JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM
IDENTIFICATION FORM

AGENCY INFORMATION

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TO :
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DATE : 04/00/76
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SUBJECTS : MONROE, MARILYN
KENNEDY, ROBERT

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[R] - ITEM IS RESTRICTED
Honorable Frank Church, Chairman
United States Senate Select Committee
on Intelligence Activities
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Church:

Transmitted herewith is a memorandum prepared by the Federal Bureau of Investigation with attachments which is responsive to the request in John Elliff's letter of March 31, 1976, concerning the FBI's furnishing information to Attorney General Kennedy about a book on the death of Marilyn Monroe.

Sincerely,

Steven Blackhurst
STEVEN BLACKHURST
Assistant Special Counsel for Intelligence Coordination

RECEIVED FROM

FBI

APR 2 1976

APR 7 1978
U. S. SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE TO
STUDY GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS WITH
RESPECT TO INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES (SSC)

Reference is made to SSC letter dated March 31, 1976, requesting all FBI materials pertaining to
communications between FBI Director Hoover and Attorney
General Robert Kennedy with respect to the publication of
a book about Marilyn Monroe by Frank Capell. Enclosed is
material responsive to your request.

Enclosures (5)
The Attorney General

Director, FBI

FRANK A. CAPELL
INFORMATION CONCERNING
(INTERNAL SECURITY)

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. Evans
1 - Mr. DoLoach
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Smith
1 - Mr. Garner
1 - Miss Datler

July 15, 1964

In my letter to you dated July 7, 1964, and cautioned as above, reference was made to a forthcoming book by Frank A. Capell entitled "The Strange Death of Marilyn Monroe." Throughout the book, and particularly on pages 49-61, 69, and 79, Capell claims that you had a close relationship with Miss Monroe.

A copy of this book is enclosed.

Enclosure

NOTE: See memo, Smith to Sullivan same caption, 7/14/64, RSC:bb.

REG:cr v ip
(11)

MAILED 2
JUL 15 1964
COMM-FBI

REG 60
JUL 15 1964
FBI-READING ROOM

JUL 17 1964
MAIL ROOM TELETYPING UNIT
Memorandum

TO: Mr. W. C. Sullivan
FROM: R. W. Smith
DATE: July 14, 1964

SUBJECT: FRANK A. CAPPELL
INFORMATION CONCERNING
(INTERNAL SECURITY)

Memo, Baumgardner to Sullivan, 7/7/64, stated New York Office advised that new book by Frank A. Capell entitled "The Strange Death of Marilyn Monroe," which alleges that Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy had an intimate relationship with Miss Monroe, would be ready for sale about 7/10/64.

Kennedy's Friendship with Miss Monroe "Well Known"

The New York Office has now furnished us with a copy of this 70-page book. The book claims that Miss Monroe's involvement with Kennedy "was well known to her friends and reporters in the Hollywood area," but was never publicized. It is alleged that "there are person-to-person telephone calls, living witnesses, tape recordings and certain writings to attest the closeness of their friendship."

The author suggests that Miss Monroe "was led to believe his intentions were serious," and that Kennedy had promised to divorce his wife and marry her. When he failed to do so, the book charges, she "threatened to expose their relationship," which would have ruined his presidential aspirations. It was then that Kennedy decided "to take drastic action."

Kennedy Had Communists "Murder" Miss Monroe

According to the book, Kennedy used "the Communist Conspiracy which is expert in the scientific elimination of its enemies" to dispose of Miss Monroe by making her murder appear to be a suicide. This could have been achieved without great difficulty, the author points out, because her personal physician, Dr. Hyman Engelberg, was a communist.

Enclosure 7-15-64

1 - Mr. Eelmont
1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. Evans

RSG:bb (8) JUL 27 1964

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Smith

1 - Mr. Garner
1 - Miss Butler

OVER

9 JUL 18 1964

ST-11

REC 55

NW 54653 DocId:32423593 Page 7
Memo Smith to Sullivan
Re: FRANK A. CAPELL
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Most of the allegations made against Kennedy are contained in the chapter entitled "The V.I.P." (pages 49-61) and on pages 69 and 70.

Allegation Previously Branded False

It should be noted that the allegation concerning the Attorney General and Miss Monroe has been circulated in the past and has been branded as utterly false.

References to Director and FBI

There are several references in the book to the Director and/or the FBI. A biographical sketch of Capell on page 3 states that, while associated with the Westchester County, New York, Sheriff's Office, "he supervised the investigation of over five thousand individuals and organizations, including Nazis, Fascists and Communists, on behalf of the F.B.I. in most cases."

On page 49, it is stated that "under the direction of Bobby Kennedy the F.B.I. has been frustrated as never before."

On page 69, it is said that Mr. Hoover does not share Kennedy's opinion that the Communist Party, USA, "is a windmill virtually powerless to harm the United States."

On page 70, reference is made to an anonymous letter quoted in a column of Walter Winchell datelined May 25, 1964, at Hollywood, California, which told of a 23-year-old Beverly Hills blonde who had been "terrorized for months by the same person who caused Marilyn Monroe's death. ... You can check this with F.B.I. Special Agent in Charge, Mr. Grapp in L.A..... Her initials are M.J."

Our Los Angeles Office reported that "M.J." was Mary Lou Jones, a would-be actress of no talent, who is apparently mentally disturbed. Miss Jones complained to the Beverly Hills, California, Police Department that she was being followed and harassed by unidentified men, but her allegations were completely unsubstantiated by the police.

Dr. Hyman Engelberg Former Security Index Subject

Dr. Hyman Engelberg was the subject of a Security Matter-C investigation, but his Security Index card was canceled in 1953 after his cooperative interview with Agents of our Los Angeles Office. At that time Dr. Engelberg admitted membership in the Communist Party from about 1939 to 1943.
Memo: Smith to Sullivan
Re: FRANK A. CAPELL
INFORMATION CONCERNING

IDENTIFIES CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT

Attorney General Advised of Capell's Forthcoming Book

By letter dated 7/7/64, we advised the Attorney General of the nature of Capell's forthcoming book, as well as background data on Capell set forth in the preceding paragraph.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the attached letter be sent to the Attorney General enclosing a copy of the aforementioned book.

By

[Signature]
July 8, 1964

The Attorney General

Director, FBI

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Noll
1 - Mr. Evans
1 - Mr. Ebschach
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Braungardner
1 - Mr. Simpson

Mr. Frank A. Capell, 56 Bay Street, Staten Island, New York, advised the New York Office of this Bureau on July 3, 1964, that he is publishing a 70-page paperback book entitled "The Strange Death of Marilyn Monroe," which should be ready for publication about July 10, 1964.

According to Mr. Capell, his book will make reference to your alleged friendship with the late Miss Marilyn Monroe. Mr. Capell stated he will indicate in his book that you and Miss Monroe were intimate and that you were in Miss Monroe's apartment at the time of her death.

In recent years Capell has published "The Herald of Freedom," an anticomunist newsletter of an expose type, which names names and organizations. In the past several months he has been interviewed by Agents of our New York Office concerning numerous allegations he has made against a number of prominent individuals. Much of the information furnished by Mr. Capell has been of a questionable nature and not subject to corroboration. He has consistently refused to reveal the alleged sources of his information.

Any additional information concerning the publication of the above book will be promptly brought to your attention.

2 - New York

ATTENTION: SAC, NEW YORK:

Beaucette 7/2/64.

You are instructed to follow this matter very closely. Furnish two copies of the book to the Bureau promptly upon its publication in order that the Attorney General may be kept advised.

RDS: BEA 7/12

[Signature]

MAIL ROOM □ TELETYPE UNIT □
The Attorney General

NOTE:

See memorandum Baumgardner to W. C. Sullivan, same caption, dated 7/8/64, rehirings.
Memorandum

TO: Mr. W. C. Sullivan

FROM: Mr. F. J. Baumgardner

DATE: 7/7/64

SUBJECT: FRANK A. CAPELL
INFORMATION CONCERNING
INTERNAL SECURITY

New York airtel 7/2/64 advised that Frank A. Capell advised an Agent that he is about to publish a 70-page paperback book dealing with the suicide of Marilyn Monroe which will be entitled "The Strange Death of Marilyn Monroe." The book allegedly will be ready for sale about 7/10/64. Capell stated the book will make reference to Attorney General Robert Kennedy and his friendship with Miss Monroe. It will indicate that Kennedy and Monroe were intimate and that Kennedy was in Monroe's apartment at the time of her death. He stated he will also attempt to show that some communists were working behind the scenes inasmuch as the physician who signed the death certificate was a communist.

Identifies Confidential Informant

He publishes "The Herald of Freedom," an anticomunist newsletter of an expose type. He has been interviewed in recent months by Agents of our New York Office concerning numerous allegations he had made against a number of prominent individuals. Some allegations of Capell are from public sources and are apparently true, some are completely false and others are extremely questionable and not subject to corroboration. Capell has consistently refused to divulge his alleged sources to our Agents.

The above allegation concerning the Attorney General has been previously circulated and has been branded as false as the Attorney General was actually in San Francisco with his wife at the time Marilyn Monroe committed suicide.

Enclosure

RDS: rbm

70 JUL 28 1964
Memorandum to Mr. W. C. Sullivan
RE: FRANK A. CAPELL

Inasmuch as Capell is the source of this information and his information has been extremely questionable, it is not believed that any action should be taken to attempt to determine the identity of the doctor who signed Miss Monroe's death certificate.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the attached letter be sent to the Attorney General to advise him of the contemplated publication of the above book.
TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, NEW YORK

SUBJECT: FRANK A. CAPELL

INFORMATION CONCERNING
(FO: NEW YORK)

On instant date, captioned individual advised he is about to publish a 70 page paperback book dealing with the suicide of actress MARILYN MONROE. He said the book is titled "The Strange Death of Marilyn Monroe" and will sell for $2.00 per copy. CAPELL advised that the book should be ready for sale on or about 7/10/64, and that he will furnish a copy of this book for the Bureau's information.

He advised that the book will make reference to Attorney General ROBERT KENNEDY and KENNEDY's friendship with Miss MONROE. He advised that he will indicate that the evidence shows that KENNEDY and MONROE were intimate and that KENNEDY was in MONROE's apartment at the time of her death. He advised that he will attempt to show that some Communists were evidently working behind the scenes, inasmuch as a physician who signed the death certificate was a Communist.

It was noted that CAPELL appeared very emotional and aggressive when he advised of this book and was unable to state the exact purpose for having written it.

Upon receipt of a copy of this book from CAPELL, the NYO will furnish said copy to the Bureau for its information.

(VJS: mbg)

Approved: Special Agent in Charge

Sent M Per