

FIELD OFFICE - Dallas, Texas.
SAIC - Forrest V. Sorrels
DATE - November 30, 1963

Confidential

On November 4, 1963, phone call was received from SAIC Gerald A. Behn, White House Detail, stating that the Trade Mart had been suggested for the luncheon place for The President on the proposed visit to Dallas about November 21st, but that it was apparently not as good as the Woman's Building at the State Fair Grounds; that the Trade Mart had about sixty entrances and six cat walks; that these places should be inspected and that he be notified thereto.

Special Agent Robert A. Stewart and I then proceeded to the Trade Mart building, 2100 Stemmons Freeway, then to Market Hall, just across Industrial Blvd., from the Trade Mart, and then to the Woman's Bldg., Fair Park.

Then returned to the office and telephoned SAIC Behn and informed him that the Trade Mart did pose security problems due to the fact that there were three floors above the courtyard where the luncheon would have to be held, each floor having balconies on all four sides and two suspended bridges or cat-walks on each floor, and that there were many entrances on each floor.

SAIC Behn was informed that Market Hall, which has one hundred and seven thousand feet without any columns or pillars would be satisfactory security wise, but that it was not available on the date in question. It was further stated that the Woman's Bldg. offered no problems as to security, but that it had many small supporting beams, low ceiling and somewhat unsightly.

On November 13, 1963, accompanied Special Agent Winston G. Lawson and Mr. Jack Puterbaugh to office of Mr. A. W. Cullum, President of Chamber of Commerce, then went to view the Trade Mart and then the Woman's Building, State Fair Grounds. We also went to office of Mr. Felix McKnight, Editor of the Dallas Times Herald. Also accompanied SA Lawson to Love Field where we met Aviation Director Coker and Asst. Aviation Director McGready and examined proposed area for spotting the planes of The President, The Vice-President and the press.

On November 14, 1963, accompanied SA Lawson to office of Mr. Eugene Locke, Attorney, Republic National Bank Bldg., for further discussion of plans for the visit. Also on this date again went to Love Field where another meeting was held with Mr. McGready and study made of proposed arrival point. We also drove the route that would possibly be selected in order to approximate the travel time that would be needed.

On November 15, 1963, we again went to the Trade Mart and conferred with Manager Cooper. We also went to office of Chief of Police Jesse Curry and conferred with him, informing him that luncheon site had not been definitely selected and that we would meet with him later. We then met Mr. Cullen and Mr. John Stemmons and Mr. Puterbaugh at the Baker Hotel. During the afternoon we attended a committee meeting at the Baker Hotel attended by Chamber of Commerce Manager Cullum, and others where general discussion was had relative to plans for the visit.

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SORRELS EXHIBIT No. 4

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On November 16, 1963, accompanied SA Lawson to the Trade Mart where we met Manager W. E. Cooper and others relative to security, catering, etc. Also met with press representatives and others re location of cameras, etc.

On November 16, 1963, accompanied SA Lawson to the Trade Mart where we met Mr. Wayne Hawkes of the White House Staff, Manager Cooper and members of his staff, and conferred re proposed arrangements of the luncheon. We then went to Love Field where we met Deputy Police Chief Landy and Asst. Chief Bachelor and again looked over place where the planes would park. Asst. Aviation Manager McGready met us and was in on this discussion. We then clocked the motorcade route with the above named police officials from Love Field to the Trade Mart. We also discussed the area to be secured for parking of the motorcade vehicles.

On November 19, 1963, we met Asst. Chief Bachelor and Deputy Chief Stevenson at the Trade Mart and were also joined by Deputy Chief Burris of the Fire Department and Trade Mart Manager Cooper and his assistant and the details of the security of the building were discussed in detail.

On November 20, 1963, we proceeded to Love Field where we met Asst. Aviation Manager McGready and started negotiations to obtain additional space for the arrival and departure of the three planes. We then returned to the Trade Mart for further conference with Manager Cooper and others. Later we returned to Love Field and met Major Charles Nedbal and Asst. Aviation Director McGready and final plans discussed.

On November 21, 1963, we attended meeting at the Bloom Advertising Agency, 512 South Akard St. We then went to Love Field where we met Deputy Police Chiefs Charles Bachelor and N. T. Fisher, Asst. Aviation Director McGready and Major Nedbal and final security arrangements were made after additional space had been obtained. We then went to Continental Bus Company, enroute to office of Chief of Police Curry where we met with him and his command officers and again went over final security plans. It was agreed that Chief Curry would be coordinator at previous meeting and that he would call on the Dallas County Sheriff Bill Decker and Major Guy Smith, Texas Department of Public Safety, for additional personnel for security purposes in connection with the visit of The President to Dallas on November 22nd. Sheriff Decker and Major Smith had been contacted and agreed to this plan and offered their full support.

On the evening of November 21st, we met Special Agents accompanying The President's car and the follow up car and upon their arrival via cargo plane at Love Field, and through the cooperation of the office of the Aviation Director the cars were placed in the basement of the Administration Building with continuous police guard.

J. V. Sorrels
Special Agent in Charge.

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Exhibit 5
Deposition of F.V. Sorrels
May 7, 1964

STATE OF TEXAS, T.V. SORRELS, SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE, U. S. MARSHAL SERVICE,
DALLAS, TEXAS, NOVEMBER 28, 1963.

Confidential

On November 22, 1963, in the Presidential Motorcade from Love Field through downtown Dallas, I was riding in the lead car which preceded the car of the President of the United States. In this car was Dallas County Sheriff Bill Decker, Chief of Police Jesse Curry of Dallas, who was driving the car, and Secret Service Special Agent Winston G. Lawson. Special Agent Lawson was sitting on the front seat by Chief of Police Curry. Sheriff Decker was sitting on the left side of the rear seat and I was sitting on the right side.

Remarks had been made, while we were on Main Street, about the huge crowds, and I remarked that they were even hanging out of windows of the buildings along the route.

When we turned right off of Main Street to Houston Street, I noted that there were several windows open in a building just north of Main Street where Elm Street crosses, this being the Texas Schoolbook Depository, 411 Elm Street. I noticed that there were some people looking out of the windows, but did not note any other activity.

We made the left hand turn onto Elm Street and were proceeding in the direction of the underpass enroute to Stemmons Freeway. When the lead car was approximately one half of the distance from the intersection of Houston and Elm Streets to the first underpass, an announcement had been made over the radio for those at the Trade Mart that the Motorcade was about five minutes away. We were due at the Trade Mart at 12:30 P. M. Just a moment before the five minute arrival radio announcement was made I had remarked that we were not going to be over about five minutes late as it was then approximately 12:30 P. M.

When we were at a point approximately three fourths of the distance between the Houston and Elm Street intersections and the first underpass, I heard what sounded like a rifle shot, and said "What's that?", as I turned to my right to look back in the direction of the terrace and the Texas Schoolbook Depository Building. When I heard two more shots I said, "let's get out of here". I looked towards the top of the terrace to my right as the sound of the shots seemed to come from that direction. I noted that the President's car had accelerated its speed and was fast closing the gap between us. A motorcycle pulled up alongside of the car and Chief Curry yelled "Is anybody hurt?", to which the officer replied in the affirmative, and Chief Curry immediately broadcast to surround the building. By that time we had gotten just under the underpass when the President's car pulled up alongside, and at that time Chief Curry's car had started to pick up speed, and someone yelled to get to the nearest hospital, and Chief Curry broadcast for the hospital to be ready. We then proceeded as fast as possible to the hospital and as soon as the President, Vice President, and Governor Connally were inside the hospital I immediately left in a police car for the Texas Schoolbook Depository Building.

John J. Kelly
Witness

Forrest V. Sorrels
Forrest V. Sorrels

Sorrels - Exhibit No. 5

SORRELS EXHIBIT No. 5