

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Conrad

DATE: 3/19/64

FROM : R. H. Jevons

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
IS - R

Assassination of President John F. Kennedy - Dept. of Justice

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

As a matter of record, the President's Commission returned to the Laboratory on 3/17/64, the FBI items set forth on the attached sheet (No. 1). In addition, Mr. Arnold Specter, a member of the Commission's staff, furnished the described materials on the attached sheets (Nos. 2 and 3). These materials are Commission Exhibits, some of which were not furnished the Commission by the Bureau, such as painted charts showing wounds, working papers associated with Naval Medical School Autopsy Report A63-272, schematic drawing from Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, and so forth. Mr. Specter stated that they were being furnished to the Bureau for reproduction. The delivery of the FBI items to the Commission has previously been appropriately confirmed by letter to the Commission.

On 3/18/64, Mr. Melvin Eisenberg, a member of the Commission's staff, telephonically advised that the reproduction of the Commission Exhibits (referred to above) was in reality a continuing request for photographs of Commission Exhibits as set forth in the attached copy of a letter dated 2/24/64, from the Commission. Mr. Eisenberg also added that the Commission would like to have the Laboratory maintain these Commission Exhibits with the other FBI items which have been made Commission Exhibits.

As noted above, much of this material has never before been in the custody of the Bureau. We have, of course, on a continuing basis been delivering to the Commission literally hundreds of items of evidence recovered by the Bureau in connection with our investigation of the assassination, the investigation of Lee Harvey Oswald and the murder of Officer J. D. Tippit and returning them to our custody when the Commission has finished with them. This involves not only the physical delivery of the evidence, but also a large amount of administrative detail necessary for the proper maintenance of material of this type which must be

Enclosures (4)

105-32555 RB

ENCLOSURE

- 1-Mr. Belmont - Enclosures (4)
- 1-Mr. Rosen - Enclosures (4)
- 1-Mr. Sullivan - Enclosures (4)
- 1-Mr. Malley - Enclosures (4)

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Re: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
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105-82555

maintained in keeping with our policy concerning evidence. This, of course, has been an expected part of our job concerning this case. Now, however, the Commission has asked us to take custody of a number of items of evidence which have come into its possession from various other sources, with the attendant responsibility of maintaining them as evidence. It is to be noted also that just the photography request of the current material alone, which is being handled by the Laboratory and the Photographic Unit of the Administrative Division will amount to well over 100 photographs. Since the Commission has expected us to take custody and to photograph all of the material in this instance, it will undoubtedly extend its request to any additional evidence that may come into its possession in the future. While the present volume of non-FBI items is not great, acceptance of the present items will establish the precedent.

RECOMMENDATION:

While this is not our primary function, rather than be accused of failure to cooperate, it would be preferable for us to handle this evidence for the Commission. Recently, we have asked the Commission to reconsider several of its requests which have appeared to be unnecessary and Mr. Rankin has gone along with us. For the record, then, we should comply with this request unless it becomes too burdensome. If it does become too burdensome, we can, of course, reconsider at that time.

*I don't think we
should maintain
custody of
material by
the Bureau*

Done

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JWC
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