UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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Holmes
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TO : Mr. Mohr

DATE: October 8, 1964

FROM : C. D. DeLoach

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT

The United Press at Dallas, Texas, in an article dated October 7, 1964, had the lead, "Dallas Police Chief Says FBI Asked Coverup on Conduct in Oswald Case." It goes on to report that Police Chief Jesse Curry alleges in a letter to the Warren Commission that he was once asked by the FBI to deny that the FBI had failed to warn other agencies about Lee Harvey Oswald. The United Press item further states that Chief Curry had told newsmen the day of the assassination that although the FBI had known about Oswald, the FBI had passed on no information to the Dallas police.

The UPI article goes on to quote Chief Curry "Within a few minutes of my statement to the press Shanklin (SAC, Dallas) was on the phone." Chief Curry is quoted as saying that FBI did not want to admit publicly that it had known about Oswald before the assassination. He claims that Shanklin asked him to retract his statement. He states that he did retract his statement. The article goes on to indicate that the FBI admitted it had Oswald under investigation. The above article appears on Page A 3 of "The Washington Post and Times Herald" this morning.

Chief Curry is [redacted] in the above claims. The true facts of the matter are (as reflected in my memorandum dated November 23, 1963) that at approximately 11:25 a.m. on 11-23-63 Chief Curry, when television cameras were thrust in front of him, made the following allegations:

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(1) The FBI customarily advises Dallas police whenever an individual of subversive background arrives in Dallas.

(2) The FBI recently interviewed Lee Harvey Oswald.

(3) The FBI had Oswald under surveillance in Dallas, however, did not notify the Dallas police.

ENCLOSURE I immediately advised the Director of these allegations and thereafter called SAC Shanklin and instructed him to contact Chief Curry and set him straight. I told Shanklin that Curry should get back on television, and should also inform the wire services, of the falsity of his statements immediately. I told SAC Shanklin that if Curry did not take this action we would issue a statement here in Washington calling him a liar.

Enclosure

62-109060-1

1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Jones
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CONTINUED-OVER

SAC Shanklin called me back within 15 minutes on November 23, 1963, and stated that Curry had agreed to make the retraction. Curry apologized to Shanklin and told him he did not mean to place any blame on the FBI. I told SAC Shanklin that regardless of Curry's statement that if he did not follow through, Curry should be again contacted within 30 minutes.

At approximately 1:15 p.m. NBC television quoted Curry as saying he had not meant to imply that the FBI had failed to keep the Dallas police informed. Curry was further quoted as stating that the cooperation between the FBI and the Dallas police was excellent. He stated that the FBI was under no responsibility to report to the Dallas police any individuals of subversive background who might be in Dallas. He was also quoted as stating that he had not meant to imply that the FBI had Oswald under surveillance or that the FBI had recently interviewed Oswald. He stated to his knowledge the FBI did not have Oswald under surveillance. Chief Curry gave the same report to the radio networks and this was heard both here in Washington and by SAC Shanklin in Dallas.

At the time of the above-mentioned [redacted] allegations by Curry we not only had Curry make these retractions but we called our sources at both UPI and AP and talked with them on a confidential basis. They immediately called their representatives in Dallas and instructed them to contact Curry and get him on the record in repudiating the above false allegations. We also called Jerry O'Leary of "The Washington Star" who was in Dallas at that time and had him get in touch with Curry and make Curry go on record regarding the falsity of his allegations.

In teletype of October 7, 1964, SAC, Dallas, refers to Texas Attorney General's report on the assassination and notes this report does not mention this criticism by Chief Curry; however, the report does indicate that there are numerous exhibits and documents in the possession of the Attorney General of Texas. Apparently these exhibits in Attorney General Waggoner Carr's possession are the source for the UPI article.

According to Dallas teletype the controversial memorandum of Lieutenant Jack Revill, Dallas Police Department, indicates that Chief of Police Curry in a letter dated May 28, 1964, to J. Lee Rankin said that the FBI had asked him to retract statements he had made to the effect that he had received information that the FBI knew of Oswald's presence in Dallas.

Dallas teletype reports that Dallas files show a memorandum by Shanklin dated November 22, 1963, to the effect that on the night of November 22, 1963, Shanklin contacted Chief Curry, pointed out to him that the FBI had not interviewed Oswald in Dallas, that the FBI was under no obligation to furnish him security

information and that the FBI had no indication Oswald was likely to kill the President. According to Dallas memorandum, Chief Curry told Shanklin he was repeating information someone else had told him and he could not remember the source. Chief Curry said then he would rectify the error and this was done. This telecast was observed in my office on November 23, 1963, and that is the date on which I talked to Shanklin and told him to straighten Chief Curry out.

COURSE OF ACTION:

We have a choice of making "no comment" and letting this matter stand for the record or else we can issue a statement here in Washington under the Director's name or by the SAC in Dallas under his name. I frankly think that the former course of action would be better, i.e. having the Director issue the attached statement to UPI sources here in Washington clearly refuting Curry's allegations and setting the record straight once more. After issuance of the Statemert, there will be no further comment.

Of course, there are pros and cons as to the issuance of any statement at this time. The issuance of a statement will no doubt "fan the flames" and call further attention to our criticism by the Warren Commission. Nevertheless, I feel we should not let [redacted] Chief Curry, get away with making false allegations.

RECOMMENDATION:

It may be that the letter that Chief Curry allegedly sent to the Warren Commission on May 28, 1964, has been misquoted or misconstrued and if so Chief Curry should be given the opportunity to once again set the record straight.

SAC Shanklin and ASAC, Dallas, should contact the Chief, determine whether he did send a letter dated 5-28-64 to the Commission and determine precisely what it said.

If the Chief did prepare this letter and did make these allegations and still refuses to clear the record, I think we have no alternative but to go ahead and issue the attached statement in our own behalf.