

Department of the Treasury
Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration
Forensic Science Laboratory
12119 Indian Creek Court
Beltsville, MD 20705



Department of Justice
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
National Laboratory Center, Forensic Science Laboratory
6000 Ammendale Road
Ammendale, Maryland 20705



Statement of Findings

Date: May 27, 2011
Re: H. R. Haldeman Notes

Introduction

On December 11, 2009 and January 13, 2010, representatives from the National Archives and Records Administration hand-delivered handwritten notes of H. R. Haldeman to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration Forensic Science Laboratory¹. The notes were examined by Forensic Document Examiners from the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration Forensic Science Laboratory and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, National Laboratory Center, Forensic Science Laboratory².

Inventory of Documents Examined

Government Exhibit 61, U. S. District Court for the District of Columbia Miscellaneous Case 47-73.

Document dated 6/20, beginning "11:30 EOB" [2 pages].

Richard Nixon Presidential Library / White House Special Files / Staff Member and Office Files / H. R. Haldeman / Haldeman Notes / H Notes / Box 45 / Folder 4: April-June 1972 [May 9, 1972-June 30, 1972] Part II.

Document dated 6/19, beginning "phone KB" [1 page].

Document dated 6/19, beginning "11:30 KB" [3 pages].

Document dated 6/19, beginning "Shakespeare-Saigon phone to AF1" [2 pages].

¹ Custody of the evidence was never transferred to laboratory personnel. Representatives of the National Archives and Records Administration maintained custody of the documents at all times.

² Both laboratories maintain accreditation by the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD/LAB) and both examiners are Certified by the American Board of Forensic Document Examiners (ABFDE).

Document dated 6/19, beginning "AF1 to DC" [1 page].

Document dated 6/21, beginning "Be sure S. is with Burns" [2 pages; document withdrawal N5 / 173].

Document dated 6/21, beginning "13:30 D econom grp Mon" [3 pages].

Document dated 6/22, beginning "09:30 re the Dem bugging" [3 pages; document withdrawal N6 / 175].

Document dated 6/22, beginning "Press Conference - Oval Office" [6 pages].

Document dated 6/22, beginning "16:30 tell Laird to take pressure off of beef" [1 page].

Methodology of Examination

Government Exhibit 61 was examined with oblique light sources and two electrostatic detection devices³. Various methods were employed including conducting the examination with humidified and non-humidified documents, and using both cascade developer and toner application devices⁴.

A handwriting comparison was conducted to determine whether or not the handwritten notes were written by a common author. Standard procedures for handwriting comparison within the field of forensic document examination were followed. The individualizing characteristics and significant features of the handwriting were analyzed, compared, and evaluated. The comparison involved an evaluation of the similarities and differences of the individualizing characteristics and their significance individually and in combination.⁵

A nondestructive optical examination was conducted using a Video Spectral Comparator⁶. The ultraviolet fluorescence, infrared absorption, and infrared luminescence properties of the ink samples were observed and evaluated⁷.

It should be noted that excessive handling and the various forms and quality of custodial care may be a limiting factor in the results of the ESDA examinations. No other limitations were noted in any of the examinations.

Results of the Examination

There were no decipherable impressions recovered from the documents examined using either oblique light sources or the electrostatic detection devices that were not specifically associated with the various texts; with the exception of Page 2 of Exhibit 61 which contained an indented entry at angle to the written text, possibly a signature or handwriting. However, this entry could not be deciphered or the source of the impressions determined.

³ The Electrostatic Detection Apparatus (ESDA) were a Foster & Freeman ESDA2 belonging to the TIGTA FSL and a Foster & Freeman ESDA belonging to ATF FSL.

⁴ ASTM E2291-03, "Standard Guide for Indentation Examinations."

⁵ ASTM E2290-07a "Standard Guide for Examination of Handwritten Items."

⁶ Foster & Freeman Video Spectral Comparator 6000 (VSC) belonging to the TIGTA FSL.

⁷ ASTM E1422-05 "Standard Guide for Test Methods for Forensic Writing Ink Comparison."

The body of the handwritten notes examined was identified as having been written by a common author⁸.

There are optical differences in the ink samples used to write the date "6/20" in the upper left corner of Exhibit 61 in comparison to the handwritten text appearing on the document.

There are optical differences in the ink samples used to write the numeral "2" in the upper left corner of page 2 of Exhibit 61 in comparison to the handwritten text appearing on the document.

There are optical differences in the ink samples used to write the date "6/22" the upper left corner of the document beginning "09:30 re Dem bugging" in comparison to the handwritten text appearing on the document.

Remarks

The document dated 6/21, beginning "Be sure S. is with Burns" [2 pages; document withdrawal N5 / 173] was processed with the ESDA because these were the subsequent pages after Government Exhibit 61 and were deemed of possible probative value.

Robert W. Lesnevich, Esq., Diplomate-ABFDE
Lead Forensic Document Examiner
Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration
Forensic Science Laboratory

Rick Johnson, BS, MFS, Diplomate-ABFDE
Senior Forensic Document Examiner
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and
Explosives, Forensic Science Laboratory

⁸ ASTM E1658-08 "Standard Terminology for Expressing Conclusions of Forensic Document Examiners."