

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. A. H. Belmont

DATE: January 30, 1964

FROM : Mr. W. C. Sullivan

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. J. P. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Callahan
- 1 - Mr. W. C. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Branigan
- 1 - Mr. Baumgardner
- 1 - Mr. D. J. Brennan

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
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CONFIDENTIAL

SYNOPSIS

Purpose of memorandum is to explore allegation Lee Harvey Oswald was FBI informant and related points covered by President's Commission last week during appearance before Commission of Henry Wade, District Attorney of Dallas County, Texas, and to set forth pursuant to Director's request (1) procedures we use in development and control of FBI informants, (2) the system used in handling informants in Special Intelligence Service (SIS) program, and (3) details concerning Wade's SIS service while in the FBI.

Contrary to testimony, Oswald was never FBI informant, was never paid money for information and was never assigned any symbol number. Procedures we use in informant program preclude the possibility of Oswald's connection with FBI as an informant without knowledge of Seat of Government.

We closely supervise all aspects of informant program. Field offices cannot develop security informants without Bureau authorization, which is based on exhaustive background investigation to determine reliability, trustworthiness and stability.

When we do authorize, we follow informant's development through progress letters which field offices submit at four-month intervals.

We approve use of symbols and code names, maintain an index of these and none may be used twice by the same field office.

We authorize payments on regular basis and maintain current records of every expenditure made showing to whom made and why.

SAC has only limited authority to make payments without Bureau authority in certain instances and we control this by limiting amount, and by end-of-month accounting procedure which lists all such payments, to whom made, and for what purpose.

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Section 5

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to Mr. A. H. Belmont
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These procedures enable us to apply a cross check to our operations. Our records show (1) no payments were listed to Oswald, (2) no symbol number was assigned him, and (3) no field office requested authorization to consider Oswald for development as informant--a necessary requisite in our program.

We have already informed Commission purpose of three interviews Bureau Agents had with Oswald prior to assassination and one interview afterward. During none of these were any efforts made to develop Oswald as an informant and we have secured affidavits from every Agent in contact with Oswald at any time which substantiate this fact. We have also secured affidavits from their respective Special Agents in Charge (SAC's). These affidavits will be available in event Director desires to furnish them to the Commission.

In regard to SIS program, we had a control system whereby we have records of payments to informants similar to records maintained under our present domestic informant program.

Henry Wade served in undercover capacity under SIS program from August, 1942, to April, 1943, and did not have unlimited funds for informant development. He was required to account strictly for his expenditures and did so. Copies of the vouchers and receipts he submitted are available.

A brief of Wade's Bureau service record has been prepared separately for the information of the Director.

It would be desirable to furnish President's Commission with facts which clearly and unequivocally refute allegation that Oswald was a paid informant for the FBI operating with a symbol number. We should point out desirability of Commission issuing statement at once refuting allegation because (1) Communist Party has been carrying on propaganda campaign to spread this allegation; (2) allegation has developed enough interest to warrant even Commission's inquiry; and (3) if allegation goes unrefuted it will gain increasing public acceptance and prove damaging not only to FBI but Government as a whole.

Should Commission refuse to act, we should follow accepted policy of meeting such lies head on and issue statement ourselves. We can do so without referring to testimony before Commission since allegation has appeared in public source publications, notably communist press. *Prepare statement for me which covers*

RECOMMENDATION:

That this memorandum be referred to Director for information and approval of proposal to have statement issued either by President's Commission or by us if Commission declines. *WCS*

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DETAILS

Background

Reference is made to the discussion January 28, 1964, between the Director and Mr. J. Lee Rankin, General Counsel of the President's Commission, concerning appearance before the Commission last week of Henry Wade, former FBI Agent who currently is the District Attorney of Dallas County, Texas.

According to Rankin, the Commission was advised that speculation had been made that Lee Harvey Oswald had been an FBI informant with symbol number 179 and had been receiving payments from the FBI in the amount of \$200 monthly.

Wade reportedly told the Commission Oswald could have been active in this capacity without FBI headquarters personnel knowing about it because of the manner in which informants are developed and handled. In support of this contention, Wade is said to have pointed to his own experiences in the FBI, specifically in regard to his service in South America (in the Special Intelligence Service (SIS) program), when, allegedly, records of his activities were not maintained, and he did not have to account for money furnished him to develop and pay informants.

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to explore these specific allegations and to set forth, pursuant to the Director's request, (1) the specific procedures we use in the development and control of our security informant program, (2) the system used in handling informants in SIS program years ago, and (3) details concerning Wade's SIS service while he was employed as a Special Agent of the FBI.

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I. Development and Control of Security Informants

First, it can be said unequivocally that Lee Harvey Oswald was never an FBI informant, was never paid any money for furnishing information, and was never given a symbol number of any kind much less the specific one allegedly assigned him. Furthermore, we are in a position not only to state this but also to produce records which would prove the impossibility of such being the case. These records cover every aspect of the procedures used in the development and control of informants.

Informant Program Closely Supervised

In order to fulfill our responsibilities in the internal security field, we use security informants to penetrate the Communist Party (CP), USA, and keep us advised of the Party's plans and activities. Recognizing the importance of this phase of our operations, we afford close supervision at the Seat of Government (SOG) to the security informant program and have established safeguards to insure against any misuse or abuse of its operation by our field offices.

Bureau Authority Necessary

Our field offices cannot develop anyone as a security informant without authorization from the SOG. To obtain this authorization, they must conduct an exhaustive background investigation of the prospective informant, the results of which are analyzed at the SOG before approval for development is given. Prior to giving such approval, the SOG automatically eliminates as a prospective informant any individual with questionable factors in his background, such as evidence of mental instability, a dishonorable discharge from the armed forces, narcotic addiction, perversion, unusual credit risks, complicated marital or domestic situations, and the like.

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Progress Letters Necessary

When we do authorize a field office to proceed with the development of an individual as an informant, we follow the development through progress letters. At the end of four months, and at four-month intervals thereafter, the field office must submit progress letters containing an informative summary of information furnished and assistance rendered by the individual under development. These include a current certification each time concerning the individual's stability and reliability.

Symbols and Code Names Assigned

As the individual develops, he is assigned a permanent symbol number and code name to afford him security. The informant never knows the symbol number assigned to him. It is a number permanently assigned to him, and the same number cannot be used again by the field office under any circumstances for any other individual. The individual also is given a fictitious or cover name by the field office which he, of course, is made aware of and he affixes it to his communications with the office. Every symbol number and code name is indexed here at the SOG.

SOG Authorizes Regular Payments

If the services of an informant warrant payment on a regular basis, the field offices must also obtain authorization from the SOG to make such payments. In every such case, this too is re-evaluated every four months at the SOG to determine if continued payments are warranted.

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Special Agents in Charge (SACs) Authority Limited

SACs of our field offices are authorized to make payments to individuals not utilized on a regular basis as informants, but here too the SOG controls this by limiting the amount an SAC can pay to any one individual in this category to \$200. SACs are under instructions to make such payments only in specific instances in which it is necessary and expedient to do so to obtain information concerning matters or persons under investigation when such information is not otherwise obtainable or when it is necessary to advance expense money to an individual to enable him to secure the information.

Controls in Effect

The SOG maintains additional control of such payments by the SAC in several ways. Such payments can only be made to individuals who have never been paid on a regular basis for services or expenses with Bureau authorization; such payments cannot exceed \$200, regardless of the number of payments; and such payments must be accounted for by the field offices at the end of each month through the submission of a detailed accounting to the SOG.

Funds Accounted For

When payments are made to anyone for information or assistance, either on the SAC's authority or on prior Bureau authority, receipts must be obtained in every instance in which it is possible to so obtain them. If a receipt cannot be obtained for a particular payment, complete circumstances concerning the payment must be set forth by the field office on a voucher at the time reimbursement is claimed at the end of the month. Receipts must clearly show: (1) the date on which the payment was made; (2) the period for which made; (3) the total amount paid, broken down into separate amounts for services and expenses; (4) the name of the FBI Agent making the payment; and (5) the signature of the person receiving the money.

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Records of Expenditures Maintained

Receipts and vouchers prepared by field offices in this regard are transmitted to the SOG generally on a monthly basis (more frequently in many instances). They are reviewed to insure that all such payments are being made in accordance with Bureau instructions and are recorded in ledgers pertaining to each field office operation.

It is to be noted that the Bureau's precise handling of such matters is demonstrated every time an informant, a former informant, or other persons to whom we have paid sums of money are prospective witnesses. In such cases, we must and do furnish the Department a set of photostats of the original receipts signed by the prospective witnesses.

Control Measures

In regard to control of informants, field offices are under instructions to maintain close contact with them. The informants must be contacted as often as necessary with at least one personal contact every two weeks. The net result of these close contacts, as previously noted, are evaluated at the SOG in the four-month progress letters submitted. When it is necessary for any reason to discontinue the services of an informant, the field office must promptly notify the SOG.

Oswald Precluded as Informant

It can readily be seen then how such policies and procedures completely preclude the possibility of Lee Harvey Oswald even being considered as an FBI informant much less having been developed as one by us. The statement that he was is, in fact, ridiculous. The CP, USA, through its press has been spreading this outrageous lie in order to divert attention from the fact that Oswald was a confessed Marxist who was active in support of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee (FPCC) (a pro-Castro organization) and who was in correspondence with the CP, USA.

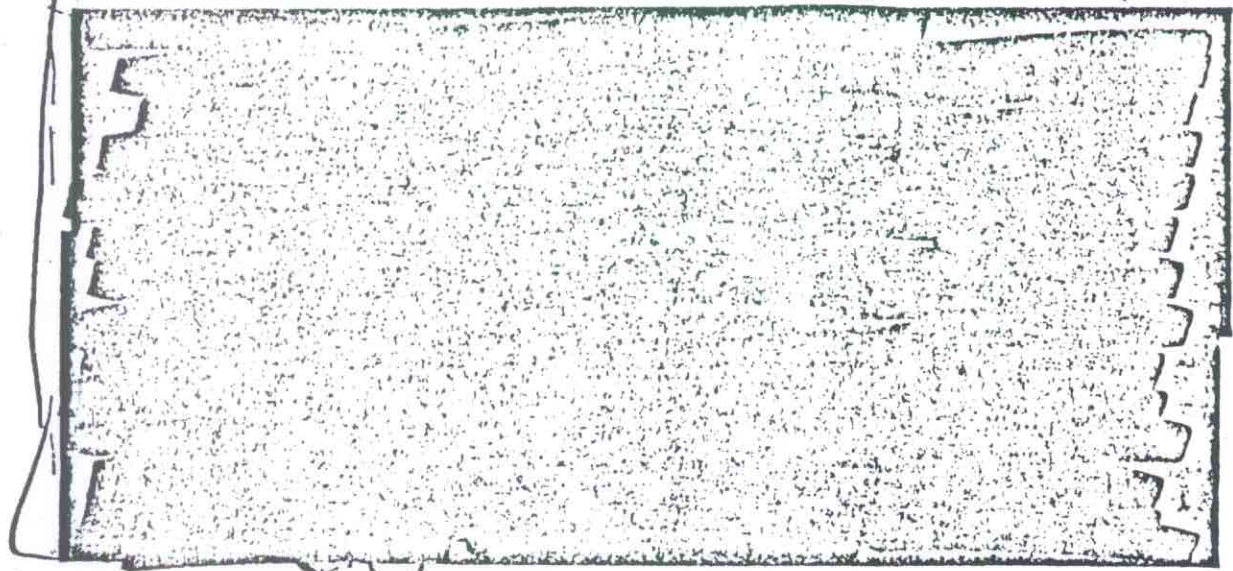
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Absence of Payments to Oswald

Had any of our offices even made payments to him under the SAC's authority, these would have been shown in the receipts and vouchers submitted by each office. These records have been checked and double checked and no such payment was ever made.

Symbol Numbers Identifiable



Procedural Steps Never Taken

Furthermore, Oswald could not have been assigned such a symbol number without a prior background investigation by any field office considering him for development. Had any field office considered developing him, it would have had to obtain approval by the SOG. There is no record of any such request by any field office and no record of any such approval.

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Nature of Contacts with Oswald

As we have already pointed out to the Commission, the only contacts FBI Agents had with Oswald prior to the assassination of President Kennedy involved three interviews Bureau Agents had with him. The first was on June 26, 1962, at Fort Worth, Texas, shortly after his return home from the Soviet Union. The purpose was to assess the possibility of his having been given intelligence assignments by the Soviets. The second, on August 16, 1962, was in the same connection. The third was at his specific request on August 10, 1963, following his arrest in New Orleans the preceding day on a charge of disturbing the peace and creating a scene. At that time, he described some of his activities in connection with the FPCC.

Affidavits Secured

Oswald was again interviewed by FBI Agents at the Dallas Police Department following his arrest after the assassination of the President. This interview was aimed at eliciting any admissions he might make in connection with the assassination, as well as to obtain any information he might have been able to furnish of a security nature.

During none of the interviews with Oswald by Bureau Agents were any efforts made to develop him as an informant. We have obtained affidavits from every Agent who was in contact with Oswald. In addition, we also have secured affidavits from their respective SACs. These affidavits show that none of the FBI Agents ever made any effort to develop Oswald as an informant. These affidavits will be available in the event you desire to furnish them to the Commission.

II. Handling of Informants Under SIS Program

With regard to the handling of informants under the SIS program, file review shows that as a result of a control system then in effect we do have a record of

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payments made, the identities of informants and Agents handling them, and receipts for payments. In the few instances where informants refused to sign receipts, Bureau was furnished all other data and record was still made of payment and informant who received same.

III. Henry Wade's SIS Service

Mr. Henry M. Wade entered on duty as a Special Agent on December 4, 1939, and resigned September 1, 1943, to enter the Armed Forces. He was in Ecuador for eight and one-half months (undercover), beginning August 16, 1942. We received from SIS agents a periodic summary on informants in Ecuador. Such a list was furnished by Wade on September 23, 1942, a few weeks after his arrival in Quito. This was supplemented by other letters from Wade on November 5, 1942; February 26, 1943; and April 5, 1943, and a complete list of all informants handled by him, listing the disposition of each, prepared April 30, 1943, before his departure from Ecuador. In these, Wade indicated the amount being paid to each informant and his intentions to continue such payments as justified by services received. Wade had eleven informants, paid ten of them, and his vouchers for this period clearly show amounts paid to each and list receipts obtained.

Funds Handled by Wade in SIS

Concerning funds handled by Wade, he was required to account for his expenditures and reclaim them by voucher, as mentioned above. In July, 1942, he did receive an advance of \$1,075. This money was not primarily for operational expenditures but for subsistence and travel in connection with his assignment. His passage from New Orleans to Guayaquil, Ecuador, for example, cost over \$500. Wade was required to make full restitution of this advance and completed repayment on June 28, 1943.

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Therefore, it can be seen that Wade did not have unlimited funds for the purpose of developing sources, was required to strictly account for expenditures made and did furnish such an account, supported by receipts. Copies of Wade's vouchers and receipts submitted have been prepared and are available for delivery to the Commission if such action is desired.

A brief of Wade's complete Bureau service record has been prepared separately for the Director's information.

OBSERVATIONS

It is definite that we have all the facts to clearly and unequivocally refute the wild and ridiculous allegations that Lee Harvey Oswald was a paid informant for the FBI and operated with a symbol number. It would be desirable to furnish these facts to the President's Commission and point out that in the interest of setting the record straight, the Commission should issue a statement refuting these allegations.

It could be pointed out to the Commission that this is important for several reasons. Less than two weeks after the assassination, the communist press began a campaign to develop the idea that Oswald was an FBI informant and that, as an agent of the Government, he assassinated President Kennedy. The story has developed enough interest to result in calling individuals before the Commission to inquire into it. If the allegations continue unchallenged and unrefuted, there is bound to be increasing acceptance of them on the part of the public -- an acceptance that will prove damaging not only to the FBI but to the Government as a whole.

Should the Commission refuse to issue a statement refuting the allegations, we should inform the Commission we intend to issue such a statement. We should point out that the allegations are not confined to testimony before the Commission but have appeared publicly, notably through the campaign of the CP to hammer away on these points. As a result, we are free to deal with the allegations as we see fit.

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We should point out to the Commission that it has always been our policy to face such allegations head on and we intend to follow the same policy in this matter if the Commission will not take prompt and effective action. If we do not do this, remaining silent, attacks against us in the press on this point may increase. Our silence will be taken as an admission of guilt. Six months from now when the Commission issues its report, the falsehood will be so widely distributed that it will be much more difficult to refute it.

W.C.S.

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Mohr

DATE: February 7, 1964

FROM : C. D. DeLoach

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT
ALLEGATIONS THAT OSWALD WAS
AN FBI INFORMANT

Senator Jim Eastland, Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, attempted to telephonically contact me at 4:30 p. m., 2-6-64. I was at the White House at the time in Walter Jenkins' office. Upon being notified, I called Senator Eastland and he asked that I see him at 5 p. m.

I called Senator Eastland off the Senate floor at approximately 5 p. m. and he stated that he wanted to talk in confidence. We then proceeded to his private office in the Senate wing of the Capitol. Jay Sourwine, Chief Counsel of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee (SISS) was with the Senator. The Senator locked the door of his office and reiterated that the information he was to furnish me was to be kept in complete confidence. He then asked Sourwine to proceed with the discussion.

Sourwine prefaced his remarks by stating that the SISS did not want to do anything whatsoever that would embarrass the FBI and as a result he was tipping me off of information he had received. He stated that an extremely confidential source of his within the Department of State had advised him that Lee Harvey Oswald was a confidential informant of the FBI's. The same source also alleged that Oswald was paid \$200 per month by the FBI. Sourwine indicated that his source had alleged that CIA knew this to be a fact. Sourwine told me that he had requested that his source contact CIA and get absolute confirmation of this matter. Sourwine claimed that his source had recontacted him and had advised that a CIA employee had confirmed that Oswald was in fact an FBI informant.

Senator Eastland spoke up at this point. He stated that Senator Dick Russell, Chairman of the Senate Armed Forces Committee, and a member of the Presidential Commission Investigating the assassination, had told him that an individual had recently testified that Oswald was an FBI informant and had received a salary of \$200 per month. Senator Eastland added that Senator Russell had also told him that it appeared that Secret Service representatives were attempting to place the blame on the FBI regarding the assassination. Senator Russell reportedly had stated that the Secret Service had clearly pointed out that the FBI had not informed the Secret Service regarding the presence of Oswald in Dallas, Texas. Senator Eastland added that Senators Dirksen,

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

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Allegations that Oswald was an FBI Informant

and Hruska had become somewhat exercised over this matter and that Senator Dirksen had urged that the SISS hold a special meeting to discuss the matter. Senator Eastland quoted Senator Dirksen as stating, "We should give J. Edgar Hoover every opportunity to explain about Oswald." Senator Eastland continued that pressure had also been brought upon him to subpoena the Director for a hearing in this connection. He added he also understood that an FBI Agent by the name of "Stanford" allegedly handled Oswald in his informant capacity with the FBI.

Senator Eastland stated that he wanted me to tell the Director that under no circumstances would he cause the FBI any embarrassment whatsoever. He added, however, that he felt the matter should be clarified before a "storm" broke in the newspapers and on the Hill. He pointed out that several news sources already knew of the above facts and that at least one reporter had contacted him to see what he planned to do about the matter.

Senator Eastland asked that no contacts be made with Senators Dirksen, Russell and Hruska until he had the opportunity to tell these Senators that he, Senator Eastland, had been in contact with the FBI.

I told Senator Eastland and Sourwine that we were well aware of the rumors in question and that the facts as alleged were absolutely false. I told Eastland and Sourwine that we had received the same information from Senator John Tower's office and had put the lie to it at that time. I told them that under no circumstances whatsoever was Oswald ever an informant, an employee, or connected with the FBI in any way whatsoever. I told them that their information undoubtedly came about as the result of Henry Wade, a former Agent, and now a County Prosecutor in Dallas, Texas, testifying before the Warren Commission. I mentioned that Wade had made false statements before the Commission and that we were prepared to prove that those statements were false.

Senator Eastland stated he believed me, however, felt that we should have this information, particularly inasmuch as he was getting considerable pressure, and also because of the fact that he felt that Senator Dirksen might pick up the phone at any moment and call the Director about the matter.

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I told Senator Eastland and Sourwine that while their facts were absolutely false, I wanted to advise the Director, and I would be back in touch with them as expeditiously as possible regarding this matter. The Senator reiterated that I check with him prior to contacting Senators Russell, Dirksen and Hruska. I told him I would do this.

After notifying the Director telephonically of the above matter, I read the proposed affidavit that is to be sent to the Warren Commission. Pursuant to the Director's instructions, I will show this affidavit to Senator Eastland, and then Senators Dirksen, Hruska and Russell in that order. This will, of course, be done following delivery of the affidavit to Rankin of the Warren Commission.

I think also it might be a good idea to show this affidavit to Sourwine. At the time of further discussion with Sourwine, I will specifically ask him to identify his source within the State Department so that we may abquately run this rumor down and pin it to the ground. While I doubt that Sourwine will reveal his source, we will at least strongly go on record asking him to do this for our own protection.

I have issued instructions within the Crime Records Division to immediately prepare a public statement, under the Director's signature, in the event that the Director finds it necessary to issue such a statement so that the false rumors concerning Oswald's connections with the FBI can be promptly denied.

ACTION:

1. That I show the attached copy of the affidavit to Senator Eastland and then Senators Russell, Dirksen and Hruska, also to Sourwine, following delivery of the said affidavit to Rankin of the Warren Commission. I will also tell Senator Eastland we have no Special Agent by the name of Stanford, and that this allegation is also false. *It is noted that Mally has delivered a letter to Rankin & Eastland approving signing to the*
2. That the Crime Records Division immediately prepare a public statement for the Director's usage in the event it is believed necessary to publicly refute the false claims that Oswald was an informant of ours.

- Yes*
3. That I press Sourwine to identify his source within the State Department who has given him this information.
- Yes - [Signature] [Signature] [Signature]*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Mohr

DATE: February 7, 1964

FROM : C. D. DeLoach

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT
ALLEGATIONS THAT OSWALD WAS
AN FBI INFORMANT

Pursuant to instructions, I saw Senator Jim Eastland at his office at 2:15 p. m., 2-7-64. I told him the Director was very concerned about the information received from him (Senator Eastland) and Jay Sourwine on 2-6-64 and that the Director, of course, wanted to set the record straight immediately. I then showed the Senator a copy of the sworn affidavit which had been executed by the Director and delivered earlier that day to Rankin of the Presidential Commission. The Senator read the affidavit and then described it as a document that very obviously ties everything down.

I told Senator Eastland that we respected his confidence, however, would appreciate permission to see other Senators whom he indicated had an interest in this matter. He told me that he thought we should see Senators Russell and Hruska immediately, however, Senator Dirksen was at Sibley Hospital at the present time.

I then went to Senator Dick Russell's Office and upon seeing him mentioned that it was understood that he was cognizant of the false allegation that Oswald had once been an FBI informant. The Senator acknowledged that he knew of Wade's statements to the Commission. I then showed Senator Russell the Director's affidavit whereupon he read it in its entirety. He described it as a good affidavit and one that should forever straighten this rumor out. He added that there are so many rumors about the assassination that almost any individual can pay a quarter and take his pick. He continued that in all honesty Henry Wade had specifically told Commission members that the allegation concerning Oswald's being an FBI informant had been received by him from a newspaperman named Hudkins. The Senator stated that Wade made it plain that he had no personal knowledge that Oswald had been an FBI informant. The Senator added that Wade was told to return to Dallas and recontact Hudkins for further information. Senator Russell stated that Wade had reported back to the Commission that Hudkins had no further information, could not substantiate his allegations and had refused to testify or furnish an affidavit to the Commission.

- Enclosure *RM*
- 1 - Mr. Tolson
 - 1 - Mr. Belmont
 - 1 - Mr. Sullivan
 - 1 - Mr. Rosen
 - 1 - Mr. Jones
 - 1 - Mr. Morrell
- CDD:raj (8)

L. J. ...

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Re: Assassination of the President
Allegations that Oswald was an FBI Informant

I next saw Sourwine. After reading the affidavit, he stated he was very positive it should put to rest all rumors. I told Sourwine that I felt certain he realized that the FBI's reputation could be at stake in the event such a vicious rumor was wide-spread publicity. I told him for this reason I would have to insist that his source in this particular matter be identified. I reminded Sourwine that he had told me in Senator Eastland's presence that his source was an employee of the Department of State who later had reconfirmed the information with CIA. Sourwine interrupted me to state that he had not indicated that his source was with the State Department. He stated his exact words were, "This matter has been motivated, in my opinion, by the State Department." I told Sourwine that my notes, made immediately after the conference with him and Senator Eastland, were very clear on this matter and that I felt certain he had attributed this information to a source within the Department of State. He replied that if he had done this he was in error. He said however that his source had definitely reconfirmed this information with CIA.

I told Sourwine that regardless of the agency with whom his source was employed, I would have to know the identity of such a source so that all strings could be tied down in this matter. Sourwine agreed to call his source in my presence and ask him if he would object to his identity being revealed. At that time Sourwine dialed a number and asked the person answering the phone if he would object to his identity being revealed to the FBI in connection with the Oswald-Informant information. After a few moments, Sourwine turned to me and stated that his source would have to think about the matter and he would let me know later on during the evening. Sourwine stated that his source was somewhat reluctant to having his identity revealed inasmuch as the source's identity would immediately lead the FBI to the identity of a second source within CIA. I told Sourwine that if CIA was putting out such scurrilous rumors, that agency should definitely be tied down and made to put up or shut up.

Following the discussion concerning the identity of Sourwine's source, Sourwine told me that he had talked to Senator Russell earlier that afternoon. Senator Russell, according to Sourwine, stated in strict confidence that he was very disturbed about the activities of the Warren Commission. He claimed that he was considering resigning from this Commission. Senator Russell reportedly told Sourwine that five out of six senior lawyers employed by the Commission are extreme liberals and that all of the young lawyers are very liberal-minded. Senator Russell allegedly told Sourwine that each employee of the Commission has a definite area of investigation assigned to him. He mentioned that despite attempts at coordination, the individual employees have haphazardly pooled their investigative information without attempting to centralize or coordinate any facts whatsoever. Senator Russell is also very disturbed about Chief Justice Warren and his inability to handle the assignment as Chairman of this Commission.

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After exacting a statement from Sourwine that he would call me later on that evening concerning his source, I went over to the Senate Floor and contacted Senator Hruska. We went up to his private office in the new Senate wing of the Capitol and talked for approximately three minutes when Senator Hruska found it necessary to return to the Floor in order to make remarks concerning tax legislation. Following his return, I showed him the Director's sworn affidavit. Senator Hruska expressed the opinion that it was very thorough and certainly left no doubts whatsoever. He asked if it could be possible that Oswald had an alias and had served the FBI as an informant using an alias or different name. I told him there was no possibility whatsoever of such an incident occurring inasmuch as our investigation had very thoroughly checked out all names used by Oswald. Senator Hruska stated this satisfied him.

Senator Hruska added that Senator Dirksen was most concerned about this matter, chiefly because Senator Dirksen felt that this was an attempted smear at the Director and the FBI. He stated that Senator Dirksen had also feared that this matter could completely discredit the FBI if some disreputable or left-wing Senator made a speech on the Floor of the Senate or issued a press release regarding the matter. He added that Senator Dirksen's friendship for the Director was a very sincere thing and, therefore, the Senator felt very keenly about this matter. He asked if I would accompany him to Sibley Hospital immediately so that we could talk to Senator Dirksen regarding this matter.

At this point I telephonically contacted the Director while Senator Hruska was out of the room and advised the Director of the foregoing details.

Senator Hruska and I arrived at Senator Dirksen's hospital room at approximately 6:15 p. m. Mrs. Dirksen was in the room at the time. She has recently undergone surgery. (The Director has sent a letter to Senator Dirksen regarding the illness of his wife.) I assisted Mrs. Dirksen down the hall and then came back to join Senators Dirksen and Hruska.

Senator Hruska told Senator Dirksen that I had an affidavit signed by the Director which should definitely put Senator Dirksen's mind at ease. Senator Hruska told Senator Dirksen that he felt this affidavit would be of therapeutic value to him inasmuch as it was known that he was very worried about this situation. I then showed Senator Dirksen a copy of the sworn affidavit. He read the letter to Rankin very rapidly and handed both the letter and affidavit back to me. I told him I realized that our visit was somewhat of an imposition, however, I would appreciate it if he would briefly scan the entire affidavit. He did so and afterwards stated that it was a very complete document and that he felt much better about the situation. He added that he had several questions. I told him the Director would want me to answer any questions that he might raise.

DeLoach to Mohr 2-7-64

Re: Assassination of the President

Allegations that Oswald was an FBI Informant

Senator Dirksen inquired if District Attorney Henry Wade had any connections with the Communist Party. I told him Wade had no such connections to our knowledge. I briefed both Senators at this time, however, on the scurrilous article in Saga Magazine by former Agent Turner, also the article in Nation magazine and the offensive by the Communist Party in connection with attempting to discredit the FBI. Senator Hruska inquired as to whether Wade was a publicity seeker. I told him that the answer to this was obvious in view of the many statements made by Wade, even including information which had been furnished by the FBI.

Senator Dirksen asked me if we were satisfied with Rankin. I told him that Rankin had been appointed as an alternative. I then briefed Senators Dirksen and Hruska on the fact that Chief Justice Warren had first wanted his protege Warren Olney to serve as Executive Secretary of the Presidential Commission, however, in view of Olney's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] it had been necessary for a number of sources to confidentially brief members of the Presidential Commission, other than Warren, as to Olney's background. I told Senators Dirksen and Hruska that as a result of this action the Commission members had overridden Warren concerning the appointment of Olney and that Rankin had been elected as an alternative. Dirksen stated he knew Olney and definitely recognized him as an [REDACTED]

Senator Dirksen stated that he had no further questions but that he would appreciate the Director being advised that his chief interest in this entire matter was to prevent the FBI or the Director from being smeared. He stated that despite his illness if we needed his services we could certainly count upon him to start a backfire against any individual or group which might attempt to discredit the Director or the FBI.

I told both Senators Dirksen and Hruska that we deeply appreciated their interest in this matter and that I would immediately advise the Director whom I felt would be greatly appreciative of their friendship and willingness to assist the FBI.

Upon arriving back at my office, Inspector Kemper advised me that Sourwine had called at approximately 6:10 p.m. to advise that his source did not want to give an absolute "no" to the FBI, that the source was checking further and would give an answer either the first of the week or the middle of next week. We, of course, will not allow this matter to lie idle. Sourwine will be contacted first thing Monday morning and pressed for action.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

See Next Page

DeLoach to Mohr 2-7-64
Re: Assassination of the President
Allegations that Oswald was an FBI Informant

RECOMMENDATIONS:

(1) That the attached letter for the Director's signature acknowledging the Director's appreciation for Senator Dirksen's assistance and interest be considered.

GK.
H.

Dirksen
& Dirksen
2-10-64
5/10

(2) That I check with Sourwine first thing Monday morning in order to further press the matter of learning the identity of his source of information.

Yes.
V.K.

J. Sourwine - 2/10

(3) That I show a copy of the Director's affidavit, in strict confidence, to Congressman Hale Boggs and Congressman Jerry Ford, members of the Presidential Commission, on Monday, 2-10-64, and that I show a copy of this affidavit and thoroughly brief Walter Jenkins of the White House on Monday, 2-10-64.

Yes.
H.

R

2-10-64
[Signature]

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

alpha

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	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

TO : Mr. Mohr

DATE: February 10, 1964

FROM : C. D. DeLoach

SUBJECT: ALLEGATION THAT OSWALD WAS AN FBI INFORMANT

Sourwine

Referenced my memorandum to you February 7, 1964, indicating that Jay Sourwine, Chief Counsel, Senate Internal Security Subcommittee (SISS), had indicated, following pressure being put on him, that he would contact his source of information to see if that source would talk to me relative to the above-captioned allegation. Sourwine had also indicated, and had reiterated several times, that his source had confirmed this allegation with CIA.

Sourwine called at approximately 2:30 PM, February 10, 1964. He advised he had contacted his source and in view of the seriousness of the situation, his source had agreed to be identified. He named his source as Colonel Philip Corso who is currently employed by Senator Strom Thurmond (D-S.C.). Sourwine indicated that Corso had agreed to being interviewed.

President, General

I contacted Colonel Corso in Senator Thurmond's office at approximately 3:15 PM, February 10, 1964. Harry Dent and Fred Buzhardt, Senator Thurmond's Administrative and Legislative Assistants, sat in on the interview. Both men have been very cooperative in the past. I had not previously met Colonel Corso, however, understand that he formerly worked for General Trudeau in Army Intelligence and had some contacts with FBI at that time. Colonel Corso, upon meeting him, and throughout the interview, gave me the definite impression of being a rather shifty-eyed individual who fashions himself a great intelligence expert. As a matter of fact, it was quite difficult to pin him down with questions inasmuch as he insisted on expounding his theories rather than sticking to specifics.

I told Colonel Corso of the information received from Sourwine and that he had been named as the source. I told him the allegation was absolutely false. The point was made that Mr. Hoover had submitted a sworn affidavit to the Warren Commission emphatically denying the allegation and that I desired Colonel Corso to read the affidavit at this time. I told him additionally that if his allegation had been made to other people, I would like to know the names of these people so that they could be confronted. He told me the only other person he had discussed the allegation with was Senator Thurmond.

Enclosure *MAR 11 1964*

1 - Mr. Belmont 1 - Mr. Sullivan

1 - Mr. Rosen 1 - Mr. M. A. Jones

CDD:ejr (6)

~~CLOSURE~~

22 MAR 10 1964

SOVIET SECTION

Memo DeLoach to Mohr
Re: Allegation That Oswald
Was An FBI Informant

2/10/64

Colonel Corso stated he did not need to read the affidavit I handed him inasmuch as he would take the FBI's word that Oswald was not an informant. I told him regardless of his confidence he should read the affidavit. He then scanned it quite hurriedly and handed it back to me.

I told Colonel Corso that I would have to insist that he reveal the identity of his source within CIA. He stated he could not do this inasmuch as his source represented "groups" or "individuals" that had been friends of his when he was handling intelligence for the Army. He stated he did not like to violate their confidence. I told him he should realize that this allegation was a very serious one which could do considerable damage to the FBI if it became widely publicized. I mentioned additionally that his refusal might, of course, result in his being subpoenaed or requested to testify before the Warren Commission concerning the withholding of evidence.

Colonel Corso began to backtrack. He stated that his sources had merely told him that they knew the FBI had been in contact with Oswald prior to the assassination of the President. He quickly added that his sources within CIA also felt that Oswald's activity, while in the Soviet Union, represented a State Department operation. Colonel Corso indicated that "if" Oswald had been an informant, while in the Soviet Union, he would have submitted reports to three U. S. employees of the American Embassy in Moscow. He named these individuals as: Angeli, John Vincent Abidian and Hugh Montgomery. Corso stated that Angeli and Montgomery had been declared persona non grata by the Soviet Government and told to leave the Soviet Union. Corso indicated that while he was still with the Army, he received a tip that the three named individuals had received reports from a double agent within the Soviet Union. He stated this double agent could have been Oswald. I asked him if he had any specifics or proof in this regard. He stated he could not prove any of these statements. He then added that this entire matter might be an assumption on the part of CIA inasmuch as his sources had no definite facts whatsoever.

I told Colonel Corso that I wanted to go back over our conversation and to be as specific as possible. I asked him point-blank if his sources within CIA had named Oswald as an FBI informant to him. I asked him for a direct answer. He slowly replied that "groups" or "persons" within CIA, whom he had known for a long time, had told him that Oswald could have been a source of information for the FBI. He stated the same "groups" or "persons" also indicated that Oswald's residence in the Soviet Union represented a State Department operation. Corso added that there was a Communist Party member supposedly in Texas by the name of "Stanford" who knew that Oswald had been an FBI source of information and had related this fact to other parties. I asked

2/10/64

Memo DeLoach to Mohr
Re: Allegation That Oswald
Was An FBI Informant

Colonel Corso how he knew this. He stated he could not recall his source of information in this regard, however, apparently "Stanford" had been interviewed by some one and had given them this information. I told Colonel Corso that his ability to be nonspecific was somewhat amazing. He told me he was well-versed in the intelligence game and knew how CIA and the State Department operated. He stated he had no sympathy for CIA inasmuch as that organization had quite often failed to cooperate with him when he was operating with intelligence.

At this stage of the questioning, Colonel Corso again approached the melodramatic by emphatically claiming that he had been concerned only in this matter because he was afraid that the communists were promoting a deliberate smear against the FBI. I asked why he brought in the Communist Party when he had originally claimed that his information had come from CIA. He stated that the information furnished by the communist, "Stanford," apparently represented a deliberate smear attempt on the part of the communists.

I told Colonel Corso that I wanted him to think about this matter and to particularly consider the seriousness of the allegations. I told him he should give me a call by February 11, 1964, and give me a definite answer as to whether he would identify his sources of information. He agreed to do so. I told him also that regardless of whether he identifies his sources or not, we still plan to protest to CIA the falseness and looseness of such allegations. I told Colonel Corso, in the presence of Dent and Buzhardt, that he had seen me carefully making notes during our entire conversation and that I planned to hold him to the substance of those notes.

At this point, Senator Thurmond entered the room and I advised him completely of the falseness of the allegations and exhibited to him the affidavit in question. Senator Thurmond stated he did not need to read the affidavit inasmuch as he had known the allegations were false all along. I told Senator Thurmond that I had requested his assistant, Colonel Corso, to reveal his sources of information so that the FBI could definitely disprove, once and for all, the falseness of the allegations that Oswald was an FBI informant. The Senator replied that he hoped Colonel Corso could comply with our request.

ACTION:

I will follow with Colonel Corso re this on February 11, 1964. There is attached a yellow colored slip of paper which Colonel Corso handed me naming the

Memo DeLoach to Mohr
Re: Allegation That Oswald
Was An FBI Informant

2/10/64

ACTION CONTINUED:

three American State Department employees who "might" have had contact with Oswald in the Soviet Union. This should be made a matter of record in our files. It is suggested that no action be taken to contact CIA at this time until we find out whether or not Colonel Corso will identify his sources. Frankly, considering Colonel Corso's personality and evasiveness, there is a distinct possibility that he made up this allegation strictly based upon his own theories. I will, of course, follow him closely until we get an answer as to his alleged sources of information within CIA.

HW
D.L.
Krynce