

DATE: 9/21/64
NARA
RELEASED PER P.L. 102-526 (JFK ACT)
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont

DATE: 9/21/64

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION
ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

- 1 - Mr. Conrad
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. Rog

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

Reflected
Box 110B
RC 65
Reflected under a FBI check
Wc

(A)

Mr. J. Lee Rankin, General Counsel, President's Commission, telephoned today and advised that the report of the Commission would probably be released Monday, September 28, 1964. Mr. Rankin stated that with the release of the report, it was anticipated that the President's Commission would be receiving a large number of requests from the press and other news media to see various exhibits which are referred to in the report. Mr. Rankin did not feel that the Commission should handle this and that it should be handled by the Department of Justice. Mr. Rankin desired to know the Bureau's feelings concerning this matter.

Mr. Rankin was advised that the Bureau had literally thousands of exhibits on hand relating to the various phases of the assassination of President Kennedy and that the Bureau was not in a position to know at this time which exhibits were referred to in the report being released by the President's Commission. At this point Mr. Rankin also commented that he was desirous of relieving the Bureau of the responsibility of retaining the voluminous exhibits which were in our possession and would therefore like to give consideration to returning as many as possible of these exhibits to the original contributors. He inquired as to the normal procedure followed by the Bureau in handling its regular cases as to the disposal of exhibits.

Mr. Rankin was advised of the policy followed in Bureau cases: namely, that when an exhibit had served its purpose in a trial or it was permissible to return the item due to other situations in the case, it was returned to the original contributor. In those instances where, because of the possibility of an appeal or other circumstances, it was desirable to retain exhibits for evidentiary purposes, appropriate arrangements were made by orders issued by the court for the retention of such exhibits.

Mr. Rankin commented that there was an additional problem with respect to exhibits involved in instant matter in that the disposal of exhibits might result in allegations on the part of individuals reviewing the report that the exhibit was disposed of so that it could not be reviewed by the public in general. He stated he would appreciate the Bureau giving its consideration to this matter in order that it could be handled in the most practical manner.

JRM:mpd (8)

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PELHASSED PER P.L-102-526(JFK ACT)
 NARA
 DAT 7/11/77

Memo to Mr. Belmont from A. Rosen
 Re: President Commission, Assassination of President

RECOMMENDATIONS:

(1) With reference to the viewing of exhibits by news media (and we are only concerned with exhibits in possession of the FBI), it is recommended Mr. Rankin be advised:

(a) that the selection of any exhibits for the news media to see would be one which would necessarily be made by staff members of the President's Commission;

(b) Upon advice of what exhibits the Commission desired to have made available, the Bureau would make arrangements for them to be delivered to the Commission or any authority desired but that the Bureau was not in a position to have a large number of news media coming into the Bureau and making requests to see specific exhibits.

(2) Relative to the disposition of exhibits or permanent retention of same, if approved Mr. Rankin will be advised that the Bureau will be glad to cooperate in the disposal by returning to the original contributors any exhibits in possession of the Bureau that the Commission desires be returned, but that the selection of those items which will be retained on a permanent basis, as well as those to be returned, must be made by the Commission staff inasmuch as this staff is the only one who has full knowledge of the Commission's report and would be in a position to make such a selection.

(3) With regard to those exhibits which the President's Commission feels should be permanently retained, it is recommended that within a given period of time, for example - six months after the President's report is issued, such exhibits should be turned over to the National Archives for retention or to whomever the President's Commission should designate.

*GR
 R
 Rosen*

[Signature]

[Checkmark]