

July 24, 1964

BY COURIER SERVICE

Honorable J. Lee Rankin  
General Counsel  
The President's Commission  
260 Maryland Avenue, Northeast  
Washington, D. C.

1 - C. D. DeLoach Enc.  
1 - W. C. Sullivan (R. E. Lenihan)  
1 - I. W. Conrad (L. L. Shaneyfelt)  
1 - Mr. Belmont  
1 - Mr. Rosen  
1 - Mr. Malley  
1 - Mr. Shroder  
1 - Mr. Raupach

Dear Mr. Rankin:

Reference is made to your letters dated June 30, 1964, and July 10, 1964, concerning excerpts from the diary of Lee Harvey Oswald, which appeared in "The Dallas Morning News" June 27 and 28, 1964, and "Life" magazine July 10, 1964.

Enclosed for your information are two copies each of the following memoranda and report:

Memorandum dated July 13, 1964,  
New York, New York,  
captioned "Lee Harvey Oswald"

Memorandum dated July 13, 1964,  
Houston, Texas,  
captioned "Lee Harvey Oswald  
Internal Security - R - Cuba"

Memorandum dated July 16, 1964,  
New York, New York,  
captioned "Lee Harvey Oswald"

Report of Special Agent Robert P.  
Gemberling dated July 17, 1964,  
Dallas, Texas,  
captioned "Lee Harvey Oswald,  
Internal Security - Russia - Cuba."

105-82555

1 - 62-109060 (Assassination)

KMR:las

(11)

Honorable J. Lee Rankin

Your attention is directed to the memorandum dated July 16, 1964, New York, New York, which reveals an interview with Mr. John F. Dowd, General Counsel, "Life" magazine. Mr. Dowd advised that during the latter part of June, 1964, Mr. James Thompson, Editor, accompanied by another "Life" representative, visited Washington, D. C. During their visit contact was made with Representative Gerald R. Ford and they had dinner with him. Mr. Dowd explained that several weeks previous Mr. Ford made a social visit to "Life" in New York City and on that occasion, Mr. Thompson was unavailable and later Mr. Thompson returned the visit. Mr. Dowd related that while Mr. Thompson was in contact with Representative Ford, he, Representative Ford, commented to Mr. Thompson that he was preparing a book regarding Lee Harvey Oswald and the assassination, which he is not going to release until after the public release of the report by the President's Commission.

Mr. Dowd said Representative Ford made a very general statement to Mr. Thompson regarding the possible length and size of the Commission's report, but at no time did Representative Ford or any other member of the President's Commission furnish any information regarding the Oswald diary or any information of a confidential nature pertaining to the investigation being conducted.

Documents obtained from the office of Mr. Henry Wade, Dallas County District Attorney, and those obtained from "Life" magazine are in our laboratory. Appropriate examinations are being made of these documents and you will be furnished with the results of the examinations. Additional inquiries are also being made regarding this matter, and you will be advised when results are received.

Sincerely yours,

Enclosures (8)

See Rosen to Belmont memo 7-22-64, KMR:las.