

ROUTE IN ENVELOPE

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

- 1 - Mr. C. D. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. W. C. Sullivan

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| Holmes | _____ |
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TO : Mr. W. C. Sullivan

DATE July 14, 1967

FROM : Mr. W. A. Branigan

- 1 - Mr. W. A. Branigan
- 1 - Mr. Rozamus
- 1 - Mr. R. E. Lenihan

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
INTERNAL SECURITY - RUSSIA - CUBA

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PURPOSE:

The purpose of this memorandum is to recommend that permanent retention be made of 22 reels of tape recording which were made available through our coverage of Marina Oswald in late February and early March, 1964. (u)

BACKGROUND:

On February 24, 1964, the Director had a conversation with J. Lee Rankin Counsel of the Warren Commission, at which time Mr. Rankin requested that the FBI cover the activities of Marina Oswald. Mr. Rankin stated "I would hate to have her just run out on us," and he further indicated he desired the FBI to cover Marina's activities to see who was visiting her for awhile. Mr. Rankin suggested to the Director that the FBI could consider getting a telephone tap on Marina. (u)

As a result of Mr. Rankin's conversation, we instituted a telephone surveillance on Marina Oswald from February 29, 1964, to March 12, 1964. This telephone surveillance was approved on February 25, 1964, by Mr. Robert Kennedy who was then Attorney General of the United States. We also instituted microphone surveillance of Marina Oswald on her residence from March 2, 1964, to March 12, 1964, to further assist in determining Marina's activities and contacts. (u) Roz...

Our telephone surveillance and microphone surveillance of Marina Oswald did provide some information concerning Marina's contacts and activities. It also provided personal information [REDACTED]

The coverage provided through these two sources was discontinued March 12, 1964, when it became evident that significant results concerning Marina's contacts and activities were not being revealed. Mr. Rankin was orally advised by Inspector James Malley of such action. (u)

Enclosure
105-82355

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[Signature]

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Memorandum to Mr. W. C. Sullivan
RE: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
105-82555

During our telephone surveillance and microphone surveillance of Marina Oswald, we received 22 reels of tape recording. These 22 reels of tape are presently maintained in the files of the Dallas Office. By letter dated July 3, 1967, the Special Agent in Charge, Dallas Office, requested Bureau advice as to whether these 22 reels of tape recording can now be destroyed. (u)

OBSERVATIONS:

The 22 reels of tape recording obtained through our coverage of Marina Oswald do not appear to have any evidentiary value. Accordingly, under ordinary circumstances we would recommend that they be destroyed. It is noted that the Department has furnished its opinion that material from wire taps such as disc recordings and so forth, are temporary in nature and may be destroyed without violation of the law relating to the preservation of Government records. (u)

However, the assassination investigation and our investigations of Lee Harvey Oswald and Marina Oswald are not ordinary investigations. They are of intense public interest and undoubtedly will remain so for all time. There is a possibility that at some future date a question may arise as to this Bureau's coverage of Marina Oswald following the assassination. If such incident occurs, it would be highly undesirable for this Bureau to find it necessary to report that tape reels of our coverage of Marina Oswald were destroyed. Accordingly, it is recommended that we instruct the Dallas Office to permanently retain the 22 tape reels involved. (u)

ACTION:

Attached is a letter to the Dallas Office instructing that such office permanently retain the 22 reels of tape which were obtained through our coverage of Marina Oswald through our telephone surveillance [redacted] and our microphone surveillance [redacted].

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CONF. INFT. [redacted] CONF. INFT. [redacted]
Dallas (u) [redacted]
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