

MEMORANDUM

January 17, 1996

To: David Marwell, Jeremy Gunn, Phil Golrick

From: Joan Zimmerman

Subject: USSS Protective Technique-- Evaluation of Suspects

The following examples are quotations from evaluations of suspects that are in materials already open to the public. In her letter of January 4, 1996, Jane Vezeris explained why the Secret Service objects to the release of evaluative information about suspects.

MENTAL EVALUATION, POSSESSION OF FIREARMS, AND VIEW OF PROTECTEE

--Report of the U.S. Secret Service on the Assassination of President

Kennedy, page 5:"The [PRS] files include among others, individuals afflicted with mental illness manifesting itself in behavior hostile to the President, those who have made overt threats, and those who belong to organized groups which have specifically advocated assassination of U.S. public officials."

--"U.S. Secret Service -- Protective Information Guidelines" (610.0) at Archives II from Box 15, LBJ Library material: "Beyond the basic type of information -- a threat to harm or embarrass -- three factors must be considered in determining what other types of information are desired. The three factors are: 1. Interest of the individual or organization. 2. Capabilities of the individual or organization. 3. Activities of the individual or organization. The interest of the individual or organization is the prime factor to be considered in the criteria but must be coupled with the capability and activity of the individual or organization in any determination for referral to the Secret Service....After the interest phase of the criteria is met, then the activity, which encompasses previous history (i.e., mental instability, history of violence) and the capability of the individual or organization for furthering this interest will dictate whether the case should be referred to the Secret Service."

The following 9 examples are in reports from the file (8581) of Thomas Vallee:

-- 180-10080-10153 agency file no. 008581 (11-27-63): "It was decided that he should be checked on because he had been in possession of firearms of high velocity and long range; he had been critical of the Kennedy Administration; and his background is similar to Lee Harvey Oswald."

-- 180-10080-10102 agency file no. 008581 (12-20-67): "Subject's employer...said from subject's conversation and actions, that it is apparent subject has a mental problem....He talked irrationallySubject...does not express ill feelings toward any person of protective interest....Because of subject's apparent mental problem as expressed by his incoherent speech and, the fact that he presently has weapons and ammunition in his apartment...I feel that quarterly check-ups are

necessary.”

-- 180-10080-10100 agency file no. 008581 (6-19-68): “Quarterly check-ups necessary as subject’s mental condition is unstable and he has firearms in his apartment.”

-- 180-10080-10099 agency file no. 008581 (8-21-68): “Subject did not exhibit any animosity toward any person of protective interest....Quarterly check-ups are necessary as subject’s mental condition is unstable and because of the fact that he owns the previously mentioned firearms.”

-- 180-10080-10111 agency file no. 008581 (11-10-68): “Subject was previously hospitalized at the Downey VA Hospital, Downey, Illinois where his condition was classified as schizophrenic, undifferentiated type. Subject advised that he keeps the Springfield rifle and ammunition at his Columbus residence.... Subject did not express any ill feelings concerning the President, the Vice President, their families, or any other high Government official.”

-- 180-10080-10090 agency file no. 008581 (11-27-68): “He appeared calm, rational, and displayed no signs of mental illness....He displayed the weapons mentioned in previous reports....It is not felt that he is of protective interest.”

--180-10080-10080 agency file no. 008581 (5-24-73): “We have conducted an extensive file review to determine those subjects of previous record with us who may present a threat to Secretary Brezhnev. The review produced two basic categories of subjects. The first category embraces those subjects who have exhibited strong anti-Communist or anti-Russian traits. Many are mental cases, many have access to firearms, and many exhibit both traits.”

--180-10080-10079 agency file no. 008581 (6-5-73): “Hospitalized 09-56 to 01-57 schizophrenic of undifferentiated type and not considered dangerous.”

-- 180-10110-10279 JFK Exhibit #74: (10-30-63 to 11-2-63): “Through a confidential source, it was determined that Vallee had in his possession two M-1 rifles, a .22 calibre revolver, and approximately 1000 rounds of ammunition in clips and loose stock....On October 30, 1963, the writer telephoned Mr. Sidney McDonald, Registration Office, Downey Veterans Hospital, Illinois, who advised that Thomas A. Vallee entered the hospital in September of 1956 and was discharged in January of 1957. He stated that Vallee had been classified as a schizophrenic of undifferentiated type and not to be considered dangerous according to the classification....At no time during the interview did he make any threats regarding the President....The Chicago Police Department was advised of the amount of the weapons the subject had and they advised they would keep him under surveillance on Saturday, November 2, 1963, when President Kennedy was expected to come to Chicago.”

--180-10082-10454 agency file no. 005893 OPEN HSCA Investigative Interview-USSS agent William Tim McIntyre: McIntyre “said that agents are given training in dealing with mentally afflicted people. In order to keep track of subjects considered to be possible threats to the President, quarterly investigations are done on these people. The master file on these subjects is kept in Washington, D.C. now, but in 1963, they kept a book with the most critical subjects in the country.”

--180-10083-10419 agency file no. 005711 (2-2-78) OPEN HSCA Investigation Interview Lubert F. DeFreese: “He observed that...`in 1963 the SS did not have quarterly check-ups’ on subjects

as it does today.”

--180-10118-10041 agency file no. 008136 OPEN USSS report on John Warrington (10-24-63): Page 3 “(D) CURRENT MENTAL CONDITION: At the time of personal interview, the subject appeared exceptionally rational in contrast to the context of the letters involved and his reported statements and actions at time of arrest. He advised that he has been in and out of mental institutions for the past ten to fifteen years; that he has been informed by doctors that his mental condition resulted from birth, and that he has been diagnosed as schizophrenic, paranoid type; that he has periods of weeks on end when he suffers from delusions and illusions, and that he realizes he belongs in a mental institution, and will probably die in such an institution. The subject advised that he was discharged from the Army in November 1943, with a psychotic condition;...his condition progressed to the state that he was committed by a relative to the Maryland State Mental Hospital...after some incident was committed to a Veterans Administration Hospital in that State; that he was judged mentally incompetent later in the District of Columbia...that... he attempted suicide...[he was committed to several other hospitals]...he was released on a trial visit about October 12, 1963....(F) PREVIOUS ACTIVITIES OR HISTORY....Military Record:...Medical discharge for psychotic reasons...(G) PROTECTIVE INFORMATION: The subject stated that he has no experience in the use of firearms....The subject stated that he has no ill feelings toward the President, or any member of his family...Nothing developed to date indicates that the subject is interested in any subversive organizations.”

--180-10093-10022 agency file no. 008964 (5-22-78) OPEN HSCA Investigation Interview Louis B. Sims: “In describing the check-ups on individuals considered as threats, Sims stated that checks were made at six month intervals. There was a criteria to follow and also the agents used their impressions. They then made their recommendations as to whether the subject was still a threat or not. The agent in charge made the final decision.”