

Memorandum

Mr. Tolson
 Mr. DeLoach
 Mr. Mohr
 Mr. Bishop
 Mr. Casper
 Mr. Callahan
 Mr. Conrad
 Mr. Felt
 Mr. Gale
 Mr. Rosen
 Mr. Sullivan
 Mr. Tavel
 Mr. Trotter
 Tele. Room
 Holmes
 Gandy

TO: Mr. Mohr

DATE: 12/7/63

FROM: C. D. DeLoach

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT

Nicholas Katzenbach, Deputy Attorney General, called me at 12:00 noon, 12/7/63 and asked if I could come around to his office.

Upon arriving at Katzenbach's office, he showed me a revised press release (attached) to be issued by the White House concerning captioned case. It proved to be principally the same as the one shown to Mr. Belmont and me last night, with the possible slight difference that last night's first paragraph had been stretched over three paragraphs.

Katzenbach asked my opinion. I told him it was unchanged from last night, that it was our view that only the first paragraph of last night's draft be used, or the first three paragraphs of the current draft. Katzenbach agreed, but stated that we would probably be overruled by the White House.

Katzenbach made two additional points. He advised that he believed that Warren Olney had definitely been "dumped." He stated that he gave the "go ahead" on Lee Rankin late last night. He added that an approach would be made to Rankin immediately. Katzenbach also told me that our report on captioned matter would be delivered to Chief Justice Warren Monday morning. The Chief Justice apparently does not want it delivered to his home over the week end inasmuch as he does not have a place to safely keep it.

Mr. Belmont telephonically advised the Director of the above matter following my return from Katzenbach's office. We called Katzenbach and advised him of the Director's strong feelings regarding the press release. Katzenbach stated that Sorenson of the White House agreed with us, however Abe Fortas disagreed. Katzenbach is to talk with Fortas this afternoon.

ACTION: For information.

Enclosure

- 1 - Mr. Tolson
- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Evans
- Enclosure 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Jones

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On instructions of President Johnson the Department of Justice today transmitted directly to the Presidential Commission the Federal Bureau of Investigation's first report on the assassination of President Kennedy.

The FBI's investigation is continuing and further reports will be made to the Commission. President Johnson has directed the Department of Justice to press the investigation until all avenues of exploration into every facet of the assassination and subsequent related events have been exhausted.

The President's Commission has requested that the report not be made public until the Commission has reviewed it and taken whatever action may be necessary to accomplish its mission.

However, in the public interest, the President, with the concurrence of the Commission, has authorized the Department of Justice to make the following points:

(1) While the Commission will make the final determination, in the opinion of the Department of Justice, the FBI report through scientific examination of evidence and through testimony, establishes beyond a reasonable doubt that Lee Harvey Oswald shot President Kennedy on November 22, 1963. The evidence includes ballistic tests, fingerprints and palm prints, clothing fibers and other technical data which places Oswald at the scene of the crime and establishes that

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He fired the shots which killed President Kennedy and wounded Governor Connally of Texas.

(2) The FBI has made an exhaustive investigation into whether Oswald may have conspired with or been assisted by any person, foreign or domestic, in carrying out this dastardly act. In this regard, the FBI has questioned hundreds of persons and checked out numerous rumors and reports. No stone will be left unturned in probing every possible lead, but to date this aspect of the investigation has been negative. No evidence has been uncovered indicating that any person, including Dallas night club owner, Jack Ruby, was involved with Oswald in the assassination of President Kennedy.

The report transmitted to the Commission contained two volumes of _____ pages, summarizing the FBI's investigation up to December _____, and three volumes containing _____ exhibits.