

Memorandum

[Handwritten initials and signatures]

Tolson _____
DeLoach _____
Mohr _____
Bishop _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

TO : Mr. Mohr

FROM : C. D. DeLoach

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT

DATE: December 6, 1963

Deputy Attorney General Katzenbach called me at 10:45 p. m., 12-5-63. He told me that Sandy Smith of the "Chicago Sun-Times" had called Guthman several times relative to the attempted assassination of General Edwin A. Walker by Lee Harvey Oswald. I told Katzenbach that we too had received a number of calls, however, had refused to make any comment whatever in this matter although we knew the story was getting out. Katzenbach told me that Pierre Salinger of the White House had called him and wanted guidance on what to say in the matter. Katzenbach told Salinger inasmuch as the story was apparently already out that Salinger should go ahead and merely confirm the fact that apparently there was evidence that Oswald had made an assassination attempt upon General Walker's life.

Richard Co D.C.

Katzenbach told me that the Associated Press (AP) had picked up a rumor that the FBI report on the assassination of the President and the murder of Oswald was now over in the Department. He wanted to know if we had received any inquiries in this regard. I told him we were deluged with inquiries during the past several days as to when the FBI would complete the report, however, we had made no comment and intended to stick by this. He stated that Senator Russell, at the Presidential Commission meeting yesterday, 12-5-63, had been somewhat sore that information contained in the report was leaked out. Katzenbach stated he told Russell that Director Hoover had assured him that the FBI was not giving any information to the press and that he further stated he would check with the FBI to make certain that this was not being done. I asked Katzenbach if he had any information that facts given to the press were coming from the FBI. He stated he had none and that was not the purpose of his call. He indicated he merely wanted to advise me of Senator Russell's feelings. I told him he should keep in mind that almost every police officer in the Dallas Police Department has been furnishing information to the press. I mentioned that Henry Wade, the prosecutor, the Chief of Police and Captain Will Fritz had had a field day in giving out all available facts. I mentioned there were still a considerable number of reporters in Dallas and that the evidentiary reports which we had furnished the Dallas Police Department were still being quoted on a daily basis. Katzenbach stated he knew all of this but that he had been unable to convince Russell that such was the case. I further told Katzenbach

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- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Tolson
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Miss Gandy
- 1 - Mr. Evans
- 1 - Miss Holmes
- 1 - Mr. Jones
- 1 - Mr. Morrell

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12 DEC 11 1963
CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

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DEC 16 1963

ST-104

Section

DeLoach to Mohr 12-C-6
Re: Assassination of the President

that before looking at the files as to possible "leak" he should carefully examine his own house. I told him I was quite thoroughly familiar with the way Guthman and Rosenthal dealt with the press and that as he well knew the wire service people stayed constantly in Guthman's private office. I told him it was quite obvious to me how the AP had learned that the report had been sent over to the Department.

Katzenbach reiterated that he had no complaints against the FBI. He stated again that the purpose of his call was to tell me about Senator Russell's feelings.

He added that he had another reason for calling and that was to determine if we could give him any ideas as to how Warren Olney could be dropped as Chief Counsel of the Presidential Commission. I told Katzenbach of our feelings concerning Olney. He stated that he was presently working through Congressman Hale Boggs and he thought he was going to be successful in getting Olney's name removed from consideration. He told me that Boggs was very sympathetic.

Katzenbach mentioned that Waggoner Carr, the Texas State Attorney General, would like very much to see the Director on Friday, 12-6-63. I asked him what for. He stated that Carr had no particular motive in mind other than to indicate to the press later on that he had discussed matters with the Director. I told him I could see no percentage in the Director's seeing Carr, that we were the investigative agency and that Carr's dealings should be with the Department and the Presidential Commission. Katzenbach indicated that the White House might think otherwise. He stated that the President was most anxious for Carr to be given attention in Washington inasmuch as Carr was running for office next year. I told Katzenbach I knew this, however, I still felt that the Director should not be injected into this matter. Katzenbach stated he would attempt to dissuade Carr from seeing the Director, however, Carr was quite persistent.

ACTION:

In view of the close friendship which Carr obviously has with the President, the Director may desire to just shake hands with Carr without sitting down and discussing facts concerning our report.

*By the way, I will
be in
H*

Memorandum

Mr. Belmont

DATE: 12-5-63

C. A. Evans

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT

Michael de B.

Deputy Attorney General Katzenbach advised he attended the organizational meeting of the President's Commission to report on the assassination of President Kennedy held today. He noted that the meeting did not get around to the point of discussing the appointment of Chief Counsel or other staff members. The consensus of Commission members was that it would be inadvisable to have a large number of witnesses to testify before the Commission but rather the report submitted by the FBI and other agencies should be fully utilized. In this regard, questions were raised as to the evaluation of information furnished by various witnesses. Katzenbach was asked, for example, whether the Commission would be furnished with background information including a criminal record, if any, on various persons interviewed. He said he told the Commission members that this would be highly impractical as obviously the FBI could not conduct a background investigation on every person they interviewed. On the other hand, he noted that if the testimony of a particular witness, who had been interviewed by the FBI, was inconsistent with other known information or otherwise questioned, then he believed the FBI would honor a Commission request for additional facts on such a witness. It was suggested that once the Commission is organized, it might be desirable to have a liaison arrangement directly between the Commission and the FBI, if it related to investigative matters.

With reference to the FBI report, which Katzenbach received today, he said he was having it reviewed by his attorneys and he planned to read it himself tonight. It is Katzenbach's feeling that unless he notes something of a particularly disabling nature, he felt the report should go to the President as prepared by the Bureau without any change. He hopes to do this tomorrow because obviously the Commission cannot begin any activity until they have the report.

- 1 - Mr. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Rosen

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199 DEC 11 1963

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DEC 13 1963

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Memorandum to Mr. Belmont
Re: Assassination of the President

G. D. C.

At the meeting today, Katzenbach said Senator Richard B. Russell, a Commission member, was most sarcastic in asking whether the Commission would get the report before the FBI had leaked all of its contents to the press. Katzenbach said he immediately spoke up and said that he had talked with the Director and other ranking officials in the FBI and he knew that no leak of information from the FBI to the press would ever be condoned. He said he told Senator Russell that newspaper reporters have their own ways of developing information and just because they get a story it does not mean that it was leaked to them.

The position of Texas State Attorney General Carr, is, according to Katzenbach, most untenable. Carr at the request of President Johnson announced that he was going to have a State Board of Inquiry look into the President's assassination. Now White House officials have told Carr it would be inadvisable for him to proceed. Carr is in Washington and will probably see President Johnson. Katzenbach anticipates Carr will make some kind of statement to the press pointing out that investigation in this case has extended to many areas outside the State of Texas and that action by the Federal Government is the only way the full story can be ascertained. This will be his excuse for not proceeding with the State Inquiry.

ACTION:

Any further information received concerning this matter will be brought to your attention promptly.

(see addendum, page 3)

Memorandum to Mr. Belmont
Re: Assassination of the President

ADDENDUM (AIE:csh), 12/6/63:

Mr. Katzenbach called me on the night of 12/5/63. He said he had read our report and it was "sensational." He wanted to know whether we thought a public statement should be made, either by the Department or the White House, to the effect that the report was finished, and the status of the matter. I advised him we had no opinion on this; that this was up to the Department; that we had done the investigation, and were continuing to follow out leads, and we had given the report to the Department.

Katzenbach said if we did not object he would go through with his original promise and let high officials of CIA, State and Secret Service look at this report on the morning of 12/6. I told him we had no objection.

Katzenbach asked whether we had any views as to how the report should be transmitted to the White House or the commission. I advised him that, here again, the commission had not asked the FSI for the investigation; that the President had, and that we had done the investigation, prepared the report, given it to the Department, and it was up to the Department to decide what should be done with it.

Mr. Katzenbach said that if Warren Olney is appointed as counsel for the Presidential commission, Katzenbach is going to try to get an attorney from the Criminal Division in with the commission, so that he will know what is going on.

Katzenbach said he would probably like to get together with us on the morning of 12/6 to discuss the report, although he had very few questions. I told him we would come over and discuss it with him at any time he wanted.

A. H. Belmont

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont ✓

DATE: 12-2-63

FROM : C. A. Evans ✓

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

8

10/11/63

Mr. Tolson
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Bishop
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

Mohr

9.11

Deputy Attorney General Katzenbach telephoned on the evening of December 2, 1963. He advised that Chief Justice Warren had taken a very strong position in opposition to the publication of the FBI report in this matter. The Chief Justice is said to feel that the only report which should be published is that of the President's Commission itself. Katzenbach noted that the President had not as yet reached a decision in this regard, but that the Chief Justice's position is so strong that if the President should not agree with him, Katzenbach feels that the Chief Justice would resign from the President's Commission.

Despite this, Katzenbach felt that the FBI report would be most helpful both to the President and to the Commission. It is still felt that some type of statement has to be made to put a stop to the many rumors and this statement would be prepared on the basis of the material in the FBI report.

All we will do is to transmit the report to Katzenbach for any suggested revisions & then if the President will go to the President. I will make no statement & adhere to no comment.

- 1 - Mr. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan

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Memorandum

V.O. ✓
 Mr. Tolson ✓
 Mr. DeLoach ✓
 Mr. Mohr ✓
 Mr. Bishop ✓
 Mr. Casper ✓
 Mr. Callahan ✓
 Mr. Conrad ✓
 Mr. Felt ✓
 Mr. Gale ✓
 Mr. Rosen ✓
 Mr. Sullivan ✓
 Mr. Tavel ✓
 Mr. Trotter ✓
 Tele. Room ✓
 Mr. Holmes ✓
 Miss Gandy ✓
 [Handwritten initials]

TO : Mr. Tolson

DATE: 12-3-63

FROM : A. H. Belmont

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT
November 22, 1963

At 6:10 P.M. Deputy Attorney General Katzenbach called. He said Chief Justice Warren had called a meeting of the Commission appointed by the President for 10:00 A.M., Thursday morning. Justice Warren wants a high-level liaison man from any interested agency. Katzenbach will attend the meeting but he feels that the FBI should have someone there also to answer any questions the Commission might have regarding the scope of the investigation, etc. Katzenbach thinks the Bureau representative should be the Director or Belmont. I made no commitment to Mr. Katzenbach, but I recommend we advise him that our report in this matter will speak for itself and until the report is ready, there is no real purpose in an FBI representative being present at the Commission meeting. With respect to this, it is noted that Katzenbach felt it was better to show willingness to cooperate with the Commission in every respect.

Katzenbach said that there are problems arising between the Texas Board of Inquiry headed by Texas Attorney General Carr, and the Presidential Commission headed by Justice Warren; that Texas wants to go ahead with an inquiry and Warren wants them to hold off. Attorney General Carr and the past president of the Texas Bar Association are to come and see Katzenbach tomorrow, at which time he will try to calm the waters and establish ground rules. Katzenbach wanted to know if we wanted to talk to Attorney General Carr and the others. I told him we did not, that we were busy investigating this matter and trying to get out our report.

Mr. Katzenbach asked whether I could give him a timetable on the report. I told him no I could not, that we were working as hard as we could and that was all I could say.

- 1 - Mr. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan

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Mr. Tolson

On the morning of 12/4/63 I called Mr. Katzenbach and advised him that we see no real reason for us to have anyone at the meeting of the commission on Thursday morning; that there is nothing that we can contribute at this time. I pointed out that we were working on the investigation and the report, and will submit it to the Department as soon as possible, and until that time we are not saying anything.

Katzenbach said he felt this puts him in a rather peculiar position and at least he would like to have someone come down before the Thursday morning meeting and brief him as to what we are doing, so that he could be in a position to answer questions. I told him that this was undesirable; that if the question is raised as to what the FBI is doing, there is a very simple answer, namely that we are pressing the investigation and the writing of the report; that this is our major goal and until this is completed there is nothing we can contribute. I pointed out that there is no question of any reluctance on the part of the FBI, as we are bending every effort to produce the information the commission will need.

Relative to the second point, about the Texas board of inquiry, I told Mr. Katzenbach that the Director feels it would be very unwise for this board to conduct an inquiry now; that they would have to use our evidence, and this evidence is being made available first to the President's commission; therefore, the two inquiries would be at cross purposes. Katzenbach was in full agreement and said his problem is one of convincing the commission of this.

Katzenbach said that he had been talking to Chief Justice Warren, and Warren had indicated to him that the chief counsel for the President's commission will be Warren Olney. Katzenbach thought that this would be most undesirable. Katzenbach said that, as we probably know, Chief Justice Warren thinks that Olney can do no wrong, and he (the Chief Justice) had made the point that Olney is conversant with the FBI's procedures and thus would be operating in a familiar field. Katzenbach said if we have any ideas as to how Olney can be blocked as chief counsel, he would like to have them. I told him that, as far as I was concerned, Olney was an undesirable choice, and if we had any thoughts we would get them to him.

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