

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont

DATE: 4/2/64

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION
ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

John F

Tolson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DeLoach	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mohr	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bishop	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Casper	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Callahan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Conrad	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Felt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gale	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rosen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sullivan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tavel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Trotter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tele. Room	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Holmes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gandy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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By letter dated April 1, 1964, Mr. J. Lee Rankin of the President's Commission advised that Mr. Samuel A. Stern, a member of the supervisory staff of the President's Commission, would be in Dallas, Texas, on April 8 or 9, 1964, and would appreciate Agents Manning Clements and James Bookhout being available at the U. S. Attorney's office in order that he might take depositions or affidavits from these Agents covering events which occurred during the course of the arrest and detention of Lee Harvey Oswald. Mr. Rankin advised that appropriate arrangements would be made through SAC Shanklin at Dallas to set an exact time for the interviews. Mr. Rankin also advised that if during the course of the interviews with Agents Clements and Bookhout it seemed to Mr. Stern advisable to take depositions from other Agents in the Dallas Office, he hoped it would be satisfactory for appropriate arrangements to be made with Mr. Shanklin.

Special Agents Clements and Bookhout were sent to the Dallas Police Department on the afternoon of November 22, 1963, the day the President was killed, by SAC Shanklin, in order that they would know what events transpired so that the Bureau would be fully prepared to handle the situation if the Bureau became involved in the investigation. Agents Clements and Bookhout did during the afternoon sit in on interviews with Oswald. Consequently, they would be logical persons that the Commission would desire to have testimony from or to take depositions from relative to their knowledge of what transpired for the Commission's official records.

The contents of Mr. Rankin's letter were made available by telephone to the Dallas Office today and a copy of the letter is being furnished Dallas. ASAC Clark was advised that the Agents should be made available in accordance with the request and they should be thoroughly prepared to answer any questions concerning the actual investigation or interviews they conducted. However, their remarks must be confined to the facts developed during their interviews and they were not to answer any questions where they were asked for their personal opinions or impressions or beliefs concerning certain things that might be pronounced by Mr. Stern or any other member of the Commission's staff. It was emphasized

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that the Agents' remarks must be confined to knowledge they gained from interviews and investigations. ASAC Clark stated that he fully understood these instructions and they would be complied with completely.

ASAC Clark was advised that we had recently received a rather detailed letter from Mr. Rankin's office asking thirty specific questions concerning the Bureau's investigation of Oswald and that the Dallas Office would be furnished a copy of this letter along with the Bureau's answer to Mr. Rankin's office.

Current Request Received by Dallas
Office from Commission Staff Members

ASAC Clark advised in connection with the foregoing he had received a telephone call from Mr. Wesley James Liebler, a Commission staff member, requesting that the Agents who conducted investigation at the Irving Sport Shop be available in the Dallas Office as he, Liebler, desired to talk to these Agents. When questioned as to exactly what he wanted, Liebler stated he had interviewed two employees of the Irving Sport Shop, a Mr. Greener and a Mr. Ryder, noting that Ryder was the individual who had made up a work ticket covering work on a gun, which ticket was made out to one _____ Oswald. Liebler stated he wanted an opportunity to talk to the Agents who had conducted the interviews with these employees and others at the Irving Sport Shop, no names given, in order to "kind of get their evaluation or impression of the situation." Liebler then stated he desired to know whether the Agents thought these individuals were lying or telling the truth. In response to this request ASAC Clark advised Liebler that the Agents had no personal opinion or evaluation concerning the information they had received during their interviews, that all material obtained during the interviews had been reduced to writing and had been furnished in investigative reports to the President's Commission. Liebler was told that in view of this there did not appear to be any reason for him to interview the Agents involved. Mr. Liebler then commented he realized the Agents would not have any personal opinions and that while he still desired to talk to them to get such opinions he fully understood the Bureau's position in this matter and would forget his request.

The Dallas Office has advised the investigation conducted to determine whether the work ticket made out to one _____ Oswald was actually Lee Harvey Oswald did not substantiate that it actually was Lee Harvey Oswald. Concerning

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the interview with Ryder, the Dallas Office advised he was first interviewed by Bureau Agents on November 25, 1963, prior to the publicity which occurred in the newspapers on November 28. Because of additional information received and telephone calls concerning Ryder having knowledge of Oswald, he was subsequently interviewed on several occasions.

Liebler advised he was returning to Washington, D. C. today and would appreciate the Dallas Office making available to Bureau headquarters a chronology covering the interview with Employee Ryder of the Irving Sport Center showing the date of the interview as compared with the date when newspaper stories appeared relative to Oswald possibly having work performed on his gun at the Irving Sport Center. The Dallas Office is preparing the chronology requested and will furnish it to the Bureau.

ACTION:

Upon receipt of the chronology requested by Liebler it will be made available to the President's Commission.

By separate communication Mr. Rankin is being advised that Agents Clements and Bookhout will be available for interview on April 8 or 9, 1964.

Handwritten initials, possibly 'H. Q.', and a checkmark.