

UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE

PROTECTIVE RESEARCH SECTION

Sample Cases

Illustrating Several Phases

of Protective Research Activity

COMMISSION EXHIBIT 766

April 6, 1964
CO-2-35113

Protective Research Case Illustrating a Phase of PRS Activity

On January 20, 1964 at Fredonia, Arizona, an anonymous letter was mailed to the White House, containing a threat to kill President Johnson. On the evening of the same date a threatening telephone call was received at the White House and was referred to a Special Agent of the Secret Service for handling.

Through a Protective Research analysis of the statements made in the phone call and those contained in the letter it was judged that the same person was involved in both threats. Comparisons were made of the handwriting in the letter with specimens on file in the Protective Research Section and the identity of a possible suspect was established. Investigation by a Secret Service field office confirmed the association of the suspect with both the threatening letter and telephone threat. The subject was arrested, has been found guilty in federal court, and is currently being held pending sentencing by the court.

April 6, 1964
CO-2-33599

Protective Research Case Illustrating a Phase of PRS Activity

On August 6, 1963, an anonymous annoying phone call was received by Dr. W. D. Mann, Chief of the Radioactivity Section, Radiation Physics Division, of the National Bureau of Standards. The following day Dr. Mann received a second call, apparently from the same individual, during which the caller uttered a threat to harm the President. On both occasions he refused to identify himself, but did mention a nickname. The information was reported to the Protective Research Section. A search of specialized indexes of that Section revealed the existence of two letters that had been sent to the President in July, 1963, in which the same nickname was mentioned, and the writer was disturbed because he thought God's power had caused an excessive amount of radioactivity to build up here in Washington. These letters were signed and contained an address of the probable writer.

The letters and threat information were referred to the local Secret Service Field Office. Through investigation the writer was located and his association with the phone calls was confirmed. It was further determined that he was suffering from mental illness, and arrangements were made for him to receive treatment at the Psychiatric Convalescence and Rehabilitation Center at Washington, D. C.

COMMISSION EXHIBIT 766—Continued

Protective Research Case Illustrating a Phase of PRS
Activity

Subject is a white man more than 70 years of age. He was employed as a substitute postal clerk for many years. He has a record of mental illness in recent years and has been a prolific writer of complaint letters. In 1955 he picketed at the White House, demanding that the American flag be flown over every public place.

On December 8, 1960 the Postal Inspection Service in Boston advised the Boston Field Office of the Secret Service that the subject had sold his home in Belmont, Massachusetts, and had turned the mortgage over to a home for homeless children. Further, he told the local postmaster that he hoped they would remember him as he had been and not by what he was going to do. He said that what he was going to do was wrong in some ways but right in others, that he would probably get blown up himself, but that he was going to do it anyway. Subsequently the postmaster had received a note from the subject instructing that any mail for the subject be forwarded to General Delivery, Washington, D. C. The postmaster had become disturbed and reported the information to the Postal Inspection Service because he felt the subject might attempt to harm himself or the President-elect. The Boston Secret Service Field Office telephoned this information to the Protective Research Section. The Field Office was requested to investigate with as much haste as possible. An immediate warning notice was prepared by the Protective Research Section and issued to the White House Detail, the President-elect Detail, the White House Police, the Washington Field Office, the Washington, D. C. Metropolitan Police Department, the Capitol Police, and the Supreme Court Police. In addition, the Washington Field Office was requested to investigate the possible presence of the subject in the D. C. area.

On December 14, 1960, the Protective Research Section was further notified that the Belmont postmaster had another letter from the subject dated Dec. 9, 1960, post-marked Aiken, S. C., and giving a return address of

General Delivery, Palm Springs, Florida. The Boston office had also determined that the subject had purchased and might be carrying dynamite.

Acting on the possibility that subject meant his address to be Palm Beach rather than Palm Springs, the Protective Research Section immediately discussed by telephone the seriousness of the matter with the Secret Service Office in Miami. It was agreed that even though no law violation had been established the danger appeared serious enough to warrant requesting the Florida police to issue a general pick up order to all enforcement officers in the area.

Warning notices requesting apprehension of the subject for questioning by the Secret Service were accordingly issued to personnel in all police agencies in the southern district of the State, including a personal contact made with the Palm Beach and the West Palm Beach Police Departments. Local postmasters were also alerted in case the subject called for mail.

At about 9:00 a.m. the following day subject was arrested by a Palm Beach police officer. He denied any unlawful acts or intent and a request to the local court for a search warrant was denied on the grounds that the accusations against the subject were hearsay. He was taken before the U. S. Commissioner and during the hearing voluntarily agreed to a consent search of his car and motel room. A search of the car revealed 7 sticks of dynamite. In his room were found 3 additional sticks of dynamite, 10 dynamite caps, 2 short pieces of fuse, 3 batteries, and an electric switch. Documents were also found which confirmed the indication that the subject intended to use the dynamite in an assassination attempt.

COMMISSION EXHIBIT 766—Continued