

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Tolson
 Belmont
 Mohr
 Casper
 Callahan
 Conrad
 DeLoach
 Evans
 Gale
 Rosen
 Sullivan
 Tavel
 Trotter
 Tele. Room
 Holmes
 Gandy

11/27/63
 6-5-63
 [Handwritten initials and marks]

TO : Mr. Belmont

DATE: 12-5-63

FROM : C. A. Evans

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT

Deputy Attorney General Katzenbach advised he attended the organizational meeting of the President's Commission on the assassination of President Kennedy held today. He noted that the meeting did not get around to the point of discussing the appointment of Chief Counsel or other staff members. The consensus of Commission members was that it would be inadvisable to have a large number of witnesses to testify before the Commission but rather the report submitted by the FBI and other agencies should be fully utilized. In this regard, questions were raised as to the evaluation of information furnished by various witnesses. Katzenbach was asked, for example, whether the Commission would be furnished with background information including a criminal record, if any, on various persons interviewed. He said he told the Commission members that this would be highly impractical as obviously the FBI could not conduct a background investigation on every person they interviewed. On the other hand, he noted that if the testimony of a particular witness, who had been interviewed by the FBI, was inconsistent with other known information or otherwise questioned, then he believed the FBI would honor a Commission request or additional facts on such a witness. It was suggested that once the Commission is organized, it might be desirable to have a liaison arrangement directly between the Commission and the FBI, if it related to investigative matters.

With reference to the FBI report, which Katzenbach received today, he said he was having it reviewed by his attorneys and he planned to read it himself tonight. It is Katzenbach's feeling that unless he notes something of a particularly disabling nature, he felt the report should go to the President as prepared by the Bureau without any change. He hopes to do this tomorrow because obviously the Commission cannot begin any activity until they have the report.

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

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