

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Mohr

DATE October 6, 1964

FROM : C. D. DeLoach

SUBJECT: CRITICISM OF THE FBI FOLLOWING THE
ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT

Tolson
DeLoach
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Evans
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

The criticism concerning the FBI and its role in events surrounding the assassination of President Kennedy raises three questions which merit consideration at this time. Our conclusions are drawn from the basis of hundreds of telephone calls that the men in my office and I have had with newspapermen, friendly and unfriendly, throughout the country.

(1) What is the public image of the FBI at the present time?

Certainly, it cannot be denied that the public image of the FBI has been affected in certain areas by the criticism made of the Bureau and its role in the events taking place prior to the assassination of the President. It is believed this situation reached one stage during the days immediately following this event and was climaxed by Dallas Chief of Police Curry's statements which left the implication this Bureau was seriously derelict in discharging its responsibilities as an intelligence agency. The impact of Chief Curry's comments was strong because much misunderstanding and misrepresentation concerning FBI jurisdictional responsibility existed and this was complicated by the existence of a strong emotional reaction to the assassination. In addition, those groups and individuals who are consistently anti-FBI moved rapidly to exploit the situation to our detriment.

The second stage, the most acute, followed the issuance of the Warren Report.

While there is admittedly no absolute way to assess a public image, it is believed the image of the FBI improved steadily since the week following the assassination, and it improved immeasurably up until the release of the Warren Report. At the time we suffered a rough setback. Following the release of the Director's testimony, we have been well on the road back to good prestige. This resulted from a greater understanding by the public of the FBI's responsibilities and jurisdiction, an appreciation of the soundness of Mr. Hoover's position, and the logic of our activities based on the information available to us at the time of the assassination. The attached news articles typify the press coverage which aided us in making these points with the general public. There is every indication this improvement will continue if we follow our current program regarding this situation.

10 OCT 14 1964

hHA:bsp (5)

1 - Mr. Jones

1 - Mr. Morrell

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25 MARCH
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DeLoach to Mohr memo, 10-6-64
RE: CRITICISM OF THE FBI FOLLOWING THE
ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT

(2) What has been done to counteract this criticism of the FBI?

Immediately following the assassination, we undertook a program designed to eliminate the misunderstanding as to the statutory responsibilities of the Secret Service and the FBI which existed among the uninformed. This was the group which identified all functions of Federal enforcement, tax matters, narcotics and protection of the President with the FBI. Every appropriate medium such as the news media, radio scripts, FBI tours, correspondence, speeches and police training was used to clear the air concerning our responsibility.

For the more educated group, those who were not necessarily biased, and who were aware of the statutory authority of the FBI we furnished full explanations for our actions prior to the assassination with respect to Lee Harvey Oswald. This was designed to convince them that this Bureau did not fail to properly evaluate the information available on Oswald prior to November 22, 1963, and that, in light of the facts available and the authority granted within which to act, we were not derelict in disseminating pertinent information to proper authorities.

The climax of this program was undeniably the release of the Director's testimony before the Warren Commission by the "Washington Star." Following its appearance in the October 2, 1964, issue, some 500 newspapers carried this material which strongly summed up the points we have been trying to get across to the public since the assassination. The Copley Press, the Newhouse chain and the Chicago Tribune Syndicate, the Associated Press, and United Press International were joined by recognized commentators and columnists such as David Lawrence, Morgan Beatty, John Chamberlain and Arthur Krock in presenting the Bureau in a favorable light. There is every indication this will continue since, for example, 18 large metropolitan newspapers purchased intact the Washington Star's story on the Director's testimony. We made certain that the wire services also carried this testimony to its many subscribers.

(3) What should be our future course in this matter?

The liberal press, with the exception of the "New York Times," and its friends will continue to make a determined effort to place the FBI on the defensive; however, it is not felt we should engage in any prolonged debate with them. Arguing our side of the controversy will never convince them and may only serve to alienate our friends and the public. Too, by keeping the argument going, we are diverting public attention from Secret Service and the State Department and their culpability.

C. D. DeLoach to Mohr memo, 10-6-64
RE: CRITICISM OF THE FBI FOLLOWING THE
ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT

We have had our day and the facts have been presented. The Director has made his answer before the Warren Commission--we should stand firm on that reply. No derogatory letters have been received thus far since issuance of the Warren Report--with the exception of two from psychopaths that were not answered. In comparison, we have received over one hundred and fifty letters as a result of the riot report. Over 50 per cent were somewhat unfavorable, having been received from the far right wing or racists.

The Director has said that "nothing is more devastating to a smear than an offensive of real outstanding accomplishments." Our attention and energies should be directed toward this end in the coming months.

RECOMMENDATION:

For the Director's information.

W P JMW
10/12/64
The FBI will never
live down this smear
which could have been
so easily avoided if there
had been proper super-
vision & initiative.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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

TO : Mr. Mohr

DATE: September 23, 1964

FROM : C. D. DeLoach

SUBJECT: FOREIGN TELEVISION PROGRAM ON THE
ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY
U. S. INFORMATION AGENCY (USIA)

You have previously been advised of the fact that the USIA, with the con- of the White House and with the cooperation of the Warren Commission, is preparing motion picture of 30 minutes duration for showing overseas which will be based on the Commission report. Since last August, the USIA has been in contact with the Bureau and has asked our cooperation in the filming of certain scenes which are set out below. We have not moved on this project until we have a specific green light from the Commission to do so.

Reference is made to memo Rosen to Belmont dated 8/11/64 wherein Inspector Malley contacted Rankin on this matter and where he advised that the Presidential Commission does not desire the Bureau to furnish any specific information at that time and that they should contact the Commission and discuss the matter in detail.

On 9/21/64, Mr. Rankin called Kemper and stated that it would be perfectly satisfactory for the Bureau to cooperate with USIA and further that they had read and approved the script.

The producer of the show is Mr. Marvin Lipman, and he visited the Bureau on 9/22/64 after getting the "go ahead" from Rankin. He said that they would do the following:

1. A brief scene which would show 4 or 5 Agents walking into the front door (exterior) of the Commission offices. This would be carried over narration indicating that the Commission had full support of all law enforcement offices, including the FBI.
2. They would like to have the actual Agent from the Laboratory who testified before the Commission in connection with firearms identification. This would be SA Robert A. Frazier. He would give a very brief resume of his findings. (What he would say would be prepared by USIA and approved by us and by the Commission.)

1 - Mr. Conrad
1 - Mr. Trotter
1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Jones
ECK:amr (7) 61964

3 ENCLOSURE

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(Continued on next page.)

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CRIME RESEARCH

DeLoach to Mohr Memo, 9/23/64
Re: Foreign Television Program on the
Assassination of President Kennedy, USIA

3. Same situation as to the Document examiner who would be SA James C. Cadigan. It was his examinations which tied Oswald to the order for the gun, the order for the Post Office box and the money order. (Arrangements for text would be same as above)
4. They desire the same thing in connection with the fingerprint examiner, who would be Sebastian F. Latona. (Text would be the same as stipulated above.)

Mr. Lipman in addition asked for numerous exhibits, documents, make ups, etc. Kemper advised him that these were in the possession of the Commission and they would have to secure them through the Commission.

Mr. Lipman said that the script is still in the process of being prepared and the minute it is prepared we would have an opportunity to review it.

RECOMMENDATION:

This, of course, is merely a status memorandum to bring this matter to date. If there are no objections, we will proceed to work cautiously with USIA and follow this project very, very closely. Anything to be done will first be cleared with the Director and with the Commission.

sub

R

WCS

JP

As

TD
9-23-64

ERC

September 22, 1964

I think this is advisable from the standpoint that it would be well to get across the message to foreign audiences that the FBI worked closely with the Warren Commission and performed the authoritative investigation upon which the findings are based.

From a public relations standpoint this puts the Bureau on the side of right and will minimize any public feeling that the FBI was remiss in this matter or had something to hide.

A. J. Belmont

AJD:hmm

6/10/64

FFD
61 OCT 16 1964

September 24, 1964

Pursuant to Mr. Tolson's request, my views are as follows:

75 We should keep in mind that regardless of our cooperation or participation that this motion picture will be released and, therefore, it would be to the Bureau's advantage to insure that our position and the outstanding work the Bureau performed in connection with the President's assassination are presented in the most favorable light and this can be accomplished only by our participating in this project.

It would seem clear, however, that prior to committing ourselves further we should review the entire script and the report to be issued this weekend prepared by the Warren Commission.

Mr. Belmont states in his note that it would be advisable to get across the message that the FBI worked closely with the Warren Commission and performed the authoritative investigation upon which the "findings" are based. I agree with this with the exception that if the "findings" are critical of the Bureau, I doubt that we should be in the position of supporting the Commission's findings.

Mr. Belmont now writes that they are critical of the FBI.

W. C. Sullivan

162-109090-

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199 OCT 12 1964

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Evans	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

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9/24/64

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. Belmont
- Mr. Mohr
- Mr. Casper
- Mr. Callahan
- Mr. Conrad
- Mr. Felt
- Mr. Evans
- Mr. Gale
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Sullivan
- Mr. Tavel
- Mr. Trotter
- Tele. Room
- Miss Holmes
- Miss Gandy

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I agree with the observations of Belmont, DeLoach, and Sullivan and would like to see that the film is being prepared for foreign consumption. It would seem that what is important is that we get a proper image of the United States at the outset and that steps be taken to get this image in the hands of appropriate news media as early as possible. There can be no doubt that the Commission's report could never have been prepared if it had not been for the facilities of the FBI.

I assume that the above action is being taken but nevertheless mention it because it becomes so obvious upon reading the action being taken by USIA and would certainly suggest that we have ready access to the film which USIA plans to put out.

Warren
Commission

A. Rosen

*Provided no participation
with any other Warren
Commission project. We have been
certified by the Commission.*

*I am opposed to Bureau
participation in
this film*

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ORIGINAL FILED IN 62-109090-288

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Mohr

DATE: September 28, 1964

FROM : C. D. DeLoach

SUBJECT:

FOREIGN TELEVISION PROGRAM ON THE
ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY
U. S. INFORMATION AGENCY (USIA)

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
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DeLoach _____
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Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

Reference is made to my memorandum September 23, 1964, wherein it was recommended that we proceed cautiously with USIA in connection with the 30-minute television program based on the Warren report.

On September 28, 1964, in accordance with the Director's instructions, Inspector Kemper called Mr. Marvin Lipman, producer of the show with USIA (telephone 962-6961) and advised him that due to our heavy responsibilities we would not be able to cooperate with them in connection with this matter.

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

- 1 - Mr. Conrad
- 1 - Mr. Trotter
- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Jones

ECK:amr
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