

# Memorandum

Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Asst. Dir.:

Admin. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Comp. Syst. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ext. Affairs \_\_\_\_\_  
 Files & Com. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gen. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Training \_\_\_\_\_  
 Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Director Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

TO : Mr. Gallagher

DATE: 1/19/77

FROM : J. S. Peelman

- 1 - Mr. Adams
- 1 - Mr. Gallagher
- 1 - Mr. Mintz (Att: Office Of Congressional Affairs)
- 1 - Mr. Leavitt
- 1 - Mr. Moore
- 1 - Mr. Peelman
- 1 - Mr. [REDACTED]
- 1 - Mr. [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY  
 11/22/63

**PURPOSE:** To furnish information in rebuttal to a Jack Anderson and Les Whitten article appearing in the 1/17/77 edition of "The Washington Post," entitled "U.S., Cuba Had Germ Warfare Plans," (copy attached) wherein it is alleged that the FBI had in its files at least 69 reports on the pre-assassination activities of Lee Harvey Oswald. Only 46 of these were summarized for the Warren Commission; the remaining 23 were held back."

**SYNOPSIS:** An itemization of 69 documents comprising the Lee Harvey Oswald pre-assassination file (105-82555) was furnished to the Warren Commission by letter on 5/4/64 and these documents were reviewed by a staff member of that commission on 5/4/64. This 5/4/64 letter to the Warren Commission described each of the 69 documents and was published as Commission Exhibit 834.

Additionally, a 10/29/75 inquiry relating to Oswald's pre-assassination file was received from the House Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights, Committee on the Judiciary and was answered. During November and December 1976, excised copies of the 69 documents were reviewed by Congressman Christopher Dodd, a member of the Subcommittee.

No basis found for allegation that Oswald pre-assassination material withheld.

**RECOMMENDATION:** None. For information.

APPROVED:	Adm. Serv. _____	Legal Coun. _____
Director _____	Ext. Affairs _____	Plan. & Insp. _____
Asst. Dir. _____	Files & Com. _____	Rec. Mgmt. _____
Dep. AD Adm. _____	Gen. Inv. _____	C. & T. Serv. _____
Dep. AD Inv. _____	Ident. _____	Spec. Inv. _____
	Intell. _____	Training _____

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 In agreement  
 [Handwritten signatures and notes]

Peelman to Gallagher Memorandum  
Re: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

DETAILS: Attached is a copy of a 9/17/76 Bureau letter to the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, enclosing an LHM (attached) captioned, "House Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights Committee on the Judiciary," dated 9/17/76, wherein it is pointed out that a 5/4/64 letter from Mr. Hoover to Mr. Rankin identified the 69 documents constituting the Oswald file prior to the JFK assassination.

In addition, the 9/17/76 LHM points out that on 5/4/64, Mr. Samuel Stern, staff member of the Warren Commission, made an item-by-item comparison of the file (A. H. Belmont to Mr. Tolson memorandum, 5/5/64) with the itemization of documents set forth in Mr. Hoover's 5/4/64 letter which is identified as Warren Commission Exhibit 834 and is published in Volume XVII, pages 804-813 of the "Hearings Before The President's Commission On The Assassination Of President Kennedy." (Copy attached).

On 11/17/76, Congressman Christopher Dodd and Alan Parker, Chief Counsel of the Committee on Civil and Constitutional Rights of the House Judiciary Committee, reviewed excised copies of 69 documents that comprised the Bureau's file on Lee Harvey Oswald at the time of the assassination of President Kennedy. Congressman Dodd spent approximately three and one half hours on this review but failing to complete same, he expressed a desire to return to FBI Headquarters during the week of 11/22-26/76 to finish his review. Records of the Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA) reflect that Congressman Dodd returned to FBIHQ, 12/17/76, to continue this review, following which, he advised further review was required which he would arrange through OCA. He has not returned as of this date.

Approximately 40 volumes of files were reviewed for the pertinent time frames in the Warren, Oswald and other files in an effort to resolve the allegation that "46" reports "were summarized for the Warren Commission" and "23 were held back." No factual basis for such an allegation was found during that review.

In addition, the 69 items listed in the 5/4/64 letter to the Commission were compared against the actual file documents. It was found that 55 of the 69 were serialized documents and 14 were unrecorded serials in the file. No basis for a 46 to 23 ratio was found as a result of that comparison.

Jack Anderson and Les Whitten

# U.S., Cuba Had Germ Warfare Plans

The United States and Cuba apparently planned to wage germ warfare against one another's livestock a few years back.

The Senate intelligence committee is investigating the startling charge that the CIA spread African swine fever in Cuba. The disease devastated the island's pig population.

Now we have learned that the Cubans had a scheme of their own to infect U.S. cattle with hoof-and-mouth disease. The idea eventually was abandoned, but in April, 1962, Cuban politburo member Antonio Nunez Jimenez discussed the hoof-and-mouth plot with four top Cuban scientists.

The amazing story has been buried in intelligence documents, which we have now seen.

Nunez Jimenez informed the four scientists, according to an intelligence memo, "that Cuba was now ready to give the United States a 'dose of its own medicine.'

"Nunez Jimenez further explained," continued the memo, "that Cuba had the ability, through specially trained agents, to destroy the cattle industry of the United States by spreading an epizootic fever known commonly as 'hoof-and-mouth disease.'"

A hoof-and-mouth epidemic would have forced the destruction of the infected cattle. An outbreak in the United States in 1929 and in Mexico in 1946 wiped out millions worth of livestock.

Federal agents, alarmed at the first-person account of Nunez Jimenez' threat, made further inquiries and found that "the Cuban government had opened a bacteriological laboratory in Soroa, Pinar del Rio Province."

This secret lab, "located in the for-

mer orchid gardens of Soroa," was run by a Spanish exile named Dr. Martinez Viera. He was assisted by a Cuban and a former American resident. The latter was a woman who washed the test tubes and vials used by Viera, reported the memo.

At the time of the memo, written in 1963, it appeared that "Nunez Jimenez had made arrangements for three Soviet bacteriologists to take over the laboratory."

One purpose of the lab, interestingly, was to "determine the cause of an epidemic which completely destroyed the birds of a turkey farm." However, we can find no evidence that the turkeys, like a reported 500,000 Cuban pigs, may have been the victims of CIA germ warfare.

Another Coverup—There is no longer any question about it; both the FBI and CIA withheld essential facts from the Warren Commission about the assassination of President Kennedy.

The FBI never allowed the commission access to its files, and the members were so intimidated by the late FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover that they never protested. Instead, they relied upon FBI summaries and Hoover's letters.

We have now learned, for example, that the FBI had in its files at least 69 reports on the pre-assassination activities of Lee Harvey Oswald. Only 46 of these were summarized for the Warren Commission; the remaining 23 were held back. Thus, the commission accused Oswald of the murder without considering all the available facts.

The CIA also provided the commission with selective information and covered up crucial facts. Indeed, con-

gressional investigators say the CIA deliberately lied about some of the details that were furnished to the commission.

During the closing weeks of the last Congress, the House established a select assassinations committee, which has barely started its investigation of the Kennedy killing. Yet its investigators have already interviewed about two dozen key witnesses who had never been questioned.

They include people who had witnessed the shooting in 1963 and the scene afterward inside the Dallas hospital. Sources with important information in Mexico City and Miami were also interviewed for the first time.

Now there are disturbing reports that the FBI and CIA are directing an undercover campaign against the committee. Congressional sources say the two embattled agencies are spreading derogatory stories about the committee.

The CIA, these sources say, also offered to take over the committee's security. This incredible proposal would have placed the CIA, a target of the investigation, in charge of the committee files.

After the offer was rejected and investigators started asking embarrassing questions, the CIA allegedly urged the Senate intelligence committee to take the lead in investigating the Kennedy assassination. Apparently, the CIA felt that the Senate committee would be more friendly.

Footnote: At this writing, the CIA has not responded to our request for a comment. A Justice Department spokesman said the FBI is cooperating fully with the committee, not obstructing it.

ack. J.S. Peckman to Mr. Gallagher

memo 1/19/77

WLC: gjo

62-102000-22

109060

# The great germ warfare that wasn't

**JACK ANDERSON**  
and **LES WHITTEN**

**WASHINGTON**—Apparently, the United States and Cuba planned to wage germ warfare against one another's livestock a few years back. The Senate Intelligence Committee is already investigating the startling charge that the CIA spread African swine fever in Cuba. The disease devastated the island's pig population. Now we have learned that the Cubans had a scheme of their own to infest U.S. cattle with hoof-and-mouth disease. The idea eventually was abandoned, but in April, 1962, Cuban Politburo member Antonio Nunez Jimenez discussed the hoof-and-mouth plot with four top Cuban scientists.

The amazing story has been buried in intelligence documents, which we have now seen. Nunez Jimenez informed the four scientists, according to an intelligence memo, "that Cuba was now ready to give the United States a 'dose of its own medicine.'"

"Nunez Jimenez further explained," continued the memo, "that Cuba had the ability, through specially trained agents, to destroy the cattle industry of the United States by spreading an epizootic fever known commonly as 'hoof-and-mouth disease.'" A hoof-and-mouth epidemic would have forced the destruction of the infected cattle. An outbreak in the United States in 1929 and in Mexico in 1946 wiped out millions worth of livestock.

Federal agents, alarmed at the first-person account of Nunez Jimenez' threat, made further inquiries and found that "the Cuban government had opened a bacteriological laboratory in Soroa, Pinar del Rio Province." This secret lab, "located in the former orchid gardens of Soroa," was run by a Spanish exile named Dr. Martinez Viera. He was assisted by a Cuban and a former American resident. The latter was a woman who washed the test tubes and vials used by Dr. Viera. reported the memo.

At the time of the memo, written in 1963, it appeared that "Nunez Jimenez had made arrangements for three Soviet bacteriologists to take over the laboratory." One purpose of the lab, interestingly, was to "determine the cause of an epidemic which completely destroyed the birds of a turkey farm." However, we can find no evidence that the turkeys,

like a reported 500,000 Cuban pigs, may have been the victims of CIA germ warfare.

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- Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Director's Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

- The Washington Post \_\_\_\_\_
- Washington Star-News \_\_\_\_\_
- Daily News (New York) P. 30
- The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_
- The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_
- The National Observer \_\_\_\_\_
- The Los Angeles Times \_\_\_\_\_

Date JAN 17 1977

*What is this all about?*

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1 - Mr. W. Leavitt  
1 - Mr. E. C. Peterson  
1 - Mr. [REDACTED]

Assistant Attorney General  
Office of Legislative Affairs

September 17, 1976

Director, FBI

HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE  
ON CIVIL AND CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS  
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Reference is made to the requests of the Subcommittee dated October 29, 1975, for certain documents and information from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

Enclosed for your approval and transmittal to the Subcommittee is a memorandum prepared as a supplemental response to the Subcommittee's request as it concerns the Lee Harvey Oswald file. Also enclosed for your records is a copy of this memorandum.

Enclosures (2)

1 - 105-82555

RGK:lmj  
(9)

62-10,060-17635  
ENCLOSURE

- (1 - Mr. Hotis)
- 1 - Mr. T. W. Leavitt
- 1 - Mr. E. C. Peterson
- 1 - Mr. [REDACTED]

September 17, 1976

HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE  
ON CIVIL AND CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS  
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Reference is made to the October 29, 1975, request by the Subcommittee as it pertained to the Lee Harvey Oswald file of 69 documents which existed at the time of the deliberations of the Warren Commission and as to which of these documents were reviewed by the Commission and which were not so reviewed. Further reference is made to the response of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), dated November 26, 1975, which enclosed a copy of a letter dated May 4, 1964, from the then Director of the FBI, J. Edgar Hoover, to Mr. J. Lee Rankin, General Counsel, the President's Commission, identifying the 69 documents constituting the Oswald file prior to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

As a supplement to the above-referenced response of the FBI, dated November 26, 1975, the following information is being furnished:

Records of the FBI disclose that the aforementioned letter to Mr. Rankin was prepared following a discussion between former assistant to the Director Alan H. Belmont and staff members of the Warren Commission regarding the contents of the Oswald file up to the date of President Kennedy's assassination. When advised by Mr. Belmont that all pertinent information had previously been furnished to the Commission, it was agreed that a letter from the FBI should be directed to Mr. Rankin describing the 69 documents contained in Oswald's file, following which a Commission staff member would review the file for an item by item comparison with the documents listed in the letter.

1 - 105-82555

ORIGINAL AND ONE COPY TO ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL  
OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

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(9)

SEE NOTE, PAGE 2

*6-1-1976* 7635

HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE  
ON CIVIL AND CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS  
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

On May 4, 1964, Mr. Samuel Stern of the Commission made such a review and on the same date Mr. Belmont introduced Mr. Hoover's letter to Mr. Rankin before the Commission. Mr. Belmont offered to make Oswald's file available for review by the full Commission; however, that option was not exercised.

Records of the FBI further disclose that the pertinent information concerning Oswald as furnished to the Commission consisted of the following reports which incorporated the results of the FBI investigation of Oswald up to the date of President Kennedy's assassination:

Report of Special Agent (SA) John W. Fain, dated July 3, 1961, at Dallas, Texas.

Report of SA John W. Fain, dated July 10, 1962, at Dallas, Texas.

Report of SA John W. Fain, dated August 30, 1962, at Dallas, Texas.

Report of SA James P. Hosty, dated September 10, 1963, at Dallas, Texas.

Report of SA Milton R. Kaack, dated October 31, 1963, at New Orleans, Louisiana.

NOTE:

The attached memorandum was prepared in coordination with SA [redacted] Legal Counsel Division, based on request from Mr. Thomas Breen, staff member of the Subcommittee for additional information designating which documents from the Oswald file were reviewed by the Warren Commission.