

**JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1.

Date of transcription 10/2/80

Jerry Ray James (PROTECT IDENTITY) advised that in a recent conversation with fellow inmate Travis Irwin on Wednesday, September 24, 1980, as well as Saturday, September 27, 1980, Irwin advised James that he (Irwin) had spoken to Jimmy Chagra on September 23 and 24, 1980. At that time Chagra told Travis Irwin that Charlie Harrelson was currently in custody at Houston, Texas, and Harrelson had previously written a note allegedly admitting that he (Harrelson) was responsible for the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, as well as the murder of Judge Wood. In addition, the note was alleged to have stated that while Harrelson personally and solely assassinated Kennedy, he assisted Larry Culbreath in the murder of Judge Wood and Culbreath actually fired the weapon killing the Judge but Harrelson had planned the "hit" and received payment for this contract.

Jimmy Chagra had related these facts to Irwin shortly after Joe Chagra had visited Jimmy at Leavenworth on September 23, 1980. Joe Chagra had also stated that the "note" was currently in the possession of law enforcement officers and that he (Joe) had a "contact" with one of these officers and was thus able to find out the contents of the alleged note. The note was supposedly recovered from Harrelson's personal effects subsequent to his arrest in early September, 1980.

Jimmy Chagra also advised Irwin that the final payment on the \$200,000 assassination fee had just been made to Harrelson in the last two or three months at El Paso, Texas. This money had been paid Harrelson but the exact amount of the balance payment was unknown by Irwin or James.

In conversation with Irwin, James has been able to determine the facts concerning Jimmy Chagra and his relationship with Charlie Harrelson. According to Irwin, Jimmy Chagra first met Charlie Harrelson when both were gambling, perhaps poker, at Las Vegas, Nevada, just before Judge Wood was killed in May, 1979. As a result of this meeting in May, 1979, a "contract" was given to Charlie Harrelson by Jimmy Chagra against the life of Judge Wood. James did not exactly know how Irwin came to know these facts but believes Jimmy Chagra had told Irwin.

Investigation on 9/30/80 at Leavenworth, Kansas File # Kansas City 89-319-SUB B-108

by SA Michael P. Shanahan Date dictated 10/2/80

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In conversation between Travis Irwin and Jerry Ray James, both have discussed the facts which Jimmy Chagra has told them concerning the murder of Judge Wood. It is the conclusion of both Irwin and James that Jimmy Chagra is truthful when he stated that he was responsible for the death of Judge Wood; however, Travis Irwin doubts the truthfulness of Harrelson's statements that Larry Culbreath was the "trigger man" at the murder of Judge Wood. Irwin has stated to James that he knows "everything Larry Culbreath has done in his life," and Irwin stated that Culbreath has denied any participation in the Wood murder and Irwin is confident that if in fact he (Culbreath) were involved, Irwin would have known of it by now. James stated that he trusts Irwin's statements regarding Culbreath and Irwin thinks of James as a "god" and "looks up to James", and would not withhold anything from him. James advised Irwin and Culbreath had grown up together in Texas and have been friends in excess of twenty years.

Irwin had also determined from either Jimmy Chagra or Culbreath himself that Culbreath was arrested either the day after or two days after the Wood murder while Culbreath was driving Harrelson's car from San Antonio to Pleasanton, Texas. James did not know the nature of the arrest and only that it occurred between San Antonio and Pleasanton, Texas. Irwin has also related to James that just prior to James' arrival at Leavenworth in June, 1980, Jimmy Chagra had told him (Irwin) that Harrelson was "good, real good at doing his job." Since this statement was related to James in the context of comments about the murder of Judge Wood, it was mutually understood by James and Irwin that Jimmy Chagra's statement had reference to Harrelson's ability to "fill contracts", e.g. murder for hire.

With regard to Jimmy Chagra's solicitation of Jerry Ray James to procure six or eight individuals to smuggle marijuana into the United States, as well as the murder of a former witness against Chagra, James is firmly convinced that if he refused to locate the individuals for either "job" for Jimmy Chagra, Jimmy would reach out and find someone else to do the work.

James advised that while "B" and "D" cellblocks are separate from each other, inmates are allowed to see each other in the common area of the main building from 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. each day. Located in this common area are such facilities as the barbership, pool hall, and card rooms. Travis Irwin would see and talk to Jimmy Chagra generally in the pool hall area since Irwin has a cell in "D" cellblock.

James could not offer any explanation as to why Joe Chagra would be attempting to secure a bond for Harrelson since Chagras had routinely utilized Vic Apodaca as their bondsman; however, Apodaca is currently in "serious trouble" with IRS and is under indictment. James stated that Jimmy Chagra had given Apodaca a sizeable amount of jewelry to secure his bond in his last drug case. Jimmy Chagra later replaced the jewelry with \$500,000 cash and eventually "skipped" bond and was a federal fugitive.

James also stated that the Warden at Leavenworth saw a friend of James in the hallway and told him that Jimmy Chagra would be transferred to "D" cellblock.

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Investigation on 9/30/80 at Leavenworth, Kansas File # Kansas City 89-319-SUB B
 by SA Michael P. Shanahan:aa Date dictated 10/2/80

89B-250-Sub 1-5344

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