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FBI Manual on Threat Handling Hostey PMP

- 1 - Mr. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Branigan
- 1 - Liaison
- 1 - Original
- 1 - Yellow

62-109060-2809

March 31, 1964

BY COURIER SERVICE

Honorable J. Lee Rankin
 General Counsel
 The President's Commission
 200 Maryland Avenue, Northeast
 Washington, D. C.

Assassination
 of President
 John F.
 Kennedy

REC'D-READING ROOM
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Dear Mr. Rankin:

In response to your letter of March 24, 1964, the written materials which you requested are being forwarded with this communication.

With respect to a written description, existing at the time of the assassination, of criteria employed in determining what information coming to the attention of the Bureau should be furnished to the Secret Service, there are enclosed pertinent excerpts from the "Manual of Instructions" and the "FBI Handbook" which constitute instructions to FBI personnel. The Manual is in the possession of all Bureau officials and supervisory officials in our field divisions. Attachment one is a complete copy of Section 83K of the "Manual of Instructions" dealing with the handling of threats against the President, members of his immediate family, and others protected by the Secret Service. This material is exactly as it appeared in the Manual at the time of the assassination. The "FBI Handbook" is in the possession of every FBI Special Agent and contains a summary of the material appearing in the "Manual of Instructions." Attachment two is a complete copy of Part III, Chapter 63, 1.B., from the "FBI Handbook" as it appeared at the time of the assassination. It is noted that this material is substantially the same as that appearing in the Manual of Instructions.

These instructions have resulted in the day-to-day dissemination to the Secret Service of information received by the Bureau regarding threats to the safety of the President.

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COURIER 514
 FBI

- Tolson
- Belmont
- Mohr
- Casper
- Callahan
- Conrad
- DeLoach
- Evans
- Malone
- Rosen
- Sullivan
- Tavel
- Trotter
- Tele. Room
- Holmes
- Gandy

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MAR. ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

Handwritten signatures and initials: P.M., O, W, and others.

Honorable J. Lee Rankin

For example, following announcement of the intention of President Kennedy to visit Tampa, Florida, in November, 1963, our local office was able to inform the Secret Service concerning plans made by the Ku Klux Klan in Florida to picket the President and to engage in organized activities which could have resulted in violence. In addition, Cuban anti-Castro groups in Florida planned public activities in connection with the President's visit concerning which we were able to inform the Secret Service. That agency indicated, following the President's visit, that the information we had furnished to them was undoubtedly responsible for the successful completion of the President's trip to the Tampa area.

FBI Field Offices throughout the United States furnish Bureau Headquarters information by teletype for immediate dissemination to the Secret Service whenever there is any indication of activities of interest to that service, not only in connection with the President's travel but also in connection with his residence, as the White House is a frequent target for group picketing. In addition to data indicating specific activity in the President's vicinity we have, for a number of years, kept the Secret Service fully informed concerning the activities of certain groups such as the Nationalist Party of Puerto Rico and the Nation of Islam, the membership of which has either discussed or indicated a possibility of physical action against Government authority.

Attachment three is a complete copy of Section 83I of the "Manual of Instructions" dealing with the reporting to the Secret Service of information concerning the counterfeiting of United States coins, notes, and other obligations and securities of the Government. This matter is mentioned in the "FBI Handbook" by inclusion in a tabulation of matters within the jurisdiction of other Government departments and agencies in which Secret Service is designated as the agency to receive information concerning counterfeiting. The "Classification 55" appearing in the Manual is a reference to the means by which various matters are assigned numerical classification numbers for assistance in filing and indexing. The references to counterfeiting in the Manual and the Handbook, which existed prior to the assassination, remain unchanged as of March 27, 1964.

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Honorable J. Lee Rankin

With respect to a written description, existing at the time of the assassination, of the procedures employed in carrying out liaison with the Secret Service in connection with safeguarding the President, attachment four is a complete copy of Section 102D. of the "Manual of Instructions" as it appeared at the time of the assassination. This section has remained unchanged and still appears in the Manual as of March 27, 1964. Liaison with the Secret Service in Dallas, Texas, was in effect pursuant to this policy prior to the assassination and, in anticipation of the visit of President Kennedy to that city, resulted in the discussion with and dissemination to the Secret Service there concerning which you have previously been informed. Our Dallas Office notified Secret Service on October 30, 1963, concerning an individual who had allegedly stated that if President Kennedy made a trip to Texas a "reception" was planned for him. We also furnished the Secret Service background information and a photograph of this individual, Norman Lee Elkins. On November 21, 1963, our Dallas Office notified the Secret Service of leaflets being distributed in Dallas containing criticism of President Kennedy's policies. On the same date our Dallas Office notified the Secret Service regarding picket signs being printed for use in picketing President Kennedy on the following day. On the evening of November 20, 1963, an Agent of our Dallas Office advised the head of the Dallas Secret Service Office that the FBI would do anything within its authority to be of assistance in connection with the President's visit and would continue to promptly furnish any pertinent information which might be received. Our Agent was thanked for this offer of cooperation and told that the Secret Service had no specific request to make of the FBI at that time.

In addition to liaison at the field level, a very close liaison relationship has been maintained for a number of years between the headquarters of the Secret Service and this Bureau. A Liaison Supervisor from Bureau Headquarters visits Secret Service Headquarters on a nearly daily basis to insure prompt handling of Secret Service requests and immediate attention to any problems which may arise. This Liaison Supervisor has on a number of occasions, at the request of the White House and the Secret Service, accompanied the President and his official party on trips outside the United States in order to coordinate and disseminate current data cabled to him from FBI Headquarters bearing on the safety of the President and other matters considered to be of special interest.

Honorable J. Lee Rankin

Through our Liaison representatives abroad the FBI has ^{assistance} ~~RE:~~ established friendly relationships with the principal officials of many foreign police and law enforcement agencies. In connection with Presidential trips to the countries in which these agencies are located, the FBI Liaison representative has been able to smooth the way for the Secret Service by introducing them to our contacts and assisting in establishing the cooperation which is so necessary to the President's security abroad. Between 1955 and 1963 a Bureau Liaison representative accompanied the Presidential Party on seventeen such trips, visiting a total of thirty-two countries. Whenever we learn of the President's intention to travel outside of the United States, we immediately alert all Bureau Field Offices and Liaison representatives abroad. A Bureau Supervisor is assigned the responsibility for coordinating the information which may be received and arrangements are made for the Liaison Supervisor traveling with the Presidential Party to be furnished this information by cable for passage to the Secret Service. Following the visit of President Kennedy to Costa Rica in March, 1963, Secret Service Chief James J. Rowley addressed a special letter of commendation to one of our offices expressing appreciation for their cooperation in checking 400 names through their files in connection with the Costa Rica visit.

^{Name checks for} SECRET SERVICE
The Secret Service is now submitting a large number of names to us for checking through our files in connection with travel by the President within the United States. For example, we checked 1025 names, including 800 hotel employees, in connection with the President's visit to St. Louis, Missouri, on February 14, 1964. On forty-eight hour's notice we reviewed more than 1900 files. Whenever we learn of the President's intention to travel within the United States, we immediately inform pertinent FBI Field Offices in order that they may be particularly alert to information bearing on the President's security.

Since the assassination, we have reiterated procedures already in effect and have realerted all of our field offices and Liaison representatives abroad. The current instructions are enclosed as attachments five and six. Considering the possibility of mental aberration on the part of any of our more than 190 million United States residents, it is manifestly impossible to pinpoint all potential risks to the President.

Honorable J. Lee Rankin

In the absence of an actual threat to the President or of activity directed against his security, however, we have attempted to delineate, within practical limits, the categories of persons coming to our attention which might be inimical to the safety of the President even though those persons have made no overt threat. These criteria are set forth in the current instructions, which were prepared on December 26, 1963.

Attachment seven is an instruction which was sent to all FBI Field Offices on December 19, 1963. This requested that the Secret Service be furnished specific information concerning possible violence in connection with bombing, racial and similar matters for its use in determining possible danger spots with respect to the safety of the President.

Attachment eight is a copy of a letter to all SACs (Special Agents in Charge of our local field offices) dated February 19, 1964, advising them that they may be called upon by the Secret Service to provide personnel to assist in protection of the President and issuing specific instructions with regard to such requests. This communication was occasioned by the fact that the Secret Service, on a number of occasions since the assassination, has asked the FBI to provide Agent personnel as indicated in the attachment and as no such request had been made prior to the assassination, it was deemed advisable to alert all our field offices concerning this activity. It is noted that since November 25, 1963, the FBI, at the request of Secret Service, has furnished a total of 139 Special Agents to that agency on a total of sixteen dates.

In response to your inquiry as to recommendations for possible improvement in any aspect of Presidential protection, after careful consideration of this problem, our suggestions were made available to the Secret Service on November 30, 1963. Inasmuch as the protection of the President is the primary responsibility of that agency, it is suggested that you consult with the Secret Service relative thereto.

I have withheld editorial comments concerning the attached materials to a bare minimum as I consider that they speak for themselves.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

Enclosures (8)

MANUAL OF INSTRUCTIONS

SECTION 83. REFERENCE MATTERS - VIOLATIONS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF OTHER FEDERAL INVESTIGATIVE AGENCIES

K. THREATS AGAINST THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, MEMBERS OF HIS IMMEDIATE FAMILY, THE PRESIDENT-ELECT, AND THE VICE-PRESIDENT

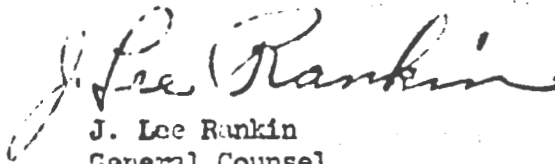
Investigation of threats against the President of the United States, members of his immediate family, the President-elect, and the Vice-President is within the exclusive jurisdiction of the U.S. Secret Service. Therefore, any information indicating the possibility of an attempt against the person or safety of the President, members of the immediate family of the President, the President-elect, or the Vice-President must be referred immediately by the most expeditious means of communication to the nearest office of the U. S. Secret Service. The Bureau should be advised at the same time by teletype of the information so furnished to the Secret Service and the fact that it has been so disseminated. The above action should be taken without delay in order to attempt to verify the information and no evaluation of the information should be attempted. When the threat is in the form of a written communication, a copy should be given to local Secret Service and the original should be forwarded to the Bureau where it will be made available to Secret Service headquarters in Washington. The referral of the copy to local Secret Service should not delay the immediate referral of the information by the fastest available means of communication to Secret Service locally.

The teletype to the Bureau should include as much of the following information as is available without investigation:

1. Name and address of subject
2. Nature of the threat made, verbatim if possible
3. Date or approximate date when made
4. Identity of informant
5. Names and addresses of any witnesses
6. Identity of Secret Service officer notified and date and time of notification, together with a statement concerning the referral of the threat communication locally and to Bureau headquarters, when there is a written threatening communication

In addition, has the Bureau any recommendations to make regarding possible improvements in any aspect of Presidential protection, whether or not involving matters within its jurisdiction, including intelligence arrangements and procedures, liaison among federal agencies, particular protection measures, and any other aspect which appears relevant?

Sincerely,


J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel

PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION
ON THE
ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

20 Maryland Ave. N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002
Telephone 540-1400

J. LEE RANKIN
General Counsel

EARL WARREN
RICHARD M. RUSSELL
JOHN SHERMAN COFFEE
HALE BOGGS
GERALD R. FORD
JOHN J. MCCLOY
ALLEN W. DULLES

V MAR 24 1964

J. Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

In connection with its review of arrangements for safe-
guarding the President, the Commission would appreciate being
furnished any materials which have not already been furnished,
in the following categories:

a. Any written description, which existed at the
time of the assassination, of criteria employed in determining
what information coming to the attention of the Bureau should be
furnished to the Secret Service.

b. Any written description, which existed at the time
of the assassination, of the procedures employed in carrying out
liaison with the Secret Service in connection with safeguarding
the President.

c. Any memorandum or study of the matters covered in
a or b above, which has been prepared since the assassination,
including any consideration of any change in such criteria or
procedures.

To the extent that written materials do not now exist
with respect to these matters, it would be of great assistance to
the Commission if a written report or reports thereon could be
prepared and made available.

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MAR 25 1964

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cc of J. B. ...

Upon the receipt of such information from the field, the Bureau will advise the Washington headquarters of the Secret Service and when applicable will refer to it the original threat communication if it has no further use in the Bureau.