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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

7 AUG 1968

REC-63

TO: Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Attention: Mr. S. J. Papich

FROM: Deputy Director for Plans

SUBJECT: Report on Rumor About Robert Kennedy Being Shot

1. This office has been informed of a rumor similar to that reported in our out teletype number 06680 of 8 June 1968.

2. On 23 July 1968 our representative in Mogadiscio, Somalia, was contacted (but not deliberately sought out) by a Mr. J. Christian Kinney, a United States citizen, who volunteered information about a rumor of Robert Kennedy having been shot. Mr. Kinney reported that on 18 May 1968 he stopped in Beirut, Lebanon, while enroute to Mogadiscio, with his wife and child. On the evening of May 18th he entered the Phoenicia Bar, Phoenicia Hotel, Beirut, about one-half hour before closing time. This was either 2130 or 2230 hours according to Mr. Kinney. At the bar Mr. Kinney struck up a casual conversation with a Mr. Joseph Strong, a United States citizen. During the conversation Mr. Strong inquired if Mr. Kinney had heard that Robert Kennedy had been shot. Mr. Kinney replied that he had not, and Mr. Strong said that he had heard this just before coming to the bar from a man he did not identify. Mr. Kinney and Mr. Strong reportedly felt that if this were true it would appear in the newspapers the next day, which, of course, it did not.

3. On 19 May Mr. Kinney left Beirut for Jidda, Saudi Arabia, where his company has business. He questioned some of his colleagues in Jidda whether they had heard a story about Robert Kennedy having been shot. The colleagues disclaimed having heard this so Mr. Kinney attributed the story to being a "typical Middle East coffee house rumor", and forgot about it. Mr. Kinney also met Mr. Strong in Jidda during the week of 19 May, and no mention was made by either party about the rumor that Robert Kennedy had been shot.

4. According to our representative in Mogadiscio Mr. J. Christian Kinney is employed as a consultant by the Middle West Service Company, 69 West Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois. He presently is assigned to Mogadiscio as the chief consultant to the Mogadiscio Water Agency on a United States

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Agency for International Development (USAID) project. Mr. Kinney is described as being a bright, pleasant, young man in his early thirties who appears to know his business, and is well thought of by USAID officials in Mogadiscio. His wife is reported to be Ecuadorian, and they have one child.

5. The files of this office contain no identifiable information on J. Christian Kinney. Our representative in Mogadiscio reports that Mr. Kinney presently is undergoing a security check for the purpose of permitting him to have access to "need-to-know" classified information in connection with the USAID Mogadiscio water project. It is possible, therefore, that USAID Washington may have information on Mr. Kinney.

6. Our representative in Mogadiscio reports that Mr. Kinney described Mr. Joseph Strong as being the Middle East Sales Manager for Raytheon. According to Mr. Kinney, Mr. Strong is based in New York and travels to his sales territory several times a year. It is possible that Mr. Strong may be identical with Joseph Addington Strong who was born on 5 October 1911 at Chattanooga, Tennessee. According to information dated mid-1967 Joseph Addington Strong resided at 743 Wellesley Street, Weston, Massachusetts. He was employed by the Raytheon Company, Wayland, Massachusetts, as International Sales and Projects Manager, Surface Radar and Navigation Operation. He has been employed by Raytheon since 1950.

7. This office conducted national agency checks on Joseph Addington Strong in 1964. The checks included the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI); Department of State, Passport Section; House Committee on Un-American Activities; and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The checks developed no unfavorable information. In 1962 ONI completed a favorable background investigation on Strong. The investigation was predicated on his civilian duties in a contract capacity.

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