

Memorandum

- Assoc. Dir. _____
- Dep. AD Adm. _____
- Dep. AD Inv. _____
- Asst. Dir.:
- Admin. _____
- Comp. Syst. _____
- Ext. Affairs _____
- Files & Com. _____
- Gen. Inv. (L-1) _____
- Ident. _____
- Inspection _____
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- Legal Coun. _____
- Plan. & Eval. _____
- Spec. Inv. _____
- Training _____
- Telephone Rm. _____
- Director Sec'y _____

DATE: 9-12-75

TO : MR. CALLAHAN

FROM : J. B. ADAMS *JBA*

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD MATTER

Ag... [unclear] ...

On 9-11-75 Sandy Smith, Time magazine, came by to see me and we discussed his article appearing in the 9-15-75 issue of Time magazine. I advised him that the article troubled me because for the first time we have an allegation that any coverup which might have taken place could be an institutional coverup by involvement of FBI superiors in Washington concerning the note. I was troubled because although our inquiries are not completed we have not developed any evidence to this effect at this time, and I seriously question the accuracy of his article. Further, if he did not act in good faith in preparation of the article and cannot back it up such could be construed as being malicious providing a basis for a charge of libel if untrue.

Mr. Smith reacted vigorously to my statements and stated that he had received this information from 4, 5, or 6 separate officials present or former, and he was certain that the information was true. I asked him if all of these sources, if they exist, specifically claimed to have personal knowledge, or had just heard that such might be the case, or had heard Mr. Mohr had ordered the destruction of the note. He replied that only one of his sources claimed to have personal knowledge that Mr. Mohr told the Dallas Agents to destroy it, and the other sources had varying degrees of knowledge concerning it.

Since Mr. Smith would not identify his sources, I asked if he could provide me any leads which we could pursue to resolve this matter and he stated he could not without leading to the identification of his sources. I impressed upon him that his allegation was most material to our inquiries and it was essential this matter be resolved. He said he realized that and that he recognizes he may be forced to produce them through a libel suit or other action and then they could tell their story as they told it to him which would clearly show he acted on information coming from individuals who have provided him reliable information in the past, in fact, information which has been almost 100% accurate in the past.

I asked him how he defined an official and he was somewhat reluctant to pin down a definition as specific definition might lead to identification of his sources, but would say they were above the level of a Special Agent and would

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Section 10

Memorandum Adams to Callahan
Re: Lee Harvey Oswald Matter

fall somewhere in the range of a Special Agent Supervisor to a top official, either present or former.

I asked Mr. Smith why such individuals would go to him rather than advise the Bureau of their information either in person or anonymously, and he said they furnished the information to him obviously because they did not want to get involved with the Bureau.

I told Mr. Smith that his statement the Bureau deliberately concealed what had happened from the Warren Commission raised serious questions as to Headquarters involvement and he said that some of his sources indicated that even Mr. Hoover knew about this, however, he did not include it in the article because there was a conflict between his sources in this regard and he confined his article to what the sources agreed on.

Mr. Bassett has been advised of this information in order that this matter may be fully explored during his continuing inquiries.

ACTION:

Information only.

MS *Jm*

9/15/75

MR. CALLAHAN:

RE: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

J. A. Conley

With regard to our ongoing inquiry concerning the Oswald visit to Dallas Office and note allegedly left there in 1963, I received a telephone call today from Departmental Attorney Edward Lowenberg (Obstruction of Justice and Perjury Desk, Criminal Division). He stated he was calling because the Criminal Division had sent a note to him asking as to the status of our inquiry and therefore wondered whether we were in a position to tell him how soon a report would be submitted concerning our current investigation. I told Lowenberg that at this time I could not give him any estimate as to when we would have something over to the Department in writing, pointing out that we have conducted a number of interviews of late and also asked him if he had seen the "Time" magazine article (allegation that Mohr ordered the letter destroyed) to which he replied in the affirmative. Lowenberg also stated he did not put much value in this article.

Lowenberg next asked if in any of our continuing interviews any further information had been developed indicating that the former SAC (Shanklin) had been aware of this matter prior to 1975. In this connection Lowenberg stated the people in the Department were primarily interested in this aspect of the inquiry. I told Lowenberg that interviews were still being conducted and I have not seen the results of all the interviews as of this date and accordingly, could not answer his question. I told Lowenberg that at such time as our current interviews are completed we, of course, would prepare a report and furnish it promptly to the Department.

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Above furnished for information.

J. A. Conley

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