

COPY FOR MR. VALENTI

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**C.T.**

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

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July 22, 1964

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Warren Commission Report  
*x*

It is more and more apparent that the Warren Commission Report will be one of the most important news stories of the next two months, and I think we now have a good plan for your approval.

The report will consist of one summary volume and 18 supplemental volumes of hearings and evidence. The preparation of the report and the decision as to its contents is entirely a matter for the Commission. What happens after it is reported to you is entirely a matter for you. This distinction is being fully sustained in discussions between Lee Rankin and myself.

*Is This from Warren?*

Our initial plan had been that the report would be ready for submission to you on August 8, in the thought that you could then authorize its immediate publication about August 10 so as to get it out comfortably before the Democratic Convention. It now appears that this schedule is too tight, both for the final drafting of the report itself and for our own purpose of insuring widespread, dignified and effective publication of the report and its principal findings. An August publication runs the serious risk of slipshod work by the Commission, by the printers, or by the Press, and it is now my strong recommendation that we should defer the report until after the Democratic Convention.

*for HBT's sake*

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The schedule we now propose is as follows:

That the Chief Justice and his Commission should present their report to you on August 31, the Monday after the Convention.

You would receive the report in page proof.

You would review it at once, and we are assuming that you would order its publication in full. You might also wish to write a brief introductory statement.

At the same time you could instruct your staff to arrange not only for dignified publication through the Government Printing Office, and distribution through the Superintendent of Documents, but also for the

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most sensible and careful arrangements to make the findings available fairly and efficiently to the American people and the world press. In this undertaking you might wish to establish an informal advisory group of outstanding people like Frank Stanton, Walter Lippmann, John Cowles, etc., to insure that there is fairness to all concerned, in these arrangements. (This is important because of the problem of giving reporters a chance to digest the findings before they file their stories, and also because we may need to make special technical arrangements to permit the New York Times and others to publish the entire 650-page summary volume.)

*note*

Our expectation is that the elapsed time between the Commission's report to you and the publication date of the summary volume should be two weeks, which brings us to Monday, September 14; we would thus avoid clouding Labor Day weekend with a somber subject. At the same time, September 14 is safely before the climactic weeks of the campaign.

The USIA hopes to be authorized to make careful preliminary distribution of the summary report so that it can be available on publication day everywhere in the world. This is a sensitive and difficult matter, because of the danger of leaks, but a good operation here by USIA could have favorable impact all around the world, in the light of the importance of convincing skeptics abroad that President Kennedy was not the victim of an enormous conspiracy.

The Government Printing Office, which is approaching this whole matter with a great sense of responsibility and discretion, plans to make the summary volume a model of a public document both in type face and in format. The Superintendent of Documents expects to be able to put copies on public sale at \$2 in paper cover and \$3 in hard cover. The 18 volumes of supporting evidence would sell at about \$30 in paper covers and \$45 in hard covers. No one can guess what the final sales may be. I am convinced that if this matter is properly handled, the report and the way of handling it can become both a reminder of the essential sobriety and strength of our system and a proof of your own mastery of its principles and practices. It is also obvious that renewed attention to the tragedy itself will provide a telling comment on the issue of extremism.

One item on which I do not yet have adequate information is the recommendations of the Commission on guarding the President in the future. I am talking to Rankin about that later this week and will report what I learn. These recommendations may require immediate action at the time of the Commission's report.

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