

Memorandum

TO : MR. SULLIVAN
FROM : MR. BRANIGAN
SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
INTERNAL SECURITY - RUSSIA - CUBA

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. DeLoach
DATE: 4-3-64

1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. Lenihan
1 - Mr. Gheesling
1 - Mr. Branigan

SECRET

Routing slip with checkboxes for various departments like Tolson, DeLoach, Mohr, etc.

While complimenting the Bureau for its cooperation, the President's Commission, by letter 3-26-64, forwarded what purports to be 30 questions (by actual count there are 52 as some of the enumerated questions have more than one part) to which they request a reasoned response in reasonable detail and with such substantiating materials as seem appropriate.

The questions are those of a cross-examining attorney and it is evident that this is the cross-examination of the FBI or a part of it in the case of the assassination of President Kennedy. From the questions, the following is also evident:

1. Some of the questions appear to lack substance. For example, question 13 in effect inquires as to why Mrs. Oswald was described as "his wife" in two of our reports and "his wife, Marina Nikolaevna Oswald" in a third. The answer quite simply is that three separate Agents wrote the three separate reports and each had his own way of expressing himself. Our reporting procedures are sound and they accomplish our objective; namely, the recording of facts.

2. With all the advantages of reviewing the facts after the event, the Commission's questions seek to determine whether there was something about Lee Harvey Oswald that took his case out of the ordinary and would require the establishment of unusual techniques, including a day-to-day and hour-to-hour check. In our answers and statement to the Commission, we clearly establish that there was nothing in the investigation of Oswald that would require the coverage we would establish of a known espionage or sabotage agent.

3. The Commission's questions probe whether there was evidence in our investigation of Oswald, prior to the assassination, of a tendency for violence and hence the FBI should have alerted Secret Service which could have maintained Oswald in custody while the President was in Dallas on 11-22-63. Our investigation did not disclose that Oswald had a tendency for violence. This is clearly set forth in our answers to the Commission's questions.

Encs.
WAB:hrt
(10)

REC 27

103-8055-3015

5 APR 16 1964

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Classified by APR 10 1964
Exempt from GDS Category 3
Date of Declassification Indefinite

PERS. REC. UNIT P 2 part 6

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. SULLIVAN
RE: LEE HARVEY OSWALD

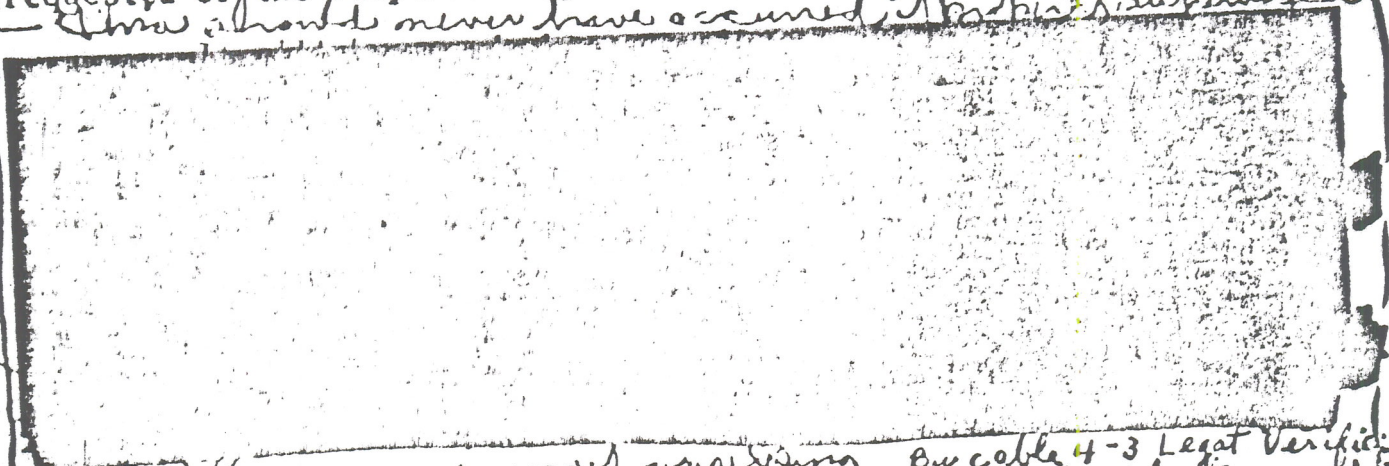
ISE' ICI,

miss
of 4/11
WAB: [unclear]

But, we believe it important to not only answer the Commission, but to state our case for the benefit of the record and, therefore, in the letter to the Commission we include a succinct recapitulation of the facts that were determined by our investigation of Oswald prior to the assassination.

In our answers to the questions of the Commission, we are forthright, factual, and respond as they requested, with a reasoned reply. It will be noted that in answer 15 we admit that a date in an investigative report was in error. While this was of a typographical nature, we acknowledge the incorrectness and explanations are being requested of the responsible personnel from the New Orleans Office.

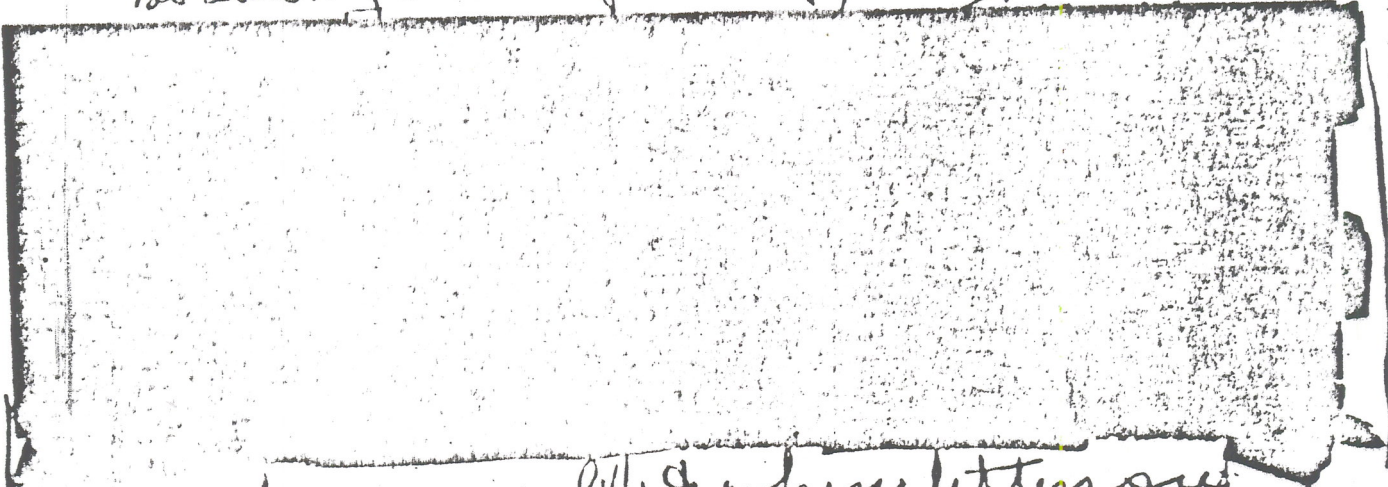
These should never have occurred in [unclear]



ACTION:

*see no response for up to [unclear]
so that [unclear] re classifications of [unclear]*

*By cable 4-3 Legat Veracruz
not told until after assassination*



*Answers. All of which letters are
out [unclear] ready for my clearance
return them to me for
signature.*

SECRET