UNITED STATES GOVER MENT 'emorandum

Mr. Belmont

DATE: December 19, 1963

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SUBIECT:

JACK L. RUBY, AKA;

LEE HARVEY OSWALD, AKA - VICTIM

CIVIL RIGHTS

The major facets of this investigation concern such questions as whether there was any connection between Oswald and Ruby, the manner in which Ruby gained entrance to the basement. whether any other person conspired with Ruby to kill Oswald and whether any police officer permitted the killing. We are also attempting to compile as detailed a record as possible of Ruby's movements from 11-21-63 to 11-24-63.

Discrepancies have been found in the statements of various witnesses particularly with regard to the manner in which Ruby gained entrance to the basement. All aspects of the investigation are within Ruby's knowledge; and if he should provide a frank and complete statement, it could materially aid in resolving the issues under investigation.

In a memorandum of 12-11-63, which is attached for ready reference, consideration was given to the desirability of interviewing Ruby, and it was determined that the interview should be conducted if Ruby's defense counsel and the County District Attorney agreed. It was recognized at that time that Melvin Belli, one of Ruby's attorneys, will attempt to get all of the publicity out of this case that he can; however, it is felt that the best interests of the Bureau require we meet the situation head on in order that we will be in a position of having exhausted every possible source of pertinent information. Should we fail to interview Ruby, the President's Commission or others could raise the question as to why no effort was made to obtain information from Ruby which might resolve the issues of the investigation.

ACTION

Ruby, defense counsel, and the County District Attorney have agreed to Ruby's interview, and arrangements have been made for Ruby to be interviewed between the evening of 12-20-63 and 12-22-63. Belli has insisted upon being present, and the Agents have been cautioned to the importance of phrasing their questions in such a manner that neither Belli nor Ruby will become aware of information which should be withheld from them.

Enclosure have the Reportedity - Mr. Mohr 1 - Mr. DeLoach

Mr. Sullivan