

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont

DATE: 10-5-64

FROM : A. Rosen

- 1 - Mr. C. D. DeLoach
- 1 - W. C. Sullivan
- (R. E. Lenihan)

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD, AKA.

- 1 - I. W. Conrad (J. English)
- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. Shroder
- 1 - Mr. McGowan (J. W. Hines)
- 1 - Mr. Raupach

IS - R - CUBA

INTERNAL SECURITY - RUSIA

JACK L. RUBY

LEE HARVEY OSWALD - VICTIM

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My memorandum of 9-11-64, advised a request had been received from the President's Commission to conduct interviews of Commission members and staff concerning the leaks to news media. Interviews were conducted with Commission members and staff, and former Ruby attorneys and interview with Chief Justice Warren was held in abeyance pending the receipt of results from these individuals.

INFORMATION DEVELOPED

As a result of our investigation into this matter, and specifically regarding the leak of Ruby's interview with Chief Justice Warren, we have interviewed 80 individuals including Ruby's attorney and former attorneys. By communications dated September 23, September 25, September 29, and October 1, 1964, we furnished the Commission results of these interviews. We have obtained copies of Ruby's testimony from the Commission to attempt to determine by appropriate examination, if the leak occurred within the Commission. We have attempted to obtain copies of this transcript published in the "New York Journal American" under the by-line of Dorothy Kilgallen. However, contact with personnel of the "New York Journal American" and with Dorothy Kilgallen, has established these sources were uncooperative. 62-109090

All of the individuals interviewed during the course of this investigation have denied leaking material to the news media. However, various comments made by those interviewed are pertinent. Mr. J. Lee Rankin advised all transcripts were originally classified "top secret" and were later changed to "confidential" when the procedure of handling top secret material became too burdensome and unworkable. Mr. John J. McElroy commented "the Commission did not have complete control over the dissemination of certain transcripts, as he thought it was necessary in certain instances for the Commission to furnish copies to defense counsel and the District Attorney's Office." His comments were related to the

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testimony of Ruby before Chief Justice Warren. Mrs. Beverly A. Heckman, Secretary to Mr. Rankin, commented that all testimony and depositions were classified top secret but that the system of document control rapidly broke down and became unworkable. She attempted to execute control over dissemination of documents, but material was continually passing from one to another of personnel working within the Commission and became an impossible task to attempt to keep records on the whereabouts of any specific document. Mrs. Heckman indicated the Commission had two Xerox machines and they were freely used by any staff member to prepare copies of any document. To her knowledge, there was no record maintained of copies of material that were reproduced by Commission personnel. Mr. Norman Redlick when interviewed, advised he has no knowledge of internal control of documents and he knows of no receipt system for documents and explained the attorneys on the Commission had felt free to use copies of testimony in which they were interested. He said he made no effort to become knowledgeable on the administrative details on handling Commission documents. Mrs. Jeanne Hauer, Secretary, President's Commission, advised she has worked in other agencies where strict security of documents was enforced. Her experience indicated this was not the case with the Commission. She said any member of the Commission staff could make Xerox copies of virtually any Commission document at any time with no problem.

Many persons left employment of the Commission and extensive investigation was conducted to locate them. All but one individual has been interviewed and efforts are being made to locate this person.

The Laboratory has five copies of the Ruby transcript obtained from the Commission which were prepared for the Commission by Ward and Paul, the Commercial Reporting Agency. These copies bear confidential stamps and efforts are being made to obtain the confidential stamps from Ward and Paul and from the Commission to make examinations with the transcripts and Page 103, which appeared in the "New York Journal American." On June 23, 1964, Joe H. Tonchill, Attorney for Ruby, requested a copy of Ruby's transcript which was furnished to him by letter June 27, 1964, over the signature of Mr. Rankin. We have obtained this copy and appropriate examinations are being made of this copy in our Laboratory.

ACTION

Inasmuch as we have interviewed all other members of the Commission, we could complete the record by interviewing Chief Justice Warren. However, it is recommended we not do so.

WFO is being instructed to conduct additional investigation to assist and facilitate further Laboratory examinations and to have one remaining individual located, a former stenographer, for interview.

WFO
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RJM *SBB*
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