

18 SEP  
1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

SUBJECT : Allegations of Lee Harvey OSWALD's  
Connection with the Agency

REFERENCE : Memorandum of Conversation, Dan  
Rather/Les Midgley and the DCI,  
Dated 6 September 1975

1. The referent memorandum contains two points which require comments. The first point concerns allegations that were made shortly after the assassination of President Kennedy and that have crept up every so often since then. In one form or another, the allegations are that Lee Harvey OSWALD had been connected with the Agency. The allegations are totally unfounded.

2. The facts regarding this matter are as follows:

a. On 27 November 1963 I was instructed by my immediate superior at that time, to make a thorough check within the Agency at Headquarters to determine whether Lee Harvey OSWALD had ever been used by the Agency or been connected with it in any conceivable way. He ordered me to make the checks directly and personally to the degree possible and not to accept statements of intermediaries. He also explained that he was following instructions from Mr. R. Helms, who was then the DDP and served as one of the Agency's key contact officials with the Warren Commission.

b. Although I had already checked the Main Index on the night of the assassination, I rechecked the Main Index and found no record beyond that which I had already obtained before (plus those items which had been integrated into the records system since the assassination). There was nothing in the DDO records which indicated any Agency connection with OSWALD.

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that the Rockefeller Commission had not had a charter to look into the FBI. We discussed Allen Dulles's comments about whether an intelligence agent could ever be exposed, but we left on the final comment by Mr. Dulles that he believed Mr. Hoover's comments on this matter, which Mr. Rather said he probably would himself at that time. I said that this in no way indicated a desire by Mr. Dulles to conceal any CIA activity. Mr. Rather also said that Mr. Helms had become somewhat agitated over the Garrison allegations, and I said this was easily explained by Mr. Helms' concern that such false allegations be made against CIA. In response to Mr. Rather's question, I said I know of no indication that Mr. Helms' agitation was because Mr. Garrison was revealing information about the Agency which Mr. Helms wanted to remain concealed.

With respect to Oswald's one appearance in our records, I explained that CIA might well have shied off from any interview with him if there was an indication of prior FBI interest. As for the military, I said the Interagency Source Register did not indicate Mr. Oswald was a clandestine source and that DCS Joint Debriefing Program with the military services from 1953 on would probably have indicated any military debriefing for intelligence purposes, but none appear in our files, so I believed none had been conducted.

We parted with my assurance that anything else that arose which would cast doubt on my statements would be brought to Mr. Rather's attention. The two gentlemen expressed appreciation for our discussion.

COMMENT: From their attitude, I believe there is a chance that the program will indicate that there is no CIA connection with Oswald beyond that noted above. This could make a contribution to knocking down the paranoic belief to the contrary. We must, however, insure that Mr. Rather does learn anything which would cause the slightest doubt on the above account before he produces the programs in November.

  
W. E. Colby  
Director

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