

- 1 - Mr. Tolson
- 1 - Mr. Callahan
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Malloy
- 1 - Mr. Branigan
- 1 - Mr. E. L. Lohan

Hosky Rev.
Branigan

SECRET

62-109090

April 6, 1964

CLASSIFIED BY 2040
EXEMPT FROM GDS CATEGORY 243
DATE OF DECLASSIFICATION INDEFINITE
PARAGRAPHS NOT MARKED ARE UNCLASSIFIED

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

Dear Mr. Rankin:

Your letter dated March 26, 1964, transmitted specific questions pertaining to the investigation of Lee Harvey Oswald prior to the assassination of President Kennedy and requested a reasoned response to each question.

At the outset, I wish to emphasize that the facts available to the FBI concerning Lee Harvey Oswald prior to the assassination did not indicate in any way that he was or could be, a threat to President Kennedy; nor were they such as to suggest that the FBI should inform the Secret Service of his presence in Dallas or his employment at the Texas School Book Depository.

The Oswald case was one of many thousands of investigative matters handled by the FBI. During the fiscal year ending June 30, 1963, the FBI handled 633,371 investigative matters in the criminal, civil and security fields. The extent, depth and urgency of each investigation necessarily are dependent on the available facts in the case. A file concerning Oswald was opened at the time newspapers reported his defection to Russia in 1959, for the purpose of correlating information inasmuch as he was considered a possible security risk in the event he returned to this country.



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

APR 28 1964

SEE NOTE PAGE 2

SECRET

ORIGINAL FILED BY 105-2500-3803

REC'D FBI
MAY 6 1964

twis
over W.E.

SECRET

Honorable J. Lee Rankin

Retyped page two of letter to Mr. Rankin,
4/3/54, prepared by REL:hc:klw.

[REDACTED]

In short, Oswald had gone to the Soviet Union at the age of nineteen and attempted to renounce his American citizenship. He had recanted; his passport had been returned to him and he had been permitted by the Department of State to return to the United States as an American citizen. After his return, he subscribed to "The Worker," had distributed pamphlets for the Fair Play for Cuba Committee and had admitted publicly that he was a Marxist.

[REDACTED]

As previously indicated, his activities as known at the time of the assassination did not suggest in any way that he was a dangerous subversive; that he was violating any Federal law; or that he represented a threat to the personal safety of the President. There was no basis for the FBI to keep him under observation. In the absence of any information showing Oswald to be a possible threat to the President, there was no basis to inform the Secret Service concerning Oswald's presence or employment in Dallas, Texas.

The answers to your specific questions are set forth in the attached memorandum.

Sincerely yours,

Enclosure 1

NOTE:

See memorandum Branigan to Sullivan, 4/3/54, captioned "Lee Harvey Oswald, IS - 2 - 2 - Cuba," prepared by REL:hrt.

SECRET