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Mr. Wick

SUBJECT: "THE DEATH OF A PRESIDENT" BY WILLIAM MANCHESTER

The New York Office has obtained from Harper & Row an advance copy of captioned book which will be officially released April 7th. Book is lengthy (647 pages of text; 710 pages total). Contains appendices, chronology of events for period November 20-25, 1963, source materials utilized by Manchester, identifies of persons interviewed by author, maps and index. Key portions of book previously serialized in Look Magazine. Book deals with events surrounding assassination of President Kennedy; not subsequent investigation. Reflects tremendous amount of work and compilation by Manchester. FBI mentioned frequently, but does not play prominent role in narrative. Major comments about FBI previously publicized in Look series. For example, the comment that the Director did not send Attorney General Robert Kennedy a letter of condolence and that the Director's attitude was one of "no compassion;" a so-called favorite joke of President Kennedy in which Kennedy would state that the three most overrated things in the world were the State of Texas, the FBI and whatever else came to mind; that President Johnson applied a prod to the FBI to get the Dallas investigation underway; that Johnson showed Ted Sorenson an FBI memo that the rulers of an unfriendly power had been hoping for Kennedy's death. The memo was too vague for serious consideration and Sorenson allegedly commented that it was "meaningless." (The Director did send Mr. Robert Kennedy a letter of condolence. In this connection Mr. Hoover has commented, "Manchester is a liar, but it is obvious he was fed this by RFK." In reference to the Sorenson incident, no such FBI memo could be identified by the Bureau). In evaluating the assassination, Manchester comments that Lee Harvey

1 - Mr. DeLoach 1 - Mr. Wick

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1 - Miss Gandy NOT FECCEDED

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H. Weisbug S.I. Menthertos, less 105-81 VIV-NR (Sletions)