

DATE 7/17/10

USA GEN. REG. NO. 27

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. W. C. Sullivan *WCS 4/20*

FROM : Mr. W. A. Branigan *WAB*

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
INTERNAL SECURITY - RUSSIA - CUBA

DATE: 4-15-64

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

NEA [unclear]
ROSS [unclear]
ROLAND [unclear]

W. C. Sullivan
W. A. Branigan

On 4-15-64 Inspector Malley received a call from J. Lee Rankin in New York City. It will be noted that on 4-17-64 the Commission contemplates interrogating functionaries of the Communist Party (CP) in New York concerning their knowledge of Oswald.

Mr. Rankin made reference to the report of Special Agent Thomas P. Estep dated 12-18-63 at Cincinnati, Ohio. Mr. Rankin noted that the report referred to a meeting which occurred at Wheeling, West Virginia, on 12-8-63. Mr. Rankin noted that the report was marked "Confidential" and he wanted to know if, in talking to CP people, it would be satisfactory for him to ask questions concerning the details of the meeting without interfering with any of our operations.

The report in question contains information furnished by Confidential Informant CI [redacted]-S who advised that Arnold Johnson of New York City, public relations man for the CP, gave a talk dealing with the assassination of President Kennedy. The information, while helpful, does not add anything of particular significance to the Oswald investigation and is generally self-serving to the CP.

On 4-15-64 SAC Mason advised that at the particular meeting there were six other CP members present with Mr. Johnson. Three of these were symbol number informants of the Cincinnati Office. SAC Mason advised that these particular informants cover an area in West Virginia and Ohio where there is CP activity and, hence, these informants are valuable to the coverage of the CP establishment not only by the Cincinnati Office but by our Cleveland and Pittsburgh Offices. Furthermore, according to SAC Mason, the particular informant who reported the meeting, CI [redacted]-S, is the only informant who is qualified to attend the State Board meetings of the Ohio CP. Mr. Mason noted that if Johnson is questioned concerning this meeting they will obviously check for a source and this could uncover one or all of the informants involved thereby seriously jeopardizing our coverage.

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. Branigan
- 1 - Mr. Lenihan

WAB:jdd
(7)

4693
Memo Rosen
to Belmont 4/17/64
JAB

803-rdd/gcd
(JFK)

E/L
Fish
Bain
J.P. Donohue

DATE 7/17/10

Memorandum to Mr. Sullivan
Re: Lee Harvey Oswald

OBSERVATIONS:

It would be highly undesirable for the Commission to question CP functionaries concerning the particular meeting. Questioning would not add to the investigation of the President's assassination and could only lead to uncovering valuable informants who are enabling us to stay abreast of CP activities in their particular locality.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is, therefore, recommended that Inspector Malley tactfully advise Mr. Rankin that any reference to this particular meeting or the contents of our classified report would tend to uncover valuable informants of the Bureau.

over

W.C. Sullivan

GRC

MM

Let the Commission do as it pleases.

SD

A