

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

February 28, 1964

BY COURIER SERVICE

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 dated February 19, 1964, which reported that Marina Oswald had expressed the belief that she took the photograph of Lee Harvey Oswald with the rifle and pistol using her husband's American camera. She described the camera as grayish in color, something like aluminum.

On February 24, 1964, Mr. Robert Lee Oswald, brother of Lee, furnished to a Special Agent of the Dallas Office of this Bureau a Duo-lens Imperial reflex camera which he stated was the property of Lee. This camera is aluminum colored, uses roll film, number 620, has a matching gray plastic carrying strap and is equipped for use with a flash attachment. Robert advised that he obtained this camera from the residence of Mrs. Ruth Paine, Irving, Texas, in December, 1963. At that time it did not contain film. He advised that this camera was purchased by Lee in about 1957 and Lee subsequently left it with Robert in about 1959 when Lee went to Russia. After Lee returned from Russia, he regained possession of this camera and, as far as Robert is aware, retained possession of it until his death. Robert stated that, although this camera is equipped for use with a flash attachment, he had no knowledge that Lee had such an attachment.

On February 25, 1964, this camera was displayed to Marina Oswald and she immediately identified it as the American camera which belonged to her husband and the one which she used to take the photograph of him with the rifle and the pistol.

Honorable J. Lee Rankin

On February 24, 1964, Robert also made available to a Special Agent of this Bureau an Eastman Baby Brownie box camera which is currently in an inoperable condition. According to Robert, this camera also belonged to Lee and Robert first saw it in about 1953 in New York City when Robert visited his mother at her home in New York City. Robert last saw this camera in about 1958 when Lee gave it to Robert's daughter Cathy. To the best of Robert's knowledge, Lee did not have this letter camera in his possession subsequent to 1958.

Both of the above-mentioned cameras will be retained by this Bureau along with the other items of evidence in this case.

Sincerely yours,