

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Mohr

TO : W. C. Sullivan

DATE: 4/8/64

FROM : W. A. Branigan

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - J. R. Malley
- 1 - G. D. Coakley
- 1 - W. A. Branigan
- 1 - Liaison
- 1 - R. E. Lenihan
- 1 - J. M. Sizoo

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD  
INTERNAL SECURITY - RUSSIA - CUBA

Articles by Thomas Gittings Buchanan, Jr., on his version of the assassination of President Kennedy have been appearing in the French newspaper, "L'Express," in recent weeks. Copies of the past articles have been received from the Legat Attache (Legat), Paris, and have been furnished along with translations prepared at the Bureau to the President's Commission. Buchanan worked for the "Washington Evening Star" as a reporter from 1946 to 1948 when he admitted Communist Party (CP) membership to an official of that paper and was dismissed. He admitted CP membership to Bureau Agents in 1952 and 1953 but claimed in 1956 that he had left the CP. His name is carried on the (Reserve Index)

The previous articles by Buchanan have been based on speculation and unfounded material previously published to the effect that Oswald was an Agent of the FBI and/or Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and that the investigation of the assassination was covering up discrepancies which would tend to establish doubt of Oswald's guilt. Buchanan's article in the 3/19/64 issue of "L'Express" captioned, "Dallas Now Ruby is in Danger," has been received from Legat, Paris, translated and reviewed.

Buchanan claims that Jack Ruby, convicted slayer of Oswald, will attempt to commit suicide. The attempt will be successful, Buchanan states, so that Ruby can be made to "disappear" just as Oswald did before him, thus eliminating "the principal danger of indiscretions in connection with the assassination" of President Kennedy. Buchanan calls for the President's Commission to have Ruby protected while his appeal is pending since leaving him in the "hands of police ... would not only be inhuman but would compromise again the chances of the investigation."

Buchanan claims that the first shot in the assassination was fired from the railroad bridge in front of the President's motorcade and that four shots in all were fired, the fourth making a small bullet hole in the windshield of the President's car and missing a human target. Buchanan claims to have been assured during a recent trip to the

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*J. M. Sizoo*

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Re: LEE HARVEY OSWALD  
105-82555

United States by an official investigator whose name he could not reveal that if there were four shots fired, there had to be two assassins. Information in the article also implies that Ruby could have fired the first shot on the bridge and then run to the newspaper office where he appeared shortly after the assassination.

Other points he discusses which cast doubt on Oswald's guilt include the lack of powder found on Oswald's cheek as shown in the paraffin tests; the fact that Oswald must have been an exceptional marksman to have hit President Kennedy while most "official circles" seemed to believe that Oswald was a mediocre shot; and the fact that Oswald did not eat the food or smoke the cigarettes found on the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository.

Buchanan also implies that Ruby must have possessed special knowledge to have arrived at the Dallas jail just two minutes before he shot Oswald at 11:21 a.m. on 11/24/63 when the transfer of Oswald had been publicly announced for 10:00 a.m. on that same date.

Buchanan reports that in his visit to the United States recently he stopped in Dallas, Miami, New York City and Washington, D. C., in his inquiry into the assassination of President Kennedy. While in Washington, D. C., he reports that he talked to Deputy Attorney General Katzenbach and Mr. Howard Willens of the President's Commission. (We have received information regarding these contacts by Buchanan in the past.) Buchanan claims that Willens took notes of his report on the assassination. However, Buchanan stated he was not at liberty to write about certain points he discussed with Willens. Willens also reportedly asked Buchanan for all documentation concerning the assassination which could be supplied by "L'Express." Buchanan states that he believes the President's Commission is now more receptive to "proof elements" which contradict the generally accepted version that Oswald, acting alone, killed President Kennedy.

Buchanan's article claims that Miami is the city in the United States where the President of the United States runs the greatest risk of being killed. He states that this is so because there is considerable racial tension there and because some Cuban exiles living there would like to have the President of the United States assassinated and the blame then placed on Castro forces. According to Buchanan such Cuban exiles believe that the assassination of the President would bring about the military occupation of Cuba in retaliation. Secret Service is being furnished a copy of the translation of this article by Liaison in view of the above information relating to possible danger to the President's life.

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This latest article by Buchanan is typical of his previous articles in "L'Express" in that he deals in implications and previously published speculation on the guilt or nonguilt of Oswald, the claim that Oswald was part of a conspiracy, and the allegation that Ruby was also involved in that conspiracy.

By attached letter the President's Commission is being furnished a copy of the 3/19/64 "L'Express" article by Buchanan and two copies of a translation thereof. Future articles by Buchanan will also be furnished to the Commission.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the attached letter be sent to the President's Commission.

2. That Secret Service be furnished a copy of the translation of the Buchanan article by Liaison.

4-13-64 Copy furnished to  
U.S. Army Liaison OHA

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*GRJ*