

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Bishop
- 1 - Mr. Rosen

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

TO : Mr. W. C. Sullivan

DATE: December 27, 1967

FROM : W. A. Branigan

- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Branigan
- 1 - Mr. Raupach
- 1 - Mr. Lenihan

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

Reference is made to W. A. Branigan to W. C. Sullivan memorandum dated 12/26/67 advising that New Orleans District Attorney James Garrison held a press conference in New Orleans on 12/26/67 at which time he alleged Lee Harvey Oswald was an FBI informant and had informed the FBI on 11/17/63 that there would be an assassination attempt of President Kennedy on November 22, 1963, in Dallas, Texas. Garrison's statements, of course, were completely false.

By teletype 12/27/67, the New Orleans Office reported further details of Garrison's press conference on 12/26/67. A concise summary of the allegations made by Garrison during such press conference and the facts as known to us are set forth below:

Garrison alleged that he could prove that there was a teletype message sent through FBI channels on November 17, 1963, alleging there would be an assassination attempt on President Kennedy in Dallas, Texas, on November 22, 1963. He further alleged that he could prove that such message was sent "but not in open court." It is not known what Garrison has in mind since there was no such message.

Garrison alleged that there are serious possibilities that some of the classified files concerning the assassination which are now withheld from the public may be changed before they are eventually released. The data referred to by Garrison are maintained by the National Archives under its complete control. Archives is acting under White House instructions in not releasing such data to the public. Garrison's allegation ~~unsubstantiated~~ is aimed at trying to get access to Warren Commission records in Archives which are not available to him.

62-109060

REL:slc  
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SENT DIRECTOR  
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\*A thorough check was made of files at FBI Headquarters and Dallas Office files in this regard. This check was made for the dates November 17, 1963, and September 17, 1963, since the latter date was mentioned by some news media. This check disclosed Oswald never sent any telegram to the FBI.

memo Branigan to Sullivan  
 12/27/67 Rel:slc

*Handwritten initials and scribbles:*  
 2/1/68  
 [scribble]  
 [scribble]

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Garrison continued his criticism of President Johnson and charged that President Johnson and other high officials of the U.S. Government concealed from the public the truth of the assassination. Garrison alleged that President Johnson whom he described as "the man who profited most by the assassination" decided that "vital evidence" could not be seen by the public for 75 years and that President Johnson "got away with this decision." Garrison alleged that the assassination of President Kennedy was carried out by "an infinitely larger number than you would dream" and that in Dealy Plaza (the assassination site) alone, there could have been as many as 15 individuals involved in the assassination.

In connection with the allegation above, it is noted that during the past several months Garrison has changed his story frequently as to the number of individuals involved in the assassination. In his press releases he has claimed that Dallas Police officials, Secret Service and FBI personnel, Lee Harvey Oswald, Clay Shaw, David William Ferry, and numerous others were involved in the conspiracy plot.

Garrison alleged that before the sun set on November 22, 1963, Government officials and investigators knew that a lone gunman did not kill the President. Garrison claimed "Washington has fooled not only the people of this country but the world, to stay in power." Garrison's statement is, of course, completely false. On the evening of November 22, 1963, Lee Harvey Oswald was in custody of the Dallas Police Department. Investigation was proceeding to determine if Oswald acted alone or had accomplices. Investigation subsequently established that Lee Harvey Oswald was the lone assassin. This conclusion was based on overwhelming evidence in our possession.

Garrison claims that he is prepared to go to trial immediately in connection with his arrest of Clay Shaw. He also expected there would be a trial of other individuals whose names he had. He added that some individuals involved will never be prosecuted by anyone since his office has not been able to put them in New Orleans and consequently he cannot take legal action against them.

Former Special Agent William W. Turner who now writes articles for "Ramparts" magazine also appeared at Garrison's press conference and urged that certain Warren Commission documents now withheld from the public be released for Garrison's perusal. Turner

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claimed that more than 200 documents have been classified by the Warren Commission and many are pertinent to Garrison's probe. Former Special Agent Turner has been extremely critical of the FBI and the Director since his dismissal from the Bureau. He has written previous articles for "Ramparts" magazine attacking the conclusions of the Warren Commission.

"The New York Times" for December 27, 1967, also reported that Garrison said that Loran Hall of California had inside knowledge of the assassination the day it happened. "The Times" article reports that Hall told the FBI that in September, 1963, he was in Dallas soliciting aid for activities against the Castro regime in Cuba. The Director requested to be informed when the FBI interviewed Hall in this matter.

For the Director's information, Mrs. Sylvia Odio, who has a mental background, informed our Dallas Office on 12/18/63 that she received a visit from Leon Oswald and two Mexican companions on September 26 or 27, 1963, and that these three individuals brought her a message from her father who was being held as a political prisoner in Cuba. Odio alleged that Leon Oswald was Lee Harvey Oswald. We conducted extensive investigation regarding Odio's allegation and found absolutely no corroboration for it. We determined Oswald was on a bus en route to Mexico City on the dates Odio claimed she was visited by Oswald and two companions.

Subsequently on September 16, 1964, we located Loran Eugene Hall in Johnsandale, California, who has been active in anti-Castro activities in this country. Hall informed our Agents that in September, 1963, he was in Dallas soliciting aid in connection with anti-Castro activities. He said he was accompanied to Mrs. Odio's home by Lawrence Howard, a Mexican-American from East Los Angeles, and William Seymour from Arizona. Hall stated that he possessed no knowledge relating to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

We then showed pictures of Hall, Howard, and Seymour to Odio but her memory was hazy and she could not recall meeting these three men. We disseminated results of our checks in this matter to the Warren Commission.

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Odio testified before the Warren Commission on July 22, 1964, at which time she informed the Commission she was under the treatment of a psychiatrist. The Warren Commission concluded that Odio had not met an individual named Leon Oswald as claimed.

ACTION:

For information. A concise summary of Garrison's press conference and the facts refuting his scurrilous allegations is being sent to the White House and the Attorney General by separate communication.

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*W.A.B.*

*D. V. [unclear]*