

62-109090-204 *Declassified 2/7/77*

- 1-Mr. Belmont
 - 1-Mr. Mohr
 - 1-Mr. Rosen
 - 1-Mr. Sullivan
 - 1-Mr. DeLoach
- January 16, 1964

Summary

MARK LANE

- 1-Mr. Malley
- 1-Mr. Bland
- 1-Mr. Lonihan
- 1-Mr. [unclear]
- 1-Mr. [unclear]

News broadcasts on January 15, 1964, stated that Mark Lane, New York attorney, has been retained by Lee Harvey Oswald's mother to represent Oswald before the committee appointed by President Lyndon B. Johnson to investigate the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

The "Daily Worker" for May 27, 1963, stated that the National Lawyers Guild (NLG) held an election of officers on May 23, 1963, and that Mark Lane was elected an ex officio member of the Board of Directors of the NLG.

The "Daily Worker" was an east coast communist newspaper which is no longer being published.

In June, 1963, a source whose reliability was unknown but who was in a position to furnish such information advised that Lane's name appeared on the membership list of the New York Chapter of the NLG and that he was a subscriber to the "Lawyers Guild Review," the official publication of the NLG. On May 17, 1961, Lane spoke at a membership meeting of the organization, according to another source.

A report of the House Committee on Un-American Activities (HCUA) has described the NLG as the foremost legal bulwark of the Communist Party (CP).

A source has also advised that Lane participated in a debate at a forum sponsored by Burning Issues on September 23, 1961.

During March and April, 1963, Burning Issues circulated petitions and otherwise endeavored to have Mark Lane drafted as a candidate for Congress. According to a source on October 12, 1963, Lane was the principal speaker at a forum on mobilization for youth which was held by Burning Issues.

ORIGINAL TO J. LEE RANKIN, CHIEF COUNSEL, PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION ON ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY.

100-409763

JAN 27 1964

sub: cad (12)

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

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Mark Lane

Confidential sources have advised that Advance, an Organization of Progressive Youth, was founded in New York City, February 18 and 19, 1960, and that its declaration of principles followed the line of the national CP leadership. In January, 1963, the name of the organization was changed to Advance and Burning Issues Youth Organizations, since Burning Issues, a separate youth organization, had affiliated with Advance.

A source reported that Mark Lane was the principal speaker at the annual conference of the Emma Lazarus Federation of Jewish Women's Clubs (ELF) at the Statue of Liberty on July 25, 1961.

The ELF is recognized by the Communist Party, USA, as an important progressive organization of women. It grew out of the Jewish Peoples Fraternal Order of the International Workers Order (IWO), both of which have been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

Lane spoke at a meeting of the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee (ECLC) on October 21, 1962, in New York City, according to several sources. He strongly supported Cuba and condemned United States policy with regard to Cuba.

The ECLC has been described by the HCUA as operating as a communist front.

Several sources reported that Lane was one of the main speakers at a meeting sponsored by the Chicago Committee to Defend the Bill of Rights (CCDR) in Chicago, Illinois, on October 31, 1962, and he called for the abolition of the HCUA.

A source has reported that the CCDR was organized in Chicago, Illinois, on October 26, 1960, through the efforts and with the encouragement of CP officials, one of whom became the executive secretary of the CCDR. Its avowed purpose is to seek the abolition of the HCUA.

It was also reported that Mark Lane was a speaker at rallies held on April 21, 1961, and December 9, 1961, sponsored by the New York Council to Abolish the House Un-American Activities Committee (NYCAHUAC).

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"The Militant" for December 13, 1961, carried an article concerning the rally on December 6, 1961, and stated that Lane said his first official action during the coming session of the New York State Legislature would be to introduce a resolution to persuade Congress to abolish the HCUA.

"The Militant" is a weekly newspaper of the Socialist Workers Party which has been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

Lane was reported by several sources to have attended numerous meetings of the HUCANUAC between October, 1960, and January, 1963. At a number of them he made speeches in which he strongly urged the abolition of the HCUA. The HUCANUAC is an affiliate of the National Council to Abolish the House Un-American Activities Committee and both were founded principally by an individual who was a CP member in 1962. Various sources have advised that CP members in the New York City area have been solicited on various occasions to support the HUCANUAC. Three sources have reported that during the Spring of 1962 discussions were held at various closed CP club and committee meetings concerning the support of Mark Lane as a candidate for Congress.

Several sources have also advised that Isidore Gibby Needleman was in frequent touch with Lane and was interested in assisting him in his political campaign in 1960 to become elected to the New York State Legislature.

According to several sources Needleman, an attorney, was formerly employed by Antorg Trading Corporation, the registered Russian trade agency in the United States. He has also represented current and former CP members in court and before various Congressional committees. He has had custody of CP funds and has described himself as a strict adherent of Marxist-Leninist doctrines. He has also acted as a Soviet espionage agent.

It was reported that a rally was held November 6, 1961, at the McMillan Theater, Columbia University, New York City, to protest the ban by the University against the

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appearance of several previously scheduled communist speakers. According to the source, Benjamin J. Davis, National Secretary of the CP, and Mark Lane were principal speakers at the rally.

"The New York Times" for June 9, 1961, late city edition, on page 31 carried an article concerning the arrest and conviction of Mark Lane on June 8, 1961, at Jackson, Mississippi, as a member of one of two groups of "Freedom Riders" who had been apprehended in that city.

The same newspaper in its edition for April 3, 1962, carried an article on page 4 concerning Mark Lane's having been fined \$415 on April 2, 1962, in New York City as a "scofflaw," for ignoring numerous traffic tickets.

Mark Lane's defense brief for Leo Harvey Oswald appeared on pages 5, 6 and 9 of the December 19, 1963, issue of the "National Guardian," which has been cited by the NCFI as having manifested itself as a virtual official propaganda arm of Soviet Russia.

During an applicant investigation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in connection with the possible employment of an individual by an agency of the Federal Government, it was determined that the Office of the District Attorney, Queens County, New York, had conducted an investigation of Mark Lane in 1962 for alleged [REDACTED]. The results of this investigation were made available to the FBI. They included signed statements by [REDACTED] an [REDACTED] photograph of Lane and handwritten [REDACTED] by Lane relating to alleged [REDACTED].

Unless otherwise indicated, all of the above information was furnished to the FBI by sources who have furnished reliable information in the past.

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NOTE:

This memorandum is classified "Confidential" since it contains information from informants and sources of continuing value which information if divulged could compromise those sources and informants.

See memorandum Bland to W. C. Sullivan dated 1/16/64 captioned "Mark Lane, Security Matter-C," JRG/nci.