

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont

FROM : C. A. Evans

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

*Re: Settling the Dept of
11/22
Time pressure*

DATE: November 26, 1963

[Handwritten initials and signatures]

[Routing slip with checkboxes]

Deputy Attorney General Katzenbach called with reference to the report which is to be submitted by the FBI in relation to the circumstances surrounding the assassination of President Kennedy.

He noted that a tremendous responsibility had been placed on the FBI in this instance by President Johnson because this report, which is to be publicized, is for the purpose of assuring the American public and the world as to what the facts are in Kennedy's assassination and setting to rest the many, many rumors that have been circulating and speculation both in the United States and abroad.

Katzenbach noted in this regard that we are being called upon to, in many instances, prove the negative. For example, he observed that there has been considerable speculation in the press in the United States and in Europe that the assassination was part of a communist or Castro conspiracy. There have also been allegations that Oswald and Ruby were known to each other and were part of a conspiracy. It has been further alleged that Oswald was killed to silence him.

Katzenbach noted that it is, of course, more difficult to prove that something did not occur than to prove what actually happened. As a consequence, it is his belief there might have to be some so-called editorial interpretation. He noted that the report will be subjected to the closest scrutiny by the world-wide press and foreign governmental representatives, as well as by the American people. He knew that we were keeping this in mind in preparation of the report.

As Katzenbach understands it, the report is to be reviewed by the Justice Department and transmitted to the White House. In this regard, he feels it is his responsibility to do this personally for the Department. To this end, he said if it would be helpful he would be glad to review and discuss preliminary drafts, since time is of the essence.

- 1 - Mr. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan

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NOT RECORDED
1963 DEC 10 1963

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Memorandum to Mr. Belmont

*Motive in
the Conundrum
to be addressed
all that*

ACTION BEING TAKEN:

From the facts disclosed in our investigation, there is no question but that we can submit in our report convincing evidence beyond any doubt showing Oswald was the man who killed President Kennedy. The problem is to show motive and this, of course, is a condition of Oswald's mind and can be, at best, a speculative conclusion predicated upon circumstantial evidence. Oswald has admitted he was an avowed Marxist. The facts are not clear cut as to his relationship with organized communism, either the Communist Party or the pro-Castro organizations. The Domestic Intelligence Division has been reviewing this very matter so that our report may reflect the factual information we have in this regard. While neither the White House nor the Department should be able to contend that our report does not meet the required purpose, we must be factual and recognize that a matter of this magnitude cannot be fully investigated in a week's time.

[Handwritten initials]

*Just how long do
you estimate it
will take.*

(Tolson)

*It seems to me
we have the
basic facts now*

*mem to Tolson
11/27/63
AMS*