

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Re: President's Assassination

TO: Mr. Belmont

DATE: 4/22/64

FROM: Mr. A. Rosen
with Mr. J. Lee Rankin today. Mr. Rowley advised that he
had met with Mr. A. Rosen earlier and that he will brief Mr. D. C. on the
official position of the Secret Service prior to his testifying before the Commission.

SUBJECT: THE PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION

ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT

Belmont
Mohr
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
DeLoach
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Felt
Gale
Hoover
Burke
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Connelly

Branigan

Mr. Rowley, Mr. S. J. Clegg, D. C. of the Secret Service, did not have Memorandum 4/17/64 Sullivan to Belmont set forth results of interview with Secret Service Chief Rowley on 4/17/64 relative to the statement made by Mr. Rowley to the effect that Secret Service had made the statement that Lee Harvey Oswald would have been under surveillance on November 22, 1963, if the Secret Service had been furnished information concerning Oswald.

Mr. J. Lee Rankin was advised today by Malley that the Bureau had received information from several sources indicating that Secret Service has made comments that Oswald would have been under surveillance if they had been advised of Oswald's background. He was told that this matter was discussed with Secret Service Chief Rowley and Rowley had stated there was no information indicating the possibility of physical violence on the part of Oswald and that he would not, therefore, have been placed under surveillance. Rowley also stated that had the Secret Service checked the building (Texas School Book Depository Building) they would have taken no action concerning Oswald inasmuch as he was employed in the building.

Mr. Rankin was told that we understood Special Agent in Charge Robert I. Bouck of the Protective Research Section, Secret Service, was scheduled to appear before the Commission on 4/23/64 for testimony. Mr. Rankin verified that Bouck would appear. It was suggested that in view of Mr. Rowley's statements it might be well for the Commission to officially inquire of Mr. Bouck the position Secret Service would have taken concerning this matter.

Mr. Rankin was most appreciative of being advised of the comments made by Secret Service Chief Rowley on this matter and stated that the Commission would handle the matter in full on an official basis.

ACTION: Liaison Supervisor Orrin H. Bartlett has been advised of this discussion with Mr. Rankin and he, in turn, is again discussing the matter with Mr. Rowley.

ADDENDUM: OHB:mpd At 9:25 a. m. today Liaison Agent Bartlett spoke with Secret Service Chief James J. Rowley and advised him of our conversation with

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1 - Mr. Sullivan

1 - Mr. Branigan

1 - Mr. Bartlett

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Bartlett
Aug 30/64
6/10/64

Memo to Mr. Belmont from A. Rosen
Re: President's Assassination

with Mr. Rankin earlier today. Mr. Rowley advised that he appreciated being brought up to date on the matter and that he will brief Mr. Bouck fully on the official position of the Secret Service prior to his testifying before the Commission tomorrow, 4/23/64.

Mr. Rowley reiterated his official position as: Secret Service would not have placed Oswald under surveillance even if they had the information that Oswald was in Dallas in view of no history of physical violence; that had Secret Service checked the Dallas School Book Depository they would have taken no action concerning Oswald in view of the fact that he was employed in the building utilized by each agency; he specifically emphasized that Mr. Stern

CIA in several instances and more recently has informed him that

CIA, as far as possible, has tried to make its records available to other agencies and that

it has been advised that the FBI has done the same.

R. J. Williams indicated that the Bureau's records would be made available to Mr. Stern to get such information concerning his request as may be required. He also advised that the Bureau's records would be made available to Mr. Stern to determine the extent to which the Bureau was utilizing data-processing machines and to what degree it had been successful in utilizing machines in our work. He further advised that he would be glad to put the request in writing when he was not in the office at the time of the fall to furnish additional information concerning the Bureau's records.

Mr. Williams was asked if he could compare his experience in this regard with that of Mr. Tavel. Mr. Williams advised that the Commissioner had requested him to do so and that he had been asked to furnish him information concerning the Bureau's utilization of data-processing machines in connection with his Bureau's records. On that occasion he was advised that Bureau officials had used 10 machines concerning the latest machines being developed and that in my instance, the most modern equipment was being utilized.

RECOMMENDATION:

If approved, it is recommended that Mr. Williams, Mr. Tavel and Mr. Director Tavel of the Records Division would be the proper persons to contact concerning the B-25 record system. It would also be suggested that Mr. Tavel write a letter outlining the general nature of the information concerning the Bureau's records.

Moore - Mr. Conrad - Mr. Sullivan
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