

February 4, 1964

Honorable J. Lee Rankin  
General Counsel  
President's Commission  
100 Maryland Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20542

Dear General:

As all of you will know, I attended the meeting of the Commission held a couple of days before the death of President John F. Kennedy. This I agreed to do only provisionally, and I am sure that officials of the Department of Justice would have been glad to have my statements to the people of this country. It is my hope that this would be a cooperative effort to determine the law and the facts.

Later, Texas agreed to give you the benefit of my inquiry after the work of the Commission had been completed and, at the same time, accepted the previously made invitation of Chief Justice Warren to "participate in the Commission's work". There can be no doubt in your mind that Texas would have proceeded at that time with its own investigation if it had not been invited to participate in the work of the Commission.

In furtherance of this mutual understanding Texas has made available to the Commission all of its records, evidence and investigation reports. We have received nothing but expressions of gratitude from you and the Chief Justice. If Texas has done anything which falls short of its contribution of mutual helpfulness, I am not aware of it and I hope you or the Chief Justice mentioned it to me.

I cannot, therefore, understand why you have apparently based on your commitment to have Texas represented at the time of the examination of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Such a commitment was made several days before you in my presence and in the presence of the special counsel.

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This development seems so far to depend in my opinion on the wisdom of Gorbachev's new policy upon a total lack of understanding that we would "participate in the Communist world" or upon any other completely new basis at the present and we rather upon a basis which is limited to be present upon the international level of the world.

If this development appears to be a step in the future which we will feel is a step in the right direction perhaps further we can see in the future.

I shall look forward to hearing from you if you have any comments. This matter is not urgent.

Sincerely,  
Richard M. Nixon

Richard M. Nixon

WJG:ms

cc: Honorable Lee Harvey Oswald  
cc: Honorable Robert F. Kennedy  
cc: Mr. Horace Busby  
1001 Connecticut Avenue, N. W.  
Washington 6, D. C.

PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION  
ON THE  
ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

200 Maryland Ave. NE.  
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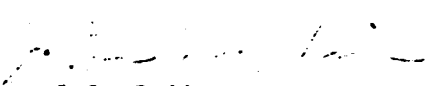
Dear General Carr:

Thank you for your letter of January 29, 1964.

The Chief Justice and I are very appreciative of your readiness to assist the Commission in resolving the matter discussed at our meeting on Friday, January 24, 1964. The steps which you propose in your letter impress me as sound and thorough, and they certainly will be seriously considered by the Commission. It is our current thinking that we may try to secure further information regarding the allegations from the identifiable sources in Texas, and I am sure that your assistance in this regard would be very helpful.

I shall be in touch with you again in the near future regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

  
J. Lee Rankin  
General Counsel

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