

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

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TO : Alfred L. Hantman, Deputy Chief  
General Crimes Section  
Criminal Division

FROM : Edward Lowenberg, Attorney  
General Crimes Section  
Criminal Division

SUBJECT: Assassination of President John F. Kennedy

~~DATE~~ October 21, 1975  
EL:kjf

51-16-1113

This is in reference to the testimony given by ~~James~~ B. Adams, Deputy Associate Director, FBI, before the House Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights on Tuesday, October 21, 1975, concerning the allegations:

1. that Lee Harvey Oswald visited the Dallas FBI office prior to the assassination of the President and left a threatening note there for Special Agent James P. Hosty;
2. that Jack Ruby had some contact with the FBI as a potential informer; and
3. that a former FBI clerk has a copy of a teletype purloined from the New Orleans FBI office which should have warned the FBI of the Kennedy assassination.

The second and third allegations stated above were adequately refuted and placed in perspective by Mr. Adams' testimony, copy of which is attached.

With respect to item #1, the alleged Oswald visit, note, and subsequent destruction of that note, Mr. Adams candidly reported the findings of the Bureau's Inspection Division. (Harold Bassett, Chief of Inspection Division accompanied Mr. Adams before the Subcommittee). He stated that the fact of the visit and existence of a note were verified, and that the note was destroyed although conflicts existed in the "sworn statements" of the individuals questioned by the Bureau's Inspection Division as to the circumstances of the destruction of the note.

*JW  
Bought Adams  
story from  
FBI HQ.  
W  
unseen*

Congressman Butler expressed an interest in obtaining the Department of Justice's views on possible violations of federal law in connection with this matter. Congressman Badillo stated his intention to have the Subcommittee subpoena testimony from Special Agent Hosty, his former supervisor (Kenneth Howe), former SAC (J. Gordon Shanklin), and the FBI receptionist (Marlene Lee Fenner), as they may have the most pertinent and direct information regarding the Oswald visit, the contents of the note, and the destruction of the note. He also indicated the Subcommittee's interest in obtaining copies of all FBI memoranda regarding disciplinary and administrative sanctions imposed by the



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FBI on a number (allegedly 17) of its employees based on their mishandling of the pre-assassination Oswald investigation and post-assassination investigation. The Subcommittee's counsel closed the hearing by stating that a written request would be made to Justice asking for the investigative report of the FBI concerning this matter, items previously referred to by Committee members and answers to several questions as to possible violations of law which may have occurred. ]

Reference was made several times to a letter from the DAG which allegedly states that Justice does not intend to pursue this matter from a prosecution standpoint and has referred this matter to FBI Director Kelly for appropriate administrative action. The DAG letter was cited as basing its "no prosecution" position on the expiration of the time period provided in the statute of limitations for offenses occurring in 1963. No mention was made of the existence of a viable perjury case (1621) against the former SAC (Shanklin) based on his July and September, 1975, sworn statements that he had no knowledge of this Oswald visit, the note, or destruction of the note, prior to July, 1975. Those statements are controverted by four other (present or former) FBI employees.

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