

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Mr. Belmont

DATE: May 11, 1964

A. Rosen

- Tolson _____
- Belmont _____
- Mohr _____
- Casper _____
- Callahan _____
- Conrad _____
- Felt _____
- Gale _____
- Rosen _____
- Sullivan _____
- Tavel _____
- Trotter _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holmes _____
- Gandy _____

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

On May 8 and 9, 1964, members of the President's Commission, Senator John Sherman Cooper; John McCloy; Allen Dulles; President's staff member David Belen; accompanied by Inspector Tom Kelley of Secret Service and Malley, visited a number of locations in Dallas relating to the assassination of President Kennedy. No difficulties arose of any nature which would affect the Bureau.

DETAILS:

The above-mentioned group visited Parkland Memorial Hospital and observed in detail the room where President Kennedy was given emergency treatment and also asked the head nurse who was on duty on 11/22/63 several questions concerning the type of stretcher used, where the bullet was found, and other miscellaneous questions.

The group next visited the area at the Texas School Book Depository (TSBD) building and observed in considerable detail the park area adjoining the Elm Street thoroughfare which runs in front of the TSBD. The group was interested particularly in the site from which the Abraham Zapruder film was taken and also the sixth floor window from which it is believed Oswald shot the President. In addition, the group inspected the TSBD from all sides and looked at the various exits by which an individual might have left the building. A more detailed inspection of the TSBD interior of the building was made on Saturday morning, May 9, 1964.

Observations were made from the railroad overpass and numerous comments were made about the distances involved and the fact that it would be almost impossible for a shot to be fired from the overpass without hitting the windshield of a car.

The group visited the Buell Wesley Frazier residence, this being the residence of the individual Oswald rode with from Dallas to Irving and returned on weekends. They also visited the residence of Michael and Ruth Paine, it being noted.

- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Branigan
- 1 - Mr. Conrad
- 1 - Oswald File
- 1 - Mr. Callahan
- 1 - Mr. Gauthier
- 1 - Mr. Shaneyfelt

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Memo to Mr. Belmont from A. Rosen
Re: Assassination of President Kennedy

Mrs. Marina Oswald was residing with Mrs. Paine at Irving, Texas. On the occasion of this visit neither the Fraziers nor the Paines were at their residences.

A stop was made at the residence of Mrs. Johnson, who operates the rooming house at 1026 Beckley Street, where Oswald had been living in Dallas at the time of the assassination.

A detailed inspection was made of the location on tenth street near Patton Street where Police Officer Tippit was shot by Oswald. A check was also made of the Texas Theater where Oswald was located by Dallas police officers following the shooting of Officer Tippit.

Personal calls were made on Erik Jonsson, present Mayor of Dallas, and president of the Dallas Citizens Council which was the principal sponsor of President Kennedy's visit to Dallas. Mayor Jonsson described in considerable detail the various considerations which were gone into concerning President Kennedy's visit and the fact that there was some speculation on the part of Governor Connally as to whether the President should or should not visit Dallas.

The members of the Commission insisted on visiting for a short time with members of the U. S. Attorney's office staff and also called on William Alexander, First Assistant in the Dallas County District Attorney's office, and James Bowie of the District Attorney's staff. Henry Wade, the District Attorney, was out of the city at the time this call was made. During this visit Mr. Alexander mentioned that one of the psychiatrists had recently visited with Jack Ruby in his cell for a period of several hours and advised that Ruby is completely disenchanted with the defense attorneys who handled his case and is alleged to have stated that he wanted to take the stand in his own behalf during his trial but was not permitted to. Ruby is alleged to have remarked that had he been permitted to testify he would have told the court that he had no connection of any kind with Lee Harvey Oswald, had never seen the man before, and that he shot Oswald only because he wanted to be a hero.

A personal visit was also made to Chief of Police Curry and Captain Will Fritz of the Dallas Police Department. Detailed observations were made at the police department of where Oswald was detained in the police department jail and the route which was taken by Oswald from the jail to the police department garage where he was shot by Ruby.

On Saturday morning, May 9, 1964, State Attorney General Waggoner Carr appeared at the hotel and greeted Commission members. He stated he would like to render any assistance possible to them while they were in Dallas on Saturday and he stayed with members of the Commission until they completed their observations.

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Re: Assassination of President

A detailed observation was made of the interior of the TSEB Building. The Commission members were particularly interested in seeing the ease with which shots could be fired from the window at a car passing on Elm Street down below; also, the fact that when standing on the fifth floor exactly beneath the window which Oswald utilized, it was possible to hear empty shell cases hit the floor when dropped. It was also observed that with the windows open on both the fifth and sixth floor, it was possible to hear the bolt action of a similar type rifle when the firing of the gun was simulated. In this connection, two colored boys furnished information to the effect that they had heard what appeared to be rifle shells hit the floor and the bolt action of the gun on November 22, 1963, at the time the shots were fired at President Kennedy.

The Commission members commented that they felt the firsthand inspection had been of considerable value in that it firmly resolved in their minds any questions they had previously had. They stated that while they had seen photographs and read results of interviews, the firsthand inspection definitely eliminated any questions they had in their minds.

During a conversation with Staff member David Belen, Belen indicated that Lt. Revill of the Dallas Police Department would be called before the Commission in Washington for testimony in view of the information which was set forth in a memorandum indicating that Agent Hosty had made remarks to the effect that the FBI had knowledge of possible violence on the part of Oswald. Belen stated the Commission definitely felt Agent Hosty's testimony was completely satisfactory regarding his actions but that the affidavit of Revill was on record with the Commission and this matter needed to be clarified by having him testify before the Commission.

Submitted for information.