



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

July 1, 1964

BY COURIER SERVICE

Honorable J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel
The President's Commission
200 Maryland Avenue, N. E.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Rankin:

On July 1, 1964, Mr. Howard Willens was advised that the FBI had not placed a stop with any agency to be apprised concerning the re-entry of Mark Lane into the United States.

Pursuant to the request of Mr. Willens, Agents of this Bureau on July 1, 1964, interviewed Inspector William McConnarty of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) in New York City. Mr. McConnarty stated that Mark Lane arrived in New York City aboard Trans World Airlines Flight 705 at approximately 3 p.m., June 30, 1964. As a result of a stop placed on a Mark Lane, he was taken to Mr. McConnarty's office. Mr. McConnarty said that this stop was not an FBI stop and he referred our Agents to his superior for any further details.

On July 1, 1964, Mr. P. A. Esperdy, District Director, INS, 20 West Broadway, New York City, advised as follows:

Another Federal agency, not the FBI, had placed a stop on a Mark Lane who, with many others, had visited Cuba. When Lane arrived in New York City, he was asked by an INS inspector if he had visited Cuba. Lane said he had not and the INS inspector told Lane that they had no further interest in him and he was free to go. Lane vehemently objected to being interrogated and demanded an explanation. At that time he was connected by telephone with Mr. Esperdy. Mr. Esperdy said he explained to Lane that since he had not visited Cuba, INS had no further interest in him and he was free to go. In substance, Mr. Lane said that he was going to call a press conference to publicly protest this detention as a violation of his rights.

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Mr. Esperdy said he is precluded from telling the FBI the identity of the other agency which had placed a stop and if the FBI wants this information, it will be necessary to obtain it from Mr. Esperdy's superior in Washington, D. C.

This will confirm information telephonically furnished to Mr. Willens by Mr. William A. Branigan of this Bureau on July 1, 1964.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover