

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Mohr

DATE: December 17, 1963

FROM : C. D. DeLoach

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
INTERNAL SECURITY - R
THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION

I talked with Congressman Gerald Ford (R-Michigan) at his office at 1:45 this afternoon. The facts concerning the allegations of that he saw Oswald receive \$6,500 in the Cuban Consulate, Mexico City, on September 18, 1963, and 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 in view of the story that John McCone of CIA had told him originally.

With respect to the meeting of the Presidential Commission on December 1963, Congressman Ford told me that the members of the Commission, including the Chief Justice, agreed unanimously that no preliminary release should be made to the press regarding the facts as outlined in the FBI report.

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 campaigns will begin to get hot. He stated it would be unfair to present the findings after July, 1964.

Several members of the Commission indicated that Oswald's handwritten statements in the exhibits section of the report should be typed out for clearer general. Rankin was instructed to contact our liaison man, Inspector Malley, in this regard. Malley is being given 24 pub copies today - 9/23.

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 fact the FBI had not had any "leaks" whatsoever. I told him we were well aware that the Department had done considerable talking; furthermore, it now appeared somewhat obvious 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 replied that he was in the same boat, that he liked neither one of these publications.

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 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 - Mr. Tele. Room
- 1 - Miss Holmes
- 1 - Miss Gandy

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I told Ford in strict confidence that the Director concurred with his viewpoint. I mentioned that our investigation thus far had conclusively shown that Oswald operated by himself and that Ruby additionally was a loner. However, FBI investigation was still pending on a large number of rumors, speculation and gossip and it, therefore, would be quite unfair for the Commission to take a stand prior to all the evidence being turned in. Ford stated this was his point entirely and that although he was a minority of one he intended to stick to his point.

Ford told me that John McCone, Director of CIA, had, approximately one week ago, gone up to his office and told him that CIA had uncovered some "startling information" in the Oswald case. McCone proceeded to tell Ford that a source of CIA's in Mexico had seen money exchange hands between Oswald and an unknown Cuban Negro. Ford stated this excited him greatly inasmuch as it definitely tended to show there was an international connection involved in the assassination of the President.

This shows how glib McCone is. W

I told Ford that apparently McCone had failed to follow up on this matter. I mentioned that CIA's source had recanted his story and had indicated that it was a fragment of his imagination. However, to prove the unstable tendencies of this source, the source had later claimed that he was actually telling the truth. I pointed out that we were still checking some angles of this, however, the CIA source was obviously either unstable or somewhat of a psychopathic liar. Ford stated he could certainly see this.

When will we discuss this? W

Ford indicated he would keep me thoroughly advised as to the activities of the Commission. He stated this would have to be on a confidential basis, however, he thought it should be done. He also asked if he could call me from time to time and straighten out questions in his mind concerning our investigation. I told him by all means he should do this. He reiterated that our relationship would, of course, remain confidential.

We have had excellent relations with Congressman Ford for many years. He has been given an autographed copy of the Director's book "A Study of Communism" and has been in touch with my office on numerous occasions in the past.

ACTION:

Contact will be maintained with Congressman Ford.

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S: A: 1/11/64

Well, handled by [unclear] [unclear]