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OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

5010-108

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

EVANS

Tolson	
Belmont	
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Callahan	
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DeLoach	
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Rosen	
Sullivan	
Tavel	
Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Holmes	
Gandy	

TO : MR. TOLSON

DATE: December 10, 1963
Access 1678 REP/AMR

FROM : J. H. GALE *JHG*

Classified by *303*
Declassify on: OADR *4/2/83*
Dalkes FO

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD

Classified by *6090*
Exemption from GDS, Category *2A*
Date of Declassification Indefinite

INTERNAL SECURITY - R

Dallas, Texas

Director instructed that complete analysis be made of any investigative deficiencies in Oswald case and analysis made concerning any necessary changes in our procedures re handling cases of this type -- analysis re procedure changes and dissemination policies handled separately.

RESULTS OF FINDINGS RE INVESTIGATIVE DEFICIENCIES:

It is definitely felt subject Oswald should have been on the Security Index (SI) based on following facts: (This is based solely on information in our files at time of and prior to assassination and does not take into consideration information subsequently developed.) (1) Subject's defection to Russia and statement that he never would return to United States for any reason. (2) Stated he was Marxist and advised Department of State he would furnish Soviets any information he had acquired as Marine Aviation Electronics Expert. Also affirmed in writing allegiance to Soviet Union and said service in Marine Corps gave him chance to observe American imperialism. According to State Department Oswald displayed air of new "Sophomore" Party liner at that time. (3) Upon returning to the United States Oswald displayed cold, arrogant, general uncooperative attitude and refused to take Bureau Polygraph test to determine if he had cooperated with the Soviets or had current intelligence assignment. (4) On 9/28/62 it was learned Oswald was subscribing to "The Worker," east coast Communist newspaper. (5) In April, 1963, learned he had been in contact with Fair Play for Cuba Committee, New York, and passed out pamphlets and had placard around neck reading "Hands Off Cuba - Viva Fidel." (6) Wrote letter June 10, 1963, to "The Worker" asking for literature saying he was forming Fair Play for Cuba Committee in New Orleans and he sent honorary membership to "those fighters for peace" Mr. Gus Hall and Mr. B. Davis (Ben Davis). (7) Arrested August 9, 1963, New Orleans, passing out Fair Play for Cuba pamphlets on street. Shortly thereafter interviewed on radio and said Russia had gone soft on Communism and Cuba only real revolutionary country in world today. (8) Contact with Soviet Embassy, Mexico, September and October, 1963.

Field and Seat of Government employees who handled instant case maintain subject did not come within SI criteria. Inspector does not agree, believing that Oswald came within following category: "Investigation has developed information that an individual though not a member of or participant in the activities of subversive organization, has anarchist or revolutionary beliefs and is likely to seize

1 - Mr. Callahan

61-198-3050

Searched _____ Numbered _____

REC-138

12/11/63

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Memo randum for Mr. Tolson
Re: Lee Harvey Oswald

upon the opportunity presented by the national emergency to endanger the public safety as shown by overt acts or statements within the last three years, established through reliable sources, informants or individuals."

Upon subject's return from Russia to Texas on 6/14/62, he was interviewed and displayed a recalcitrant attitude. The only investigation conducted was to interview a number of Government officials, three relatives and check with two Communist Party informants. The case was then closed after a second interview with subject by Dallas report dated 8/30/62. No neighborhood or employment sources developed, wife not interviewed, mail covers or other techniques not used to determine whom Oswald in contact with or whether he had intelligence assignment. Inspector feels this limited investigation inadequate. Dallas Agent responsible for delinquencies until 3/26/63 was [redacted] who is now retired, and no explanations obtained from him.

Dallas reopened case 3/26/63 assigned to Special Agent [redacted] Jr., and supervised by Field Supervisor [redacted]. After sending Bureau a letter on 3/25/63 setting out leads to determine Oswald's employment and consider interviewing Oswald's wife, the Bureau was not furnished any information until 8/23/63 and then only after the Bureau had made inquiry of Dallas. It was not until 9/10/63 that Dallas reported subject Oswald subscribed to "The Worker" on 9/28/62 and on April 21, 1963, had been in contact with New York Fair Play for Cuba Committee, advising then that he passed out Fair Play for Cuba pamphlets and had placard around neck reading "Hands Off Cuba - Viva Fidel." Relief Supervisor [redacted] advised he received information from New York concerning subject's subscription to "The Worker" and took no action except to route it to former Agent [redacted]. He advised he did not feel this information warranted reopening case. Inspector does not agree, but feels in light of subject's defection, case should have been reopened at first indication of communist sympathy or activity.

Special Agent [redacted] advised that New York did not report Oswald's 4/21/63 Fair Play for Cuba contact to Dallas until letter sent 6/27/63 and Dallas did not feel it necessary to report it to Bureau until 9/10/63. [redacted] admits it "possibly" would have been better to have reported on this matter earlier.

Special Agent [redacted] New York, handled this matter and states information was received from anonymous source and that because of heavy volume of such material he handled urgent matters first and finished entire processing at approximately the end of June, 1963.

Supervisor [redacted] New York, makes similar explanation. Inspector feels 66-day delay from 4/21/63 to 6/27/63 entirely too long to process such material, particularly inasmuch as New York in no position to determine value of some of this material to other offices who have active cases opened on individuals concerned.

- 2 - ~~SECRET~~

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Memo for Mr. Tolson
Re: Lee Harvey Oswald

██████████ advised Dallas considered the most important aspect of this case the interview of Oswald's wife and did not deem it advisable to interview her in March, 1963, because they developed information that Oswald drinking to excess and beat up wife on several occasions. ██████████ stated that they allowed a 60-day "cooling-off period" and then couldn't locate Oswald or his wife until New Orleans located them in New Orleans and advised Dallas on 7/17/63. No instructions given New Orleans to interview Mrs. Oswald.

Certainly an extreme abuse of
██████████ advised that after Oswald's return to Dallas was verified on 11/1/63 no interview was conducted of Mrs. Oswald because Dallas awaiting information from New Orleans. ██████████ advised investigation was designed to avoid having Oswald's wife "gain the impression she was being harassed or hounded because of her immigrant status in order that the interview when conducted might be as productive as possible."

Just don't understand such solicitude of
Inspector feels this entire facet of investigation mishandled. Mrs. Oswald definitely should have been interviewed and Inspector feels best time to get information from her would be after she was beaten up by her husband as it is felt she would be far more likely to cooperate when angry at Oswald than otherwise.

This certainly makes sense. H
On 11/1/63 Dallas determined from Mrs. Ruth Paine that Oswald working at the Texas School Book Depository (place from which assassination shot fired by Oswald). Mrs. Paine unaware of Oswald's residence but stated Oswald's wife living with her. ██████████ states he made pretext telephone call to Oswald's place of employment and was told Oswald residing with Mrs. Paine. Not recorded in file. On 11/5/63 Mrs Paine recontacted and unable to furnish information as to Oswald's residence address, but stated Oswald had visited his wife at Paine's house on 11/2 and 3/63. At this point Dallas held investigation in abeyance and no further investigation made until assassination.

██████████ explained that he held investigation in abeyance to be certain he was in possession of all information from New Orleans so he could possibly interview Mrs. Oswald and conduct further investigation. He was aware as of 10/8/63 that Oswald had been in contact with the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City but felt because Oswald was employed in nonstrategic position where he would not have access to information important to national defense that he was justified in holding investigation in abeyance. Inspector definitely does not agree. New Orleans submitted 16-page report 10/31/63 and only leads outstanding in New Orleans were to ascertain Oswald's whereabouts. No indication New Orleans had any further data and New Orleans RUC'd case by form 11/19/63. Even if New Orleans had not reported all information in their possession, Dallas should have intensified investigation in light of Oswald's contact with Soviet Embassy and not held investigation in abeyance. Supervisor ██████████ advised he

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b6-2

discussed above investigative steps with [redacted] and concurred with the manner in which handled. Both [redacted] and [redacted] did not feel Oswald made Security Index criteria.

b6-2

[redacted] No delinquency here and it will also be noted that Dallas was aware Oswald in contact with Soviet authorities in Mexico on 10/18/63. (S)

Lead set out by Dallas in March 25, 1963, letter for Dallas to determine present employment of Oswald and, thereafter, determine whether wife should be interviewed. This was not followed by Bureau for approximately five months until 8/21/63 when Dallas was asked about this lead after subject arrested in New Orleans for distributing Fair Play for Cuba pamphlets. Seat of Government Supervisor [redacted] states additional investigation not conducted until subject arrested for Fair Play for Cuba activity inasmuch as he reviewed investigation and evaluated that subject was not engaged in activities inimical to the United States. [redacted] states did not feel interview of subject's wife warranted and did not feel case should be reopened at Bureau on 3/25/63 merely to follow Dallas re consideration of interviewing wife. [redacted] advised he did not feel subject's activities came within purview of SI criteria.

b6-2

It will also be noted that stop placed against subject in Identification Division which was removed by [redacted] on 10/9/63 after subject arrested in New Orleans for Fair Play for Cuba Committee on 8/9/63. [redacted] advised stop was placed in event subject returned from Russia under an assumed name and was inadvertently not removed by him on 9/7/62 when case closed. Inspector feels [redacted] in error in removing stop on subject in Ident on 10/9/63, particularly after arrest on 8/9/63 for Fair Play for Cuba Committee activity in New Orleans. We might have missed further arrests without stop in Ident. Inspector also feels Gheesling erred in not having additional investigation conducted when subject returned to United States and Gheesling wrong in not having subject placed on SI.

*Gheesling
Named as
director*

Instant case supervised at Seat of Government by Nationalities Intelligence Section regarding Fair Play for Cuba aspects and the Espionage Section regarding defection aspects and contact with Soviet Embassy in Mexico. Seat of Government Supervisor [redacted] supervised the Fair Play for Cuba aspects of this case from 8/16 until 10/31/63. He failed to have Oswald put on the SI in spite of considerable Fair Play for Cuba activity coupled with soviet defection background. In explanation he claims he did not feel Oswald met criteria for inclusion on SI.

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OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : MR. TOLSON

Secret

DATE: December 10, 1963

FROM : J. H. GALE *JHG*

SUBJECT: *Xp-6* LEE HARVEY OSWALD

INTERNAL SECURITY - R

Dallas Texas

Classified by *6090*

Exemption from GDS, Category *5a3*

Date of Declassification Indefinite

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CONFIDENTIAL

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9 153 255 1003

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1 - Mr. Callahan

61-798-3050

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[redacted] (S)

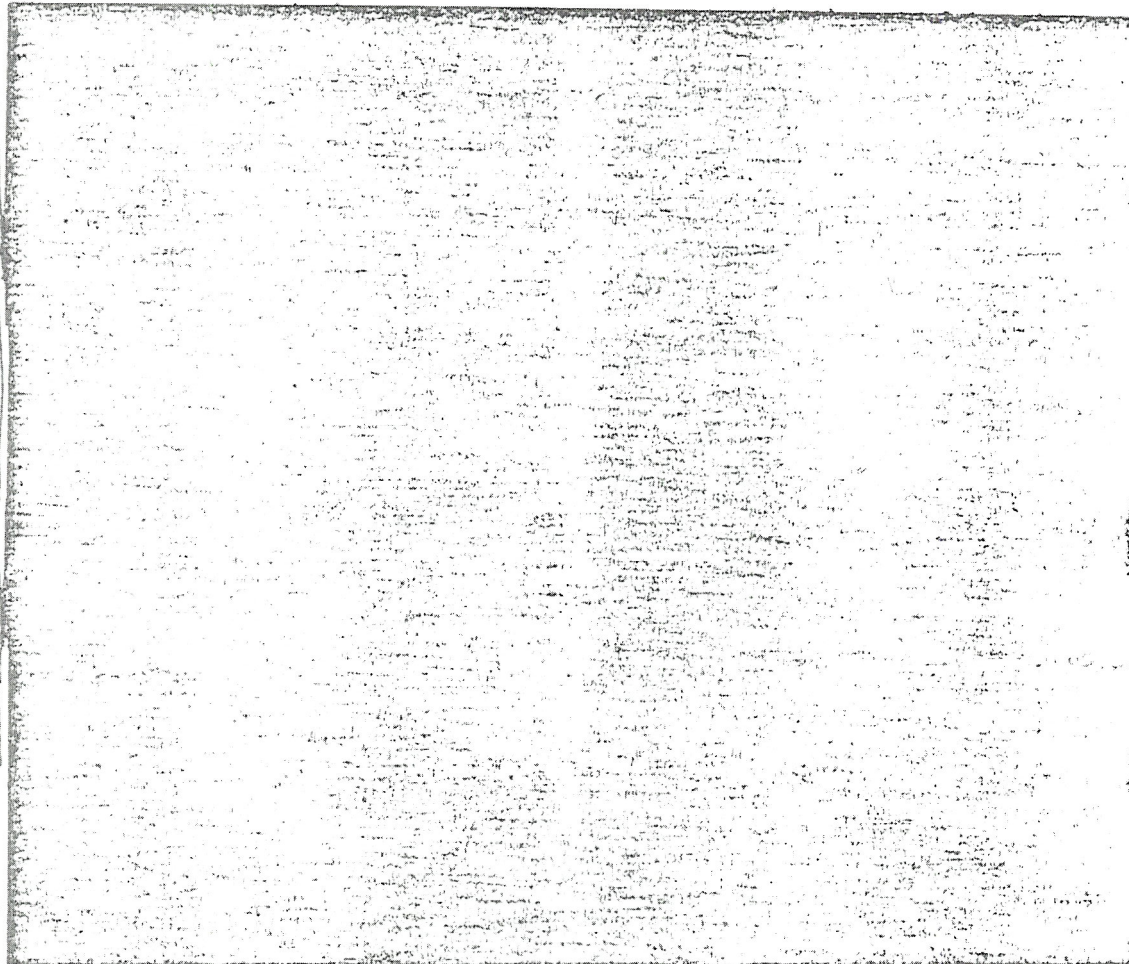
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SA [redacted] handled case in New Orleans from 7/18/63. No report submitted until 10/31/63. Bureau not advised until report of 10/31/63 that Oswald wrote to "The Worker" on June 10, 1963, requesting literature to assist him in establishing Fair Play for Cuba Committee in New Orleans, and sent honorary membership cards for Ben Davis and Gus Hall. [redacted] advised that although investigative period extended from 7/23 through 10/25/63, continuous attention was afforded this case.

SAC [redacted] supervised case and shares responsibility for delay in advising Bureau; also failed to put on Security Index, saying they did not feel subject met criteria.