TO : Mr. W. R. Wannall

FROM : W. A. Branigan

SUBJECT: WARREN COMMISSION TRANSCRIPT
DECLASSIFICATION MATTER

DATE: 2/7/75

1 - Mr. W. R. Wannall
1 - Mr. W. A. Branigan
1 - Mr. F. B. Griffith
1 - Mr. J. P. Lee

Dep. AD Adm. ___
Dep. AD Inv. ___
Asst. Dir.: ___
Admin. ___
Comp. Syst. ___
Ext. Affairs ___
Files & Com. ___
Gen. Inv. ___
Ident. ___
Inspection ___
Intell. ___
Laboratory ___
Plan. & Eval. ___
Spec. Inv. ___
Training ___
Legal Coun. ___
Telephone Rm. ___
Director Sec'y ___

This memorandum recommends that the transcript of an Executive Session of the Warren Commission for 1/22/64, now classified Top Secret, be declassified.

By memorandum of 1/30/75 from Mr. Griffith to Mr. Bassett, it was recommended that the Intelligence Division review the Executive Session testimony of the Warren Commission dated 1/22/64 to determine if it could be declassified. A review of the transcript shows this Session included discussion among the members of the Commission concerning the possibility that Lee Harvey Oswald had been a Bureau confidential informant based on information furnished by Wagner Carr, Attorney General of Texas. Carr said he had received the information from District Attorney Wade of Dallas County. The source of information, unnamed, was described as a member of the press who received this information from one of his sources, also unnamed. The discussion reveals that the members of the Commission felt that the Bureau would not admit that Oswald had been an "under-cover agent" even if he had been. In discussing the ability of the FBI to operate agents abroad, Allen Dulles stated that the Bureau might have agents in Russia and "they have some people, sometimes American Communists, who go to Russia under their guidance and so forth and so on under their control."

REC 68 62-109090-633

It is not believed that any of the information reported in this transcript merits classification. The statement concerning our dispatching of American Communists to Russia is quite general and does not pinpoint any particular operation.

FEB 25 1975

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JPL:wsk (5)

Memorandum to Mr. W. R. Wannall
Re: Warren Commission Transcript
    Declassification Matter

ACTION:

It is recommended that the Office of Legal Counsel
of the Department of Justice be advised that this Bureau has
no objection to declassifying this document.