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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 3-16-64

TO

MR. SULLIVAN

FROM

MR. BRANIGAN

SUBJECT

LEE HARVEY OSWALD
INTERNAL SECURITY - RUSSIA - CUBA

- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. Bland
- 1 - Mr. J. M. Sizoo

- 1 - Mr. Coakley
- 1 - Mr. Branigan

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 _____
 Mr. Tele. Rm. _____
 Mr. Holmes _____
 Miss Gandy _____

On 3-3-64 Mr. Jerry O'Leary of the "Washington Evening Star" called advising that Thomas Gittings Buchanan, Jr., was writing scurrilous stories about Lee Harvey Oswald in a Paris newspaper, "L'Express." Articles primarily deal with the claim by Buchanan that Oswald was an informant of the FBI.

In a memorandum from Mr. DeLoach to Mr. Mohr 3-12-64 Mr. Jay Iselin of "Newsweek" magazine reported his contact with Buchanan here in Washington, D. C. Buchanan, according to Iselin, had spoken to Deputy Attorney General Katzenbach and with a representative of the Warren Commission.

The Legal Attache has forwarded copies of the "L'Express" newspaper issues of 2-20, 2-27 and 3-5-64. The articles published to date do not bear out that Buchanan claimed Lee Harvey Oswald was an informant of the FBI. However, that this is still a possibility appears in the fact that the issue of 3-5-64 contains a statement that the article for the following week would be "How Oswald was Recruited."

A review of the translations of the newspaper stories discloses that Buchanan alleges that Oswald was not the actual assassin of President Kennedy but was one of a group of conspirators which included members of the Dallas Police Department as well as Jack Ruby. The author, Buchanan, arrives at these conclusions based on his interpretation of news reports concerning the nature and amount of evidence in the investigation of the assassination. Following the line of Mark Lane and the communist press, Buchanan concludes that there were four shots fired from different directions and that the real assassin fired from a position on the bridge in front of the President's motorcade.

Buchanan was employed as a reporter by the "Washington Evening Star" from 1946-49. When an official of this newspaper confronted him with the allegation that he, Buchanan, was a Communist Party (CP) member, Buchanan readily admitted CP membership.

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RE: LEE HARVEY OSWALD

and as a result was dismissed from the newspaper. Buchanan had formerly joined the CP in Washington, D. C., in 1948. He reportedly had espoused the doctrines of Marxism at age 15. He declared his political affiliation to be "communist" in 1942. He was extremely active in CP and related activities in the Washington, D. C., and Baltimore, Maryland, areas until approximately 1955. During interview with Bureau Agents in 1952 and 1953, he unhesitatingly admitted being a CP member. During interview in August, 1956, he claimed he quit the CP because he had lost interest. Our investigation has not uncovered any significant subversive activities on his part subsequent to 1956. His name is included in the Reserve Index.

ACTION:

1. Since the published articles by Buchanan thus far received do not contain the allegation that Oswald was an informant of the FBI, we have no basis for confronting him at this time. If the future articles contain this allegation, we will have Buchanan located and interviewed to confront him.

2. Buchanan's stories are based on his review of news articles both true and false which appeared in the public press. This being so, there is no reason to interview him concerning his theories, particularly since it has been reported that he has met with a representative of the President's Commission (Howard Willens).

3. We have already furnished the U.S. Information Agency at their request with copies of the investigative reports concerning Buchanan so that that Agency can discredit and weaken the impact of the above-mentioned articles abroad.

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4. While Buchanan may have already met with a representative of the President's Commission, it is nonetheless believed that the Commission would be interested in the articles as they appeared in "L'Express" as well as background of their author. There is attached a letter to the President's Commission enclosing the articles as they appeared in the newspaper together with a summary of our investigation of Buchanan.

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McF/s

JA

[Signature]

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