

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Coni
- 1 - Mr. Rosen

Tolson	
DeLoach	
Callahan	
Sullivan	
Tavel	
Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Holmes	
Gandy	

TO : Mr. W. C. Sullivan

DATE: June 23, 1966

FROM : Mr. W. A. Branigan

- 1 - Mr. Wick
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Branigan
- 1 - Mr. Lenihan

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
INTERNAL SECURITY - RUSSIA - CUBA

On June 22, 1966, Mr. S. Douglass Cater, Jr., Special Assistant to the President, contacted Mr. Donahoe in Mr. DeLoach's office and indicated that the publisher of Reporter magazine, described by Cater as a friend of the President, is planning to write a responsible article on the assassination of President Kennedy to rebut some of the more sensational books recently published which have taken issue with the Warren Commission report. Mr. Cater specifically made reference to a small portable radio which was found in Oswald's effects by the Dallas Police Department and which is now in custody of the FBI Laboratory until disposition is made of all evidence in this case.

Mr. Cater indicated that the article for Reporter magazine is being prepared by one AL Newman who has developed a theory that Oswald may have been influenced by listening to inflammatory remarks by Fidel Castro on the radio found in Oswald's possession. Cater requested that he be furnished all data in our possession regarding the radio, its capability to receive Cuban broadcasts and any data we may have received as to its use in this regard.

A small, brown, plastic, Russian-made radio commonly known as the "Tourist" was found in Oswald's effects after his arrest. This radio was designed for use on standard broadcast frequencies and is similar in this respect to American-made radios commonly found in the American home. The radio could be used with dry cell batteries or with a small power supply unit which would enable the radio to be operated on ordinary house current. Someone living in the Southeastern section of the United States could listen to Cuban broadcasts with this radio, particularly at night when reception would be better, if radio operating properly. REC-50 5488

The radio was not in operating condition when it was received by the FBI Laboratory from the Dallas Police Department. The battery terminals were badly rusted, and one terminal was missing. No effort was made by the FBI Laboratory to repair the radio since to have done so would have changed the physical

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51 JUL 19 1966

105-82555
ENCLOSURES
sent 6-24-66

REL: kas (8)

CONTINUED OVER
SOVIET SECURITY

Memorandum Bran() n to Sullivan
RE: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
105-82555

condition of the radio from that in which it was received. Obviously, from an evidentiary standpoint, it was essential no steps be taken to alter the radio.

The Warren Commission was furnished data by this Bureau concerning the radio since it was listed in an inventory of all evidence obtained. The Commission did not assign an exhibit number to the radio and no mention of it was made by the Commission in its "Report on the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy." During our investigation of Oswald, we developed no information indicating Oswald used this radio to listen to Cuban radio broadcasts.

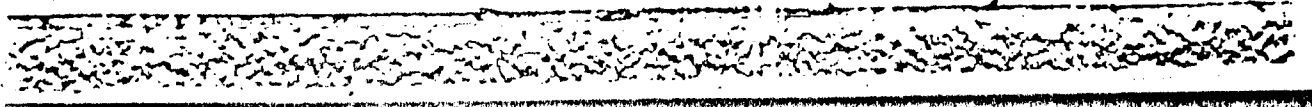
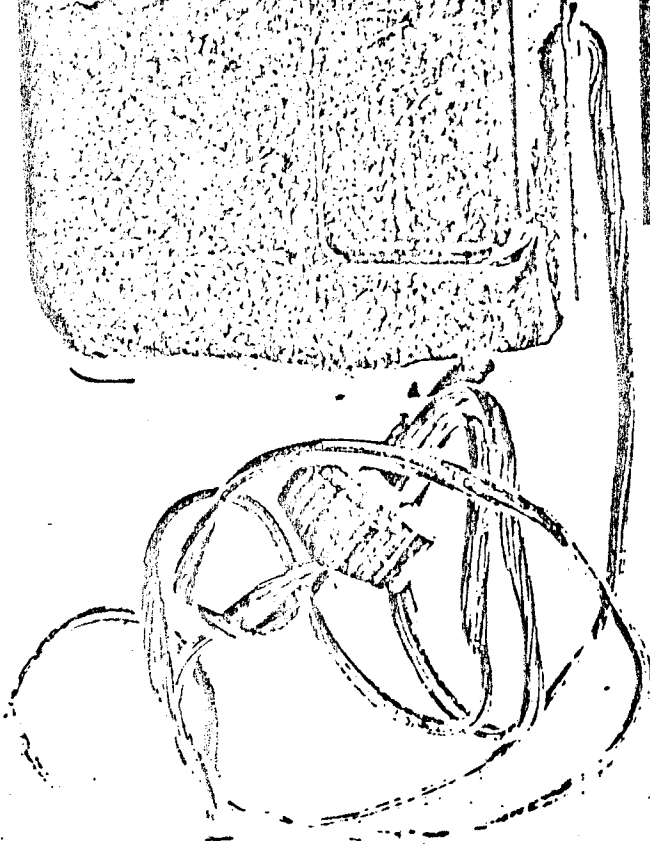
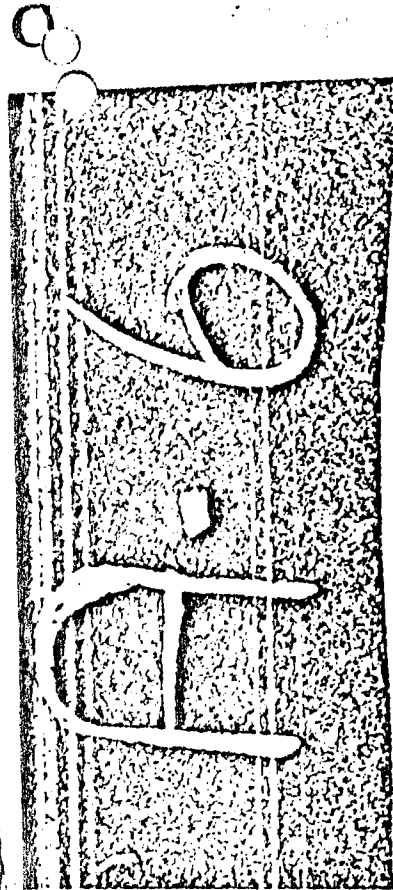
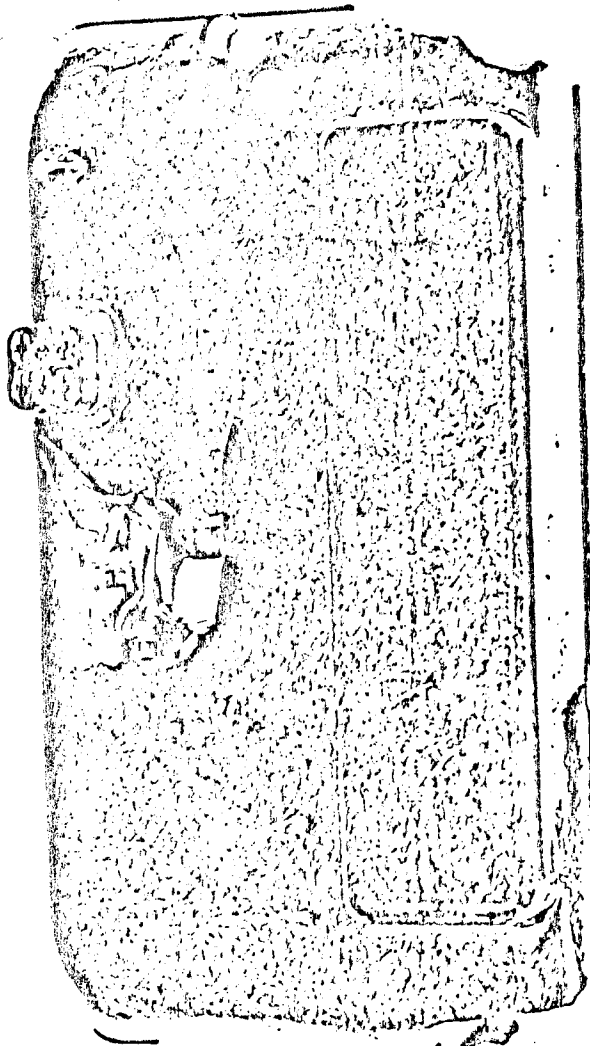
Copies of photographs of the radio (FBI identification number A-2) and the power supply unit (FBI identification number A-6) are attached as enclosures to this memorandum.

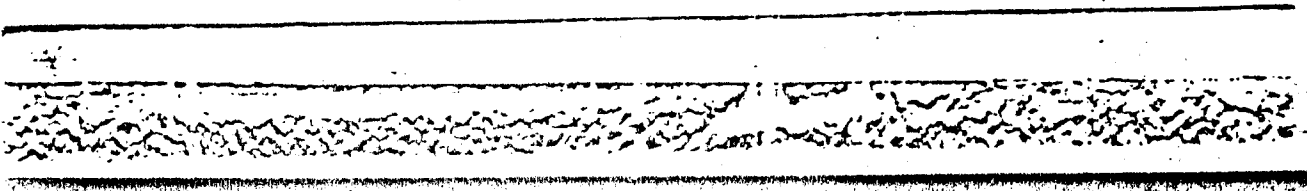
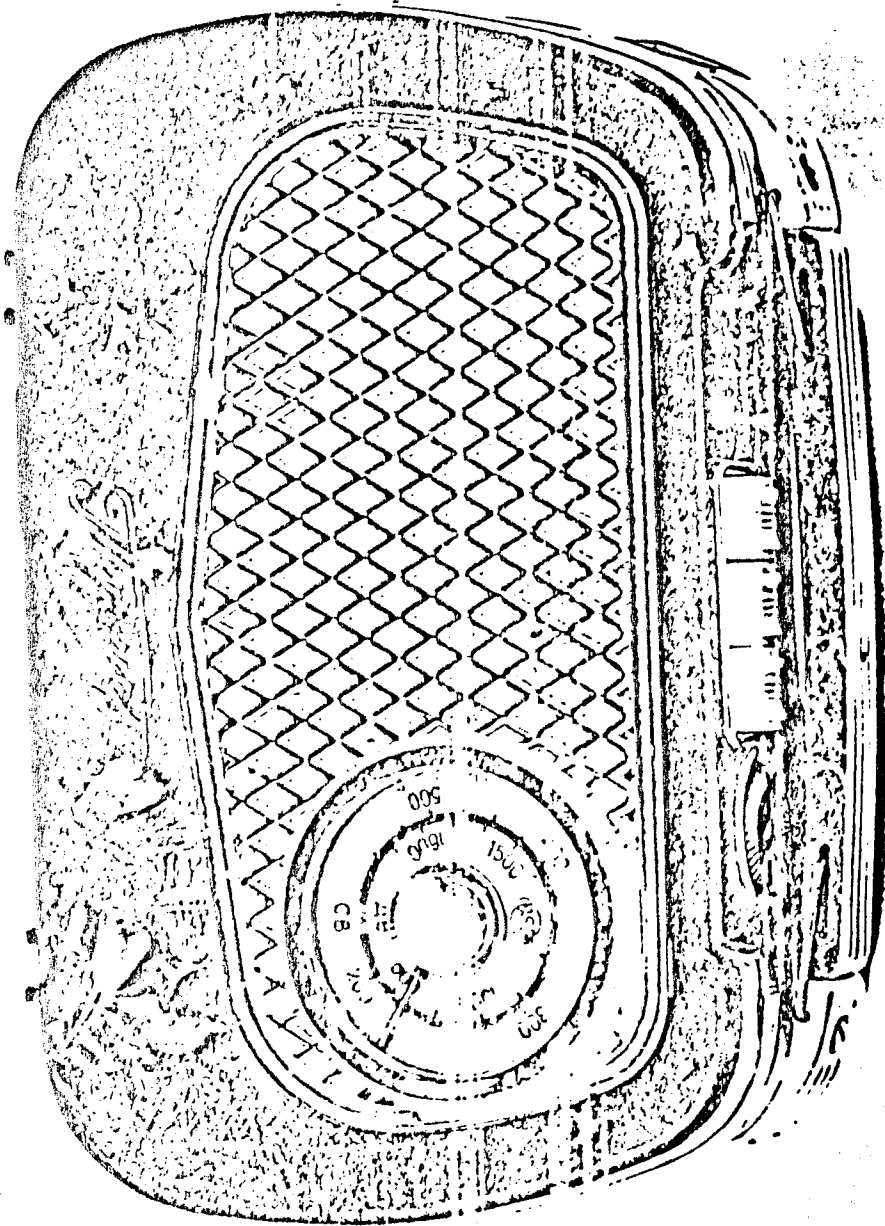
ACTION:

Attached for approval is a letter to Mr. Cater furnishing him the information concerning the radio as set forth herein in accordance with his request. We are suggesting that Mr. Cater not release the data furnished him concerning the radio to any publication without clearing such release with the Attorney General. We are pointing out to Mr. Cater that under Public Law 89-318, which was enacted on November 2, 1965, the Attorney General was authorized to choose any item of evidence for retention by the Government as it relates to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Ree

*Could you get Dept
to name some other
repository for all
items in this case other
than 412. I would
like to be able to say
we have nothing.*





UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

- 1 - DeLoach
- 1 - Sullivan
- 1 - Branigan
- 1 - Conrad
- 1 - Wick

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

TO : MR. DeLOACH DATE: June 22, 1966

FROM : STERLING B. DONAHOE

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

On the evening of June 21, 1966, Mr. Irving Duggan in the office of S. Douglass Cater, Jr., Special Assistant to the President, called me from the White House.

He inquired as to whether the Bureau was in possession of evidence which had been acquired in connection with the investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy. I told him the Bureau did have such evidence which was being held subject to a ruling by the Attorney General as to its disposition.

In this regard, Duggan advised that Mr. Cater had received an inquiry as to whether the FBI had picked up a radio from Oswald which allegedly was used by Oswald to listen to broadcasts from Cuba. After checking I told Mr. Duggan that a brown, plastic, portable radio was in our custody which had been picked up in a search of Oswald's residence after his arrest. (This is exhibit A-2.) I told him that I was not aware of any prior allegation that Oswald had used it to receive broadcasts from Cuba and this would require further checking. He advised this was immaterial for the purposes of his inquiry and no further checking need be made. He expressed appreciation.

On June 22, 1966, Mr. Cater called me personally to explain the background of the inquiry. He advised that Max Ascoli, publisher of the Reporter magazine, described by Cater as a friend of the President, is planning a responsible article on the assassination of President Kennedy to rebut some of more sensational books recently published which have taken issue with the Warren Commission report. (Our relationship with the Reporter magazine has been most unfavorable.)

Mr. Cater advised the article is being prepared by Al Newin who is researching the motivation of Oswald and has developed a theory that he may have been influenced by listening to inflammatory remarks by Castro on the radio set found in his

SBD: hmg
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105-82555

ENCLOSURE

ENCLOSURE ATTACHED

CONTINUED - OVER

JUL 18 1966

5/10/66

105-82555-100
 with letter to Cater at White House
 dated 6/27/66 SBD: hmg

Handwritten signatures and initials:
 D. J.
 J. G.
 J. P.
 J. R.
 J. S.

MEMO: Donahoe to DeLoach
RE: LEE HARVEY OSWALD

possession. Cater said he did not know whether this theory was developed from facts publicly revealed about our investigation and, of course, the validity of the theory would depend upon whether or not the radio set was capable of receiving Cuban broadcasts. He said he understood the set was Russian-made and he wondered if it would be possible for Newman to look at the set. I told him in this regard the FBI was the custodian of exhibits in this case on behalf of the Attorney General and any question as to examining evidence acquired would have to be resolved by him with the Attorney General. Mr. Cater said he understood this but asked that we furnish him any available data regarding the radio and any possible use of it by Oswald to listen to Cuban radio broadcasts. In the alternative, he asked about putting Al Newman in touch with someone in the Bureau to discuss this theory. I told him I saw no necessity for this as we would not give out data to a reporter on this case.

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend Domestic Intelligence Division prepare an appropriate written reply to Mr. Cater informing him as to what we know regarding the radio, its capacity to receive Cuban broadcasts and any data we may have received as to its use in this regard. Our reply should specifically suggest that prior to furnishing this information to any publication, it should be cleared with the Attorney General.