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Hoover continued, "We do not know if the chief was Castro and

cannot make an investigation because we have no intelligence operation in Cuba." The reference was to Cuban chief of state Fidel Castro.

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The FBI is restricted to domestic operations, and the CIA gathers intelligence abroad. It was not clear whether Hoover meant to imply that the CIA, as well as the FBI, had no operations in Cuba. During this period, the FBI maintained liaison with the CIA although Hoover later severed the relationship.

The memo was Hoover's report of his discussion that day with Lee Rankin, the Warren Commission's general counsel, who had called to make arrangements for dealing with the FBI during the commission probe. The Warren Commission later concluded that Oswald was the assassin and that he acted alone.

Because of the letters to Oswald from Cuba and the difficulty in checking their validity, Hoover said, "I urged strongly that we not reach the conclusion Oswald was the only man."

One of the Cuban letters illustrates the problem. It was written in Spanish and mailed from Havana to Oswald in Dallas. It was dated 12 days before the assassination, but postmarked six days after Kennedy was killed. The fact that it was postmarked long after news of the assassination had spread worldwide suggests that it might have been the work of a headliner-seeker.

FBI officials apparently found it impossible to judge what to make

of the message. As the agents translated it, the letter referred to Oswald as "Friend Lee" and said, "After the affair, I am going to recommend much to the other . . . I told him you could put out a . . . and I at 50 meters . . . Leave nothing that could lead to your trail and when you receive my letters, destroy them as always. After the affair, I will send you the money and we will see each other in Miami as always." It was signed Pedro Charles.

Some of the FBI memos suggest that Nicholas deB. Katzenbach, then deputy attorney general, was pressuring the bureau for a prompt public announcement that Oswald, acting alone, was the assassin.

Three days after the assassination, Katzenbach wrote the FBI to express concern about the growing rumors of conspiracy and said it was important to satisfy the public that Oswald was the assassin and that there were no conspirators still at large.

Referring to the pressure from Katzenbach, Hoover aide Courtney Evans wrote that there was "no doubt" Oswald had fired the gun.

"This magazine cannot be fully investigated in a week's time." In a scribbled notation, Hoover asked, "Just how long do you estimate it will take. It seems to me we have the basic facts now." At this point, Hoover apparently was not seriously concerned about the conspiracy questions.

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