

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Thomas J. Hughes  
The Director of Intelligence and Research  
Department of State

SUBJECT: Assassination of President John F. Kennedy -  
Verification of Entry in "Historic Diary"

1. Our memorandum of 13 February 1964 on the above subject recommended that the Department of State urgently request a careful search of Embassy and Consular records in Moscow for the purpose of identifying, if possible, the "elderly American" Lee Harvey OSWALD encountered while hospitalized in the USSR in October of 1959.

2. We have received a report that the hospital to which OSWALD was taken by the Soviet authorities after the suicide attempt mentioned in his "Historic Diary" may have been the Botkinskaya Hospital in Moscow. The 1953 and the 1962 Moscow telephone directories for Organizations and Institutions, list a hospital named S. P. BOTKINA. Our specialists advise that a native of Moscow would normally refer to this hospital as the "Botkinskaya." It is said to be the hospital to which foreigners and diplomatic personnel are generally taken in the event of an emergency or serious illness, and one building or wing of the hospital is reported to be especially designated for this purpose.

3. We would appreciate receiving information on any Americans who might have been patients at the "Botkinskaya" in the fall of 1959 that may be contained in your files or those of your Embassy in Moscow.

(Signed) Richard Helms

Richard Helms  
Deputy Director for Plans

cc: Mr. J. Lee Rankin, Esq. ✓

Federal Bureau of Investigation

*noted*

*3-31-64*

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

10553-1034

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The Director of Intelligence and Research  
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1. In connection with our efforts to be of assistance to the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy by providing information which might be helpful in interpreting available materials relating to Lee Harvey Oswald's activities abroad, we have noted certain information in the manuscript materials by Oswald which were made available to this Agency. In a document entitled "Historic Diary" there appears an entry which refers to "an elderly American." The entry is under the date 25 October 1959 when Oswald was allegedly confined in an unidentified Moscow hospital. The item in its entirety reads:

"An elderly American at the hospital grew suspicious about me for some reason. Because at Embassy I told him I had not registered as host tourist and I am in general evasive about my presence in Moscow and at hospital."

It is apparent that every effort should be made to identify the elderly American, if he existed. We have seen no reference to this detail in any materials thus far made available to this Agency on the Oswald investigation. We assume that the lead is still outstanding. It is our recommendation that the Department of State urgently request through its channels a careful search of Embassy and Consular records in Moscow which might reveal the identity of an elderly American hospitalized at the end of October 1959 and possibly registered with the Embassy as a tourist. An independent confirmation of this detail could be of great significance in validating the entries of Oswald's "Historical Diary" and would possibly lead to the development of additional information on Oswald's stay in the USSR.

2. Copies of this memorandum are being provided to Mr. J. Lee Rankin

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Counsel for the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy, and to the FBI through liaison channels. We would appreciate being advised of the results of your efforts.

Richard Helms  
Richard Helms  
Deputy Director for Plans

✓cc: Mr. J. Lee Rankin, Esq.

Federal Bureau of Investigation

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