of the Dallas Police Department relating to the investigation of the Walker shooting disclose that General Walker reported that at approximately 9:00 p. m., on April 10, 1963, while sitting at his desk in his Dallas residence, a shot was fired above his head into his home. The only suspect developed by the Dallas Police Department in this matter was one William MacEwan Duff who had been employed in some capacity by General Walker or his staff. He was selected primarily because he was considered to be a "con man." After a polygraph examination was given to him by the Dallas Police Department and after they conducted other investigation, Duff was absolved by the Dallas Police Department of involvement in this crime.

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Immigration and Naturalization Service records disclose that Duff was born on November 4, 1931, in Scotland and entered the United States in 1957. He has been characterized as a "con man" and "no good." So far in our investigation of the assassination, only one individual, a Dallas lunchroom proprietor, has linked Oswald with Duff in approximately April or May, 1963, as having frequented this lunchroom on one occasion. It should be pointed out that six other individuals who had intimate knowledge of Duff were unable to connect Oswald with Duff. Further, our investigation discloses that during the above period Oswald is known to have been in Dallas, Texas, until April, 1963; however, from late April, 1963, to September, 1963, he was in New Orleans, Louisiana.

On January 8, 1964, Attorney Watts was personally contacted by an Agent from our Oklahoma City Office at which time his January 4, 1964, telegram to me was acknowledged. He was told the results of the FBI investigation into Oswald's activities have been furnished to the President's Commission and we are not in a position to divulge such information to him. It was again reiterated that should any information be received relative to the safety of General Walker it would be promptly furnished to the General and to appropriate law enforcement authorities.

Watts at this time indicated he might possibly communicate with the President's Commission in an effort to obtain the information requested from the FBI.

In addition, Watts advised that shortly after the attempt on General Walker's life he hired two private investigators to look into the incident and they developed one Bill Duff of Dallas as a suspect. Duff, according to Watts, had been employed in some capacity by Walker or his staff. The private investigators were unable to develop any information linking Duff with the Walker shooting and turned over the results of their investigation to the Dallas Police Department. Watts stated he was furnishing this information as a possible link between Duff and Oswald.

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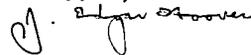
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We have been endeavoring to locate William MacEwan Duff, the suspect absolved by the Dallas Police Department, for interview. Information developed to date on this individual indicates he remained in Dallas, Texas, until October, 1963, when he was last reported to be en route to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, by bus.

We will continue our efforts to locate Duff, an alien, for interview, and when this is accomplished you will be advised.

Sincerely yours,



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