

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. Branigan
- 1 - Mr. Lenihan
- 1 - Mr. Rose

TO : W. C. Sullivan

DATE: 4-3-64

FROM : W. A. Branigan

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
INTERNAL SECURITY - RUSSIA - CUBA

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Reference is made to my memorandum dated 2-28-64, as above-captioned, regarding information received from Dick Berlin and Kingsbury Smith, General Manager and Editor, respectively, Hearst Publications, that a reporter had been advised by Melvin Belli, former attorney for Jack Ruby, that Oswald and Ruby had been FBI informants. Smith indicated this reporter had a tape recording of Belli making this allegation.

Belli has been thoroughly questioned regarding the above allegation and in connection therewith has been specifically advised Ruby and Oswald were never FBI informants. Belli advised he had never stated Ruby and/or Oswald were FBI informants. He explained that he had heard unfounded rumors inferring that Oswald might have been an FBI informant but that he had placed no credence in these rumors.

Mr. Belli was of the opinion that these rumors originated with William Alexander, Assistant District Attorney, Dallas, Texas, and that he was getting "damned tired" of Alexander planting such rumors.

Referenced memorandum also pointed out that while Belli had categorically denied making the statements alleged by Hearst officials, the Bureau should pin this matter down by requesting Kingsbury Smith to make the alleged recording of Belli's statements available to review. Assistant Director DeLoach contacted Kingsbury Smith and requested that the alleged tape of Belli's statements be made available for review. Mr. Smith indicated that the tape would be mailed to the Bureau. While Mr. DeLoach has followed with Mr. Smith and the latter has said the tape would be forthcoming, we have not received it and there is no indication we will. It may be there is no such tape. It is believed this matter should be pinned down and that Mr. DeLoach should have Kingsbury Smith either produce the tape or state specifically why he cannot.

105-82555

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44-24016-
NOT RECORDED
199 APR 13 1964
22 APR 13 1964

79 APR 17 1964

66 APR 15 1964

SEARCHED SECTION

ORIGINAL FILED IN 105-82555-3089

Memo Branigan to Sullivan
re: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
IS - R - CUBA
105-82555

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. While my memorandum of 3-4-64 recommended that the President's Commission be advised of this false allegation after we had received the tape, it is to be noted we have not received the tape and, therefore, Belli may be right in that he never made such a statement. If this is correct, we are already on record with the Commission that Oswald was never an informant, and no useful purpose would be served in advising the Commission of the allegation or Belli's denial at this time.

2. That Mr. DeLoach follow with Mr. Smith to either obtain the pertinent tape recording or determine why Mr. Smith cannot make it available.

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I don't believe necessary
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