

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : MR. TOLSON

DATE: 12/5/63

FROM : A. H. Belmont

cc Mr. Belmont
 Mr. Mohr
 Mr. DeLoach
 Mr. Rosen
 Mr. Sullivan
 Mr. Handley

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
 Internal Security - R
 Assassination of the President

Tolson _____
 Belmont _____
 Mohr _____
 Casper _____
 Callahan _____
 Conrad _____
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 Holmes _____
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DE M...
[Handwritten signatures and initials]

Inspector Peterson of Secret Service called the office of Mr. DeLoach with reference to the pressure the press is applying to Secret Service to talk to Mrs. Oswald. He was referred to me.

Inspector Peterson said that Herb Kaplow and representatives of the NY Times were down in Dallas trying to set up an interview with Mrs. Oswald, and the press was taking the position with Secret Service that if Mrs. Oswald was not being charged with anything why was she being held and kept from the press. Inspector Peterson said that he knew Secret Service had been in touch with Mr. Katzenbach, who suggested that the press be told it would impede the investigation if they interviewed Mrs. Oswald now.

I told Inspector Peterson this matter had been taken up with Mr. Rowley last night and it was pointed out that a press conference would expose Mrs. Oswald to possible danger, the same as when Oswald was exposed to the press media, supposedly on a restricted basis, and that it was undesirable to have her interviewed by the press at this time; that Mr. Rowley had thoroughly agreed and had instructions issued in Dallas to his men that she was not to be giving any press conferences.

Peterson said he understood this, but he wanted us to know that Secret Service was getting considerable pressure from the press. I told him I thought he could point out that this is a highly important matter, as they all know, and they should have patience and should give Secret Service their cooperation until the appropriate time. I told Inspector Peterson that, confidentially, we had instructed our agents not to interview Mrs. Oswald today, as it was clear she was tired out, had a sick child, and had been under considerable strain. I told him it would seem to me that if this matter was approached from the standpoint of patience and cooperation, he ought to be able to get along all right with the press, but I reiterated that it was undesirable for her to be contacting the press at this time. He said he would play it this way.

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