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OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
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GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Mr. Mohr

C. D. DeLoach

DATE: December 17, 1963

LEE HARVEY OSWALD
INTERNAL SECURITY - R
THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION

Handwritten initials and marks:
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Year: _____
Month: _____
Day: _____

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I talked with Congressman Gerald Ford (R-Michigan) at his office at 1:45 PM this afternoon. The facts concerning the allegations of [redacted] that he had the recanting of such false facts were made very clear to Congressman Ford. He told me he was glad to get the further facts concerning the matter, particularly the fact that John McCone of CIA had told him originally.

Chief Justice Warren told the Commission that they should strive to have their hearings completed and the findings made public prior to July, 1964, when the Presidential campaign will begin to get hot. He stated it would be unfair to present the findings after July, 1964.

General members of the Commission indicated that Oswald's handwritten statements in the exhibits section of the report should be typed out for clearer personal Rankin was instructed to contact our liaison man, Inspector Malley, in this regard. There was no criticism of the FBI at yesterday's meeting. There were no allegations made by any one, including the Chief Justice, that the FBI had leaked portions of this report. I again went over very carefully with Congressman Ford the contents that members of the Commission were beginning to leak the report. I referred to this week's issue of "Newsweek" magazine which contains a rather clear analysis of the report. I told Congressman Ford that "Newsweek" was owned by the "Washington Post" and that apparently some one was trying to curry favor. I told him we, of course, did not get along very well with either the "Washington Post" or "Newsweek." He pointed out that he was in the same boat, that he liked neither one of these publications.

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DEC 27 1963
SOVIET SECTION

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. Casper
1 - Mr. Callahan
1 - Mr. Conrad
1 - Mr. Felt
1 - Mr. Gale
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Tavel
1 - Mr. Trotter
1 - Tele. Room
1 - Miss Holmes
1 - Miss Gandy
CDD:ejr

12/17/63

Memo DeLoach to Mohr
Re: Lee Harvey Oswald
IS-R
The Presidential Commission

Early

I told Congressman Ford in strict confidence that apparently Chief Justice Warren was quite close to Drew Pearson and obviously used Pearson from time to time to get thoughts across to the general public. I mentioned Pearson's articles of December 14-16, 1963. I told Congressman Ford as he well knew 98% of the facts in these articles were absolutely false.

Congressman Ford told me that several members had been somewhat surprised, however, pleased that the FBI's report had been in narrative form rather than written in a straightforward factual manner. I told him this, of course, was for the convenience of the Commission. He then mentioned Chief Justice Warren had expressed the desirability of seeing the actual reports which back up those in narrative form. I told him the Director had issued very specific instructions that these reports be made ready for the Commission. I told him they were quite lengthy and would be considerable material to wade through.

Two members of the Commission brought up the fact that they still had some questions concerning the assassination of the President. One of the questions was about the snags that killed the President. He stated he felt this point would be discussed further but, of course, would represent no problem.

Three members of the Commission expressed disappointment that T. H. Baughman, former Chief of Secret Service, had seen fit to make a number of ill-considered remarks concerning the operations of the Secret Service in the press. The Commission does not agree with Baughman and criticized him quite thoroughly. They nevertheless plan to call him before the Commission and take testimony.

At the Commission meeting yesterday, Lee Rankin, the Chief Counsel, was authorized to hire two so-called "technicians" who will assist him in research and development of the Commission's findings. The Commission was told by Rankin that these men were skilled attorneys. One of these individuals is named _____ Adams, a former Police Commissioner in New York. Another individual is a person by the name of _____ Jenner, an attorney from Chicago. The Commission was advised that both of these men are available for immediate employment. Congressman Ford stated he raised the question as to checking the backgrounds of these individuals. He was told by Rankin that both of them had very satisfactory backgrounds and belonged to organizations inimical to the best interest of the U. S. Government.

Upon leaving Congressman Ford advised me that he will be in Michigan on a skiing vacation with his wife and children between December 22, 1963 and January 1, 1964. He stated I should call him at any time his assistance was needed.

over
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He stated he had one problem. He wanted to take the FBI report with him yet he had no way of transporting it in complete safety. I told him I felt the Director would want him to borrow from us one of our Agent briefcases that contains a lock. He stated this would be ideal and he would appreciate loan of a briefcase very much.

ACTION:

This matter will be followed very closely. If there are no objections, I will deliver an Agent briefcase containing a lock to Congressman Ford tomorrow, December 18, 1963.

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1/2
OK
AM
R. H. A.
Key MC