

5:15 p.m.

November 22, 1963

PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON
 MR. BELMONT
 MR. MOHR
 MR. CONRAD
 MR. DE LOACH
 MR. EVANS
 MR. ROSEN
 MR. SULLIVAN

Assistant Attorney General Norbert A. Schlei, Office of Legal Counsel, called. He stated he was drafting various forms of a proclamation for use by the new President and wondered if I could tell him whether I had any knowledge as to what kind of people murdered the President. He indicated the form of the proclamation might depend on whether these were madmen, disappointed office seekers, representing some political point of view, were segregationist madmen, or just who they were.

I told Mr. Schlei I thought very probably we had in custody the man who killed the President in Dallas but this had not definitely been established. I advised Mr. Schlei that Lee Harvey Oswald spent some years in Russia, although he was born in America; that he tried unsuccessfully to renounce his American citizenship; and then came back here. I stated our interest in Oswald came about from the fact that he had been associated with the Fair Play for Cuba Committee; that he was arrested in New Orleans some months ago for handing out leaflets in behalf of that committee. I told Mr. Schlei that Oswald was working in the building from which the shots were fired; that we have the rifle and 3 empty shells found in the building in which the man was employed. I said Oswald apparently left this building and a block or two away two police officers moved toward him, and for no good reason he opened fire on them and killed one. I told Mr. Schlei that the police have Oswald in custody and we are interrogating him at the present time. I stated he would be in the category of a nut and the extremist pro-Castro crowd.

EX-101 REC-16 62-10266-5-7

34 As to other Presidents assassinated, I indicated I had knowledge concerning only two of them. I stated the attempted assassination of

- Tolson _____
- Belmont _____
- Mohr _____
- Casper _____
- Callahan _____
- Conrad _____
- DeLoach _____
- Evans _____
- Gale _____
- Rosen _____
- Sullivan _____
- Tavel _____
- Trotter _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holmes _____
- Gandy _____

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

JEH:rm (12)

Memorandum for Messrs. Tolson, Belmont, Mohr, November 22, 1963
Conrad, DeLoach, Evans, Rosen, Sullivan

President Truman was by Puerto Ricans in the Nationalist Party, which was the same group who opened fire in the House of Representatives from the gallery.

Concerning the assassination of President McKinley, I advised Mr. Schlei that Czolgosz, who killed President McKinley, was a student of Emma Goldman and that I later prosecuted her for deportation from the United States. I said we did not catch up with Emma Goldman until 1919, when we rounded up a group of anarchists and sent them back to Russia. I related that Czolgosz attended meetings at Goldman's home in Chicago, where she had a meeting place for people with anarchist views. I stated that Goldman was a well educated woman - self educated - coming from the sweatshops of the New York garment district; that she wrote on many subjects and wrote well.

I advised Mr. Schlei that almost all assassins had some imaginary grievance, usually of a political type - of either the anarchist viewpoint or the communist viewpoint. I stated the communists did not come into the picture until 1917.

I said Oswald, if he were the man, would be in the category of being an extreme radical of the left; that he was a member of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee; that several of the leaders of this group have been indicted; but that this man never was a leader. I stated he was born an American but tried unsuccessfully to lose his American citizenship; came back to this country in 1962; made several trips to Cuba; upon his return each time we questioned him about what he went to Cuba for and he answered that it was none of our business. I said his working in this particular building where he was employed would lend credence to the fact that he may very likely be the man.

I advised Mr. Schlei that we have been getting leads from all over the country. I stated in California there is a story which has some substance which we are running down that a man made a statement to some woman at Long Beach that the President would be assassinated in Dallas today.

I also advised Mr. Schlei that Western Union has brought to our attention telegrams containing veiled threats to the President in the past several days.

I told him in criminal cases there are always four or five people who turn up who claim to be guilty. I stated I would think Oswald would

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be the one. I stated our Agents view him as a nut as he freezes up and withdraws into himself when he is being questioned as he did this afternoon down in Dallas. I said that much depends upon the evidence to be obtained; that the rifle has been handled by dozens of people probably - the building was filled with people watching the parade; by the time they got to the fifth floor, the rifle had been dropped and thrown over into a corner; there was indication he was eating fried chicken sandwiches this afternoon; we have to check this out and find where he obtained the chicken.

I stated Oswald is the principal suspect in the case; we are trying to persuade him to submit to a polygraph examination; and as soon as the body arrives in Washington, we will determine whether the bullets have been taken out because we will need that in the trial of the case to tie in with the empty shells found by the gun. I informed Mr. Schiel that at the hospital in Dallas they were not certain the bullets had been taken out; that the body is going to be removed to the Bethesda Naval Hospital and, if the bullets are still in the body, they will be removed.

Mr. Schiel stated I had been very helpful and he appreciated it very much. I told him, if we can be of any further help, to call on me.

Very truly yours,

J. E. H.

John Edgar Hoover
Director

SENT FROM D. O.
TIME 5:00 PM
DATE 11-23-63
BY gal