

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: August 3, 1964

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: PROPOSED FOREIGN TELEVISION PROGRAM
ON THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY
UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY (USIA)

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

J. W. F. White
B. J. [unclear]

You will recall that in your (Mr. DeLoach's) memorandum to Mr. Mohr on 20/64 you advised that Ann Shafer of the Television Division of the USIA called and spoke to Inspector Kemper to inform him that her organization was preparing a television show of 15 minutes duration to be released after the Warren Commission report is made. The television show would be designed for foreign consumption and would set forth the results of the report and attempt to clarify the situation as far as foreign outlets were concerned.

At that time, Miss Shafer stated they would like to show the role of the FBI in the Commission's investigation, particularly in regard to laboratory matters. This would include a shot in the ballistics section, as well as some other shots in the FBI Laboratory, to illustrate this phase of the report. She also desired several shots of Agents interviewing persons, both inside and outside. Regarding this request for assistance, Mr. Tolson noted, "I think we should stay out of this until Warren report is issued." The Director concurred. Mr. Tolson so firmly advised Miss Shafer. She, nevertheless, stated that a script had already been submitted to us and that she would appreciate our taking a look at it.

CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS:

We now have received the television script (attached) proposed for use in this television program on the assassination. USIA has advised that the Commission has pledged support in this matter, and they hope to proceed with the filming in the near future.

The script has been reviewed and it is far from complete as to the actual dialogue to be recorded. On pages 19, 21 and 26 various scenes are noted wherein USIA would like to show films as follows:

PAGE 19: Sequence of shots of FBI and State Police officials entering Commission offices.

Enclosure

Mr. DeLoach - Enclosure

Mr. Rosen - Enclosure

Mr. Sullivan - Enclosure

3-6-64
30511 8/11/64

SENT DIRECTOR
9-4-64

(Continued on next page.)

NOT RECORDED
199 SEP 15 1964

DETACHED
IN 50-100

62-109160

A. A. Jones to DeLoach Memo
RE: Proposed Foreign Television Program on the
Assassination of President Kennedy

PAGE 21: Close-up shots showing ballistic, handwriting and fingerprint examinations.

PAGE 26: Film showing a fingerprint expert displaying fingerprint records. It is noted that this will entail a narration by the fingerprint expert according to the script.

The script does not contain a great deal directly relating to the FBI. However, on page 40 the narrator will ask the question, "Another question on security... is it true the FBI had Oswald on its suspicious list - actually questioned his wife a few days before the assassination? If so, why wasn't he watched during the President's stay in Dallas?" No narration is listed thereafter, but it will be recorded during the filming. This, of course, is a question which is quite ticklish, and we should make every effort to assure that the FBI is represented in a favorable light in this regard.

OBSERVATIONS:

Inasmuch as the Warren Commission has pledged its support to USIA in the production of this television show, it is felt the Bureau should cooperate in this matter in order to protect our own interests. Every effort should be made to assure that the Bureau is presented in a favorable light in this most complex matter, and our cooperation in the production should enable us to exert some control. If our cooperation is withheld, we will have no opportunity whatsoever to have any voice in how we are portrayed.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

(1) That Inspector James Malley take this matter up with Mr. Rankin before any decision is made to cooperate in this program.

(2) That Miss Shafer be informed of our decision following determination in (1) above.