

- 1 - Mr. Callahan
- 1 - Mr. Adams
- 1 - Mr. Jenkins
- 1 - Mr. Gallagher
- 1 - Mr. O'Connell
- 1 - Mr. Cooke
- 1 - Mr. Nettles
- 2 - Mr. [redacted] (1 - Mr. McHale)
- 3 - Mr. [redacted] (1 - Mr. [redacted])
- 1 - Mr. Mintz
- 1 - Mr. [redacted]

March 10, 1976

The Attorney General
Director, FBI

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN F. KENNEDY
NOVEMBER 22, 1963
DALLAS, TEXAS

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED #6454
DATE 1/25/89 BY SP6 [redacted] b7C
per CIA letter 7/2/88.

There is attached an Associated Press article which appeared in "The Washington Post" newspaper on March 3, 1976, concerning the late Chief Justice of the United States Earl Warren being told in 1967 of Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) plots to kill Cuban Premier Fidel Castro.

Briefly, the article states Warren had been provided the information by an unidentified source at a meeting arranged by the late columnist Drew Pearson. Warren then provided the information to James J. Rowley, former Director of the United States Secret Service, who furnished it to then FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover in a memorandum.

Columnist Jack Anderson, who is a former partner of Pearson's, claims to have a copy of Mr. Rowley's memorandum. According to the article, Anderson states Rowley mistakenly told Hoover that Warren also had learned from the source that Castro ordered President Kennedy's death in retaliation for the attempts on his own life. Anderson said the source had direct after-the-fact knowledge of the CIA plots but was only speculating when he told Warren about a possible Castro retaliation.

The article continues that it could not be determined immediately whether the memorandum described by Anderson was the same as a document previously reported by the "Las Vegas Sun" newspaper as being in the hands of the Senate Intelligence Committee, which documents the facts that Castro had ordered President Kennedy's assassination, and probably that of his brother, Robert.

MAR 12 1976

- Assoc. Dir.
- Dep. AD Adm.
- Dep. AD Inv.
- Asst. Dir.:
- Admin.
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- Files & Com.
- Gen. Inv.
- Ident.
- Inspection
- Intell.
- Laboratory
- Plan. & Eval.
- Spec. Inv.
- Training
- Legal Coun.
- Telephone Rm.
- Director Sec'y

WEN:cjl (19)

SEE NOTE PAGE 5 . . .

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REC 1762-109060-7512

ENCLOSURE
G/KVA

[Handwritten signatures and initials]

The Attorney General

Senator Frank Church, Chairman of the United States Senate Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations With Respect to Intelligence Activities, is cited in the "Post" article as saying the "Sun" report seems to involve information published previously in a September, 1963 Associated Press dispatch from Havana quoting Castro as saying, "U.S. leaders should think that if they are aiding terrorist plans to eliminate Cuban leaders they themselves will not be safe."

Associated Press reporter David Martin contacted Deputy Associate Director James B. Adams of this Bureau regarding this information on March 2, 1976. He stated the source who was put in touch with Chief Justice Warren in 1967 was believed to be John Roselli, who has recently been in the news identified as a contact between the CIA and organized crime in anti-Castro activities. He desired to know what the files of this Bureau show concerning this and whether we told the White House anything about this in 1967.

Mr. Martin subsequently called Mr. Adams later on the same day to advise he had developed some new information to the effect that Roselli was being considered for deportation in 1967, and was interviewed by two FBI Agents. The Agents met him in Los Angeles and gave him a choice of disclosing his prior activities (presumably assassination activities), or facing deportation. Roselli's lawyer would not allow him to cooperate, and deportation proceedings were instituted.

Also, according to Mr. Martin, President Johnson allegedly heard of this matter in 1967 from Richard Helms, Director of Central Intelligence. Mr. Martin stated he believed there is a possibility that President Johnson went to Mr. Hoover with this information and the interview of Roselli was a quiet investigation initiated on the basis of this contact.

The facts of this matter, as are revealed through a review of the files of this Bureau, are as follows:

Mr. Rowley did provide information as set forth in the article to this Bureau by memorandum of February 13, 1967. Mr. Rowley stated in the memorandum that Chief Justice Warren told him he had received the information from Drew Pearson, who said he had obtained the information from an attorney, [REDACTED] had told Pearson he had received the information from an [REDACTED]

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FBI

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unnamed client who was on the fringe of the underworld. Mr. Pearson inferred to the Chief Justice that [REDACTED] was not in good standing with the FBI and the Chief Justice said he would notify the Secret Service. He additionally told the Chief Justice that [REDACTED]'s client was involved and would not be willing to talk. But Pearson was to contact [REDACTED] to see if his client could be convinced to talk. From the time of the meeting between the Chief Justice and Mr. Pearson (week of January 29, 1967), and the meeting with Mr. Rowley (January 31, 1967), Mr. Pearson had not recontacted the Chief Justice. Chief Justice Warren advised Mr. Rowley on February 2, 1967, that Mr. Pearson had agreed to have [REDACTED] contact the Secret Service by a tentative date of February 8, 1967. As of the date Mr. Rowley sent his memorandum to the FBI, [REDACTED] had not contacted the Secret Service.

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Upon receipt of Mr. Rowley's memorandum, a determination was made not to initiate an investigation based on these allegations for the following reasons:

1. During the investigation of Lee Harvey Oswald, no evidence was uncovered indicating the Cuban government had any involvement in the assassination.
2. Sensitive and reliable sources of the FBI and the CIA had reported during the investigation that Oswald was unknown to Cuban government officials when he visited the Cuban Consulate in Mexico City on September 27, 1963, and attempted, unsuccessfully, to get a visa for travel to Cuba.
3. Secretary of State Dean Rusk had testified before the Warren Commission that there was "very considerable concern" in Cuba immediately following the assassination as to whether Cuba would be held responsible for the assassination and what effect the assassination might have on Cuba's position and security.

A letter was sent to Mr. Rowley by this Bureau on February 15, 1967, advising him that the FBI was not conducting an investigation regarding this matter. It was pointed out that if Mr. Pearson, [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]'s source of information cared to volunteer any information to this Bureau, it would be accepted and consideration would be given as to whether additional investigation was warranted.

The Attorney General

A letter was sent to the Acting Attorney General (with a copy to the Deputy Attorney General), regarding this matter on February 13, 1967. Consideration was given at the time to furnishing the information to the White House, but since the matter did not concern, nor was it pertinent to, the present administration, it was not sent.

On March 17, 1967, Mr. Marvin Watson of the White House advised a representative of this Bureau that the President had heard of the [redacted] information and had instructed that the FBI interview [redacted] concerning any knowledge he might have regarding the assassination of President Kennedy.

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[redacted] who was a retired [redacted] of this Bureau, was interviewed on March 20, 1967. He stated that due to an attorney-client relationship, he would not identify the persons who furnished him information concerning this matter. He stated his clients, while not directly involved, had knowledge of the assassination plot. [redacted] alleged his clients were used by a Government agency (presumably the CIA) to plot the assassination of Castro. Castro learned of the plot, and thereafter sent teams of assassins to the United States for the purpose of assassinating President Kennedy.

He said if he were free of the attorney-client privilege to furnish details, the information he would be able to supply would not directly identify the alleged conspirators to kill President Kennedy. However, because of the project to kill Castro, those participating in the project, whom he represented, developed through feedback, information which would identify Castro's counterassassins in the United States.

[redacted] pointed out that from the information available to him from his clients, he could not declare or conclude Oswald could not have committed the assassination alone. [redacted] furnished the information without factual representations and appeared to be theorizing.

Information regarding the interview was sent to the White House, Attorney General, and United States Secret Service on March 22, 1967.

John Roselli was contacted by Agents of this Bureau at Los Angeles, California, in May, 1966. The contacts were on an unrelated matter and were not done at the request of the White House.

The Attorney General

Mr. Martin has been advised by Mr. Adams that Mr. Rowley did submit such a memorandum to the FBI; the information was furnished to the Acting Attorney General; [REDACTED] was subsequently interviewed by the FBI at the request of the White House; [REDACTED]'s information was speculative; and the contacts of Roselli in 1966 did occur, but were on an unrelated matter.

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Enclosure

- 1 - The Deputy Attorney General (Enclosure)
- 1 - Assistant Attorney General (Enclosure)
Criminal Division

NOTE: See J. B. Adams to Mr. Callahan memoranda 3/2/76, and 3/3/76. These memoranda set forth information regarding contacts by Mr. Adams with Associated Press reporter David Martin and the results of Bureau file reviews.