

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont

DATE: December 24, 1963

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: THE PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION
ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

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	
Mr. Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

During discussions with Inspector Malley, J. Lee Rankin, General Counsel for the President's Commission, expressed considerable interest in the official autopsy reports prepared by doctors at the National Naval Medical Center concerning the death of President Kennedy. Mr. Rankin was advised that because of the strong desire on the part of the President's family to keep the autopsy report as confidential as possible the Bureau had not requested a copy of the report.

In view of the interest displayed by Mr. Rankin, arrangements were made to obtain a copy of the autopsy report from the Secret Service for the Bureau's use and a request was also made that Secret Service furnish a copy of the report to Mr. Rankin. Secret Service advised that this would be done. In discussions with Mr. Rankin on 12-23-63 he was advised of the action taken by the Bureau. Mr. Rankin stated he has now received a copy of the autopsy report from the Secret Service and he expressed sincere appreciation for the Bureau making this possible.

It is noted that the six-page autopsy report discloses no new information of significance in addition to that already obtained through investigation. One of the reasons expressed by Mr. Rankin for his keen interest in the report was the fact that newspaper accounts and other unverified sources have advanced the theory that one bullet entered the President's throat from the front. The autopsy report discredits this speculation, in fact, the report unequivocally states that it is the opinion of the examining physicians that the President died as the result of two gunshot wounds and the projectiles were fired from a point "behind and somewhat above the level of the deceased." As previously reported, one bullet entered the back below the neck while the other entered the skull.

ACTION

The attached copy of the autopsy report will be maintained in the Bureau files, but no further dissemination of it is being made at this time.

18 JAN 28 1964
Enclosure

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
 - 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- FDT:mlt (8)

of the Warren Commission... it will never be... of it

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SOVIET ENCLOSURE