

Memorandum

- Assoc. Dir. _____
- Dep. AD Adm. _____
- Dep. AD Inv. _____
- Asst. Dir.:
- Admin. _____
- Comp. Syst. _____
- Ext. Affairs _____
- Files & Com. _____
- Gen. Inv. 11/11/75
- Ident. _____
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- Intell. _____
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- Spec. Inv. _____
- Training _____
- Telephone Rm. _____
- Director Sec'y _____

TO :MR. CALLAHAN

DATE: 9-12-75

FROM :J. B. ADAMS *JBA*

SUBJECT:LEE HARVEY OSWALD MATTER

As per letter to O. ...

On 9-11-75 Sandy Smith, Time magazine, came by to see me and we discussed his article appearing in the 9-15-75 issue of Time magazine. I advised him that the article troubled me because for the first time we have an allegation that any coverup which might have taken place could be an institutional coverup by involvement of FBI superiors in Washington concerning the note. I was troubled because although our inquiries are not completed we have not developed any evidence to this effect at this time, and I seriously question the accuracy of his article. Further, if he did not act in good faith in preparation of the article and cannot back it up such could be construed as being malicious providing a basis for a charge of libel if untrue.

Mr. Smith reacted vigorously to my statements and stated that he had received this information from 4, 5, or 6 separate officials present or former, and he was certain that the information was true. I asked him if all of these sources, if they exist, specifically claimed to have personal knowledge, or had just heard that such might be the case, or had heard Mr. Mohr had ordered the destruction of the note. He replied that only one of his sources claimed to have personal knowledge that Mr. Mohr told the Dallas Agents to destroy it, and the other sources had varying degrees of knowledge concerning it.

Since Mr. Smith would not identify his sources, I asked if he could provide me any leads which we could pursue to resolve this matter and he stated he could not without leading to the identification of his sources. I impressed upon him that his allegation was most material to our inquiries and it was essential this matter be resolved. He said he realized that and that he recognizes he may be forced to produce them through a libel suit or other action and then they could tell their story as they told it to him which would clearly show he acted on information coming from individuals who have provided him reliable information in the past, in fact, information which has been almost 100% accurate in the past.

I asked him how he defined an official and he was somewhat reluctant to pin down a definition as specific definition might lead to identification of his sources, but would say they were above the level of a Special Agent and would



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1 - Mr. Bassett

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Re: Lee Harvey Oswald Matter

fall somewhere in the range of a Special Agent Supervisor to a top official, either present or former.

I asked Mr. Smith why such individuals would go to him rather than advise the Bureau of their information either in person or anonymously, and he said they furnished the information to him obviously because they did not want to get involved with the Bureau.

I told Mr. Smith that his statement the Bureau deliberately concealed what had happened from the Warren Commission raised serious questions as to Headquarters involvement and he said that some of his sources indicated that even Mr. Hoover knew about this, however, he did not include it in the article because there was a conflict between his sources in this regard and he confined his article to what the sources agreed on.

Mr. Bassett has been advised of this information in order that this matter may be fully explored during his continuing inquiries.

ACTION:

Information only.

MS *Jm*