

Memorandum

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- DATE 2-26-64
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. J. A. Sizoo
- 1 - Mr. J. H. Sizoo
- 1 - Mr. Branigan

TO : MR. SULLIVAN

FROM : MR. BRANIGAN

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
INTERNAL SECURITY - RUSSIA - CUBA

On 2-25-64 Mr. J. Lee Rankin of the President's Commission advised Inspector Malley that he would like to have the Bureau make arrangements to have any talks or meetings at which Mark Lane appears recorded by any means. Mr. Rankin indicated that he was interested in having the whole meeting recorded as distinguished from Lane's participation. The purpose is that the Commission wants a record so that they can check it and make a determination as to whether they will answer Lane's comments or charges.

Mark Lane has been publicly announced as having been retained by Marguerite Oswald as attorney for her son, Lee Harvey Oswald. He is an unsavory character and is on the Bureau's Reserve Index. He has been making public appearances sponsored by various left-wing organizations. On 2-26-64 Inspector Malley received a request from Howard Willens of the President's Commission for coverage of appearances by Marguerite Oswald. Mr. Willens noted that on the night of the 24th (or 23rd) of February, Marguerite Oswald appeared on a two-hour radio program over radio station WYV, Cleveland, Ohio. The program was called "Contact" and Marguerite Oswald answered questions. Mr. Willens requested that the Bureau check with the radio station to secure a recording of the program if such is available. Willens also noted that allegedly Marguerite Oswald is to appear on a radio program in Boston either on the night of 2-26 or the night of 3-2-64. Willens requested that the Bureau endeavor to arrange to get a recording of this appearance and he asked that the Bureau establish coverage of the future appearances of Marguerite Oswald.

OBSERVATIONS:

It will be noted that the requests of the Commission are extremely broad and if literally interpreted, could pose a serious investigative burden on us which would also be of great potential embarrassment. We do not maintain a physical surveillance on either Mark Lane or Marguerite Oswald. We have

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SOVIET SECTION

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. SULLIVAN
RE: LEE HARVEY OSWALD

no assurance that either or both would not appear at a closed Communist Party (CP) meeting. The only way that we could assure that we covered any appearances at any meetings by these people would be to place them under close physical surveillance and it might be anticipated that they would soon discover this and raise resultant protest.

At the same time, the Commission's request for a recording raises the question as to the desirability of having Agents in attendance at meetings with recording devices on their persons. These meetings could be held in public halls where the management would be sympathetic to communist causes and thus the reliability and cooperation of such individuals would be extremely doubtful.

ACTION:

In view of the above, it is believed that we should limit our coverage to publicly announced meetings and appearances where Lane and/or Marguerite Oswald are to participate. We should limit our coverage to obtaining recordings of these public appearances through contacts and sources and the field should be advised that in any instance where it will be necessary for Bureau personnel to attend a meeting with a recording device, specific Bureau approval will be necessary.

If you approve, there is attached a letter to the Commission defining the coverage that we will attempt to perfect for the future public appearances of Lane and Marguerite Oswald. We are also advising the Commission that as to past public appearances, we will endeavor to obtain a recording or transcript if such are available through contact with reliable individuals only. Our New York Office had previously furnished a letterhead memorandum and a transcript of the meeting which was held at Town Hall, New York City, on the evening of 2-18-64 and these are being furnished to the Commission as enclosures to this letter in addition to a letterhead memorandum from the Milwaukee Office re a meeting before students at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, 2-16-64. Instructions to Dallas, New York and Boston are being separately handled by teletype.

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Handwritten initials: J.S. [unclear] [unclear]

Handwritten note at bottom: OK but I do not like the instant reluctance of the part to comply fully with Commission requests. I realize how important it is to have many of these. But