

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, DALLAS

FROM : SUPVR. JOSEPH J. LOEFFLER

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD, Aka.
IS - R - CUBA
DL 100-10461
BU 105-82555

DATE: 10/8/64

HAROLD P. LEINBAUGH, Crime Records Division, SOG, telephonically advised at approximately 9:30 A.M., 10/8/64, that an article had appeared with "quite a bit of play" in the Washington papers under a UPI release, Dallas dateline 10/7/64. The article is quoted hereinafter:

"According to a news statement on 10/7/63, Chief of Police JESSE CURRY, Dallas Police Department, Dallas, Texas, has officially indicated in a letter to the WARREN COMMISSION that he was asked by the FBI on 11/22/63, to deny that the FBI had failed to warn other agencies about LEE HARVEY OSWALD. Chief CURRY allegedly claims that within a few minutes of his statement to the press in this connection, he was requested by the FBI to retract his statement that the FBI had failed in this regard.

The FBI did not ask Chief CURRY or anyone else to deny that it had information regarding OSWALD or OSWALD's presence in Dallas.

"The true facts of the matter are that on 11/23/63, Chief CURRY, upon appearing before television camera alleged. (1) The FBI customarily advises the Dallas Police whenever an individual of subversive background arrives in Dallas; (2) The FBI recently interviewed LEE HARVEY OSWALD; and (3) The FBI had OSWALD under surveillance in Dallas; however, did not notify the Dallas Police. Although there exists no responsibility to do so, the FBI has on past occasions furnished the Dallas Police information regarding individuals with subversive backgrounds. The remaining statements of Chief CURRY were absolutely false. The FBI had never interviewed LEE HARVEY OSWALD in Dallas, Texas. The FBI did not have LEE HARVEY OSWALD under surveillance in Dallas, Texas.

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"As a result of Chief CURRY's erroneous statements, MR. GORDON SHANKLIN, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI Office in Dallas, Texas, was instructed to contact the Chief and point out to him the absolute falsity of his statements.

"In reply, Chief CURRY told MR. SHANKLIN that he had been told by someone, whose identity he did not recall, of this information. Chief CURRY admitted that he did not know of his own knowledge that the FBI had either interviewed or had OSWALD under surveillance. He told MR. SHANKLIN he would be glad to get back on the air and correct his erroneous statements. A short time later Chief CURRY was quoted on television correcting his erroneous statements."

MR. LEINBAUGH requested that SAC SHANKLIN read this matter thoroughly for content, accuracy, et cetera. He stated that the SAC should then telephonically contact MR. LEINBAUGH with any comments, deletions, corrections, and/or criticisms, that the SAC may have with respect to this news article.

ADDENDUM:

At 10:30 A.M., SAC SHANKLIN telephonically advised Mr. LEINBAUGH that Dallas records did not reflect any information indicating Chief CURRY had said we had OSWALD under surveillance in Dallas, nor was surveillance mentioned in the memo of SAC SHANKLIN of 11/28/63. It was also pointed out to Mr. LEINBAUGH that it was believed that Chief CURRY did go on television on the night of 11/22/63 inasmuch as the publicity relating to his appearance appeared in both the morning and afternoon newspapers of 11/23/64 concerning his statements with respect to the FBI allegedly knowing about OSWALD and his alleged retraction thereafter.

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : FILE (100-10461)

DATE: 10/9/64

FROM : SAC SHANKLIN

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD, aka
IS - R - CUBA

Assistant Director C. D. DeLOACH called on 10/8/64 and referred to a UPI article appearing in the Washington Post newspaper, which purported to quote allegedly a letter to EARL WARREN from Chief of Police JESSE E. CURRY. The letter is quoted as follows:

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Letter to EARL WARREN from Chief of Police JESSE E. CURRY:

"In a letter to me dated 5/21/64, Mr. J. Lee Rankin, general counsel of the President's Commission on the assassination of President Kennedy, raised several points concerning Lt. Revill's report of November 22, 1963 on his conversation with FBI Agent James Hosty on that date. The first question posed by Rankin was why Revill's report was not made known to the Commission prior to my appearance before that group.

"When I received the report, I immediately realized the gravity and seriousness of the information it contained. On that date, before news men, I stated that I had received information that the FBI knew of OSWALD's presence in Dallas and that the Dallas Police Department had no information on OSWALD in its file. This statement was based on the report of Revill.

"Within a few minutes of my statement to the press, I received a telephone call from Mr. Gordon Shanklin, Special Agent in Charge of the Dallas FBI office in which Shanklin stated the Bureau was extremely desirous that I retract my statement to the press. I then appeared before the press again and retracted my statement to this extent. I stated that 'Of my own personal knowledge', I did not know that the FBI knew of Oswald's presence in Dallas and that if they did, they were under no obligation to the Dallas Police Department to pass on the information.

"After the appointment of the Warren Commission, I was reasonably sure I would appear before that body, so I decided to present the report personally at the time of my appearance. I felt that the Commission probably would like for the statement to be notarized, so I had this done on April 7, 1964.

"Rankin's next question concerned the date that the report was placed in the Intelligence Unit's file. I instructed Revill to keep this report confidential. He said that after his copy was returned to him, he kept it locked in a desk drawer until after I returned from Washington where I delivered the report to the Commission. He then placed his report in the file.

"Rankin further asked if I knew of any additional information in the possession of the Dallas Police Department that had not been made available to the Commission. I knew of no such information."

DF #100-10461

Mr. DeLOACH stated that this article was on page 3 of the Washington Post. He referred to a memorandum to the Director this morning calling his attention to the fact that on Nov. 23, DeLOACH had seen CURRY on TV and had called me and told me that Chief CURRY on TV had made statements to our interviewing OSWALD and surveilling OSWALD and had instructed me to get in touch with CURRY and straighten him out and to see that he went back on TV and corrected these erroneous statements. The statements were (1) that OSWALD had recently been interviewed in Dallas by the FBI and we had not notified the Dallas Police, and (2) that the FBI had OSWALD under surveillance and that the FBI customarily advises the Dallas PD whenever an individual of subversive background arrives in Dallas.

The Director approved SAC SHANKLIN contacting Chief CURRY to see if he is willing to personally talk to the press and straighten out this matter.

Mr. DeLOACH stated that he thought Chief CURRY should make a statement to the press that he has confused this matter; that at no time has the FBI asked him to cover up for us, and that the FBI has no intention of letting this matter stand for the record.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : FILE (100-10461)

FROM : SAC J. GORDON SHANKLIN

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD, aka
IS - R - CUBA

DATE: 10/9/64

On 10/9/64 at 8:30 AM, Special Agent ROBERT P. GEMBERLING and I interviewed Chief of Police JESSE E. CURRY at the Statler Hilton Hotel, Dallas.

I pointed out to him the article which had appeared in the Washington Post on 10/8/64. I advised him that certain portions of this letter which he was purported to have written certainly gave an erroneous impression. Particular reference was made to the fact that I had called him and said that we were extremely desirous that he retract his statement to the press. I discussed with him my conversation on November 23rd and he readily agreed that when I called him, I told him I wanted him to straighten out the inaccuracies and that I definitely told him that we had not interviewed OSWALD in Dallas and we had no information that he was capable of assassinating the President. He also agreed that I did not ask him to cover up anything, but that I specifically asked him to straighten out these two features. He has no recollection of any mention made by him of us having OSWALD under surveillance. He stated that he does not actually now recall what he has said, and would have to have the tape to know.

He stated that he never intended to give the impression that we were trying to get him to cover up anything. He also readily admitted that when confronted with these statements by me, he stated he told me he did not know who had made the above statements.

It was pointed out to CURRY that this article certainly left the wrong impression and that he was either definitely mistaken or gave misleading information, and he agreed that as far as he was concerned, if the reporter who wrote the article would call him, he would answer questions as follows:

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GORDON SHANKLIN did call me shortly after I made the statement on TV on Saturday, November 23, 1963 and said that my statement was not correct and wanted me to correct it. He said the FBI had not interviewed OSWALD in Dallas and did not know he was capable of assassinating the President. I then appeared before the news media and corrected my statement to this extent: that to my own personal knowledge, the FBI did not know OSWALD was in Dallas or that he was capable of assassinating the President.

SHANKLIN did not ask me to cover up anything, but his contention was that the FBI had not interviewed OSWALD in Dallas and did not know he was capable of assassinating the President.

CURRY did admit that he had written a letter to Chief Justice Warren, answering certain questions. It was pointed out to CURRY that a portion of this letter says, "When I received the report"(referring to REVILL's report)"I immediately realized the gravity and seriousness of the information it contained. On that date before newsmen, I stated I had received information that the FBI knew of OSWALD's presence in Dallas and that the Dallas Police Department had no information on OSWALD in its file and that this statement was based on the report of REVILL. Within a few minutes of my statement to the press, I received a telephone call from GORDON SHANKLIN . . .

I pointed out to CURRY then that actually my call to him was on the 23rd and that he had actually appeared on television on the 23rd, and that I had asked him to correct statements made on TV and that I had never told him that we did not know that OSWALD was in Dallas at the time of the assassination, and that I had never asked him to correct any such statement.

CURRY said, "I was just so confused I don't know what I said and the only possible way I would know would be to hear the tape."

I at this time again pointed out to him that when I had called him on the 23rd, I specifically asked him the source of his information, and that he had told me he didn't recall; that he had heard it from someone Friday night, and that if it had been based on REVILL's memorandum, that he was certainly mistaken or deliberately failing to tell me of the existence of Lt. REVILL's memo.

D. #100-10461

CURRY then went back to his office and upon my returning to the Dallas Office, he called me and stated that he would have to clear anything with the City Manager as he had been told not to make any further statements.

I immediately called Assistant to the Director C. D. DeLOACH and gave him the results of my interview with CURRY and told him that CURRY, while personally willing to clarify this matter with the reporter, insisted that he had to clear with his City Manager.

At approximately 10:15 AM, CURRY called back and stated that the City Manager had told him he could make absolutely no further statements of any kind and that he had already talked too much, and therefore he would have to answer any inquiries with no comment.

I relayed this information by telephone to Assistant Director C. D. DeLOACH, who stated that they would call me back later as to the exact method they were going to answer it. He indicated they would probably make the release in Washington, and would let me know.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : FILE (100-10461)

DATE: 10/12/64

FROM : SAC SHANKLIN

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD, aka
IS-R-CUBA

On the afternoon of Friday, 10/9/64, Asst. Director C. D. DE LOACH telephoned me and wanted to know the name of the City Manager of Dallas and whether I thought that contacting him might clarify this matter.

I advised him that the City Manager was Mr. ELGIN E. CRULL, that I personally knew Mr. CRULL and that he had cooperated with us generally speaking in connection with this investigation, but of course he was trying to protect the City of Dallas. I had no objection whatsoever to contacting him to see if he would permit CURRY to answer a call from a newspaper.

I thereafter contacted Mr. CRULL at 5:00 PM same date. He explained that he could not at this time let CURRY answer any inquiries from the press as they had made a definite policy not to make any more comments and that if he permitted CURRY to answer one inquiry, then the flood gates would be open again. He indicated that prior to changing this, he thought it would have to be taken up with the city council. He did state, however, that he had no objection whatsoever to CURRY furnishing me a letter if I would so request him in writing, clarifying the fact that neither I nor any person in the Federal Bureau of Investigation had ever asked CURRY to cover up the fact that we knew LEE HARVEY OSWALD was in Dallas, Texas prior to the assassination of President KENNEDY.

At approximately 6:00 PM, I called the Bureau and in the absence of Assistant Director DE LOACH, furnished the above information to Inspector ROBERT WICK.

WICK stated he would take this up with DE LOACH and I would be advised.

On 10/10/64, Supervisor DONALD G. HANNING telephonically contacted me at home and stated that Assistant Director

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DM #100-10461

DE LOACH wanted me to prepare a proposed letter to CURRY and call the same in early Monday morning and it would be taken up and I would be later advised.

At 7:00 AM, Dallas time, I called Assistant Director DE LOACH and dictated the following letter:

"Based upon a letter which you are quoted by news sources as writing to the President's Commission in May, 1964, certain members of the news media are indicating that I am supposed to have asked you to cover up the fact that the Federal Bureau of Investigation knew that Lee Harvey Oswald was in Dallas, Texas prior to the assassination of President Kennedy. I would appreciate your clarifying this matter."

I also told him that Chief CURRY had been instructed to answer my letter by generally stating that he desired to state that neither I nor anyone connected with the Federal Bureau of Investigation ever asked him to cover up the fact that the Federal Bureau of Investigation knew that Lee Harvey Oswald was in Dallas prior to the assassination of President Kennedy.

Assistant Director DE LOACH stated he would advise me later whether to deliver this letter to Chief CURRY.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : FILE (100-10461)

DATE: 10/14/64

FROM : SAC SHANKLIN

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD, aka
IS-R-CUBA

Inspector ROBERT E. WICK called at 10:15 AM today and suggested that I immediately release both my letter to Chief CURRY and CURRY's reply to me as set forth in Dallas teletype. The Director has authorized immediate release of these two letters to the wire services in Dallas.

Mr. WICK stated the head man in Dallas for UPI is Mr. FALLON and he is the man to contact. Make reference to the prior exchange of letters as set forth by CURRY in his UPI story. These are letters between him and RANKIN, dated May 21 or 28, or whatever the dates are, and then say that this is in answer to this; that you want to make the record clear on these points, and that you have no comment to make other than giving him the letters and they will stand for themselves.

Then give the same thing to Associated Press. You can be quoted as making them available. Mr. WICK said they will want to know where you got them and will make a story about them, but you can't be quoted on anything beyond the two letters.

I asked if UPI called Washington on these things. Mr. WICK stated they carried the story on the UPI wire throughout the country and it appeared in the papers in Washington and when Mr. WICK saw it, he called JULIUS FRANSEN, head of UPI in Washington.

Mr. WICK called FRANSEN this morning and told him that I would get in touch with their man FALLON in Dallas.

Mr. WICK instructed that photostatic copies of the two letters be made available to FALLON, but not to say anything about an inquiry. Just say that you noted, as you say in your letter, the UPI story and so you went to CURRY and the result was an exchange of letters and here they are and they are self explanatory.

Mr. WICK stated that the Director, on this memorandum, said "Caution Shanklin that any contacts with CURRY and DRULL in future be most circumspect."

3 Dallas (2 DL 100-10461)
(1 DL 80-741)

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Mr. WICK stated if anybody else asks for copies of the letters, make them available to anybody who asks for them but don't make them available unless they ask for them.

Mr. WICK instructed that a memo to Bureau be prepared, making reference to instructions given by him, advising that the letters were released, and enclose the original letters to the Bureau, stating that copies are retained in Dallas.

FBI

Date: 10/19/64

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL - REGISTERED MAIL
(Priority)

TO: SAC, DALLAS (100-10461)
FROM: SAC, SAN ANTONIO (105-2909)
RE: LEE HARVEY OSWALD, aka
IS - R - CUBA

Re San Antonio airtel to Dallas dated 10/7/64 concerning [redacted] (protect identity) and Bureau airtel to all SACs dated 10/7/64 which was captioned ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY, 11/22/63, DALLAS, TEXAS, MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING.

Enclosed herewith for the Dallas office are 25 copies of a divider page and 25 copies of information furnished the San Antonio office by [redacted] concerning [redacted].

Inasmuch as [redacted] requested her name be kept in the strictest confidence, San Antonio Division has reported this under a Dallas T-symbol but did not fill in the T-symbol number, leaving this to Dallas. [redacted] should be evaluated as a person with whom insufficient contact has been had to determine her reliability. She furnished the information to SAs B. E. DEFFENBAUGH, JR., and JOHN M. KEMMY on 10/7/64. This was done orally. The original information is located in SA file 105-2909-918.

Because of the recommendations made by the San Antonio office in referenced San Antonio airtel, and because of the instructions set forth in referenced Bureau airtel, San Antonio will take no further action in this phase of the case U.C.

2-Dallas (Enc. 50) (AM RM)
2-San Antonio (105-2909-Sub 2)

100-10461-2404

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FBI - DALLAS

Approved: [Signature] Sent _____ M Per _____