

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

February 14, 1964

BY COURIER SERVICE

Honorable J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel
The President's Commission
200 Maryland Avenue, N. E.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Rankin:

While being contacted by this Bureau on another matter, Frank A. Capell, editor of a weekly publication entitled "The Herald of Freedom," 45 Bay Street, Staten Island, New York, voluntarily furnished the following information:

A friend, whom Capell did not identify but did describe as an individual with sources close to the President's Commission, advised him that an attorney for John W. Stanford, an official of the Communist Party of Texas, apparently Maury Maverick, Jr., of San Antonio, Texas, had told Senator Ralph Yarborough of Texas that Stanford had definite information that Lee Harvey Oswald was an agent of the Central Intelligence Agency. According to Capell's source, Senator Yarborough reportedly turned this information over to the President's Commission. Capell furnished no dates for the above information.

The files of this Bureau indicate that in sworn testimony before the Subversive Activities Control Board in 1963 Stanford was identified as Executive Secretary of the Communist Party of Texas and a member of the Communist Party, USA. As a result of hearings before the Subversive Activities Control Board Stanford was ordered on December 20, 1963, to register as a Communist Party member with the Attorney General of the United States under the provisions of the Internal Security Act of 1950.

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On December 27, 1963, several cartons of material including pamphlets by Communist Party, USA leaders were seized by Texas authorities in a search of Stanford's home in San Antonio, Texas, under a State of Texas search warrant. A Texas court has denied Stanford a writ seeking release of the items seized. Maverick, who has been publicly identified as attorney for Stanford, is reportedly in the process of appealing this verdict to the United States Supreme Court.

Maverick is reported as representing Stanford as part of his obligation as a member of the American Civil Liberties Union. Stanford requested the American Civil Liberties Union to represent him in attempting to obtain the release of the items seized in his home by Texas authorities.

The above is being submitted to you for your information.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover