

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont *al*

DATE: April 17, 1964

FROM : Mr. W. C. Sullivan *WCS*

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION

Mr. Rosen's memorandum, 4/14/64, reported information furnished by Lee Rankin indicating that representatives of the Secret Service had said that Secret Service would have had Oswald under surveillance on 11/22/63 if they had been furnished information concerning him. As approved by the Director in Mr. Rosen's memorandum 4/15/64, Liaison supervisor Bartlett discussed this with Secret Service Chief Rowley today, 4/17/64, and Rowley was shocked and indignant. He said that only four Secret Service employees have appeared before the Commission to date, these all being men who were in the Presidential motorcade in Dallas and whose testimony was limited to description of the events surrounding the assassination. Rowley said that at no time was any question raised by the Commission concerning a possible surveillance nor was there any comment ever concerning this made by his men. He said that the only persons who could speak for Secret Service in this regard were himself and Special Agent in Charge Robert I. Bouck of the Protective Research Section. Bouck is to appear before the Commission on 4/23/64 for the first time and Rowley said he will thoroughly brief him in advance. Rowley stated finally, in addition, that there would be no such statement made by Secret Service because there was no information indicating the possibility of physical violence on the part of Oswald and he would not, therefore, have been placed under surveillance. He further stated that had the Secret Service checked the building they would have taken no action concerning Oswald inasmuch as he was employed in the building.

Rankin also indicated to Malley that Secret Service had been asked what requests had been made of the FBI in writing for the type of information Secret Service desired to assist in protection of the President. Mr. Rowley said he had received no such request from the Commission. He added that to the best of his knowledge Secret Service has made no request of this type of FBI or any other agency because they have been interested in specific information relating to threats against the President and FBI and other agencies have been furnishing this type of data for many years. Nevertheless, to satisfy ourselves we have conducted an exhaustive search of our

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- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. Branigan
- 1 - Mr. Bland
- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Liaison
- 1 - Mr. Bartlett

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file and have reviewed 783 references to pertinent subject matters as well as every serial in the various files containing material concerning threats against the Presidents, relations with the Secret Service and the like. We have found only one item possibly pertinent. This is a letter of 10/14/42 from Frank Wilson, then the Secret Service Chief, who asked that we furnish that agency the originals rather than copies of letters threatening the President. We have adhered to this practice.

ACTION:

It appears that the information furnished by Rankin was in error. Liaison will, however, stay close to Rowley in order that we may be promptly informed in the event inquiries affecting us are received from the Commission.

we 9/15 W.E.S.
[Signature] ✓