

DeLoach to Mohr 6-4-64

Re: William Manchester, Author of Kennedy Book
To Be Published in 1969

Appointment with Director, 10:10 a. m., 6-4-64

The Director told Manchester that it was extremely difficult to speculate on the motivations of Oswald to kill the President. The Director stated it was entirely possible Oswald may have wanted to kill Governor John Connally. He explained that Oswald had written communications to Governor Connally protesting his particular type of discharge from the U. S. Marine Corps. The Director added that President Kennedy was an intellectual liberal type. He stated that President Kennedy had been desirous of keeping peace with honor. He stated that President Kennedy desired peaceful co-existence -- American style. The Director added that the President, although he had been firm in his dealings with Khrushchev, had a fairly good relationship with Khrushchev and the Soviet Union. The Director summed up by stating that Oswald could not have desired to kill the President because the President had dealt harshly, or spoken harshly, against the Communist Party and Chairman Khrushchev.

Manchester speculated that perhaps the communists, including Oswald, did not like the relationship between the late President and Khrushchev; therefore, the communists desired to do away with President Kennedy so that this obstacle to their desired philosophy would be removed. The Director replied that this was entirely possible; however, he wanted Manchester to clearly understand that Khrushchev was not a person to be trusted and that Chairman Khrushchev had a very cold and evil mind. The Director, at this point, gave examples of Khrushchev's understanding of the English language despite the fact that he had Groyanovsky, an excellent interpreter, with him at all times while on his visits to the United States. The Director told Manchester that he had always felt it better to kick individuals like Khrushchev on the shins once in a while rather than to boot-lick them. The Director explained that Khrushchev was basically an oriental and that individuals opposing orientals usually lost face in the oriental's opinion when fear or trepidation was shown.

Manchester inquired as to whether the Director's duties and responsibilities allowed him to participate personally in the funeral ceremonies. The Director replied in the negative. He stated he had been at his desk constantly. He added that he had issued instructions that FBI personnel participate officially in the ceremonies by assisting Secret Service as much as possible. The Director spoke of the many visiting foreign dignitaries and of the dangers involved in the march from the White House to St. Matthew's Cathedral. He told Manchester that over 40 Special Agents had been assigned to assist Secret Service, particularly at St. Matthew's Cathedral. He further told Manchester that the authority to protect the President was clearly a function of the Secret Service; however, since the assassination we have assisted when called upon. The Director briefly advised Manchester at this point of the immediate widespread ramifications of this case following the actual shooting. He told Manchester that leads had spread to Mexico as well as throughout the entire United States. Therefore, it has been necessary for him personally to remain at his desk so as to supervise this matter.

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At this point I reminded Manchester of his previous statement to me that he had to be at the White House at 11:15 a. m. Manchester thanked the Director twice upon his departure and stated that he was very appreciative of the Director's cooperation and considerable time taken from a busy schedule to be of assistance.

ACTION:

The Director may desire to send the Attorney General the attached letter indicating that he had seen Manchester.