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COMMENTS : With attached copies of photographs and a affidavit from Mary Traynor (Hunt's maid).Box 3.

C.R.
Fate
Hunt

COMMISSION ON CIA ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE UNITED STATES
Washington, DC 20500

Nelson A. Rockefeller,
Chairman

John T. Connor
C. Douglas Dillon
Erwin N. Griswold
Lane Kirkland
Lyman L. Lemnitzer
Ronald Reagan
Edgar F. Shannon, Jr.

David W. Belin,
Executive Director

April 2, 1975

[Phone: 456-2767]

Mr. James A. Wilderotter
Associate Deputy Attorney General
Department of Justice
10th & Constitution Avenue
Washington, D. C. 20530

Dear Mr. Wilderotter:

As you know, we have been checking on certain allegations that the CIA was a conspirator in the assassination of President Kennedy. We have talked to Agent Shaneyfelt of the FBI and have received a summary Bureau report on its investigation to date into such allegations. We now request certain additional assistance from the Bureau as follows:


1. We enclose an additional 21 photographs of E. Howard Hunt, reportedly taken during the period 1957-1966. In addition, we expect to be able to send to you very shortly additional photographs of Frank Sturgis, taken in the early 1960's. We would like to have a thorough examination made to compare these photos of Hunt and Sturgis with the photos which the Bureau already has on file and which were taken in Dallas on November 22, 1963, as certain "derelicts" were being accompanied to the Dallas Police Department.
2. We have learned that E. Howard Hunt is approximately 5 feet 9 inches tall, and that Frank Sturgis is approximately 5 feet 11 inches tall. We would like to have on-site measurements and photographs taken at one or more of the scenes in Dallas shown on the November 22, 1963, photos to determine if the persons shown in those photos are persons of heights similar or dissimilar to Hunt and Sturgis.

3. When the foregoing has been completed, we will want to take a statement from Agent Shaneyfelt and such other Bureau personnel as may be involved in the making of these investigations.

The enclosed photographs are the personal property of E. Howard Hunt. Copies should be made and the photos returned to us for eventual return to Mr. Hunt. The same will hold true for the forthcoming photos of Mr. Sturgis.

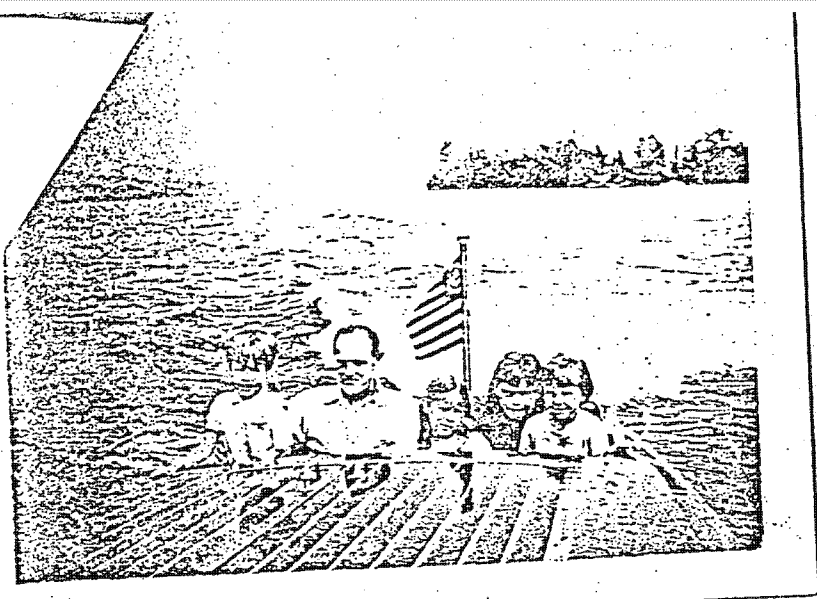
Because our time is running very short, we ask that this request be expedited with the greatest possible speed. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

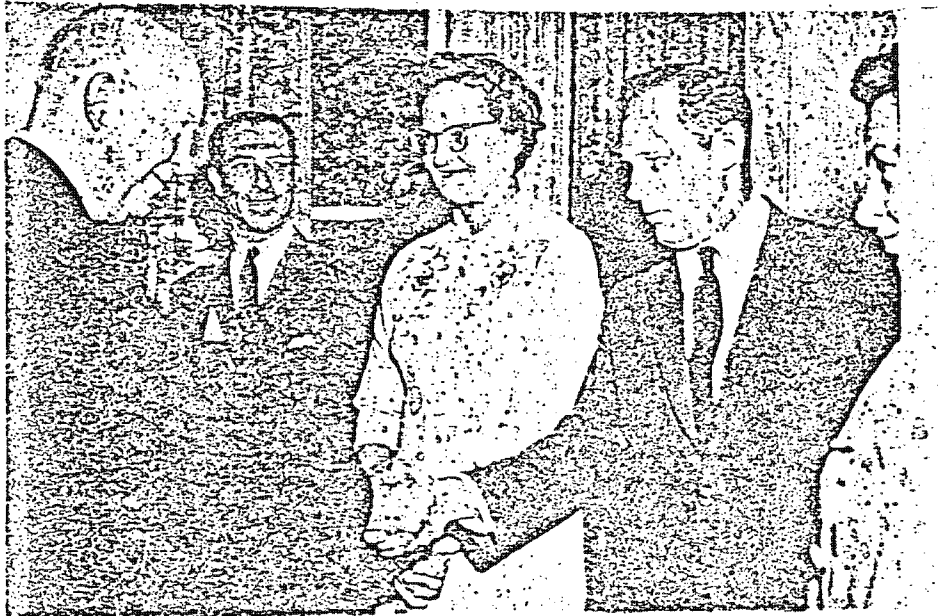


Robert B. Olsen
Senior Counsel

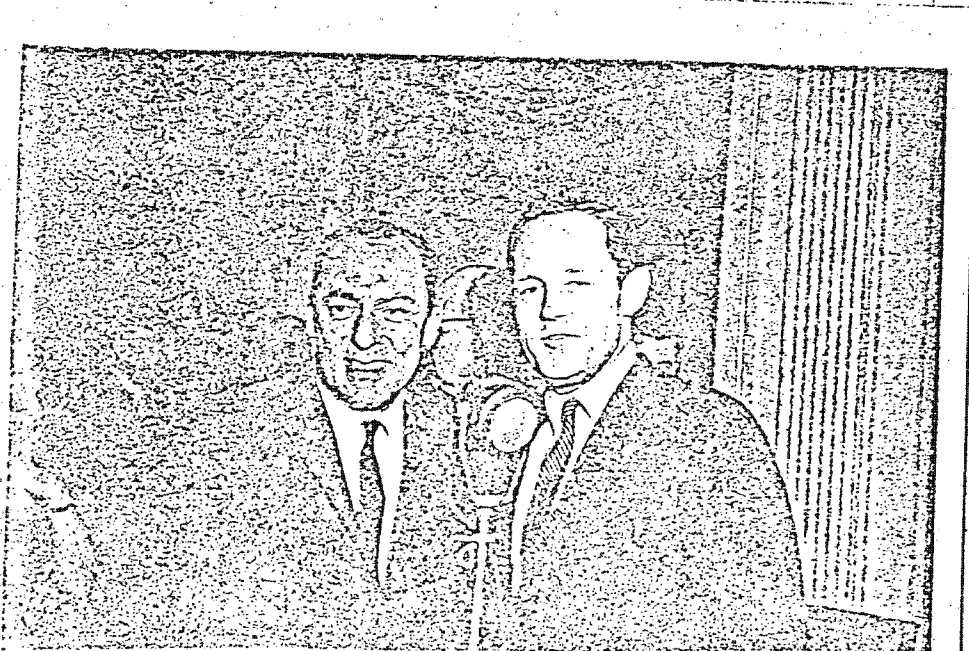
Enclosures: 21 Photos (with notes
on back)



65



A H meeting
Ike in
Montevideo
March '60

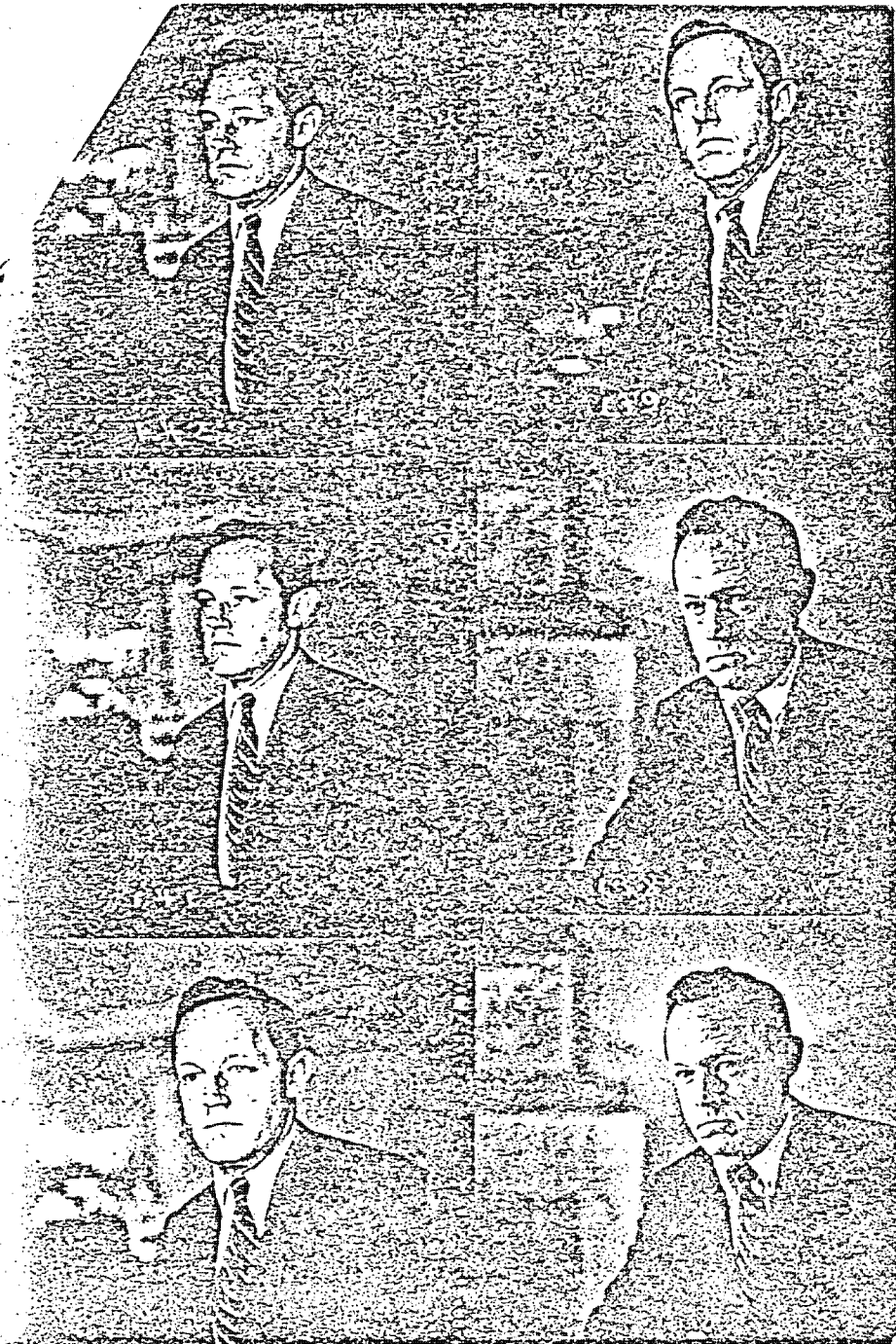


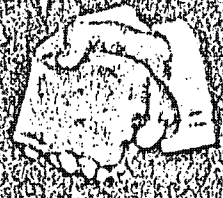
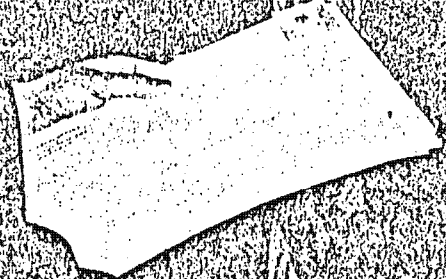
69

Nov 16



NOV 16





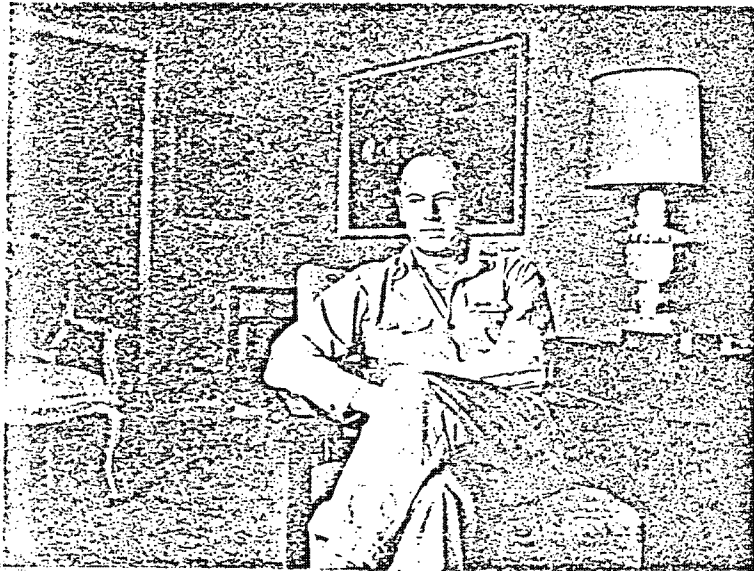




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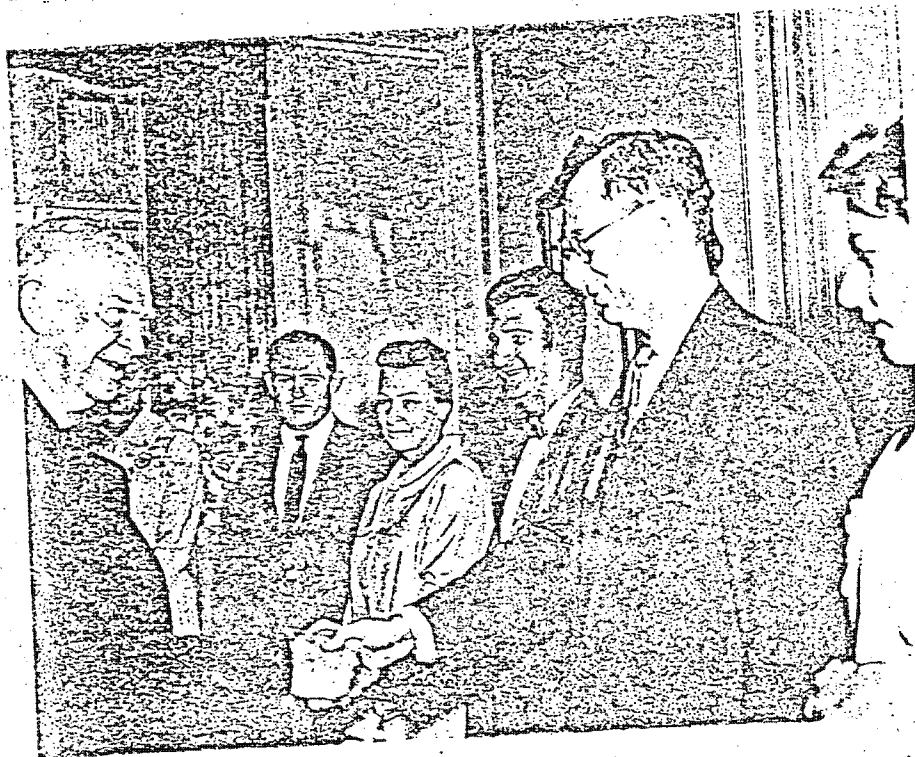
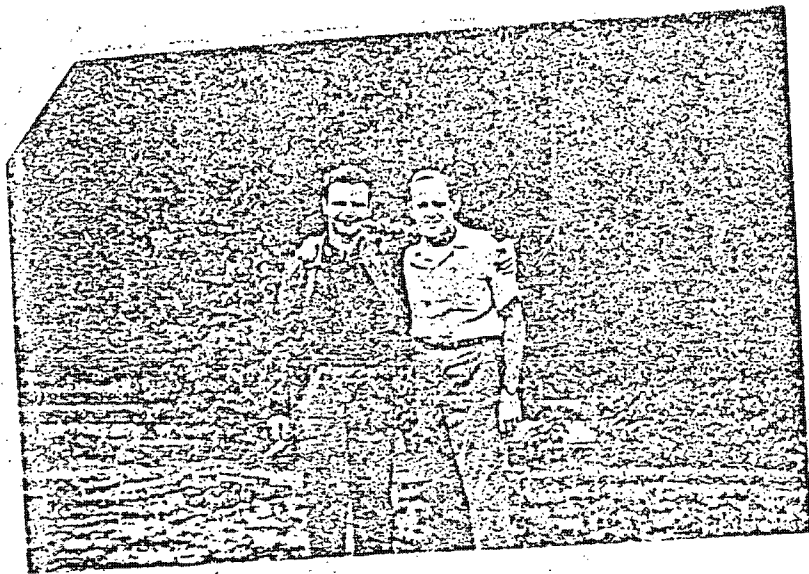
Papa + St. John
1963



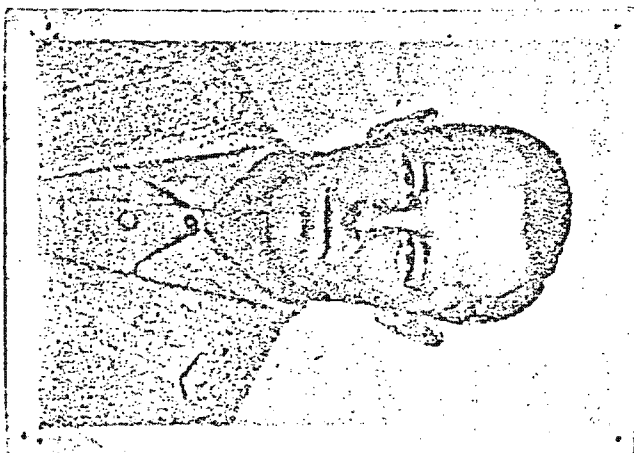
'66 or '67



Jan 57



March
1960



1957



AFFIDAVIT OF

MARY TRAYNER

I, Mary Trayner, being duly sworn, say:

1. I reside at 4806 DeRussey Parkway, Chevy Chase, Maryland 20015, where I am a housekeeper.

2. On November 22, 1963, I was employed as a housekeeper by Mr. and Mrs. E. Howard Hunt, who then lived on Baltan Road in Sumner, Maryland with their four children.

3. On that date Mrs. Hunt's now deceased Aunt Leonie (whose last name I cannot recall) was visiting the Hunts as a house guest for a few days. She lived in Chicago. It may have been because of the aunt's visit or a "Teachers' Day" holiday that the children were all home from school in the early afternoon of that Friday.

4. Mr. Hunt was home as well. He was writing a book and spent a good deal of time in the house. Mrs. Hunt was home, too, and planned - with her aunt - to treat the three older children to a movie matinee.

5. Mrs. Hunt worked part-time at the Spanish Embassy where one of her close associates was Veronica Moppet, who has since married and departed the Embassy.

6. At about 2:15 P.M. as the two women and three children were preparing to go downtown to the matinee, Veronica Moppet telephoned Mrs. Hunt to report that President Kennedy had been shot. I remember that all of us, including Mr. and Mrs. Hunt, stood and stared at each other. I ran next door to ask the neighbors what had happened. A neighbor suggested I turn on the radio. When I went back in the Hunt's house, Mr. Hunt was turning on the TV set.

7. The first thing we heard on the TV was a newsman saying that it was now 45 minutes since the shot had been fired and they still did not know how badly the President had been injured.

Mrs DREXLER M.T.
↓

8. Mr. and Mrs. Hunt, Aunt Leonie, the three older Hunt children and I spent the rest of the day and that evening in the house watching TV reports. I remember, for instance, viewing the return to Washington of Mrs. Jackie Kennedy.

9. The preceding statements given by me are given freely and voluntarily without any pressure or influence being placed upon me by any member of the staff of the Commission on CIA Activities Within the United States or any other person.

Executed this 15 day of March 1975

Mary Trayner

Mary Trayner

State of Washington
County of King, to wit:

Sworn and subscribed to before me this 15 day of March, 1975

David Kelle
Notary Public

Oct 31-1976

006565

RECEIVED

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

10. I have no diaries, or other memorabilia prior to 1969, having destroyed as many outdated files and records as possible to save weight in the move to my Florida home in July, 1974. I retained only such records, bank statements, etc. as are required by the 5-year Internal Revenue Service for income tax purposes.

State of Florida)
County of Dade)

E. Howard Hunt
E. Howard Hunt

Sworn and subscribed before me this 10th day of March of 1975. -----

Allen C. [Signature]
Notary

Notary Public State of Florida at Large
My Commission Expires June 16, 1978.

My Commission expires:

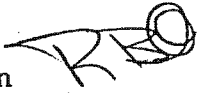
COMMISSION ON CIA ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE UNITED STATES

Washington, DC 20500

March 10, 1975

SECRET/SENSITIVE

MEMORANDUM FOR: FILE

FROM: Robert B. Olsen 

SUBJECT: Telephone Interview with E. Howard Hunt
on March 7, 1975

I called Mr. Hunt at his residence in Miami, Florida, after first clearing the matter with his attorney, Mr. Snyder, of Baltimore.

I asked Mr. Hunt about the apparent inconsistency between his description to us of the circumstances under which he heard about the assassination of President Kennedy on November 22, 1963, and the letter from a former family maid, Mary Traynor. In particular, I called his attention to the fact that Mrs. Traynor, in her letter, advises that Mr. and Mrs. Hunt were at home when word of the assassination came in a telephone call from Veronica Moppett. This is inconsistent with Mr. Hunt's statement that he and Mrs. Hunt heard about the assassination on the car radio while they were in downtown Washington, D. C. Mr. Hunt stated that Mary Traynor seems to be in error. He says that it is entirely possible that there was such a call from Veronica Moppett, although he does not remember it. He says that a lot of people were calling each other with the news about the shooting of the President. He says it is also possible that this was the manner in which Mary Traynor heard about the shooting and that she is simply in error in her recollection that the Hunts were then at home.

Hunt stated that he thinks that the Sidwell Friends School dismissed classes for the day at 3:15 pm or 3:30 pm. He says it is possible that the school was dismissed earlier on the day of the assassination but he does not know for sure. He acknowledges that he and Mrs. Hunt would not have known about an earlier dismissal of classes in time to pick up Kevan unless Mrs. Hunt had called the school while they were enroute from downtown Washington, D. C. He does not recall making such a call himself, and he does not recall his wife making one. If classes let out at the normal time, he and Mrs. Hunt would have arrived at home, with their daughter Kevan, at about 3:30 or 3:45 pm.

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He states that, as he recalls it, there was some delay between the time of the death of the President and the time it was made public on radio and television. He does not recall whether the death of the President had been announced by the time he and Mrs. Hunt arrived at home and he turned on the television set. [The President was pronounced dead at 2:00 pm, Eastern Standard Time. The exact time when the death was announced on radio or television has not been checked out.]

He recalls that when he was watching T.V. with his family after arriving at home, either Huntley or Brinkley made some statement to the effect that the assassination was an outgrowth of the hatred of far Right groups which was much in evidence in Dallas, as had been shown by a recent incident involving some one spitting into the face of Adlai Stevenson. The implication made by Huntley or Brinkley was that the assassination had been accomplished by some one from the far Right Wing. This was before anything was known about the actual assassin. Hunt remembers commenting to his family that it was just like Huntley or Brinkley to jump to the conclusion that the shooting had been by a Right Winger before any evidence was available concerning the assassin.

Mr. Hunt will give us a detailed affidavit covering his non-involvement in the various assassinations. He states that he hopes to be able to avoid another trip back to Washington because he wants to spend as much time as possible with his eleven-year old daughter, who is very anxious about her father's impending imprisonment.

Mr. Hunt states that he hopes to be assigned to a minimum security federal prison in Florida when he reports on March 25.

With respect to the late-night television program on the evening of March 6, 1975, on ABC TV, Hunt states that he recorded the program on tape. It was an interview of Dick Gregory, Ralph Schoenman, and one of their companions. None of the above mentioned Hunt's name or that of Sturgis on the program. He describes the interviewer pressing Dick Gregory on whether he claims that the CIA was involved in the assassination of President Kennedy and Gregory responding that they were not stating that as a fact, but only that if there was any chance of CIA involvement, then the President's Commission should investigate it. Gregory and his companions showed the Zapruder film and the major thrust of the program was an emphasis on the snapping back of the President's head at the time of the fatal shot. One of the interviewees (I believe he said it was Schoenman) stated that they did not really expect much from Olsen at the CIA Commission, but that they were going to "keep embarrassing him with the facts."

Mr. Hunt feels that the press should give some publicity to Schoenman's background with the Bertrand Russell Foundation.

RBO/vmr

CC: D.Belin

Senior Counsels

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COMMISSION ON CIA ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE UNITED STATES
Washington, DC 20500

Nelson A. Rockefeller,
Chairman

John T. Connor
C. Douglas Dillon
Erwin N. Griswold
Lane Kirkland
Lyman L. Lemnitzer
Ronald Reagan
Edgar F. Shannon, Jr.

David W. Belin,
Executive Director

March 6, 1975

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MEMORANDUM TO: File

FROM: Robert Olsen *RO*

SUBJECT: Interview of March 4, 1975, with E. Howard Hunt
and his Daughter, Lisa Hunt

The interview commenced at approximately 4:00 PM and was conducted at 712 Jackson Place.

Mr. Hunt is presently residing at 1245 N. E. ⁸⁵ 82th Street, Miami, Florida 33138. He has a silent telephone number of 305 758-6159. *PR*

Lisa Hunt resides at 3406 Nimitz Road, Apt. A-2, Kensington, Maryland 20795. She has an unlisted telephone number which she declined to give us. She was born on March 9, 1951.

The interview concerned allegations that Mr. Hunt was involved in the assassination of President John Kennedy and other public figures. He is aware of the public statements made by Dick Gregory and Ralph Schoenman in early February 1975 relative to his being involved in the assassination of President Kennedy. He states that most of the information that Mr. Gregory and Mr. Schoenman referred to is drawn from a book by Tad Szulc entitled, E. Howard Hunt, the Compulsive Spy. Hunt states that the book is saturated with errors. One of those errors is the claim that Hunt was Chief of Station in Mexico City in the fall of 1963.

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action against me and my family.

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The Bay of Pigs Background

Hunt states that in 1960 he was assigned to the job of organizing a "government in exile" for Cuba among Cuban exiles in Florida. The plan adopted by the National Security Council under President Eisenhower called for the formation and training of a brigade of Cuban exiles who would invade Cuba, establish a provisional government, receive recognition by the United States and overthrow the Castro government. The brigade had its own air force and was otherwise fully equipped by the United States Government. The operation, however, was not supposed to be one involving United States Government participation. The venture was to involve training and launching from outside the United States.

In connection with his political activity and the organization of the government in exile, Hunt went to Mexico in 1960. Shortly thereafter the Mexican government demanded that they leave and he returned to the United States. Richard Nixon, then Vice President, was working closely with the CIA on the project.

When President Kennedy was elected in November 1960, he was briefed on the project and confirmed the plans, including the plan to provide air cover to the invading Cuban force. In early 1961, however, the Kennedy administration decided that the political organization of the Cuban government in exile would have to be broadened so as to include all elements of the Cuban society. Even radical leftwingers were to be included. Hunt was assigned the job of convincing the leaders of the Cuban community to accept such a broadening of the political structure of the government in exile. Hunt found this to be an impossible job to accomplish because the Cubans recruited to make up the invasion force had been promised that the government in exile would be solidly anti-Castro and anti-communist. Hunt asked to be relieved of his assignment because he thought it was an impossible one to achieve and he returned to Washington to work on propaganda and similar non-political aspects of the forthcoming invasion.

Within twenty-four hours prior to the time that the Cuban brigade was to hit the beaches at the Bay of Pigs, President Kennedy made two critical decisions that affected the final outcome: he cancelled plans

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for an airstrike on Cuba which would have destroyed the six remaining combat planes that were available to Castro; second, the order that there be no air cover for the invading brigade. The result was that the invading force was chopped up while it was still in the water; the ships carrying the armored vehicles were sunk, as were the supply ships, and the troops were left abandoned on the shore. The remnant of the Cuban Air Force was entirely adequate to demolish the invasion fleet.

Hunt concedes that he was bitter about the decisions made by President Kennedy, but he primarily blames Arthur Schlesinger, Adlai Stevenson and Robert Kennedy for advising the President to follow the course he chose. He particularly feels that the Cubans had been recruited with certain promises and that those promises were withdrawn at the last minute. Hunt says, in fact, that the decision not to make the airstrike and not to provide air cover was made after the invasion fleet had arrived at the point of no return, i. e. , when radio communication to the invasion fleet had already terminated for security reasons.

After the Bay of Pigs disaster, Hunt worked with Allen Dulles until early 1962 at which time Dulles was replaced as DCI. In January 1962, Hunt was assigned to the Domestic Operations Division of the Deputy Directorate for Plans. He was involved in handling proprietaries based in the United States, which have their impact abroad. His immediate superior was Stanley Gaines, who was either Chief of Operations or Executive Officer of the Domestic Operations Division and Tracy Barnes, who was Division Chief of DOD (Barnes is a cousin by marriage to Vice President Rockefeller.)

The proprietaries which Hunt was engaged in managing were Continental Press, which prepared news and radio broadcasts for foreign use; Allied-Pacific Publishing Company of Bombay, which was engaged in publishing textbooks for Indian schools; the Rome Daily American, a cover operation; and Fodor's Travel Guides, a proprietary which Hunt questions as to whether it had any use. (Fodor's had been set up in 1946 as a cover operation but served no apparent use during the years Hunt was with DOD.

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The headquarters for the DOD was at 1717 H Street, N. W., in Washington, D. C., and then later it was on Pennsylvania Avenue.

Hunt's assignment with DOD lasted until the spring of 1965.

During the period from January 1962 until 1965, he states that he never traveled to Mexico or any other Latin American country. His first trip to Mexico after 1961 was in 1970, when he traveled there for the Mullen Company after his retirement from the CIA.

Hunt's Whereabouts on November 22, 1963

Hunt states that he had never been in Dallas until 1971, with a possible exception of a change of planes on his way to Mexico with his family in 1960. He does not recall whether that change of planes took place in Dallas or in Houston. In any event, he and his family never left the airport on that occasion.

He has never had any contact, directly or indirectly, with Lee Harvey Oswald, Jack Ruby or anyone else thought to have been associated with the assassination of the President.

He was never in New Orleans in 1963 and has never had anything whatever to do with the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, which he identifies as a communist organization.

During the period from January 1962 to 1965, he traveled once or twice per year to India, two or three times per year to Paris, once or twice per year to London, and, during that period, he traveled two or three times to Rome. His only domestic travel in 1963 was between Washington and New York. All travel, whether domestic or international, was in his own name.

Hunt states that in 1961 he used the pseudonym of Edward J. Hamilton in connection with his work on the Cuban project in Florida. With the exception of that pseudonym and the pseudonym he used on the identification papers provided him for the Ellsberg break in, he has never used a pseudonym.

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On November 22, 1963, he and his wife were driving on H Street at about 9th in Washington, D. C., when he turned the car radio on and learned that the President had been shot. He and Mrs. Hunt had been shopping in a Chinese grocery store in that immediate vicinity, immediately prior to their getting into the car. The Hunts lived at 5215 Balton Road, Sumner, Maryland. On their way home they drove to the Sidwell Friends school on upper Wisconsin Avenue and picked up their younger daughter, Kevan. Kevan told them that Robert and Courtenay Kennedy, children of Attorney General Robert Kennedy, were students in the same school and had been picked up by the Secret Service. The children in the school knew that the President had been shot.

Mr. Hunt states that the following persons are witnesses to the fact that he was here in Washington, D. C., at the time the President was shot in Dallas:

1. His son, Howard St. John Hunt, then ten years of age.
2. His daughter, Lisa, then twelve years of age.
3. His daughter, Kevan, then eleven years of age.
4. The family maid, Mary Trayner, now employed by a family living at 4806 DeRussey Parkway, Chevy Chase, Maryland, and whose phone number is 652-2930.

Mr. Hunt believes that he was either taking the day off from work as a part of annual leave on November 22, 1963, or he may have been recuperating from a hospitalization for ulcers. He had been hospitalized at about that period at Sibley Hospital in Washington, D. C.

Mr. Hunt states that he held the following oil company charge account and credit cards in 1963 and that such accounts may provide corroboration as to his presence in Washington, D. C., on November 22, 1963: Esso Oil, Gulf Oil, Texaco Oil, Cities Service Oil, Brooks Brothers (New York), Garfinkle's, Woodward and Lothrop, Sears Roebuck & Co., Hecht Co. He also states that telephone records might be checked with

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Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Co.; that the CIA might have travel voucher records showing his travel during that year and that CIA should also have records on the dates on which he took sick leave or annual leave.

Mr. Hunt categorically denies that he has been involved in any way whatsoever with the assassination of President Kennedy, Senator Robert Kennedy, Martin Luther King, or any other person either within or without the United States. He similarly denies any participation or involvement whatever in the attempted assassination of Governor Wallace, the disappearance of Congressman Hale Boggs or the shooting of Senator Stennis.

He states that in connection with the planning for the Cuban invasion in 1961, he did suggest that Fidel Castro should be assassinated either before or contemporaneously with that invasion, but his suggestion was not acted upon or otherwise approved.

Attached are copies of a press statement made by Mr. Hunt in early February 1975 in Florida, in which he denies the allegations made by Dick Gregory and others with respect to his involvement in the assassination of President Kennedy and a letter written to Mr. Hunt by the former family maid, Mary Traynor.

Lisa Hunt confirms her father's account that he was at home with the family in the afternoon and evening of November 22, 1963. She recalls that her father assembled the family in front of the television set. He wanted them all to watch the program because it was an important historical matter. They were all shocked about the assassination of the President.

cc: D. Belin
Senior Counsels

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action against me and my family.

A F F A D A V I T

I, E. HOWARD HUNT, affirm the following to be my recollections of my whereabouts on November 22, 1963:

1. On that date I was an employee of the Central Intelligence Agency assigned to the Domestic Operations Division, located in a commercial building in Washington, D. C.
2. I was driving with my late wife on H Street near 8th or 9th Street when we first heard of the Kennedy shooting on our car radio. We had been purchasing Chinese groceries at a store named, as well as I can recall it, "Wah Ling". I do not know how long after the initial radio reports were made that my wife and I first heard the news. Brinkley was the commentator I remember because of his having theorized a "right wing plot": i.e., Dallas citizens had abused Adlai Stevenson and the climate of Dallas extremism had caused Kennedy's shooting.
3. From the Chinese grocery store we drove out Wisconsin Avenue to pick up our daughter, Kevan, from Sidwell Friends School. On joining us my daughter told us what we already knew: that President Kennedy had been shot. She had learned this because two of Robert Kennedy's children had been taken from Sidwell Friends School, presumably by Secret Service agents.
4. From Kevan's school we drove directly to our home on Baltan Road in Sumner, Maryland (off Massachusetts Avenue extended). At home was my newly-born son, David (DOB 9/1/63), a maid, Mary Traynor,

and my wife's aunt, the late Leona Drexler of Chicago. Our elder son, St. John, a student at nearby Brookmont Elementary School, was probably already at home. As I recall, our eldest child, Lisa, arrived soon afterward by bus from Ursuline Academy and joined us at the television set in our basement recreation room where we stayed long hours watching the unfolding of events: the swearing-in of LBJ, the arrival at Andrews Field of the Presidential coffin, etc.

5. As to why I was not at my office that entire afternoon, I can only presume that I had left early to help my wife shop for a planned Chinese dinner, in the preparation of which I normally assisted.

6. I was never in Dallas, Texas, until late 1971 when, at the request of Charles Colson I flew there to interview Gen. Paul Harkins, former U.S. military commander in Vietnam.

7. I did not meet Frank Sturgis until the spring of 1972, the introduction being performed by and at the office of Bernard L. Barker.

8. I never at any time met or knew Lee Harvey Oswald, Jack Ruby, or any other person involved in the Dallas slayings.

9. I was not in Mexico in 1963. In fact, I was not in Mexico between the years 1961 and 1970, and have not been there since a weekend pleasure trip to Acapulco in July of 1970.

The allegations made by Dick Gregory and others connecting me to the murder of President John Kennedy are totally without foundation. They constitute a false and vicious libel.

These charges are bizarre products of sick minds. The Political Left has never been able or willing to accept the fact that Kennedy's assassin was a man of the Left; thus the Leftist preoccupation with finding an alternate assassin.

Dick Gregory's smear represents the ultimate in slander and innuendo customarily characterized as McCarthyism.

The Rockefeller and other investigative committees will probably examine Gregory's charges - as indeed they should. For my part I would welcome a thorough high-level investigation and a full airing of all relevant findings. Only if this takes place will I have any hope of clearing my name and living free from the threats against my life already made by neurotics.

I was not in Dallas, Texas, on November 22, 1963; in fact I never visited Dallas until eight years later. I did not meet Frank Sturgis until 1972, nine years after we were allegedly together in Dallas. I was not in Mexico in 1963, and I did not meet Lee Harvey Oswald there or at any other place or time. Moreover, I shared the nation's grief over the murder of our President. These are the facts.

Until authoritative investigative bodies make known their judgment concerning my alleged involvement in the Kennedy murder I will continue to bring libel actions against any and all parties who repeat the libel. I must take this course because the libels are prejudicial to my position before the Court now considering my Appeal from the Watergate affair. And because the libels threaten my only means of livelihood, as a writer. But of even greater concern to me is that continued publicity given to these reckless charges could stimulate some yet-unpublicized maniac into violent action against me and my family.

ADVICE AND WAIVER

Place 712 Federal
Date 1/31/75
Time 3:30 PM

Before you make any statement to, or answer any questions from, the Commission or its investigators, you should understand that you have the right to remain silent. If you choose to answer, anything you say can be used against you in court.

You may consult a lawyer for advice before any questions are put, and may have a lawyer with you during questioning. If you cannot afford a lawyer, one will be appointed for you before questioning if you wish. If you decide to answer questions without a lawyer present, you still have the right to stop answering at any time; or you may defer your answer until you talk to a lawyer.

WAIVER

I have read and understand the foregoing advice. I am willing to make a statement and answer questions ~~[with]~~ [without] a lawyer at this time. No promises or threats have been made to me, and no pressure or coercion of any kind has been used against me.

Signed *[Signature]*

Witness: *[Signature]*

Witness: _____

Time: _____

4806 De Russay Park

Chevy Chase Md 20015

Feb 6 1975

Dear Mr Hunt

I am so glad you thought of writing to me. I remember the day President Kennedy was shot very well, and I certainly remember you were there.

If you recall, Mrs Hunt's Aunt Leonie, (I am sorry I can't remember her last name) from Chicago was staying with you for a few days, and on the Friday Mrs Hunt, her Aunt, and the three children were going downtown to a movie matinee. When Veronica Moppet called from the Spanish Embassy to tell us that the President had been shot. I remember we all stood around and stared at each other then you put the television on, and the first thing we heard was the news man saying that it was now 45 minutes since the shot had been fired, and that they still did not know how badly he had been injured.

I know that Mrs Hunt's Aunt is now dead, but it is possible that when she went back to Chicago she may have mentioned that you were there when the news came through, to her daughter (Mrs Hunt's cousin Phyllis). Although she might not remember it, she just may be able to corroborate your story too.

I can of course remember lots more details. It was ~~of~~ the sort of day that stays in your mind.

I hope you are still getting along well. Did you manage to sell the house on River Rd?

Let me know if there is anything I can do for you.

If you should run across Miss Stella remember me to her.

Please give my regards to the children.

Sincerely,

P.S. My phone is 652-2939.

I am always yours in love, Mary