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From: Scott Pearson <yeahsure@means.net>

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Subject: A Story I Hadn't Heard Before

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A few years ago I worked in a bookstore in St. Paul, Minnesota, and was the resident JFK assassination buff. On one of my days off a man came in looking for books on the assassination, and a coworker referred the man to me, and he left his card. My coworker scribbled on the back of the card that the man had interviewed Clint Hill. I was of course interested, and called him up. He told me he was doing a term paper, and that his uncle, a former Secret Service agent, had introduced him to Hill, who had retired to St. Paul. Then he told me his uncle's story.

The uncle claims to have been scheduled for the Dallas trip originally, but shortly before he and some other sharpshooters (he likes to say that if he had been there, "Oswald would never have gotten off a second shot") were taken off the trip by LBJ. The uncle says he still has the written orders, signed by LBJ. The uncle, who worked as a sheriff after leaving the Service, has told his story to the local papers a couple times over the years when they did JFK assassination retrospectives.

I recommended a few books to the nephew, told him I'd be happy to answer any questions he had, and rushed home to check the story. I found no references on this in any of the books. The closest I came was in "Crossfire" and others, that Agent Hill had not been originally scheduled for the trip, but had come at the request of Mrs. Kennedy. This demonstrated that there had been late changes; one could infer that Hill might have been a replacement.

I was excited by this potentially unknown twist, but the next time I spoke with the nephew, again on the phone, he seemed to be a little reserved. I think he was concerned that I might keep calling him with questions if he continued being open with me. Recently I started thinking about this whole story again, but I am reluctant to try to contact him given his obvious second-thoughts years ago. I haven't been able to locate the newspaper articles, but they could be in any number of Minneapolis/St. Paul publications. At this point I have lost or forgotten the uncle's name--I'm not sure which; had I known that the nephew would pull back from me I would have taken notes, but I had reason to assume I would be in further contact with him. In our first conversation he even hinted that he might be able to introduce me to Hill. Has anyone heard this story, seen these articles, or even heard that Hill did in fact retire to Minnesota? The dark implications of LBJ taking the Secret Service's best shooters off a dangerous presidential visit are obvious. So if there is any truth to this story it deserves further investigation, and should be looked into by the ARRB, if it continues.

I would appreciate any help on this...

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Scott Pearson