

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

7
Chapter

C
1
2

TO : MR. MOHR

DATE: 12/9/63

FROM : C. D. DE LOACH

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT

Nick Katzenbach, the Deputy Attorney General, called me at 11:00 this morning, and asked that I come around to his office.

Upon seeing Katzenbach, he made reference to the proposed press release which the White House had originally planned to issue over the weekend in connection with the captioned matter. (The Director instructed we advise Katzenbach that we strongly felt that only the first paragraph of this release should be issued, or at most three paragraphs of the revised release which Mr. Belmont read to the Director on Saturday.) Katzenbach told me that there was a stalemate at the White House in connection with this release. Abe Fortas strongly felt that the entire release should be given to the press. Ted Sorenson agreed with us that only the first three paragraphs of the revised release prepared Saturday should be given out. Fortas believed that speculation, rumors and gossip should be dispelled right now. He claimed that there was no difference that the Presidential Commission would present findings to the press and the general public. He felt rumors concerning collusion between Ruby and Oswald, and also those concerning international conspiracy, should be hit hard now.

As a result of the disagreement between Fortas and Sorenson, there will be no press release from the White House. To get his point across, however, Katzenbach has prepared a letter to Chief Justice Warren and each Commission member, transmitting a copy of the report. The report will be delivered today. In his letter Katzenbach states that the report is being delivered at the instructions of the President. He also calls upon the Commission to quickly issue a statement concerning its findings so that rumors, gossip and speculation can be eliminated. He goes on to point out that the investigation thus far has nailed down the point that Oswald assassinated the President and had no assistance. He further mentions that Ruby operated strictly as an independent contractor and had no assistance. He points out there is no evidence of collusion or international intrigue.

REC-115

Katzenbach asked me if the FBI could deliver these reports. I told him we could not, that it was our position that the reports are now out of our hands and

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Evans
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. M. A. Jones

XEROX

CDD:hif (7)

62-109060-19

5 DEC 17 1963