

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

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TO : Mr. Belmont

DATE: April 28, 1964

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: THE PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION

Reference is made to Rosen to Belmont memorandum dated 4-20-64, wherein information was set forth advising that Mr. Rankin had been told that the Bureau did not desire to participate in any re-enactment of the assassination that might take place in Dallas.

Today, Mr. Norman Redlich of the Commission called Malley and requested that he accompany Messrs. Gauthier of the Exhibits Section and Shaneyfelt of the FBI Laboratory for a meeting to be held at 2:30 p. m., today, for the purpose of discussing any further action that might be taken in Dallas to resolve any remaining problems with regard to the motorcade and the assassination site.

Mr. Redlich was advised that Mr. Shaneyfelt was not available in view of a court commitment, at which time, Redlich requested Gauthier and Malley to attend the conference at 2:30 p. m. The conference lasted from 2:30 p. m., until 5:10 p. m., and was attended by a large number of Commission staff attorneys as well as Mr. J. Lee Rankin.

Mr. Redlich advised those present that with the accumulation of information that has been received by the Commission as a result of testimony taken by the Commission, including the testimony of doctors, witnesses, Secret Service personnel who were at the site of the assassination and detailed testimony from Governor and Mrs. Connally, certain conclusions have been reached which necessitated establishing certain information which would make it possible to show that events had occurred or could not have occurred based on the testimony which had been received.

Mr. Rankin stated that approximations had been furnished by the FBI, by Secret Service and by members of the Commission staff based on their exhaustive review of all material available, and that he felt

- 1 - Mr. Callahan
- 1 - Mr. Conrad (Shaneyfelt)
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Gauthier

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It was most important to resolve the matter as closely as possible realizing that no precise point could be stated as the exact point where shots one, two and three occurred. He stated that members of the Commission did not want any precise locations given but the Commission was extremely desirous of making sure by an on-the-site check that the information set forth in the Commission's report could be possible and not subject to questions concerning feasibility.

*J. Lee Rankin*

D.C.

As a result of much discussion as to whether it would be necessary to utilize an automobile on the expressway where the shooting occurred and various other ramifications, Mr. Rankin indicated that he did feel that the matter had to be resolved and there would be a certain degree of publicity no matter how this matter was handled. He asked specifically if the FBI would participate in carrying out the Commission's request. He was advised he had been previously told that the Bureau did not desire to participate in any re-enactment of the assassination and would prefer not to be involved; however, if there was any technical assistance that could be furnished without a re-enactment, the Bureau would certainly consider such a request in order to aid in any way possible.

D.C.

Secret Service representative, Inspector Tom Kelly, stated that Secret Service had been fully carrying out many requests from the Commission and would do whatever they were asked in this particular matter.

Mr. Rankin advised the Commission members did not want any of the Commission staff members to be present and felt this should be handled by the investigative agencies. It was pointed out to Mr. Rankin that based on the detailed discussion that had taken place, it was apparent that the Commission staff members were not in full agreement as to just what they desired to be handled in Dallas or how it should be accomplished, and that in view of this, it would certainly seem necessary to have staff members of the Commission, who were familiar with what they were trying to accomplish, available to decide if they had achieved their purpose. Mr. Rankin stated that this matter would receive further consideration, and in the event he desired the Bureau to render any technical assistance, an appropriate request would be made in writing for consideration by the Bureau.

Memorandum to Mr. Belmont  
RE: THE PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION

It is noted that during the discussion today it was brought out that all living occupants of the car in which the President was riding, with the exception of the President's wife, have been interviewed and testimony taken by the Commission. This point obviously was of considerable contention between members of the Commission staff inasmuch as they were constantly making remarks indicating that they were without benefit of possible additional information and felt that this work in Dallas should not proceed until this additional information was obtained or at least an attempt made to interview Mrs. Kennedy.

In the event a request is received from the Commission requesting the Bureau to participate, full consideration will be given and recommendations made.

*[Handwritten initials]* ✓  
*[Handwritten signature]*