

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. W. C. Sullivan

FROM : Mr. W. A. Branigan *W.A.B.*

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
INTERNAL SECURITY - RUSSIA - CUBA

DATE: 5-18-67

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Wick
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Branigan
- 1 - Mr. Lenihan

- Tolson _____
- DeLoach
- Wick
- Casper _____
- Callahan _____
- Conrad _____
- Felt _____
- Gale _____
- Rosen
- Sullivan _____
- Tavel _____
- Trotter _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holmes _____
- Gandy _____

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Bidwell

The purpose of this memorandum is to summarize data in our files concerning Sylvia Odio, a Cuban refugee, and to attach a letter to the "National Enquirer," which has raised a question regarding FBI investigation of Odio.

By letter dated 5-11-67 an editor of the "National Enquirer" made reference to an FBI letter to the Warren Commission dated 9-21-64 wherein the FBI informed the Warren Commission it planned to display photographs of three individuals to determine if such individuals were known to Sylvia Odio. The "National Enquirer" is a well-known sex-type newspaper, is totally unreliable and is known to feature wild sensational stories.

BACKGROUND RE SYLVIA ODIO:

Sylvia Odio is an anti-Cuban refugee who resided in Dallas, Texas, at the time of the assassination. Approximately two weeks after the assassination we learned from an associate of Odio that Odio claimed she received a visit from Leon Oswald and two Mexican companions on 9-26/27-63. Odio claimed these three individuals were bringing to her a message from her father who was being held as a political prisoner in Cuba.

We conducted extensive investigation regarding Odio's claim and found absolutely no corroboration for it. We also determined that on 9-26/27-63 Oswald was en route from New Orleans to Mexico City by bus. We corroborated this through interviews of several individuals who shared the bus with Oswald.

Subsequently we received information which tended to identify three individuals who may have paid a visit to Odio in Dallas in September, 1963. These individuals were Loran Hall, William Seymour and Lawrence Howard. Our inquiries in this matter were continuing, as of 9-24-64 when the Warren Commission submitted its Report on the assassination of President Kennedy to the President and subsequently to the Nation. However, we did run out this allegation and showed pictures of Hall, Seymour and Howard to Mrs. Odio but she indicated her memory was hazy and she could not recall meeting these three men. Our investigation in this particular

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regard was summarized in a memorandum dated 10-2-64 at Miami, Florida, and was transmitted by letter dated 11-9-64 to Mr. Rankin of the Warren Commission.

During our investigation of Odio's allegations, we determined that she was mentally unstable, had attempted to commit suicide and was hospitalized at one time for mental illness. During her testimony before the Warren Commission on 7-22-64, Odio informed the Commission that she was under the treatment of a psychiatrist. The Warren Commission concluded that Odio had not met an individual named Leon Oswald as claimed.

Although we do not know the purpose of "National Enquirer's" inquiry, we strongly suspect that it will come out with an article attempting to prove that one Leon Oswald was involved in anti-Castro activities because of his alleged contact with Mrs. Odio, a Cuban refugee. It is noted that Perry Raymond Russo, who was the chief witness when Clay Shaw was indicted by New Orleans Grand Jury for conspiracy in the assassination of President Kennedy, claimed that he met a Leon Oswald in the apartment of David William Ferrie and that this Leon Oswald, whom he identified as Lee Harvey Oswald, along with Clay Shaw and David Ferrie planned the assassination of President Kennedy. "National Enquirer" is actually requesting us to do its research in pinpointing our investigation which is available in National Archives. This request is absurd.

ACTION:

Attached is a letter to the "National Enquirer" referring such newspaper to the National Archives.

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