

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Wick
- 1 - Mr. Rosen

- DeLoach
- Mohr
- Walters
- Casper
- Callahan
- Conrad
- Felt
- Gale
- Rosen
- Sullivan
- Tavel
- Trotter
- Tele. Room
- Holmes
- Gandy

TO : Mr. W. C. Sullivan

DATE: 2/19/67

FROM : W. A. Branigan

- 1 - Mr. W. C. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. J. R. Malley
- 1 - Mr. W. A. Branigan
- 1 - Mr. Raupach
- 1 - Mr. Lenihan

SUBJECT: THE ASSASSINATION OF
PRESIDENT JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY
NOVEMBER 22, 1963
DALLAS, TEXAS

BACKGROUND:

The Sunday editions of the "Washington Post" and the "Washington Evening Star" for February 19, 1967 carried articles indicating that District Attorney Jim Garrison in New Orleans was conducting an investigation of the assassination and was claiming that the Warren Commission Report is inaccurate in stating Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in the assassination of President Kennedy. Garrison did not furnish details of his investigation to the press but stated that arrests will be made, charges will be filed, and convictions will be obtained.

The newspaper articles indicated that Miguel Torres, a 26-year-old Cuban who formerly lived only a block from Oswald's last known New Orleans address "is known to be connected with the District Attorney's investigation." The "Washington Evening Star" article also reported that David William Ferrie, part-time private investigator and operator of a New Orleans flying service, informed the press that the District Attorney's Office informed him it had "positively uncovered a plot in New Orleans to assassinate Kennedy."

DATA REGARDING GARRISON:

Bureau files reveal James C. Garrison was a former Bureau Agent who entered on duty 3/5/51 and resigned 7/24/51 for military purposes. His services were listed as satisfactory. He took office as District Attorney in New Orleans in May, 1962, and immediately became involved in a dispute with the New Orleans Police Department over his professed desire to clean up the so-called "minor vice" in New Orleans. In November, 1962, Garrison accused eight judges of delaying justice in New Orleans which resulted in the judges filing a defamation suit against Garrison. He was found guilty of such charges on 2/6/63 and was fined \$1,000. He appealed his conviction and on 11/24/64 the U.S. Supreme Court reversed the conviction holding that the element of deliberate malice was lacking in the statements attributed to Garrison regarding

62-109060 Enclosures
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- 1 - 105-82555 (Lee Harvey Oswald)
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Garrison

Vertical handwritten note:
Lee Harvey
Oswald

Memorandum W. A. Branigan to W. C. Sullivan
RE: THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY
62-109060

the judges in New Orleans. [REDACTED] a reliable source, has informed the New Orleans Office that Garrison is politically ambitious and plans to run for Lieutenant Governor in Louisiana during the Fall of 1967.

ALLEGATIONS OF CONSPIRACY IN NEW ORLEANS:

During the course of our investigation of the assassination, we received a number of allegations indicating Oswald was in contact with Cuban or pro-Castro Cubans in New Orleans. Each allegation was very carefully and thoroughly run out and we found no evidence of any contact between Oswald and pro-Cuban sources in New Orleans. Furthermore, our investigation uncovered no evidence indicating Fidel Castro or officials of the Cuban Government were involved with Lee Harvey Oswald in the assassination of President Kennedy.

RE: Miguel Torres

During the course of our investigation of the assassination, we developed no information indicating acquaintanceship or contact between Oswald and Miguel Torres, mentioned above. On 10/25/62 we received information from a U.S. Customs investigator in New Orleans that Miguel Torres, his father, mother, and two brothers were all in his opinion pro-Castro in their beliefs and reportedly had a short-wave radio in their home for the purpose of receiving Cuban broadcasts. We initiated investigation of Miguel Torres and other members of his family on the basis of such allegations but found no information to corroborate such allegations.

RE: David William Ferrie

Immediately following the assassination, we received allegations that Ferrie was acquainted with Oswald and was involved in the conspiracy to assassinate President Kennedy. According to sources of the allegations, Ferrie, a qualified pilot, was to fly Oswald from Dallas following the assassination. We conducted extensive investigation of such allegations including interviews of Ferrie. No evidence was found to show that Ferrie knew Oswald or was involved in the assassination.

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RE: THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY
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Our New Orleans Office advised on 2/19/67 that a New Orleans newspaper carried an article on 2/19/67 quoting Ferrie as saying that the Garrison investigation of the assassination in New Orleans is a "big joke." Ferrie reportedly told the New Orleans newspaper that he had been "pegged" as the getaway pilot in an elaborate plot to kill President Kennedy. Our New Orleans Office also reported that Ferrie had contacted the New Orleans Office and indicated he planned to take civil action against those accusing him of being involved in a plot to kill President Kennedy.

OBSERVATIONS:

As early as December, 1966, New Orleans advised Garrison was conducting some type of an investigation regarding the assassination. Upon instructions, New Orleans has been following this through reliable and confidential sources. One source with whom we were in contact advised Garrison did not want this information furnished to the FBI.

We do not know what evidence Garrison possesses, if any, corroborating his claim that other individuals besides Oswald were involved in the assassination of President Kennedy. We recognize Garrison is politically ambitious and this may be an attempt by him to keep his name before the public. It is not known what part Miguel Torres plays in Garrison's investigation. However, he may be furnishing information of some type to Garrison in exchange for a reduction in his prison sentence.

In view of Garrison's background and political ambitions, it is not felt we should lend any credence to Garrison's investigation by interviewing him at this time.

ACTION:

Attached are letters to the White House and the Acting Attorney General with copies to the Deputy Attorney General and the Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, enclosing a letterhead memorandum setting forth data concerning Garrison's statements to the press and results of our inquiries and file reviews in this matter.

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