

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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Belmont	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mohr	<input type="checkbox"/>
Casper	<input type="checkbox"/>
Callahan	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conrad	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DeLoach	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Malone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rosen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sullivan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tavel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Trotter	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tele. Room	<input type="checkbox"/>
Holmes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gandy	<input type="checkbox"/>

TO : MR. TOLSON

DATE: 5/5/64

FROM : A. H. Belmont

cc Mr. Belmont

SUBJECT: THE PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION

Regarding the letter from the President's Commission, dated 5/1/64, requesting me to testify on 5/6/64, it is noted that Mr. Stern of the Commission staff was to make arrangements to give me further details as to what the Commission would cover.

On 5/4/64 Mr. Stern advised that, after establishing my connection with the Bureau, I would be asked to discuss the organization of the Bureau into divisions, field offices, et cetera; the opening of an investigative case; the supervision of the investigative agent in the field and at the seat of government; an explanation of the office of origin versus auxiliary offices; how information flows between field offices and between the seat of government and the field; a brief discussion of our filing system; and the volume of our work.

Thereafter they will come to the Oswald case and establish my qualifications. I will point out that I am responsible for investigations and, therefore, responsible for this case. They will then introduce the Director's letter of 4/6/64, which sets forth answers to the thirty questions posed by the Commission relative to our investigation of Oswald. Stern said we will discuss particularly questions 1, 2, 3 and 4, dealing with our interest in Oswald prior to his return to this country and our location and interview of Oswald after his return.

They will also go into questions 22, 23, and 24, as to our investigation to locate Oswald in October, 1963; our reaction to CIA's report of his visit to the Soviet Embassy in Mexico; and as our degree of interest in Oswald's application for a passport in June, 1963.

They will then take up the letter we furnished Rankin today showing the contents of our file on Oswald prior to the assassination on 11/22/63. They will then ask as to our evaluation of Oswald during the time we were investigating him.

At this point I am going to discuss the Bureau's approach to security work and the requirement for good judgment, both in investigative procedures and the handling of security information; that we only investigate in security cases when there is a reason, and the type of investigation is based on this reason. I will discuss why we investigated and how we went about it.

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Mr. Tolson

They will then introduce the Director's letters of 2/6, 10 and 12/64, and affidavit, refuting the allegation that Oswald was an informant. They will then introduce the Director's letter of 3/31/64, dealing with our liaison with Secret Service and criteria for dissemination to Secret Service, prior to and subsequent to the assassination, and the fact that we have provided agents to assist Secret Service in protecting the President.

At this point I will, as I have previously done with Messrs. Rankin and Stern, discuss the continuing need to balance security measures against the rights of the individual; that the increase in security controls inevitably diminishes the area of individual liberty, and the FBI handles its responsibilities in the field of security as a trust--to effect and preserve the internal security of our country and its people to the maximum degree possible, but within the law and in such a manner as to strengthen, not weaken, our free society. It is noted that both Rankin and Stern have advised me that a discussion along these lines, of the FBI's approach to security work, will be a most telling point with the Commission.

For information.

[Handwritten initials]

V.

This is a very strong point
[Signature]