

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : FILE (89-43)

DATE: 11/26/63

FROM : SAC SHANKLIN

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF
PRESIDENT KENNEDY, 11/22/63
AFO

Mr. BELMONT from Bureau called at 11:10 AM and said they had been thinking as to how Chief CURRY happened to make the statement that OSWALD had been interviewed by FBI prior to the shooting. It seems to Bureau he could have had this information by running across a copy of OSWALD's letter to Soviet Embassy dated 11/9/63. If in searching OSWALD's room and his home, the police told the press they came up with a lot of Communist literature or with a copy of his letter to the Soviet Embassy, and if Chief was so advised, that was the basis of his allegation against the Agent that we were harrassing the wife.

? BELMONT wanted to know if our Agents have gone over everything that came out of OSWALD's home and room, both in the possession of the Police, and have we gone in there and taken a thorough look for ourselves in the home and in the room. *Adm 11/26/63*

This thing from the standpoint of our report is broadening way out. We will have to cover his background, his passport, citizenship and all that sort of thing. We are going to have to come out with his contact with Soviet Embassy and his trip to Mexico. This is very important and what they are trying to do is come up with anything indicating he is tied in with anybody. If in his room or home, there was any information showing that he had written to anybody or discussed this with anybody, or had been thinking about it, or was tied in with some organization. As this thing is broadening out into his contacts and motive, it is imperative that we know what was in his home & room and analyze it. *W*

BELMONT was advised that re CURRY's statements to effect we had interviewed OSWALD's wife and any surveillance, that we did interview the woman that OSWALD's wife lived with, and that CURRY denied saying he had said we were surveilling.

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ENCLOSURE

BELMONT said the issue is that we should be sure that we have thoroughly gone over anything the police took from Oswald's home and room and we should get in both places besides and see if there is anything in there. Get into the home through the landlady or the wife. As OSWALD is dead he can't be prosecuted. This is the question of cleaning up the situation. If this mother goes to Soviet Embassy, we would want to protect the Agent that his story is accurate, BELMONT was advised the wife is very hostile, and that the Secret Service has her somewhere - we don't know her present whereabouts definitely.

BELMONT advised that MILLER just called and that MILLER is coming back. MILLER said that local police and WADE want to turnover all the evidence they have in this matter to FBI. The Director called him on it, and MILLER says he believes it should be done, so it will all be in one place, with the understanding that if the State Board of Inquiry handles this, we will of course cooperate with them and make the evidence available as we have already said we would do. On that basis, we should accept all of the evidence the police have. BELMONT suggested I might contact MILLER as apparently they have approached MILLER. This doesn't include evidence against RUBY because they are going to prosecute him. Contact MILLER and contact PD and tell them Bureau called and you understand they have made this offer through MILLER and we will accept it, and follow through from there. There may be some additional evidence that will have to go into this report.

BELMONT instructed to get in touch with MILLER and find out about this, and take over the evidence on the bases they offered it. This is definitely understood that the local police want to turn it over.

ADDENDUM: At approximately 12:00 noon District Attorney WADE called and confirmed the fact that he desired to have the evidence turned over to the FBI by the Police Dept. He stated he was so advising Chief CURRY. He said he did not want it to come through his hands, but that we should take it direct from the Police Department.

Chief of Police JESSE CURRY was called and he stated that he desired the FBI to take custody of the evidence in the OSWALD case. I agreed that this would be done, and Agents were sent to the Police Department to do so.

DL #89-43

I talked to the Bureau to Inspector ROBERT WICK, and pointed out to him that it would be made known immediately that we had the evidence, and I recommended that upon inquiry, we just state that the local authorities have turned over the evidence in the OSWALD case and make no further comment. He agreed. Later on during the evening, I talked to Assistant Director DE LOACH, and he stated this was the only statement to be made.