

Mr. Belmont

September 2, 1964

A. ROSEN

- 1 - J. P. Mohr
- 1 - N. P. Callahan
- 1 - I. W. Conrad
- 1 - C. D. DeLoach
- 1 - W. C. Sullivan (W. A. Branigan)  
(R. E. Lenihan)

THE PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION  
ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Rosen (J. W. Hines)
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. Rogge
- 1 - Mr. Shroder

PURPOSE

To recommend the attached letter be sent to the President's Commission pursuant to its inquiry advising them that personnel of this Bureau conducted an estimated 25,000 interviews since the assassination on 11-22-63.

DETAILS

On 9-2-64, Howard P. Willens, Staff Member of the Commission, telephonically contacted J. R. Malley and requested to be advised of the estimated number of interviews conducted by this Bureau since 11-22-63. Willens made specific reference to a prior Bureau letter dated 8-12-64, wherein the Commission had been advised we did not keep track of the number of such interviews conducted and that to obtain this figure would be an enormous undertaking. Willens nevertheless stated it would greatly aid the Commission in endeavoring to give the Bureau credit for work performed if the Commission could be furnished some rough estimate of the number of interviews conducted without resorting to a physical count or other time consuming project.

BACKGROUND

The Commission by letter 8-7-64, stated it intends to incorporate in its final report the extent of the "excellent" investigative efforts undertaken by the Bureau since 11-22-63, and in this regard requested certain statistical data, including the number of interviews conducted by this Bureau. By letter 8-12-64, we advised the Commission that over 1750 investigative reports comprising more than 17,200 pages had been furnished to the Commission and we also summarized some of the major special services and projects handled for the Commission. The Commission was specifically advised we did not keep track of the number of interviews conducted by virtually every FBI field office and representatives abroad and that to develop this information would be an extremely laborious and time consuming project.

Enclosure  
62-109080

1 - 62-109060 (Assassination) 1 - 105-82555 (Lee Harvey Oswald)  
RDR:las (14) 1 - 44-24016 (Jack L. Ruby)

CONTINUED - OVER

44-24016 UNREC

50 SEP 10 1964

NOT RECORDED  
SEP 8 1964

Memorandum to Mr. Belmont  
RE: THE PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION

BASIS FOR ESTIMATE OF 25,000 INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED

This matter was discussed with Bureau supervisors in the Domestic Intelligence Division and General Investigative Division who have handled the three distinct phases of this matter since its inception. These phases are generally referred to as the Leo Harvey Oswald background investigation, assassination investigation and the Jack L. Ruby Civil Rights investigation. Based on the supervisors intimate knowledge of these matters an estimated figure of 25,000 interviews conducted was arrived at which they feel is conservative.

RECOMMENDATION

That the attached letter be sent to the Commission advising that this Bureau conducted an estimated 25,000 interviews since the assassination of President Kennedy on 11-22-63.