

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. E. S. Miller

FROM : W. A. Branigan

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
INTERNAL SECURITY - RUSSIA - CUBA
REQUEST FOR ACCESS TO FBI RECORDS -
CONGRESSMAN RICHARD H. ICHORD
(DEMOCRAT - MISSOURI)

- 1 - Mr. A. Jensen
- 1 - Mr. J. P. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. T. E. Bishop
(D. W. Bowers)

DATE: 4/10/72

- 1 - Mr. E. S. Miller
- 1 - Mr. W. A. Branigan
- 1 - Mr. L. Whitson

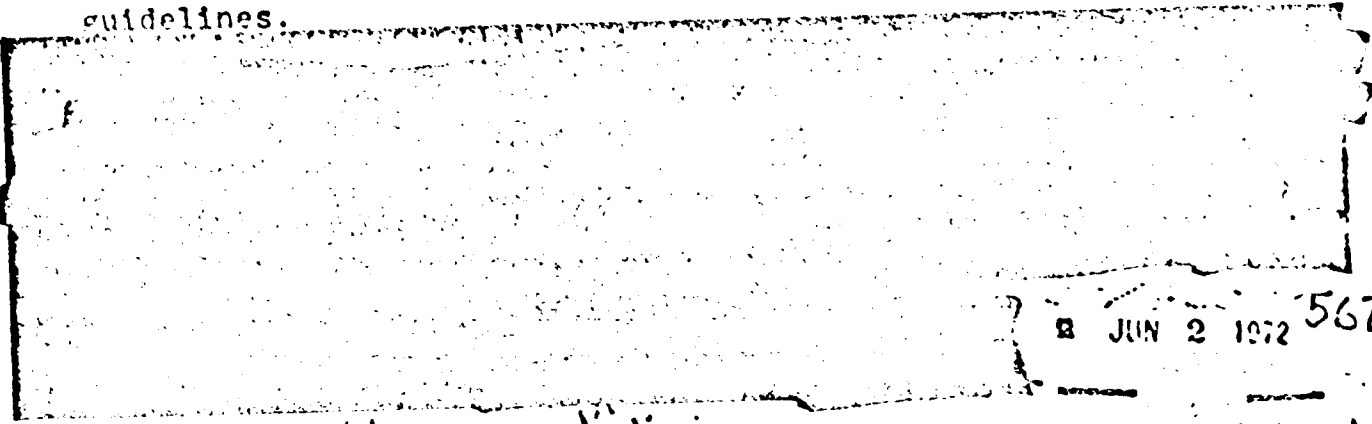
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W. A. Branigan

This memorandum recommends that Inspector D. W. Bowers attempt to determine from Congressman Ichord or members of his staff the Congressman's need for certain FBI documents furnished to the President's Commission on the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy which have not been made available to the public under Departmental guidelines.

On March 16, 1972, Congressman Richard H. Ichord (Democrat - Missouri), Chairman of the House Committee on Internal Security, requested of Archives copies of eleven Warren Commission documents, five of which originated with the FBI. Two of these had been made available by Department for research and copies were furnished Ichord by Archives. Both related to travel of Oswald in Mexico between September 26, and October 3, 1963.

The Archivist referred the request for the three other documents to the Acting Attorney General, March 21, 1972, and the request was relayed to the Bureau under date of March 30. The Acting Attorney General was informed by letter of April 5, 1972, that Bureau was conducting research on these documents, which have been withheld from public scrutiny under Departmental guidelines.



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The second document (#880) furnished to the President's Commission the results of extensive search of bank records regarding checking accounts, savings accounts or safe deposit boxes in the name of Oswald, his wife or close relatives, and lists all of the Bureau's contacts at those banking institutions who furnished information. It also refers to an investigation regarding a \$25,000 removal from Marina Oswald's trust fund. Results of this investigation are contained in Commission Document #908, which had not been requested by the Congressman.

The third document (#910) furnished to the Commission the names of those Special Agents of the FBI who conducted key inquiries or received substantive information in Mexico with respect to Oswald's activities there, with a brief outline of the nature of the inquiries conducted by each Agent. This was classified "Confidential" to protect our operations in Mexico.

Bureau files disclose cordial relations with Congressman Ichord, who was thanked by letters of October 29, and November 23, 1971, for his comments in Congress in support of the Bureau. Since the documents requested by him are not of substantive significance regarding the assassination of President J. F. Kennedy, and two deal with Bureau sources and operations, it may be that he will not need them.

RECOMMENDATION:

(1) That Inspector D. W. Bowers attempt to determine from Congressman Ichord or members of his staff the need for these documents which are not of substantive significance concerning the assassination of President Kennedy, and particularly the two which relate to Bureau sources and operations.

(2) If the Congressman insists on having the results of the interview with [redacted], we will contact [redacted] and [redacted] and seek to remove objections to release of information to the Congressman.

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(3) That we then furnish Acting Attorney General results of our activities under (1) and (2) above.

For ready reference copies of the documents referred to are attached to the original of this memorandum.

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