

January 29, 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

From: Howard P. Willens

Re: Staff meeting - January 28, 1964

On this date a staff meeting was held attended by all the junior members of the staff (except Mr. Griffin) and Messrs. Redlich, Shaffer, Ball, Hubert and Jenner. The topic for discussion was the setting of deadlines at which time the comprehensive memoranda being prepared by the staff will be submitted to Mr. Rankin.

Mr. Rankin suggested February 10 as a target date. There was a considerable discussion as to whether the mass of investigative materials could be carefully reviewed in this time. Professor Redlich suggested that the materials could not be analyzed completely within this period of time and that a longer period of time should be allowed. He pointed out that this material had to be reviewed creatively so that the Commission could do the best job possible. At this point in the operations of the Commission Mr. Redlich, who was in the midst of preparing for the testimony of Marina Oswald, had perhaps read more of the investigative materials with greater care than any other member of the staff. He pointed out that critics in the future would not understand any failing on the part of the Commission which was sought to be explained on the ground that there was not sufficient time. Several members of the staff, including myself, supported Mr. Redlich on this point.

As a result of this discussion it was decided that the memoranda would be due on February 18, 1964. It was also repeated during this discussion that the memoranda should not only review the investigative reports but outline a future course of action, including witnesses to be called before the

Commission or whose testimony should be taken by members of the staff. It was agreed that the memoranda should attempt to enlarge upon the portion of the tentative outline applicable to each area ^{and} that it would be useful if each team of lawyers would assume the responsibility of annotating the outline with references to the relevant investigative reports.