

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

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	
Mr. Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

TO : Mr. DeLoach

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT  
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY  
NOVEMBER 22, 1963  
DALLAS, TEXAS

DATE: February 7, 1967

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. Shroder
- 1 - Mr. Raupach
- 1 - Mr. Wick

PURPOSE:

To advise the White House and the Department the results of our investigation based on an allegation made by Eustace Thaddeus Chatham. Chatham alleged a former employer of his had asked him several years ago if he would kill President Kennedy. Chatham alleged his former employer was named "Clifford Johnson," described as a cousin of President Johnson.

BACKGROUND:

On November 28, 1966, New Orleans Office interviewed and obtained a signed statement from Eustace Thaddeus Chatham. He alleged he was working on a shrimp boat several years ago out of Brownsville, Texas, owned by an individual named "Clifford Johnson." According to Chatham, Johnson was alleged to be the cousin of President Johnson. Chatham said he was asked by Johnson if he would kill President Kennedy for \$50,000 or \$100,000 or \$150,000.

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Investigation was initiated and it was determined Eustace Thaddeus Chatham has a previous arrest record, he cannot read, he has a third-grade education and medical records indicate he has "paranoid ideas" and was suspected of being a "malingerer." Chatham claimed he was working on a boat named the "Gene R" and it was determined there was a boat named the "Jane R," owned by "Clifton Johnston, Sr." This boat was sold on March 3, 1962, at Brownsville, Texas, by the United States Marshal based on a court order.

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The Houston Office located and interviewed Clifton Johnston, Jr., who verified the fact Chatham did work for him for four days during 1959. He described Chatham as a "wino" and a very unstable individual and Johnston knew no reason why Chatham would think up such a fantastic tale. He said when Chatham was

Enclosures (2) *sent 2-8-67*

KMR:blw  
(7)

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Memorandum for Mr. DeLoach  
RE: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT  
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employed, President Kennedy was not President of the United States. Further he never owned a rifle or a revolver and he never discussed President Johnson or President Kennedy with Chatham.

This matter was the subject of a previous memorandum A. Rosen to Mr. DeLoach dated 12/2/66. It is noted extensive investigation was conducted by our Dallas, San Antonio, and Houston Offices to identify Clifton Johnston, Jr. Following many leads and the review of numerous public records, Johnston was located on 1/27/67, at a water front grill at Aransas Pass, Texas, and he is currently employed on a shrimp trawler as a boat rigger. It is noted the investigation, description, and background of Clifton Johnston, Jr., determined he is no relation to President Johnson.

ACTION:

Attached for approval is a letter to Mr. Watson at the White House regarding this matter and a letter to the Acting Attorney General enclosing a copy of the same communication. Copies of the letterhead memoranda received are being disseminated to U. S. Secret Service.

*js*      *gen*      *P*      *✓*      *APW*      *9/8*

*Tom*