

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : W. C. Sullivan *WCS ll - 12/13*

DATE: 11-29-63

FROM : W. R. Wannall *Wannall*

- 1 - Belmont
- 1 - Mohr
- 1 - DeLoach
- 1 - Rosen
- 1 - Sullivan
- 1 - Branigan
- 1 - Wannall
- 1 - Turner
- 1 - Anderson
- 1 - Nasca

Tolson _____
 Belmont _____
 Mohr _____
 Casper _____
 Callahan _____
 Conrad _____
 Felt _____
 Gale _____
 Rosen _____
 Sullivan _____
 Tavel _____
 Trotter _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Holmes _____
 Gandy _____

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
INTERNAL SECURITY - R - CUBA

W. E. [unclear]
Wannall
Tavel
Lehman
R. [unclear]

Re memorandum DeLoach to Mohr 11-26-63 which furnished copy of transcript of Executive Session testimony of Edward Scannell Butler and information of New Orleans, Louisiana, official of organization known as Council of the Americas. Butler's testimony was given before Senate Internal Security Subcommittee (SISS) on 11-24-63.

Butler testified he met Oswald 8-21-63 as result of his being invited to appear on panel debate with Oswald by Bill Stuckey the moderator. Debate was held at studios of WDSU, New Orleans Radio Station.

Butler stated his impression of Oswald was that he was a rational and wholly indoctrinated procommunist individual who exhibited no outward manifestation of any kind of psychotic activity. Oswald in the debate with Turner and in a previous tape which Butler had heard exhibited a tremendous capacity to repeat by rote communist propaganda.

Butler produced two tapes which he made available to SISS. One with the debate Butler participated in on 8-21-63 and the other was the one he had heard dealing with Oswald's interview by Bill Stuckey which was taped about August 17, 1963. (These tapes discussed here appear identical with the two tapes Butler furnished Assistant Director W. C. Sullivan on 11-26-63. These tapes have been reviewed and results set forth in Memorandum Wannall to Sullivan 11-27-63 concerning Oswald.)

Butler then recounted what he had learned about Oswald. He stated Oswald first came to public notice through altercation he had had on Canal Street in New Orleans with Cuban exiles. Before altercation, Oswald had apparently offered his services to Carlos Prigent, leader of the "Cuban student director" (Students Revolutionary Directorate, anti-Castro organization) in New Orleans, but no action was taken on Oswald's offer. Prigent later learned Oswald was distributing pro-Castro literature. Butler stated Oswald was fined ten dollars for disturbing the peace apparently in connection with this distribution.

Butler was asked if he was personally familiar with any propaganda put out by communists, Cuban communist sources primarily, that might have excited a person like Oswald, an emotionally unstable person, who believed his propaganda, to go out and assassinate the President of the United States.

Enclosure

WV: pbb
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Re: LEE HARVEY OSWALD

Butler stated he had knowledge of such communist propaganda. He noted, however, that he was not making the assumption in his statement that Oswald was emotionally unstable. He stated he knew of communist propaganda which would tend to have such an effect, in his opinion, on an emotionally unstable person. Butler stated his organization kept a clipping morgue which he believed contained several thousand clippings, many of which contained incendiary statements by communist leaders some of which were directed personally against President Kennedy. Butler then apparently furnished some examples of this type of propaganda to SISS but they are not specifically named in the testimony.

Butler stated it seemed to him that the fact that many of the materials that Oswald had available to him were originally sponsored by official communist sources, placed the blame for Oswald's actions on the authors or the disseminators of that material.

ACTION:

For information. A copy of the testimony is attached for retention in Bufiles.

BSM *md* *Sh* *Q*