

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. Shroder
- 1 - Mr. Raupach

May 13, 1964

BY COURIER SERVICE

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

*Assassination of
 President J. F. Kennedy*

Dear Mr. Rankin:

Reference is made to the report of Special Agent Robert P. Gemberling dated March 30, 1964, at Dallas, Texas, which was furnished to you by letter dated April 8, 1964.

Your attention is directed to pages 69 through 72 which reveal information concerning Morton Brown, also known as Mordecai Brienberg, author of the article "The Riddle of Dallas." This article appeared in the March 6, 1964, issue of the "Spectator" published by "The Spectator Ltd., 99 Gower Street, London, W. C. 1, England."

Enclosed are two copies of the article which were reproduced from a copy of the "Spectator" obtained from the Library of Congress.

Mr. Morton Brown has never been investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Our files contain an article published in the "Daily Californian," Berkeley, California, on March 11, 1963, captioned "End the Speaker Ban." The article revealed that on Monday, February 8, 1963, the Administration of the University of California denied the Department of History use of the University facilities to hold one lecture of its regular colloquial series. The justification for the Administration's refusal was based upon an interpretation of Rule Five of the Kerr Directive, which in substance, states that speakers cannot use a University Forum.

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SEE NOTE PAGE TWO.
 MAY 18 1964

Honorable J. Lee Rankin

for propagandistic purposes. The scheduled speaker was Dr. Herbert Aptheker, editor of the communist monthly "Political Affairs." Included under the article was the following statement: "We, the undersigned faculty and graduate students of the University of California, protest the existence of the speaker ban and the unwarranted interference by the Administration in the affairs of an academic department of the University." Under this statement were numerous printed names among which appeared the name "Morton Brown," who may be identical with the author of the article "The Riddle of Dallas."

"Political Affairs" was cited by the Subversive Activities Control Board on April 20, 1953. It was described as being among publications which "are or were during their existence official and controlled organs" of the Communist Party of the United States of America.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

Enclosures (2)

NOTE:

[REDACTED]
University of California, Berkeley, identity protected, received information from John Gold, New York correspondent for the "London Times," the article "The Riddle of Dallas" written by "Mordecai Brienberg" appeared in the 3/6/64 issue of the "Spectator," a "Highly respectable newspaper." The article attempted to discredit the American system of Justice, the FBI, the Secret Service and others connected with the Oswald and Ruby cases. The article attempted to show Oswald was not guilty of the assassination. Gold conducted an inquiry and determined Brienberg was identical with Brown, a graduate student at University of California. Brown admitted to Gold he was the author. The "Spectator" is

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published by "The Spectator Ltd., 99 Gower Street, London, W. C. 1, England," "Printed in England by Gale & Polden Ltd., 28 Craven Street, London, W. C. 2, at their Wellington Press., Aldershot."