

BBC Panarama 3/6/78
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at that time, including the Warren Commission in its work, as to how we would determine the credibility, whether or not, for example, the files that we'd got from Russia, for example, on Oswald's trip and months that he lived there, whether that file that we got was full... I mean, complete, or had it been laundered in some way. I remember the frustration as to the C.I.A., the testimony of the CIA, before the Commission. If the... Not saying that C.I.A. would do this, but we had a feeling that we could be - we, being the investigation - could be being told by the CIA what they wanted us to hear. They might give us a file but they were so secretive and things were so confidential in their ^{own} nature and line of business that you had to rely upon the individuals involved and their voracity to believe that you were getting the entire facts or the entire file. This was a frustration and, of course, the things that you've seen come out later - recently - regarding things that, for example, subjects that the F.B.I. did not tell - that's a very good example of the feeling of frustration among the investigators.

Int.

With hindsight, do you think that the CIA did tell all that they knew to the Warren Commission?

Mr.C.

McClay

I doubt it. I don't... I have no way of knowing. It's just a gut feeling, if I might use that word. I...I... However, recent revelations, in other fields, makes me feel that they kept things... could well have kept things back, and I think that's what, perhaps, if I might just suppose here that President Johnson meant when he said we don't.. we don't know, we have these suspicions, we don't have evidence, hard facts as to these things we think might have occurred, and maybe the future, only the future will tell.

Int.

Do you think the CIA would even have kept information from the President himself?

Mr.C.

Yes. I think they were fully capable of it. Er...I... I don't want to go around accusing the CIA because I don't know what they had, but I have not been... my confidence in the CIA has certainly not been established on a very firm foundation with recent revelations and scandals that have come out of the CIA itself.

Int.

It's been suggested that Oswald's background and the way in which he returned from Russia, having effectively defected and being a traitor, that his return to the United States, without any pressure on him or arrest or anything like that, suggests that he was some kind of an Intelligence agent in the past, before the assassination.

Mr.C.

Yes, that rumour was going around. I feel sure it was investigated as thorough as possible at the time, and we have no additional information at this time that we didn't have then, so far as I know, but it was a very realistic rumour and...

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Int.

Can you tell me about the Cuban angle?

Mr.C.

Well, the President, obviously, to me, learned that er... at some point in time - and I must assume he knew it at the time when I was sort of visiting with him and we were talking about these matters - that there had been an effort, on behalf of the CIA, to assassinate Fidel Castro, and that therefore this was logical that Fidel Castro was retaliating and had retaliated. I'm sure that this was a basis, a foundation, for the President's feeling, always, in his discussions with me that there was some connection there, and