

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

U. S. Secret Service

TO : Mr. G. d'Andelot Belin  
General Counsel

DATE: March 19, 1964

FROM : Mr. James J. Rowley  
Chief, U. S. Secret Service

CO-2-34,030

SUBJECT: Secret Service Report on the Assassination of President Kennedy

In response to the request made in the first paragraph of a letter to the Secretary from the General Counsel of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy, dated February 28, 1964, there follows a narrative summary of the protective activities of the Secret Service at Parkland Hospital and the return to the White House on November 22, 1963.

The motorcade, under police escort, consisting of:

1. The Lead Car, driven by the Dallas Chief of Police, occupied by Sheriff Decker, SAIC Forrest Sorrels, and SA Winston Lawson;
2. The President's Car, driven by SA William Greer, occupied by ASAIC Roy Kellerman, President Kennedy, Mrs. Kennedy, Governor Connally, and Mrs. Connally;
3. The President's Follow-Up Car, driven by SA Samuel Kinney, occupied by ATSAIC Emory Roberts, SA Clinton Hill, SA William McIntyre, SA John Ready, SA Paul Landis, SA Glen Bennett, SA George Hickey, and Mr. Dave Powers and Mr. Kenneth O'Donnell;
4. The Vice President's Car, driven by Hurchel Jacks of the Texas Department of Public Safety, occupied by ASAIC Rufus Youngblood, Vice President Johnson, Mrs. Johnson, and Senator Ralph Yarborough;
5. Vice President's Follow-Up Car, driven by Joe Henry Rich of the Texas Department of Public Safety, occupied by ATSAIC Thomas Johns, SA Jerry Kivett, SA Warren Taylor, and Mr. Cliff Carter of the Vice President's Staff

arrived at the Parkland Hospital at approximately 12:34 p.m., Central Standard Time.

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Special Agent Lawson entered the hospital and obtained two stretchers on wheels. Special Agents Hill, Roberts, Greer, Kellerman and Lawson assisted in removing the President and Governor Connally from the car. Governor Connally was placed on one stretcher, President Kennedy was placed on the other, and each was taken to a separate emergency room. Mrs. Kennedy remained in close proximity to the President within the emergency area at all times. Special Agents Hill and Landis were with Mrs. Kennedy throughout her ordeal at the hospital. SA Landis kept unauthorized persons from the area in which Mrs. Kennedy waited for word of the President's condition. SA Lawson remained at the entrance to the emergency room where the President was being cared for, and requested a nurse to identify all hospital personnel who should be admitted. ASAIC Kellerman, from a nearby doctor's room, placed a call to SAIC Behn at the White House. ASAIC Kellerman informed SAIC Behn that the President and Governor Connally had been shot and were in emergency rooms at the Parkland Memorial Hospital. The line was then kept open until Mrs. Kennedy departed from the hospital, and SAIC Behn was kept advised of developments as they occurred. The blood type of the President was furnished to the medical staff by ASAIC Kellerman. A security cordon was formed around the emergency area by ASAIC Kellerman and Special Agents Greer, Ready, Kinney, Hickey and Howlett, of the Secret Service, and an undetermined number of the Dallas Police. Press and unauthorized persons were refused admittance to the area.

Vice President and Mrs. Johnson were placed in a separate hospital room in the vicinity of the emergency rooms within the secured area. They were accompanied by ASAIC Youngblood and Special Agents Kivett, Bennett, McIntyre and Taylor. SA Bennett assumed a post at the door of the Vice President's suite. Special Agents Kivett and Taylor had cleared other occupants from the room and had drawn the blinds. Mrs. Johnson, accompanied by Special Agents Kivett and Taylor, left the area briefly to visit Mrs. Connally on another floor of the hospital.

Shortly after his arrival, the Vice President sent SA Taylor for ASAIC Kellerman and inquired of the condition of the President and the Governor. He was told that the Governor was in surgery and that the doctors were still working on the President. He asked to be kept informed of the President's condition.

SA Kivett called Headquarters and arranged for security to be placed upon Miss Lynda Johnson at the University of Texas, and Miss Lucy Johnson at the National Cathedral School in Washington.

ASAIC Kellerman authorized the return of the President's car to the airport for loading aboard a C-130 for the return to Washington, D. C. The purpose was to preserve its condition unchanged for the earliest possible examination. The car was driven to Love Field by SA Hickey, accompanied by SA Kinney; both accompanied it in the aircraft on the return flight.

ATSAIC Stout and Special Agents Grant, Sulliman, Olsson, Berger and Johnson, of the 4 to 12 shift of the White House Detail, who had been awaiting the President's arrival at the Trade Mart, joined the security group at the hospital and replaced ATSAIC Roberts' shift on the secured emergency area. The Secret Service shift, consisting of ATSAIC Roberts, and Special Agents McIntyre, Bennett and Ready, who had been riding in the follow-up car at the time of the shooting, supplemented the Vice Presidential Detail, consisting of ASAIC Youngblood, ATSAIC Johns and Special Agents Taylor and Kivett, in assuming responsibility for the protection of the Vice President and Mrs. Johnson in the hospital.

ATSAIC Roberts, upon request of the Vice President, discussed with Mr. Kenneth O'Donnell the necessity and practicability of the Vice President returning to Washington on Air Force 1. Mr. O'Donnell indicated to the Vice President that he could leave Dallas.

ATSAIC Emory Roberts made arrangements with the Dallas Police to have unmarked police cars for the Vice President, the Presidential party and a group of Secret Service agents to return to Love Field.

SA Lawson notified Secret Service Special Agents from the White House Detail, who were in Austin, Texas, to return to Washington immediately. He then assisted in preparing the motorcade for the return to Love Field.

At 1 p.m., ASAIC Kellerman was advised of the death of the President by Doctor Burkley, and Vice President Johnson was notified of the death of the President by members of the President's Staff in the presence of Secret Service Agents Kellerman, Youngblood and Kivett.

While SAIC Behn was being informed of the situation in the hospital, SA Hill had advised the Attorney General that the President had been seriously injured by gunfire. Upon being told of the death of the President, SA Hill contacted the Attorney General and advised him of the President's death.

Arrangements were made through the Air Force Aide by ASAIC Youngblood and SA Kivett for the President's place (Air Force 1) to be made ready for the return to Washington. SA Lawton, at Love Field, had issued orders that no press would be admitted to the vicinity of Air Force 1. Security on the plane had been completed by Air Force sentries and Secret Service Agents Lawton, Rybka, Patterson and Warner, who had remained at Love Field awaiting the return of the Presidential party.

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All persons, except security and maintenance personnel, had been cleared from the area and the buildings overlooking the plane site. A large detail of Dallas police arrived, dispatched by Chief Curry, to assist in the security.

After the Vice President had been notified of the death of the President, Mr. Malcolm Kilduff, Assistant Press Secretary, entered President Johnson's room about 1:13 p.m., and it was decided that the notification of the death of President Kennedy would not be released to the Press until President Johnson had left the hospital. A decision had been made by Mrs. Kennedy and the White House Staff to return the body of President Kennedy to Washington in Air Force 1.

President Johnson, accompanied by Mr. Cliff Carter and ASAIC Youngblood, left Parkland Hospital in an unmarked police car, driven by Police Chief Curry, under escort for Love Field, where they boarded Air Force 1. During the ride, President Johnson was shielded by Youngblood. Mrs. Johnson rode in a police car directly behind President Johnson. She was accompanied by Congressman Brooks and Special Agents Warren Taylor, Jerry Kivett and Glen Bennett of the Secret Service. In the car immediately behind her, driven by a Dallas policeman, was ATSAIC Roberts, Special Agents Ready and McIntyre, and Chief Warrant Officer Gearhart, a White House Communication Courier. Special Agent Johns followed in another police car.

President and Mrs. Johnson arrived at Love Field and boarded Air Force 1 at approximately 1:40 p.m. Special Agents present at Love Field and those who had arrived with President Johnson were posted in and around the aircraft. Aboard the aircraft President and Mrs. Johnson remained in the stateroom area. They were joined by Congressmen Thornberry, Brooks, and Thomas. ASAIC Youngblood remained with President Johnson at all times. The President called the Attorney General concerning the legal aspects of taking the oath of the Presidency. President Johnson then called Federal Judge Sarah Hughes and requested her to come to the plane. The President also requested that he be kept advised of the location of Mrs. Kennedy and the body of the late President and to inform him when the President's body would arrive. Mrs. Kennedy and the body of the late President arrived at the plane before Judge Hughes. Upon arrival of Judge Hughes the oath was administered at approximately 2:40 p.m. Photographs of the ceremony were taken by Cecil Stoughton, a United States Army photographer assigned to the White House. At the invitation of the President, the following persons witnessed the swearing-in ceremony, which took place in the Presidential compartment:

|                        |                     |   |
|------------------------|---------------------|---|
| Mrs. Johnson           | Mrs. Evelyn Lincoln | Rufus Youngblood                        |
| Mrs. Kennedy           | Miss Marie Fehmer   | Roy H. Kellerman                        |
| Jack Valenti           | Miss Pamela Turnure | Thomas L. Johns                         |
| Cong. Homer Thornberry | Police Chief Curry  | Paul E. Landis                          |
| Cong. Albert Thomas    | William Moyers      | Richard Johnsen                         |
| Cong. Jack Brooks      | Malcolm Kilduff     | Capt. Cecil Stoughton<br>(Photographer) |

After the death of President Kennedy, SA Hill was directed by Mr. Kenneth O'Donnell to obtain a casket so that the body of the President could be transported back to Washington as quickly as possible. The casket arrived at approximately 1:40 p.m., and was wheeled directly into the emergency room. The President's body was removed from the stretcher, upon which it had remained since his arrival at the hospital, and placed in the casket.

Special Agent Lawson, through Doctor Burkley, arranged with Sheriff William Decker for the release of President Kennedy's body.

A route was selected from the hospital to Love Field by ATSAIC Johns and police. A request was made by SA Grant to the police to have the route cleared. An ambulance of the O'Neal Mortuary Company stood by, and at approximately 1:58 p.m., Mrs. Kennedy and the President's body, accompanied by Secret Service Agents Kellerman, Stout, and Hill, left the hospital. A Secret Service car, driven by SA Greer, occupied by SA Landis, followed the hearse, which was driven by SA Berger and arrived at Love Field at 2:14 p.m. A Dallas police car, with SA Lawson, led the motorcade. The casket was placed in the left rear corner of Air Force 1 where four seats had been removed to provide the necessary space. One Special Agent was with the casket during the flight.

Air Force 1 arrived at Andrews Air Force Base at 5:58 p.m., at which time Attorney General Robert Kennedy joined Mrs. Kennedy aboard Air Force 1.

Security arrangements had been placed in effect at Andrews Air Force Base by Secret Service personnel from Headquarters, White House Detail, and the Washington Field Office, supplemented by a detail of Air Police, members of the Metropolitan and U. S. Park Police; the latter were used for escort duty. The public had been excluded from Andrews Air Force Base and only Government officials and Press were allowed in the vicinity of the air strip.

Upon alighting from the plane, the President was surrounded by the agents who accompanied him from Dallas and by a detail of Special Agents from the Washington Field Office and Headquarters, under the personal direction of Chief Rowley. This security cordon conducted the President to a press area where he spoke to the press, radio, and television correspondents, and then walked to his helicopter.

The President and Mrs. Johnson traveled by helicopter to the White House grounds, accompanied by Chief Rowley and ASAIC Youngblood. The President walked to his office in the Executive Office Building and appropriate post assignments were assumed by ASAIC Youngblood, ATSAIC Stout, and Special Agents Sulliman, Olsson, Berger, Johnsen, Kivett, Johns, and Taylor, who had accompanied the President from Dallas and who, except for ASAIC Youngblood, were in an accompanying helicopter from Andrews Air Force Base to the White House. Mrs. Johnson was driven to her residence, under escort, by SAIC Knight and ATSAIC Rundle, from Washington.

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Special Agents Roberts, Ready, Lawton, and McIntyre returned on the back-up plane and remained on duty at the White House.

President Kennedy's body, Mrs. Kennedy, the Attorney General, General Godfrey McHugh, and Doctor Burkley, accompanied by ASAIC Kellerman and SA Landis, were driven in an ambulance by SA Greer to Bethesda Naval Hospital. Special Agents Hill and O'Leary followed in another vehicle.

ASAIC Kellerman and SA Greer remained at the Bethesda Hospital Morgue during the autopsy. SA Landis remained at the hospital at all times in the vicinity of Mrs. Kennedy's quarters on the 17th floor, where he and SA Hill secured the area and allowed into the suite only hospital personnel assigned to the area, the Kennedy family, and close personal friends. SA O'Leary assisted in this security. SA Hill was also present at the completion of the autopsy and the preparation of President Kennedy's body after the autopsy. ASAIC Kellerman and SA Greer assumed responsibility for President Kennedy's personal effects and the photographic records made of the autopsy.

The casket containing President Kennedy's body was taken from the U. S. Naval Hospital at 3:56 a.m., accompanied by Mrs. Kennedy, the Attorney General, and ASAIC Kellerman, in an ambulance driven by SA Greer, under police escort. SA Hill rode in a car immediately behind the ambulance. SA Landis followed in another car. The motorcade arrived at the White House at 4:24 a.m., and the casket was placed in the East Room of the White House.

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