

Mr. Callahan	/
Mr. Conrad	/
Mr. Felt	/
Mr. Gale	/
Mr. Rosen	/
Mr. Sullivan	/
Mr. Tavel	/
Mr. Trotter	/
Tele. Room	/
Miss Holmes	/
Miss Gandy	/

October 10, 1966

MR. TOLSON:

RE: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY;
MEETING WITH JUSTICE FORTAS, 2 p.m. 10/7/66
AND REQUEST FOR DIRECTOR TO WRITE BOOK

I saw Justice Fortas at 2:45 p.m. this afternoon at his chambers at the Supreme Court Building. Pursuant to the Director's instructions, I outlined to Justice Fortas the many reasons why the Director could not accede to the President's and Justice Fortas' request that a lengthy article, series of articles or book be written by the Director concerning captioned matter. I told Justice Fortas the Director wanted to be of all possible assistance to the President and him, however, in this particular instance the Director would appreciate consideration be given to the above reasons why it would not be logical for him to undertake this project.

Without any hesitation, Justice Fortas told me he agreed with the Director. He stated he could not indicate this previously, however, he had argued with the President that it was not logical for the Director to prepare this book inasmuch as the Director in doing so would necessarily have to substantiate the investigative efforts of many other agencies other than those of the FBI.

Justice Fortas indicated he had no argument whatsoever with the Director's thoughts. In reply, I told him the Director had suggested that Chief Justice Warren might undertake such a project inasmuch as he, the Chief Justice, would be acting in his capacity as Chairman of the Warren Commission rather than in the capacity of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Justice Fortas stated he doubted Chief Justice Warren would agree to this assumption. He added, however, that Lee Rankin, the Chief Counsel of the Warren Commission, had agreed to write a book; however, Rankin's book would not be ready for publication for approximately one year.

Justice Fortas stated he and the President would appreciate the Director giving consideration to issuing a statement or writing one brief article restricted solely to the controversy.

CND:hmm
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MEMO TO: MR. TOLSON

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raised by critics with respect to the differences as shown in the autopsy between the FBI reports and the final conclusion of the Warren Commission. I told Justice Fortas this would be brought to the Director's attention and I felt certain the Director would be agreeable to the issuance of a statement in this regard so long as the statement pertains to this one point.

I brought up the subject of Harold Reis with Justice Fortas. After outlining to him the fact that Reis was undoubtedly responsible for any misunderstanding which had arisen between the Department and the FBI, Justice Fortas interrupted me and said he had known Reis for many years and disliked him intensely ever since he, Justice Fortas, had represented the Puerto Rican Government in dealings for the United States. He stated Reis had stuck a knife in his back on more than one occasion. Justice Fortas stated in one instance he had told former Attorney General Katzenbach in President Johnson's presence of the fact that Reis had a very brazen, undesirable personality and that Katzenbach should get rid of him. Fortas asked me to tell this fact to Ramsey Clark the next time I see Clark. I will, of course, do that this afternoon.

Pursuant to the Director's instructions, we are preparing a statement in line with the President's and Justice Fortas' request.

Respectfully,

V. P.
C. D. DeLoach

Sent me via [unclear]
10/11/66
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