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WARREN COMMISSION INTERNAL MEMORANDA DECLASSIFIED
AND RELEASED MARCH 1977 AT NATIONAL ARCHIVES

1. 12-22-63 Willens to Rankin memo re attached (not included) letters from applicant file. Reference to Corneilius Wickersham, Leonard Sand and Louise A. Finke, 1p.
2. 2-4-63 Slawson to Willens memo re letter to CIA posing certain questions on their letter to W.C. dated 1-31-64. Twelve suggested questions put forth, numbers four thru nine are deleted. Questions 1-3 request info. on alleged Oswald - Cuban Ambassador meeting in Mexico City, wire sent by Sov. Mex Emb. to the Sov. Wash. Embassy, full report of Mex. police interrogation of Mr. and Mrs. Duran. Questions 10-12 request clarification of terms consulate and Embassy, info. on how Oswald knew Cuban Consul Azque had been moved, if he had been in fact and how Oswald knew so quickly. Previously classified SECRET and declassified 1-16-76. 3pp.
3. 2-13-64 Willens to Rankin routing slip and 2-10, 11-64 Slawson to Willens memo re letter to Russian government. Five pages take what Willens describes as a sound middle of the road approach. References to CIA proposed draft and State Dept. concern over adverse diplomatic effects./2-14-64 addendum after seeing State Dept. proposed draft reaffirms his (Slawson's) memo position./2-13-64 Davis to Rankin State Dept. memo attaching original and one copy of a draft note verbale and a draft letter (Warren to Rusk). Rankin note points to Slawson suggestion at end re Oswald psychiatric maladjustment./total 15 pp.
4. 2-12-64 Shaffer to Willens memo re Mexico allegation first furnished by White House. Allegation is that Oswald met with Cuban Ambassador Armas. Ref. to FBI and CIA investigation, 2-11-64 FBI transmittal of attached letter accompanied by letterhead memo dated 1-26-64 and report of S.A. O'Connor dated 1-23-64. Bureau memo identified Edwardo Borrell Navarro as allegation source and that Borrell admits discussion of same with Salvadore Diaz Verson. O'Connor report indicates above as source plus Dr. Angel Hernandez Varela and Dr. Jose Ignazio Lasaga (what is chief clinical psychologist for Catholic Welfare Service at Miami and individual who informed to White House). Restaurant at which meeting is alleged to have taken place is "probably Caballo Bayo." Shaffer opines that further investigation is needed to determine who is definite source and whether Oswald stayed with Duran. Urges that Bureau evaluate their 1-29-64 memo and O'Connor report. Urges polygraph. 3 pp.
5. 2-21-64 Slawson to Willens memo re possibility of a new informant in Mexico City. Ref. to C.D. 351, pp. 4-5 wherein telephone call memo indicates Abba Schwartz of State Dept. was advised by William McManus of Senate Internal Security Committee that one Al Tarabochia has a contact at Cuban Embass. 2pp.

6. 2-27-64 Willens to Rankin memo re 2-26-64 conference with Coleman and Slawson. Subjects discussed included Willens' revision of Slawson's draft of State, proposed letter to State seeking Oswald travel records and statements apparently missing from files supplied to W.C. by State, ways of securing further assistance of CIA, and request of State to inform of any past communications re Oswald in Mexico. 2pp.
7. 3-3-64 Willens to Rankin memo re suggestion of meeting with State Dept. concerning Mexico City investigation. 1p.
8. 3-4-64 Shaffer to Rankin memo setting forth miscellaneous leads provided by an informant; Nixon stayed in Dallas 11-21 at a hotel under a fictitious name, Ruby entered basement with consent of a specific but unnamed police officer, Oswald was previously arrested and possessed telephone number officers determined belonged to an employee of a well known government agency, certain Dallas police officials feel investigation re possible plot is not as extensive as should be, one Doc Marino may be Ruby-Oswald link and Dallas investigators suspect underworld plot. 1p.
9. 3-6-64 Coleman and Slawson revised memorandum to Rankin on Oswald's trip to the Soviet Union and his contacts with the U.S. Department of State. No deletions. 47pp.
10. 3-6-64 Griffin and Hubert memo to Rankin in response to conversation concerning testimony of Earlene Roberts which resulted in postponing that testimony. Evidence and theories previously expressed are put forth: on basis of statements from Roberts' Associates and fact of her sister Bertha Cheeks' friendship with Ruby the credibility of Roberts needs scrutiny. Bertha Cheek, whose phone number was in Ruby's possession had been approached by Ruby to invest in his clubs. Mrs. Roberts indicates police car which stopped and blew its horn 11-22 (Oswald inside) was number 207. Wilburn Waldon Litchfield II AKA Bob Litchfield was present during 11-27 interview of Cheek but made no statement. His name was found in one of Ruby's notebooks and on 12-2-63 he stated that on a Tuesday or Thursday during first two weeks of November he was in Carousel Club and saw man resembling Oswald. DPD has provided discrediting info. in the form of police record and lie detector test. Ruby confirms Litchfield presence in club at that time but that man resembling Oswald was Edward Rocco, an employee of Cabaret Magazine. It is also known that an employee of Ruby, Larry Crafford, closely resembles Oswald. Former employee of Cheek, one Jess Willard Lynch informed FBI that two Cuban's resided at Cheek's boarding house in 1959. When re-interviewed, Cheek denied recollection, Roberts interviewed on same date did not recall and was not asked about her possible presence in San Antonio during JFK visit.

Commission counsel opine that conduct of persons close to Ruby is suspicious, providing specifics; one of which is that Ruby roommate George Senator made demonstrably false statement to FBI. Speculations as to Ruby, Cheek, Roberts and Cuban elements conspiracy. 9 pp.

11. 3-9-64 Willens to Rankin memo attached to file received from CIA on 3-6. Notes two requests made in 2-12-64 letter to CIA. One is copies of reports disseminated by CIA and in possession of SS, the second request was for the report on the information in possession of CIA on Oswald prior to 11-22. Requested in particular is whatever dissemination was made to other agencies of items added to file after Oct. 9 and prior to Nov. 22, 1963.

Willens adds he telephoned Helms on same and was told CIA preferred not to comply with first request. Following is deletion of full paragraph and page 2. Rankin notation of 3-11-64 states "Please follow up as suggested." 2pp.

12. 3-9-64. Slawson to Jenner, Liebler, Ball and Belin memo re testimony of Nosenko, recent Soviet defector. Notes same is contained in C.D. 434 and 451. Outlines Nosenko's info. that Oswald was poor marksman while in Russia and that KGB at no time used him. 1p.

13. 3-12-64 Coleman and Slawson to Stern memo re checking Nosenko's reliability. Notes he claims to have been ordered within four hours of assassination to check out everything in his files on Oswald in that he oversaw KGB staff handling of American defectors in Moscow. Suggested check on reliability is to ascertain whether Russians could have known so quickly that Oswald had been a defector. 1p.

14. 3-13-64 Single yellow page, handwritten in blue ink with initials above date "W.D.S." (this presumably is W. David Slawson, Commission Counsel working in area of possible foreign conspiracy.) Due to the fact this is of poor legibility and unlikely to xerox clearly (blue ink) it is reproduced here. (as much as is readable):

Subject: The Echevaria Co--

We now have:

- (1) My previous info. from S.S. sources
- (2) The Sylvia Odio testimony which ties in the D.R.E.
- (3) The "Leopolo" links, even w/Ruby? in Puerto Rico
- (4) The Fernandez-RR ticket deal.
- (5) The "Kamakaze" Rumor-scare.

We should:

- (1) Get polygraph on the Penn-----
Fernandez neighbor.
- (2) Check to see whether S.S. or FBI
is still surveilling the Chicago D.R.E.
- (3) Get a briefing from S.S. on the D.R.E. et al.

- (4) Feed S.S. (or FBI) all or info. as stated above.
- (5) Get a full report from S.S. on the "Kamakaze" scare: and any other that may have occurred but not been published.

15. 3-13-64 Slawson to Specter memo re taking testimony of Doctors. Reference to Hoover letter of 2-26-64 discussing possible exhumation of Oswald's body to examine wrist scar for purpose of confirming whether he did in fact attempt suicide while in Russia. Slawson notes info. that it was this attempt that convinced Russians of Oswald's sincerity in not wanting to return to U.S. further noted that CIA desires exhumation while FBI is reluctant. Requests questioning of doctors as to whether medical exam can satisfy instant questions. 2 pp.

16. 3-20-64 Memorandum of 3-20 interview of Robert Bouck, head of the Protective Research Section of the Secret Service, in the presence of Inspector Tom Kelley. Stated purpose is to define topics for his later testimony. Examination of the various filing systems is outlined. Among these are: Basic Files, Check-Up Control Files, Trip Files and Album file. General discussion follows. Of interest is that advance work for Dallas led to the identification of a number of persons who had been obstreperous during the visit of Ambassador Stevenson; these persons were put under surveillance and their names were added to the Basic P.R.S. files.

On subject of P.R.S. liaison relationships with other Federal agencies Bouck describes as excellent and very intimate. Bouck states FBI had an agent designated as liaison who visited him almost daily and that there existed prior to the assassination a general understanding that other agencies would supply info. on individuals who appeared to in any way constitute a threat to the President. When asked whether P.R.S. would have expected to have been informed under this understanding of an individual like Oswald and what S.S. would have done in Dallas had they been so informed both Bouck and Kelley indicated yes, they would have expected to be informed since they would have regarded him as a potential threat. In addition they responded that they would have arranged to keep him under surveillance. The reasons for expecting to be advised were given as Oswald's defection, political pursuits, Marine Corps Training, job and family instability, F.P.C.C. activities, New Orleans misdemeanor arrest, trip to Mexico City and visa efforts there, and, most importantly, employment in the TSBD. 5pp.

17. 3-23-64 Hubert and Griffin memo to Rankin re activities of Dallas on Sunday, March 22, 1964. Report on 8 p.m. meeting with Forrest V. Sorrels. Sorrels is reported to have indicated that D.P.D. officers with whom he has contact are of the opinion that Ruby gained entrance to shoot Oswald by means other than the Main Street ramp, that the movement of Oswald depended upon when Captain Fritz completed his questioning of Oswald, that during the Sunday interrogation Oswald began to loosen up and that Fritz so advised Curry. Sorrels and Griffin spoke privately while walking the streets of Dallas between 9:30 and 11:00 p.m. Among other things

Sorrels related that Hosty had once intimated that if questioned by the Commission as to why he failed to notify the Secret Service that Oswald was working in a building on the motorcade route that he would fabricate a response to the effect that he was so busy he never read the papers and did not know the motorcade route.

Beginning at 10 a.m. Griffin and Hubert were taken on a tour of relevant areas in Dallas and Irving. These are noted with comments as to relative proximities with respect to known events 11-22 to 11-24-64. While visiting vicinity of radio station, K.L.I.F. Howlett advised that Gordon McLendon, a friend of Jack Ruby and candidate for U.S. Senate had been shot at by a woman while boarding a plane at Love Field. 4pp.

18. 3-27-64 Slawson to Rankin memo re Senate Internal Security Subcommittee; Possible use of their Mexican informant. On basis of a memo in a file which William McManus, formerly with S.I.S.S. staff, had sent the Commission on 1-28-64, Slawson telephoned Mr. J.G. Sourwine, Counsel for S.I.S.S. Slawson advised Sourwine that there was a reference to an Al Tarabochia as someone known to the subcommittee who, in turn claims to know someone with access to confidential info. about the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City. Slawson requested Sourwine to assist in making this informant available. Sourwine requests copy of McManus memo and time to confer with Senator Eastland. Copy provided with letter on 3-18. No response from Sourwine and on 3-26 Slawson telephones again. Sourwine advises that Sen. Eastland has decided to decline providing informants name but would relay specific questions. Slawson closes memo with recommendation that questions of a general nature be relayed such as "give us all the information you have on what the Cuban Embassy knows about Oswald, his visits to the Embassy and anything else which might relate to the assassination of President Kennedy." Previously Secret, this document was declassified in deleted form 1-16-76. 3 pp.

19. 3-30-64 Griffin to Rankin memo re statements of P.T. Dean, Dallas Police Depart. Griffin raises questions of credibility with respect to two matters: First whether or not Ruby told Dean sometime before 1 p.m. on November 24, in Ruby's jail cell, that Ruby had walked down the Main St. ramp into the jail basement and secondly whether or not Ruby told Dean at the same time that he had thought about killing Oswald when Oswald was seen in the press conference with Henry Wade on Friday night. Background provided on Dean includes the following: Dean had personal control over search of basement area on Sunday morning, acknowledged seeing Ruby near Main St. ramp and T.V. cameras just before shooting Oswald, that in a letter to Chief Curry dated 11-26-63 Dean stated Ruby had told him (in the presence of Forrest Sorrels in Ruby's cell following the shooting) he gained entrance via the Main St. ramp, in the same 11-26 letter Dean omitted info. he later testified to in Ruby's trial to the effect that he had contemplated shooting

Oswald on Friday night, when questioned by Griffin Dean omitted mention of having drafted a report of his interview with Ruby. In a December 2 interview by the FBI, Dean repeated substantially the same. In a 2-18-64 letter to Curry, Dean included the Ruby remarks as to premeditation. Griffin also makes reference to a possible 11-30-64 letter. Sorrells fails to corroborate Dean's quoting Ruby re the Main St. ramp. On deposition Dean tells for the first time of going to Parkland Hospital and also provided a copy of his 2-18 letter. As to Dean's giving press interviews Griffin questions why he saw fit to provide them the Main St. ramp info. before giving it to his superiors. Griffin notes contradiction between Dean's quoting Ruby re the Main St. ramp and the report of S.A. Hall who interviewed Ruby just after Dean and reported that Ruby refused to tell how he gained entrance. Griffin notes similar pattern of failure to report in the statements of T.D. McMillon who was also present at the Hall and Sorrells interviews. Officer Clardy was also present but his reports have not been examined. Griffin notes that unless Lt. Pierce confirms that Dean reported questioned Ruby quotes to him on the afternoon of 11-24 there is probability Dean is lying. Griffin suggests several explanations for Dean's behavior and indicates the most likely to be that Ruby was seen by Dean pushing in a T.V. camera and, having failed to stop him, lied to cover his dereliction of duty and that Dean suggested to Ruby that the Main St. ramp was how he got in. Griffin concludes with recommending follow-up steps. 6pp.

20. 3-31-64 Griffin to Rankin memo re Barefoot Sanders' appraisal of Henry Wade as having a propensity to leak matters to the press. 1p.

21. 4-10-64 Goldberg memo for the record re 4-8-64 discussion with Barefoot Sanders concerning Robert Davis, representative of the Texas Atty. Gen. with W.C., Sanders expresses concern that Texas Atty. Gen. will issue report on the assassination and the effect that Davis might have on it. Sanders quoted as considering it unfortunate if such a report is issued, that it may be sensational or substantially different from W.C. Further notes that Sanders informs Assistant D.A. William Alexander and Dallas Police had originally planned to charge Oswald with murder as part of the Communist-Internationalist conspiracy and that he, Sanders, had dissuaded them. Goldberg reports that in conversations with Davis on 4-7 and 8 he received same impression, that Davis had speculatively concluded a Ruby-Oswald link and offered various wild and unsubstantiated opinions. Goldberg notes that Belin concurs with Sanders re Davis. 2pp./Routing slip attached and dated 4-13-64 with Goldberg note that memo was prepared for future use in connection with a history of the Commission.

22. 6-1-64 Hubert to Rankin memo attaching clipping from Dallas Morning News, 5-28-64. Reports Sanders advised the case referred to concerning Bush was brought up so a ruling could be obtained which would provide precedent in Ruby proceeding. 1p.

23. 6-4-64 Slawson to Rankin, Willens and Redlich memo re telephone conference with Rocca of CIA. Subjects include high percentage of signatures other than Oswalds' which are said to be illegible by the State Dept. translators. Referenced documents were provided by Russian government and Slawson questions significance of illegibility. Rocca reported to have brought up New York Times article on conspiracy theories published 6-1-64 and made specific reference to book by London newspaperman named Dennis Eisenberg which was published two months before the assassination and contained an assertion that right-wing elements in U.S. were at that time planning the assassination of Kennedy. Rocca indicated CIA plan to obtain book and info. on author. Slawson further quotes Rocca as pointing out that publishing time coincides with Castro remark to the effect that "Two can play at this game." Slawson notes Miami newspaper to publish allegation stated Castro was referring to Bay of Pigs invasion and subsequent guerilla activities financed by the CIA which resulted in the deaths of many Cuban citizens. 3pp.

24. 6-5-64 Mosk to Slawson and Willens memo re meeting with National Security Agency. Mosk lists items made available to their personnel: W.C. list of FBI documents, list of Marina exhibits, CIA materials re Oswald's Russian contacts (C.D. 680, 928) W.C. files on Oswald in Mexico and NSA's original list of what they examined. Query as to any items which would be desirable to have NSA evaluation on. Re materials they have been checking, NSA reports turning up nothing, but are suspicious of letters cut out of a Russian book. Mosk indicates his understanding that NSA is preparing a report for W.C. 2pp.

25. 7-15-64 Slawson to Rankin memo listing and explaining proposed references to the "confidential Soviet Union source, the reliability of which has not been established" in the Foreign Conspiracy and Russian sections of the report. In response to Rankin request Slawson quotes sections in which he proposes to use (Nosenko) source: 1) KGB examined all defectors and Oswald's Intourist Guide was likely connected and/or reporting. 2) KGB rejected Oswald due to lack of intelligence and mental instability. It is probable that intervention by Ministry of Foreign Affairs for propaganda purpose provided basis for Oswald's staying. 3) Reporter from Radio Moscow who interviewed Oswald was likely KGB. and virtually everyone to have initial contact with him was likely KGB informant working in effort to assess him. 4) KGB likely washed it's hands of Oswald and other branch of Soviet state picked him up after his hospital stay. 5) When Oswald was sent to Minsk his KGB file was sent to local office with cover letter instructing passive observation to make sure he was not American intelligence agent temporarily dormant. Periodic checks were made through informants and those included secretly opening his mail. 4pp.

26. 6-17-64 Slawson to Coleman memo accompanying Willen's redraft of Foreign Conspiracy draft. Remarks that with "a few exceptions he has accepted our arguments and our plan of organization." Exceptions are: 1) all references to "Secret Soviet Union Source" are omitted. Notes he attended CIA conference on this and is now in agreement, "Willens will fill you in." 2) Secondly, the "argument based upon Oswalds being permitted to marry Marina is being omitted because CIA claims to have info. of many cases in which spies were married to nonspies". 3) Third, argument based upon Oswald's general character and way of life in U.S. has been omitted here and will be reinserted at a point where it will apply to not only the foreign conspiracy but also the (deleted) conspiracy and a tie-in with Ruby. Four handwritten notes at bottom right. lp.
27. 7-22-64 Dulles to Willens memo returning "Foreign Conspiracy" draft with suggested corrections. Notes he made original corrections on earlier draft including pages 39a and 39b and page 45a on Oswald's marriage to Marina. Opines that all three of eliminated pages should be included as well as some reference to Oswald effort to get Abt as a lawyer. lp..
28. 9-6-64 Slawson to Rankin memo re publication of Oswald's historic diary. Notes previous efforts to delete certain portions which might identify friendly efforts of Rima Shirakova and Ziger family for fear of Soviet Reprisals. In view of Life Magazine publication on 7-10-64 he recommends printing entire diary without deletions. Previously classified "SECRET." 2pp.
29. 9-21-64 Slawson to Willens memo re confidential information in Commission files. Outlines clerical problems in making exhibits out of documents (i.e. classification stamps, clearance with agencies) Names clerks on different areas. Notes he made complete censored duplicate of State Dept. file, Commission Documents Nos. 1114 and 1115. Notes Rankin requested he advise Willens on this. 2pp.
30. Goldberg to Rankin memo re Summary of FBI investigation of Leaks. Identifies various individuals interviewed who deny leaking info. to Dorothy Kilgallen. Sol Dann, present Ruby Atty. suspects Atty. Fowler and Tonahill. Melvin Belli suspects Assistant D.A. Alexander. Kilgallen told FBI source had legal right to Ruby transcript, was a man and friend of long standing. lp.
31. Undated Mosk to Willens memo on alien status of Marina Oswald. She is a non-quota resident alien according to State Dept. Cites laws re her possible deportation and necessary grounds for such. Half of page two deleted. Notes perjury would be grounds for deportation. 3pp.

32. Undated Coleman, Slawson record memo re Documentary Record of Contacts with State Dept. and I.N.S. Describes file in four parts: 1) Summary of Oswald's contacts with reference to Exhibit number. 2) Exhibits. 3) Page references of I.N.S., State Dept. documents numbered 1-112. 4) Memo prepared as a step toward preparing part one (1). 1p.

NOSENKO DOCUMENTS

This file includes duplicates of Nosenko documents previously described in this March 1977 release of files titled "Internal Memoranda" and "Numbered Documents." In addition to those, the following two are included:

1. 3-6-64 Rankin to Helms letter advising that FBI has reported on an interview with Nosenko. Requests conference between CIA and Commission staff to discuss this matter and agency work in general with Commission. 1p.
2. 8-22-64 Slawson to Rankin re language in the possible foreign conspiracy section of the report relating to "N". Excludes references to "N" and identifies Madame Furtseva, a prominent Soviet official and a member of the Praesidium, as person who personally interviewed on Oswald's behalf, requesting he be allowed to reside in Soviet Union. Slawson includes material taken from page three of the introduction, page 41 of the section dealing with Oswald's defection and the first paragraph of the conclusion. Previously classified "TOP SECRET." 3 pp.