

Memorandum

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TO : Mr. Moore

DATE: 10/17/75

FROM : J. H. Campbell

SUBJECT: RICHARD SALANT
PRESIDENT, CBS NEWS
REQUEST TO INTERVIEW FBI
PERSONNEL

Handwritten notes and signatures:
 [Signature]
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PURPOSE:

The purpose of this memorandum is to respond to a request made by Richard Salant, President, CBS News, to Attorney General Levi, to conduct interviews in connection with the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

DETAILS:

In a letter dated October 8, 1975, Mr. Salant advised Mr. Levi that a request made by Leslie Midgley, CBS Producer, and Dan Rather, the principal CBS correspondent, to Director Kelley for permission to interview Agents or former Agents who were concerned with the case of Lee Harvey Oswald, had been denied. This initial request for interviews with James Hosty, Gordon Shanklin, John Fain, and Warren deBruceys was declined because of the ongoing investigation in Dallas by the Department of Justice in connection with this matter.

In his letter to the Attorney General, Mr. Salant modified the original request indicating that since Fain and deBruceys were concerned only with the events in New Orleans and not Dallas, he asked if an interview with them would be possible. He stated that if CBS would be unable to talk to these individuals there would be no recourse except to include in the broadcasts the unverified stories of people commenting concerning the FBI. Mr. Rather "...would then go on to say that CBS is unable to verify the stories because the FBI personnel would not talk to them."

Enclosure

EX-115

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 [Handwritten initials]

- 1 - Mr. Gallagher - Enclosure
- 1 - Mr. Moore - Enclosure
- 1 - Mr. Wannall - Enclosure
- 1 - Mr. Campbell - Enclosure
- 1 - Mr. Malmfeldt - Enclosure

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Section 182 182

J. H. Campbell Mr. Moore Memorandum
Re: Richard Salant, President, CBS News, Request to Interview
FBI Personnel

BACKGROUND:

On October 6, 1975, the Director met with Rather, Midgley, and Sanford Socolow of CBS news in connection with this matter. Subsequent to that meeting it was determined, from a conversation you (Mr. Moore) had with Mr. Midgley, that CBS has a source identified as a former FBI informant, who was known to deBrueys. This source has indicated to CBS that Oswald was an FBI informant and that after the assassination of President Kennedy, deBrueys told him (the source) that if he said anything to the Warren Commission that he (deBrueys) would "kick his a--." With regard to Fain, Midgley indicated that he had information that in August, 1963, Fain debriefed Oswald upon his return to the United States from Russia.

The name of Oreste Pena appeared in the Warren Commission Report as having been in contact with deBrueys concerning Cuban activities in the New Orleans area, and he is very likely the former FBI source who is talking to CBS. It is important to note that in the Warren Commission Report Pena indicated a strong dislike for deBrueys and the FBI.

The Intelligence Division, in their review of this matter, could not give unequivocal assurance that Pena is the FBI informant mentioned by CBS.

Fain retired from the FBI on October 9, 1962; therefore, it would not appear that he could have debriefed Oswald during August, 1963.

OBSERVATIONS:

It would appear that both deBrueys and Fain, in an interview with CBS, would be able to adequately respond to these questions, and in so doing put the FBI's actions in a better perspective. deBrueys has been contacted regarding this matter and feels strongly that with an opportunity to review and refresh his recollection in this matter he could properly discount Pena's contention that Oswald was an FBI informant. It would appear to be our advantage to have deBrueys and Fain respond in order that our position in this investigation be set forth as accurately as possible. Assistant



J. H. Campbell to Mr. Moore Memorandum
Re: Richard Salant, President, CBS News, Request to Interview
FBI Personnel

Director Wannall agrees to authorizing the interviews
of Fain and deBruceys provided the questions are restricted
to the New Orleans activities of Oswald.

A copy of the proposed letter from Attorney
General Levi to Mr. Salant, that was given to Mr. Levi,
is attached for your information.

RECOMMENDATION:

That CBS News be authorized to interview Warren
deBruceys and John Fain with the stipulation that questions
be confined only to the New Orleans phase of the Oswald
investigation.

TJM
per
OK *Jua*

PROPOSED LETTER FROM AG LEVI TO RICHARD SALANT,
PRESIDENT, CBS NEWS, RE REQUEST TO
INTERVIEW JOHN FAIN AND WARREN DE BRUEYS

Dear Dick:

I have read your letter of October 8, in which you advised of the proposed interviews of FBI personnel concerning Lee Harvey Oswald.

I have contacted Director Kelley about your request to interview Warren deBrueys, who is now Special Agent in Charge of the San Juan, Puerto Rico, Office, and John Fain, who is retired from the FBI. We are in accord and interpose no objection to these interviews being conducted provided all questions asked be confined to the New Orleans activities of Lee Harvey Oswald. Our current inquiry in Dallas at this time precludes interviews of Gordon Shanklin and James Hosty.

Sincerely, -

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