

Memorandum

Tolson  
 Belmont  
 Mohr  
 Casper  
 Callahan  
 Conrad  
 DeLoach  
 Evans  
 Gale  
 Rosen  
 Sullivan  
 Tavel  
 Trotter  
 Tele. Room  
 Holmes  
 Gandy

TO : Mr. A. H. Belmont

DATE: November 29, 1963

FROM : Mr. W. C. Sullivan

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Gale
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Branigan
- 1 - Mr. Bland
- 1 - Mr. Rushing

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

Pursuant to the Director's question as to whether it is accepted practice of State Department to allow individuals who have renounced their citizenship to return to the United States, State Department was consulted on November 25, 1963. (Memorandum from D. J. Brennan to me dated November 25, 1963).

In connection therewith, Mr. Tolson asked 1) "Shouldn't these people who have renounced U. S. citizenship be on the Security Index? 2) Do we investigate all such people?"

With respect to the second question, it is the general practice to conduct a security investigation in cases of defectors who subsequently return to the United States. Investigation is begun on basis of defection and return and is for the purpose of determining 1) Whether they may have been recruited for Soviet intelligence in this country while abroad, and 2) Whether their activities are such as to indicate that they represent a potential threat to the internal security of the Nation in the event of a national emergency.

All information developed during the course of the investigation, including the fact of defection on the part of the individual concerned, is taken into consideration in arriving at a decision as to whether the individual's activities are such as to depict him as a dangerous individual who would pose a threat to the internal security in the event of a national emergency and, therefore, should be scheduled for apprehension.

Investigation in some cases has developed information indicating that the act of defection was for personal reasons and not for ideological reasons. For example, Robert E. Webster went to Russia in 1959 in connection with work for Rand Corporation at the American National Exhibit in Moscow. He was having marital difficulties, was in debt, and had met a Russian girl. He returned to the United States in May, 1962, has been interviewed and has also appeared before a congressional committee and has been cooperative. Libero Ricciardelli, a veteran of the U. S. Air Force, married and the father of three children, was having domestic

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Rushing

Memorandum for Mr. Belmont  
RE: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT  
JOHN F. KENNEDY

problems and went to the USSR in 1959 because, as he subsequently related, his unsupervised reading caused him to feel that living in a socialist state would be helpful. He returned to the United States in June, 1963, has been interviewed and was cooperative.

In the past we have felt that a defector who subsequently returned to this country and indicated by his words and deeds acknowledgment of his initial folly and repentance thereof and concerning whom investigation failed to develop additional facts depicting the individual as a dangerous person, should not be listed in the Security Index and thus scheduled for apprehension and detention in the event of a national emergency. (However, all defectors could be placed on the Security Index on the theory that their defection, their act of renouncement of their citizenship, and their subsequent return would indicate possibility of long-range development as a Soviet agent. In this connection, there is no way to positively establish through investigation that their repentance of their actions are legitimate and, since permission to return must of necessity be granted by the Soviet Union, there does exist a long-range Soviet agent potential.

ACTION:

Submitted in accordance with the request of the Director and Mr. Tolson. Memorandum from D. J. Brennan to me captioned "Lee Harvey Oswald, Internal Security - R," dated November 29, 1963, set forth the status of our inquiries with the State Department concerning the question posed by the Director regarding individuals who have renounced their citizenship being allowed to return to the United States.

*to Dick [unclear] of WES.*  
I think each case should stand on its merits.  
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I don't agree with [unclear] because [unclear] Oswald's case there was no indication of repentance.