

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION

**ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN F. KENNEDY, 11-22-63
DALLAS, TEXAS**

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

~~SECRET~~

DATE: January 28, 1964

SEE FILE	Leach
SIDE	Evans
CRASH	Gale
ACTION	Sullivan
	Tavel
	Trotter
	Tele. Room
	Holmes
	Gandy

*Wosento
Graft
Carter
Howe
Luce
Gale
W. White*

*67C/FBI
Classified by: SP...
Declassify on: OADR 1/30/84
Rec'd IA letter 9/23/88*

*66454
M. J. Lee Rankin
Malley*

In response to a request from Mr. J. Lee Rankin, Malley attended a meeting which was scheduled at the offices of the President's Commission at 4:00 p. m., today. The meeting actually commenced about 4:35 p. m., and those present consisted of Chief Justice Earl Warren, Richard Helms of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), Tom Bellem of the Treasury Department, Inspector Tom Kelly of the Secret Service and Mr. Rankin.

Chief Justice Warren stated that the purpose of the meeting was to consider information now available as a result of investigation relating to Oswald's activities in foreign countries to determine if there was any way to prove or disprove the information now available. Chief Justice Warren stated that he had in mind that there might be some way of talking to individuals that had lived in some of these countries or any other sources that would know whether or not it was possible the information received is correct.

CIA representative Helms then stated that this problem had been presented to the CIA and that they did have some sources who were previously connected with Russian intelligence agencies, one of these having defected from Russia less than two years ago [redacted] and that the question involved was whether information that had been developed could be made available to these individuals for a verification as to whether the situations could have occurred as we now have them from correspondence received from Russian authorities, as well as information from Mrs. Oswald. Helms stated that the FBI had previously indicated they did not want their information turned over to such individuals.

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per
CIA

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- 62-109090
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Stokes
- 1 - 105-82555

JRM:hw
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66 FEB 18 1964

REC-43
FEB 14 1964

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22 FEB 13 1964

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Memorandum to Mr. Belmont
Re: PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION

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pm CIA

(S) [3-1(3)]

[REDACTED]

We have disagreed with this procedure in that we do not trust the defectors to this extent and, therefore, have told CIA that our information is not to be shown to the defectors. Some weeks ago CIA informally proposed to us that they talk to these defectors regarding Oswald, and we told them they should not use our information. Up to now, this has not been a request from the President's Commission. Our fear is that defectors [REDACTED] in an attempt to build up their importance, will come up with an alarmist picture as to the tactics of Soviet intelligence in recruiting and using persons, whom they allow to leave the Soviet Union, for intelligence and terrorist tactics. If such a report is made to the Commission, the Commission will be stuck with the report, which cannot be proved or disproved, despite the fact that there is no indication that Oswald was recruited by the Soviets; in fact, all the information is to the contrary. Frankly, we think the Commission may be making a mistake in following CIA's suggestion. However, we cannot be put in the position that we refuse to allow our information to be used. We do want to know what they are going to use so we can see if it will imperil our sources.

Examined method with the Commission's heads
At this point the members present were told that the FBI ~~not~~ desired to cooperate in every way possible with this investigation. In any instance where information had been developed by the Bureau which would be of value in a particular situation, we would like to be advised so that we could look it over.

Helms stated at this point that it would not be necessary to necessarily turn over any written record for examination, but that in many instances it could probably be accomplished by merely furnishing some facts, without identifying the sources to these individuals, to see if a verification could be obtained.

The group was again told that the FBI would be glad to assist in any way possible, and as soon as a specific instance was made known to us it would be checked.

Following this discussion, Mr. Rankin stated that he believed that all the agencies represented were more than desirous of cooperat-

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Memorandum to Mr. Belmont
RE: PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION

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to the fullest extent and that he would have members of the Commission staff select that information which he believed offered possibilities along the lines desired, and would then have the respective agencies contacted for the determination of the best procedure to follow.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Director may wish to consider having Malley point out to Rankin that by having these defectors interviewed, the Commission may be saddling itself with theoretical dissertations on the procedures of the Russian intelligence system in using persons, who have been in the Soviet Union, for intelligence and terrorist tactics; that, by inference, this would apply to Oswald, and the Commission will thus have a charge which cannot be proved or disproved, even though all information received to date indicates that Oswald was in no way recruited by Soviet intelligence. Malley would tell Rankin that we are merely pointing this out, and the decision is completely in the hands of the Commission.

Jan.
No. 244 is Rankin's
problem and I think
there is a lot of nonsense
to it but I don't want
stuff in making any obstacles.
Let them have everything & do it
promptly so C & R don't blame
delay on me.

Keyser

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FBI

Date: 2/28/64

Transmit the following in _____ (Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL _____ (Priority or Method of Mailing)

Classified by SP8 BTJ (Ch)
Declassify on: OADR 2/28/84
211326

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (105-82555)

FROM: SAC, WFO (105-37111)

LEE HARVEY OSWALD
IS - R - CUBA
(OO:DL)

addendum
Classified by SP8 BTJ
Declassify on: OADR 2/28/84

b7c
SP6
Attached are five copies for the Bureau and two for Dallas of an LHM reflecting interviews of YURI I. NOSENKO Soviet defector, 2/26, 27/64, by SAs MAURICE A. TAYLOR, DONALD E. WALTER, AND ALEKSO POPTANICH. *X u*

It is noted NOSENKO informed Bureau Agents in his first interview with us 2/24/64, he did not desire publicity of any kind in connection with information furnished by him and indicated he did not desire to have his revelations publicized or spread around in other organizations. He declared he would not testify concerning the information he furnished. *X u*

Be this as it may, WFO realizes the Bureau's obligations and the data supplied by NOSENKO is attributed to him in the attached LHM and he is described as one whose bona fides has not been established. *X u*

Information furnished WFO by the CIA which that agency received from NOSENKO is classified "Secret" and "Top Secret".

In considering the classification of the information supplied by NOSENKO concerning OSWALD, WFO concluded the information has no direct effect on the national security and thus it is not being classified. It is submitted, however, the early and/or premature

- 3 - Bureau (Enc. 5)
- 2 - Dallas (100-10461) (Enc. 2) (RM)
- 1 - WFO

CJJ:mfd 5 ENCLOSURE
(8)

AIRTEL

Approved: Thomas J. [Signature]
Special Agent in Charge

M Per _____
Dissemination of S-166 to SAC WFO DL,
Notification of Classification, 7-8-77 dmf

See [unclear] memo 12/29/64 - Sullivan
1-18-64
work file
7/10/84

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WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

INTRA COPY AND COPY OF ENCL FILE 105-82555-211326



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

February 28, 1964

LEE HARVEY OSWALD
INTERNAL SECURITY - R - CUBA

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The following information was furnished on February 26 and 27, 1964, to representatives of the FBI by Yuri Ivanovich Nosenko, Soviet defector, whose reliability has not as yet been established. (u)

Nosenko said he was Deputy Chief of the Tourist Department, Second Chief Directorate of the Committee for State Security (KGB) at the time of his defection February 4, 1964, at Geneva, Switzerland, and held the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He said the Second Directorate of the KGB is concerned with the internal security of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). (u)

Nosenko advised he was familiar with the visit of Lee Harvey Oswald to the Soviet Union in the Fall of 1959 and supervised the handling of the KGB file on Oswald in the Tourist Department. (u)

Nosenko stated that when Oswald arrived as a tourist in the Soviet Union the KGB had no current interest in him and possessed no information that Oswald was a member of the Communist Party, USA, elsewhere, or that he was a member of any pro-Soviet organization. Nosenko advised that upon arrival in Moscow Oswald contacted Intourist, the official Soviet travel agency. Oswald informed representatives of the Intourist that he desired to remain in the Soviet Union. Thereafter, Oswald's case was referred to the Seventh (Tourist) Department, Second Main Directorate, KGB. (u)

Nosenko related Oswald was discouraged from remaining permanently in Russia. It was suggested to him that he complete his visit as a tourist and return to the United States. It was further suggested he could thereafter make application through routine channels at the Soviet Embassy in the U. S. for admission as an immigrant to the Soviet Union. (u)

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) OF
DATE 8/20/70

~~SECRET~~

Classified by 7042 JHM
Exempt from GDS Category 203
Date of Declassification Indefinite

per Release
DECLASSIFIED BY SP4-
ON 11/11/01
190-709-103X
b7c/FBI

date 7/23 sec 23

RE: LEE HARVEY OSWALD

Kosenko said Oswald was not regarded by the KGB as being completely normal mentally nor was he considered to be very intelligent. He stated it was the desire of the KGB that Oswald depart from Russia as early as convenient but no effort was made to curtail his visit or to inconvenience him during his stay in Russia. Kosenko stated, however, that Oswald was pointedly informed he could not remain in Russia permanently. Later Oswald was scheduled to take a tour of Moscow but before the tour began he was again notified he could not remain in the Soviet Union. When he failed to appear for this tour a search was instituted for him and according to Kosenko inquiry was made at the Berlin Hotel in Moscow where Oswald was a guest. This inquiry disclosed Oswald had locked himself in his room and when entry was made to his room Oswald was found bleeding from self-inflicted wounds to his wrists. Kosenko stated Oswald was rushed to a hospital and Kosenko expressed the opinion that if Oswald had not received immediate medical assistance he would have died. (u)

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Kosenko stated that upon Oswald's release from the hospital Oswald was again informed he could not remain in the Soviet Union, whereupon Oswald declared if this were true he would commit suicide. Kosenko said that at this point the Second Directorate of the KGB "washed its hands of Oswald". (u)

Kosenko advised that Oswald was, nevertheless, permitted to remain temporarily in Russia and it is Kosenko's opinion this was accomplished through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or the Soviet Red Cross. Kosenko said Oswald was not granted Soviet citizenship nor was this ever considered. He said Oswald was thereafter sent to Minsk in Byelorussia, northwest of Moscow where he was given a small apartment and a minor position in a plant, believed by Kosenko to be engaged in the manufacture of radio receivers. Kosenko said Oswald received a small salary and this was supplemented by funds provided by the Soviet Red Cross. (u)

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RE: LEE HARVEY OSWALD

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Mosanko said the KGB file on Oswald was then transferred to the regional office of the KGB at Minsk and that office was instructed to maintain a discreet check on the activities of Oswald. Mosanko commented that the possibility that Oswald might be a "sleeper agent" for American intelligence had been considered by the KGB but at this time the interest of KGB headquarters in Oswald was practically nil. XLU

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Mosanko said no further word was received at the KGB headquarters concerning Oswald until he appeared at the Soviet Embassy, Mexico City, Mexico, and sought to return to the Soviet Union. He stated the headquarters of the First Chief Directorate (Foreign Intelligence) at Moscow was advised of Oswald's interest in returning to Russia. It was subsequently ascertained that Oswald had been of interest previously to the Second Directorate and the Second Directorate promptly informed the First Directorate that Oswald was of no interest to the Second Directorate. The Second Directorate said it wanted nothing to do with Oswald and it recommended to the First Directorate that Oswald not be granted permission to return to the Soviet Union. XLU

Mosanko related he next heard about Oswald approximately two hours after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy when Mosanko was summoned to the KGB center in Moscow and queried concerning his knowledge of Oswald. Mosanko said that since no file on Oswald could be located at the center he was instructed by General Oleg N. Gribanov, Head of the Second Directorate, to telephone the KGB office at Minsk and obtain a dictated summary of information concerning Oswald. Mosanko said he contacted the KGB office at Minsk and obtained a summary wherein there appeared a phrase that the KGB at Minsk had endeavored "to influence Oswald in the right direction". General Gribanov was greatly concerned about this phrase inasmuch as the KGB in Minsk had been instructed to take no action concerning Oswald. General Gribanov ordered all records at Minsk pertaining to Oswald be forwarded by var-plane to Moscow with an explanation concerning attempts "to influence Oswald in the right direction". XLU

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RE: LEE HARVEY OSWALD

Nosenko advised the KGB at Minsk reported no official action had been taken to direct Oswald and explained that one uncle of Marina Oswald, wife of Lee Harvey Oswald, who was a lieutenant colonel in the local militia at Minsk, had voluntarily approached Oswald and suggested Oswald not be too critical of the Soviet Union when he returned to the United States. Nosenko commented that when the KGB at Minsk was first requested to furnish a summary of the Oswald file it was unaware of the international significance of Oswald's activities and had included the statement reporting their endeavors to influence Oswald as a self-serving effort to impress the KGB center. *JK*

F who advised that the Oswald affair was a source of great concern to the KGB center and a large staff of KGB employees was called into service and records were reviewed in great detail to make certain the KGB had not utilized Oswald as an agent. *JK*

With respect to Marina Oswald, Nosenko advised that she was not employed as an agent of the KGB. He said she had been a member of the Komsomol (Communist Party Youth Organization) but had been dropped from the rolls on an unknown date for non-payment of dues over a long period of time. Nosenko stated Marina Oswald was not regarded by the KGB as a very intelligent person. Marina was permitted to depart Russia with her husband, but Nosenko said this was of no significance since there was no objection from the KGB. *JK*

Nosenko advised that since the death of Stalin it is possible under the law for a Russian wife of a foreign national to leave the USSR with her husband, although in practice this may be prevented as a matter of policy. *JK*

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