

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY
NOVEMBER 22, 1963

DATE: November 15, 1966

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. Shroder
- 1 - Mr. Raupach
- 1 - Mr. Wick
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Trotter
- 1 - Mr. Conrad
- 1 - J. P. Mohr

Tolson _____
 DeLoach
 Mohr _____
 Wick _____
 Casper _____
 Callahan _____
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 Tele. Room _____
 Holmes _____
 Gandy _____

In compliance with the Director's instructions, we have considered criticisms of the FBI, which were set forth in my memoranda of 11/9 and 12/66, (attached) and a proposed draft of statement which can be made by the Director in connection with these criticisms is attached.

My memorandum of 11/9/66, reviewed the advance script of the television program broadcast on 11/12/66, during which a number of false accusations were made concerning the Bureau's investigation of the assassination. This TV program was monitored and there were no substantial deviations from the original script. It will be recalled that during this program the following false and irresponsible allegations concerning the Bureau were made: that the FBI ruined film and a camera belonging to an individual who took movies of the assassination (this is commonly referred to as the "Nix" film); that the report of the Agents who attended the autopsy examination was imprecise and incomplete and that the FBI made a "whopper" of a mistake when it summarized the autopsy findings; that FBI Agents followed Mark Lane all over the country; and that there is a discrepancy between the results of our interview with Oswald as compared to the report prepared by Secret Service.

In addition to the above, several authors who are professed critics of the Warren Report have made the following false allegations against the FBI:

Leo Sauvage in his book "The Oswald Affair," alleges the FBI released the results of its investigation to news media prior to furnishing our report to the Warren Commission. In addition, Sauvage states the FBI conducted its investigation with the preconceived idea that no conspiracy existed and that Oswald acted alone. (We confidentially obtained an advance copy of Sauvage's book from Jerry O'Leary, reporter for the "Evening Star," which had to be returned to him. This book is not yet available to the public in the Washington, D. C. bookstores.)

Enclosures

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without identifying the sources of the allegations, attesting to the Bureau's accuracy and completeness in handling all aspects of its investigation, with the exception of the Zapruder film frequently mentioned.

Since the Director has already publicly commented on the criticisms in the Warren Report, it is not believed that this matter should be brought up again.

It should be recognized that any statement made at this time clarifying the FBI's role in the investigation of the assassination could lead to future requests for additional statements; however, it is felt that each such request will have to be analyzed and appropriate action taken, based on the circumstances at that time.

It also should be recognized that inasmuch as the majority of criticism has been directed against the Warren Commission and its conclusions, we should be most careful in any public comment which the Director might make at this time, as such could have the tendency to focus the attention of the critics toward attacking the FBI. Obviously, any attack upon the FBI is synonymous with a personal attack upon the Director. We should be most careful to recognize this possibility. We should not allow the FBI to be used to divert the attention of the critics from the Warren Commission report and the responsibilities of that Commission. We should seek every avenue to preclude these critics from regurgitating their misstatements, false conclusions and theories to the extent of involving the FBI rather than the Warren Commission. I would, therefore, be most reluctant to go beyond the recommendations set forth hereinafter.

1: That consideration be given to approving the attached statement over the Director's name, which is limited to a concise review of the facts regarding our reporting of the autopsy examination and a general statement as to the overall conduct of the investigation as handled by the FBI.

2: If this statement is to be released, it is suggested it be given to Sidney Epstein, City Editor of the "Evening Star." It will be recalled that Epst stated he would welcome the opportunity to set the record straight and he will s a proposed letter to the Bureau requesting such a statement if we so desire.

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Accordingly, the proposed letter from Epstein requesting this statement is also attached for approval.

3: If the Director approves the issuance of the attached statement, it is recommended we first clear it with the Department.

yes
11-19

[Handwritten initials and signatures: R, JWA, AS, [unclear], RB]

ADDENDUM:

Subsequent to the preparation of the proposed statement, "Esquire" magazine, December issue, was published, which contains a series of articles on the assassination and the Warren Commission report. One of the articles sets forth a compilation of various theories as advocated by numerous persons. One such theory is that there were two assassins involved. One article sets forth "The conspiracy theories are proliferating at an alarming rate . . . doubts about the authenticity of the autopsy report are at the root of all the two assassin theories. The assumption, either explicit or implicit, that the autopsy report was changed, makes tenable the theories that hold that a shot came from in front of the President's car."

This article also points out that, according to Treasury Department records, the Secret Service sent the autopsy report to the FBI on 12/23/63. We received a copy of this report as indicated.

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Since it is now public knowledge we had a copy of the autopsy report prior to the preparation of our 1/13/64 supplemental report sent to the Commission, it is believed necessary we should mention the receipt of this report in our statement. You will recall we did not report the official results of the autopsy examination since we had only received a copy, and the President's family had requested this be kept confidential.

With regard to the comments that the Bureau has damaged the film of Abraham Zapruder, this is a completely false statement. The Zapruder film was purchased by a national publication and the FBI received a copy. The FBI did not at any time have the original film in its possession. This will be commented upon in our statement.

h Suggest Justice attorneys be
shown advance copy -
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