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JFK Assassination System
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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (92-2940)

DATE: 1/13/61

FROM : SAC, PITTSBURGH (92-226-Sub 2)

JUNE

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATION FOR INSTALLATION OF TECHNICAL OR MICROPHONE SURVEILLANCE

RE: Title SEBASTIAN JOHN LA ROCCA, aka

Character of Case AR
Field Office Pittsburgh
Symbol Number To be assigned
Type of Surveillance (Technical or
Microphone) Microphone
(MUTT Installation)

1. Name and address of subject:

Home Address SEBASTIAN JOHN LA ROCCA
900 West Ingomar Road, Ingomar, Pa.
Business Address 12 McCandless Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa.

2. Location of technical operation:

~~(North Star Cement Block Company) 12 McCandless Avenue, Pitts-~~
~~burgh, Pa. (To be monitored at Pittsburgh Office Central Plant.)~~

3. Other technical surveillances on same subject:

None

4. Cost and manpower involved:

Leased line costs approximately \$17.50 per month.

PG 148-S* presently being monitored from 1 - 9 P. M., each day for five days by one SE, GS-9 @\$7425 per annum and for two days by one SA, GS-12 @\$9,475 per annum. The proposed misur would be operated between 10 A. M., and 5 P. M., each work day and also on Saturdays. Between the hours of 1 - 5 P. M., there would be no additional cost since monitoring could be conducted by the employees presently monitoring PG 148-S*. Between the hours of 10 A. M., and 1 P. M., the monitoring would be conducted by one

5. Adequacy of security:

Believed adequate as set out in Appendix - "Details of Proposed Installation."

SA, GS-12 @\$9,215 per annum in conjunction with his other related duties in the Top Hoodlum and Criminal Intelligence Programs.

2 - Bureau (Enc. 3)
1 - Pittsburgh

HLW/JW
(2)

EX-114

JAN 16 1961

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EX-114

ENCLOSURE

REC-57

92-2940-21

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ENCLOSURE

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COMM. INTL.

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APPENDIXDetails of Proposed Installation

Pursuant to Bureau authority, dated December 27, 1960, a survey was conducted to determine the feasibility of installing a misur on top hoodlum LA ROCCA's private office at the North Star Cement Block Company, 12 Mc Candless Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa. The survey was successfully completed and provided the following information:

All known ways and means of establishing a misur were carefully considered. In due consideration of all aspects of the problem, it would appear that a radio-microphone technique employing the MUTT Transmitter is feasible and is the preferred choice under the existing conditions presented by this case. This choice was made in view of the following factors relating to the technical problems, security considerations, and investigative advantages:

(1) It is recognized that the use of telephone wiring disguises are generally considered more secure than the use of radio-microphone techniques. In this case, however, telephone disguises do not appear desirable because of the following:

(a) Subject's private office contains two "hold" telephone instruments while one "hold" instrument is located in the General Office. These instruments are serviced by three twisted-pair lines which, according to the telephone company source, run directly from the Central Office to the cement plant. This condition would, therefore, preclude use of the Bureau's disguised four-conductor parallel type wire since the appearance of parallel-type wire in an area where twisted-pair wire is used exclusively might arouse the curiosity of telephone company employees and possibly would be also noticed by the subject or his associates, thereby presenting a security hazard. In this connection, it is realized that a SPMT unit might be used to operate a microphone or Mouse unit on one of the telephone lines without additional wires. However, it is also realized that in using such a unit, it is necessary to loop the telephone line through the monitoring plant which must be located somewhere between the subject's

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telephone instrument and the telephone company Central Office. Such an arrangement would require a local monitoring plant and additional monitoring personnel.

(b) The possibility of using underground wires for microphone egress in this case does not appear to be feasible inasmuch as it would be necessary to route the underground cable for a distance of approximately 3/10's mile to a point where connection could be made to telephone wires leading to a plant. Further, the extent of the wire laying operations, terrain conditions, and the factor of the industrial area could possibly present security problems.

(2) It would appear that the recently developed MUTT Transmitter, a transistorized AC powered miniature unit, together with appropriate receiving equipment would be feasible in this installation whereas previously older battery powered equipment was suitable only for short-term installations where operation for a few days would generally provide the desired coverage. It would be expected that the MUTT unit over an extended period of operation might result in failure of transistors or other components. However, due to the miniaturization of the MUTT Transmitter and its related AC power supply, either the transmitter or power supply could be readily replaced by a ~~smaller~~ ^{simpler} unit held in stand-by reserve in the event of a failure. It is believed that such an infrequent replacement could be made without constituting undue security risks.

The North Star Cement Block Plant is located approximately 135 feet south-west of McCandless Avenue and fronts south-east on an un-named alley (see sketch 1) extending from McCandless Avenue south-west to 51st Street. This un-named alley terminates at both Mc Candless Avenue and 51st Street. The distance from the intersection of this unknown alley and McCandless Avenue to the intersection of Harrison Street and McCandless Avenue is approximately 265 feet.

Subject's private office is located in the rear north-west section of the general office of the plant as illustrated and marked in sketch No. 2. The general office is an addition of the plant proper. All exterior walls of the general office, the plant and the common wall between the

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general office and the plant are of cement block construction. The roof of the general office is of corrugated galvanized metal. There is no crawl space beneath the general office or plant. The floor is solid cement and is not covered with any carpeting. The roof and interior ceiling are separated by a distance of 4 inches at the northeast end and diverge slightly at a point where the general office connects with the plant proper. The ceiling rafters run in a northeast--south-east direction. The interior cement block walls are not panelled but are painted. Partitions in the general office are constructed of frame and finished with a type of composition panelling. This composition panelling, each piece of which is approximately 3 x 5 feet, is also used on the ceiling and a 1½ inch molding covers the joints. 11

It is proposed that one variable reluctance microphone, a MUTT Transmitter and an AC power supply be installed between the ceiling and roof at the point designated "X" on sketch 3. Ingress to this point can be made by removing the ceiling exhaust fan. It is not known how extensively this ceiling exhaust fan is used, but inasmuch as this office is air-conditioned, it is surmised that use of the exhaust fan is limited. This unit would be energized by running a pair of wires from point "X" southeast between the rafters to the southeast wall of subject's private office and thence dropping the wires down the wall making the connection to the wall box of the designated electrical wall outlet. It is believed that the amount of power consumption of the MUTT Transmitter is not critical. It is also believed that one transmitter maintained in the ceiling will afford effective coverage. Investigation and observation reflects that it is practical and secure to mount the remote receiving equipment in the second floor office of the Westinghouse Plant, designated by a star in sketch No. 1. The Westinghouse Electric Plant is not in use and is devoid of equipment. It is maintained by a small staff of maintenance employees plus three guards who alternate shifts. Contact under pretext with the manager of real estate for the Westinghouse Corporation has assured authority and security in this respect. It is proposed that a box capable of being locked be used to house the remote receiving equipment. This box will be fastened in the afore-mentioned office near other unused telephone boxes in the immediate vicinity of a window for disguise and will be energized through the plant's 117 volt

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AC system. The receiver's output will be ^{fed} fitted into one of several available telephone lines, one of which will be leased and conducted to the Pittsburgh Office Control Plant. The receiving antenna can, if necessary, be extended outside the window and will not be obvious in view of other wires connected to and hanging from this building.

It is believed that this radio-microphone technique is technically feasible for the following reasons:

1. There is an unobstructed aerial passage between the North Star Cement Block Company and the second floor of the Westinghouse Plant; the distance between these two locations is approximately 475 feet (see sketch No. 1) whereas it is believed that under ideal conditions, the range of the MUTT might be as high as one-half mile.
2. The receiving equipment to be located in the office on the second floor of the Westinghouse Plant would not be subject to temperature fluctuations since temperature is maintained at a constant 40 degrees.

It is anticipated that the installation personnel would enter the North Star Cement Block Company surreptitiously. Prior to this, all logical employees, associates, and relatives of the subject, as well as the subject himself, who might come to the plant will be placed under surveillance. They will be surveilled during the entire operation. SA personnel who are acquainted with subject and key employees of the plant will be placed in strategic positions to provide utmost security throughout the entire operation. Sufficient personnel will be utilized to insure advance warning of any possible approach by the afore-mentioned persons. It is realized that trespasses will occur but every precaution will be taken to prevent any possibility of compromise.