

# Memorandum

Tolson	✓
DeLoach	✓
Mohr	✓
Bishop	✓
Casper	✓
Callahan	✓
Conrad	✓
Felt	✓
Gale	✓
Rosen	✓
Sullivan	✓
Tavel	✓
Trotter	✓
Tele. Room	✓
Holmes	✓
Gandy	✓

TO : Mr. Mohr

FROM : C. D. DeLoach

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT

DATE: December 12, 1963

I had a long talk this morning with Congressman Gerald R. (Gerry) Ford (R. - Michigan) in his office. He asked that I come up to see him. Upon arriving he told me he wanted to talk in the strictest of confidence. This was agreed to.

Earl Ford told me he was somewhat disturbed about the manner in which Chief Justice Warren was carrying on his Chairmanship of the Presidential Commission. He explained that the first mistake that Warren made was his attempt to establish a "one man commission" by appointing a Chief Counsel, Warren Olney, that was his own protege. Ford stated that after the mention of Olney's name by the Chief Justice, at their first meeting, Allen Dulles, former Director of CIA, protested quite violently. Because of Dulles' protest, the other members told Warren that they would like to know more about Olney prior to giving their consent.

On the occasion of their second meeting, Ford and Hale Boggs joined with Dulles. Hale Boggs told Warren flatly that Olney would not be acceptable and that he (Boggs) would not work on the Commission with Olney. Warren put up a stiff argument but a compromise was made when the name of Lee Rankin was mentioned. Warren stated he knew Rankin and could work with him.

Ford told me that he was currently having problems inasmuch as the majority of the members of the Commission desired to go along with the recommendation made in Deputy Attorney General Katzenbach's letter to the Commission dated 12-9-63. In this letter, Katzenbach recommended that the Commission make an immediate press release pointing out that the FBI report clearly showed there was no international conspiracy or collusion and that Oswald was a loner. Ford stated he was a minority of one that did not want to give out any press release until the Commission had had a thorough opportunity to review and discuss the FBI report. (I noted that the report was on his desk at the time of our meeting.)

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Evans
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Jones

*Olney in my view pointed to...*

*copies made*

DEC 15 1 21 PM '63

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

CDD:saj

FOIPA 5/1/77 REC 55

XEROX

62-10909036

JAN 3 1964

DEC 30 1963

22 DEC 27 1963

*Sexton*

UNRECORDED COPY FILED

DeLoach to Mohr 12-12-63  
Re: Assassination of the President

I told Ford in strict confidence that the Director concurred with his viewpoint. I mentioned that our investigation thus far had conclusively shown that Oswald operated by himself and that Ruby additionally was a loner. However, FBI investigation was still pending on a large number of rumors, speculation and gossip and it, therefore, would be quite unfair for the Commission to take a stand prior to all the evidence being turned in. Ford stated this was his point entirely and that although he was a minority of one he intended to stick to his point.

Ford told me that John McCone, Director of CIA, had, approximately one week ago, gone up to his office and told him that CIA had uncovered some "startling information" in the Oswald case. McCone proceeded to tell Ford that a source of CIA's in Mexico had seen money exchange hands between Oswald and an unknown Cuban Negro. Ford stated this excited him greatly inasmuch as it definitely tended to show there was an international connection involved in the assassination of the President.

*This shows how glib McCone is. N*

I told Ford that apparently McCone had failed to follow up on this matter. I mentioned that CIA's source had recanted his story and had indicated that it was a figment of his imagination. However, to prove the unstable tendencies of this source, the source had later claimed that he was actually telling the truth. I pointed out that we were still checking some angles of this, however, the CIA source was obviously either unstable or somewhat of a psychopathic liar. Ford stated he could certainly see this.

*When will we finish? \**

Ford indicated he would keep me thoroughly advised as to the activities of the Commission. He stated this would have to be on a confidential basis, however, he thought it should be done. He also asked if he could call me from time to time and straighten out questions in his mind concerning our investigation. I told him by all means he should do this. He reiterated that our relationship would, of course, remain confidential.

We have had excellent relations with Congressman Ford for many years. He has been given an autographed copy of the Director's book "A Study of Communism" and has been in touch with my office on numerous occasions in the past.

ACTION:

Contact will be maintained with Congressman Ford.

\* SEE: 12-13-63  
12-13-63  
SEP 14 1963

*Well handled  
J.M. Pitt*

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont

DATE: December 18, 1963

FROM : A. Rosen

*[Handwritten initials]*

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	
Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

*[Handwritten initials]*

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION  
ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT

While talking to Mr. J. Lee Rankin on 12-17-63, Mr. Rankin indicated that he was somewhat concerned over the security aspects relative to Earl Warren, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Rankin mentioned that the Chief Justice seems to have no regard whatsoever for his own security and that in the afternoon of the 17th, the Chief Justice walked from the Supreme Court to the Veterans of Foreign Wars building where the President's Commission is now located. The office that is to be occupied by Warren is on the fourth floor of the building in the front and Mr. Rankin commented that he personally was quite concerned over the safety of the Chief Justice. Mr. Rankin commented that there were probably as many people in the country that would like to see physical harm come to the Chief Justice as there were that had unfriendly feelings towards the President and possibly more such individuals.

Mr. Rankin stated that he was desirous of knowing whether or not it would be possible for any kind of a check to be made in the general area of the Veterans of Foreign Wars building to determine what individuals were in the area that might be emotionally disturbed or have any feeling of animosity towards the Chief Justice.

Mr. Rankin was advised that making such a check of an area would be an extremely difficult task and would not be practical and it would certainly be well for the Chief Justice to take necessary precautions relative to his own safety. Rankin stated that he fully agreed with the suggestion but for the present time he had been unsuccessful in getting this thought across to the Chief Justice. Mr. Rankin was advised that the Bureau would, as we had in the past, pass on any information that came to our attention relative to any individuals that expressed animosity towards the Chief Justice.

We are instructing our Washington office to be alert to any information indicating animosity to the Chief Justice, and if you approve, Mr. Malley will advise Mr. Rankin he may wish to alert the Metropolitan Police Department inasmuch as protecting of citizens is their function.

1 - Mr. DeLoach  
JRL:cag:sdw  
(7)

162-109090

NOT RECORDED  
199 DEC 27 1963

*[Handwritten signatures and initials]*

DEC 22 1963

*[Handwritten notes and scribbles]*

94-1-5219-784  
 ORIGINAL FILED IN

12/20/63

Airtel

62-109090 -

To: SAC, WFO

From: Director, FBI

EARL WARREN  
CHIEF JUSTICE, U. S. SUPREME COURT  
INFORMATION CONCERNING  
(CRIMINAL SECTION)

*Handwritten initials/signature*

Re Bureau telephone call to SAC Gillies  
12/20/63.

As you have been previously advised, a Presidential Commission has been formed to conduct inquiry into the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Chief Justice Earl Warren is chairman of this commission.

It has been brought to the Bureau's attention that there are possibly a number of individuals who would like to see physical harm done to Chief Justice Warren. While the Bureau has no investigative jurisdiction involving the protection of Mr. Warren, you are instructed to be alert for any information indicating animosity toward him and any such information received should be immediately brought to the attention of the Bureau.

Appropriate personnel in your office should be advised.

DEC 20 1963

FDT:jgs

(4)

NOTE:

Based on memorandum from Warren to the President's Commission, assassination of the President, dated 12/16/63, WFO:sgw.

ORIGINAL FILED IN 62-6125-1-46

50 JAN 3 1964

MAIL ROOM  TELETYPE UNIT



Memo DeLoach to Mohr  
Re: Lee Harvey Oswald  
IS-R  
The Presidential Commission

12/19/63

I told Congressman Ford in strict confidence that apparently Chief Justice Warren was quite close to Drew Pearson and obviously used Pearson from time to time to get his thoughts across to the general public. I mentioned Pearson's articles of December 14-16, 1963. I told Congressman Ford as he well knew 98% of the facts in these articles were absolutely false.

Congressman Ford told me that several members had been somewhat surprised, however, pleased that the FBI's report had been in narrative form rather than written in a straightforward factual manner. I told him this, of course, was for the convenience of the Commission. He then mentioned Chief Justice Warren had expressed the desirability of seeing the actual reports which back up those in narrative form. I told him the Director had issued very specific instructions that these reports be made ready for the Commission. I told him they were quite lengthy and would be considerable material to wade through.

Two members of the Commission brought up the fact that they still were not convinced that the President had been shot from the sixth floor window of the Texas Book Depository. These members failed to understand the trajectory of the slugs that killed the President. He stated he felt this point would be discussed further but, of course, would represent no problem.

Three members of the Commission expressed disappointment that U. E. Baughman, former Chief of Secret Service, had seen fit to make a number of ill-advised remarks concerning the operations of the Secret Service in the press. The Commission does not agree with Baughman and criticized him quite thoroughly. They nevertheless plan to call him before the Commission and take testimony.

At the Commission meeting yesterday, Lee Rankin, the Chief Counsel, was authorized to hire two so-called "technicians" who will assist him in research and development of the Commission's findings. The Commission was told by Rankin that these men were skilled attorneys. One of these individuals is named \_\_\_\_\_ Adams, a former Police Commissioner in New York. Another individual is a person by the name of \_\_\_\_\_ Jenner, an attorney from Chicago. The Commission was advised that both of these men are available for immediate employment. Congressman Ford stated he raised the question as to checking the backgrounds of these individuals. He was told by Rankin that both of them had very satisfactory backgrounds and belonged to no organizations inimical to the best interest of the U. S. Government.

Upon leaving, Congressman Ford advised me that he will be in Michigan on a skiing vacation with his wife and children between December 22, 1963 and January 1, 1964. He stated I should call him at any time his assistance was needed.

Memo DeLoach to Mohr  
Re: Lee Harvey Oswald  
IS-R  
The Presidential Commission

12/17/63

He stated he had one problem. He wanted to take the FBI report with him yet he had no way of transporting it in complete safety. I told him I felt the Director would want him to borrow from us one of our Agent briefcases that contains a lock. He stated this would be ideal and he would appreciate loan of a briefcase very much.

ACTION:

This matter will be followed very closely. If there are no objections, I will deliver an Agent briefcase containing a lock to Congressman Ford tomorrow, December 18, 1963.

*1  
Mogans  
12/17/63  
D*

*OK. JAM  
A*

*D. A. H.*

*W. F. M.*