

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Tolson
 Belmont
 Mohr
 Casper
 Callahan
 Conrad
 DeLoach
 Evans
 Gale
 Rosen
 Sullivan
 Tavel
 Trotter
 Tele. Room
 Holmes
 Gandy

49

TO : Mr. A. H. Belmont *albr*
FROM : Mr. W. C. Sullivan *wcs ll-114*
SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
 INTERNAL SECURITY - CUBA - RUSSIA

DATE: May 11, 1964
 1 - Mr. Belmont
 1 - Mr. Mohr
 1 - Mr. DeLoach
 1 - Mr. Sullivan
 1 - Mr. D.E. Moore
 1 - Mr. Branigan
 1 - Mr. Lenihan

On Saturday at 11 a.m., in accordance with Bureau approval, I talked to Isaac Don Levine, well-known anticommunist writer. He called at this office while en route to the State Department. Levine, who was born in Russia, has not been close to the Bureau in recent years. On the other hand, we have had no real problem with him. We know he has been in Dallas in the recent past talking to Marina Oswald and otherwise conducting inquiries for the purpose of writing a book.

On calling in to arrange an interview with me, he said his purpose was to give us information which he believed the FBI should have and did not have. Despite this, he began to ask me questions as to whether the FBI was in possession of such and such a piece of information, et cetera. At the offset I stopped Levine and explained to him very carefully and politely that I had no comment whatsoever to make to him about any aspect of the Oswald case; that if he did have any information to give to the Bureau I would be glad to receive it. He said he understood the reason for this and then commenced to talk.

Mr. Levine said he regards Marina Oswald as being a very intelligent, astute, cunning person who is still holding out and not telling all that she knows. He said he regards her as being educated because she writes very clear, impressive and grammatically correct Russian.

Mr. Levine said he had called on Mr. Allen Dulles, former head of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to discuss this matter but he was unimpressed by Dulles, who appeared during the interview to be sleepy and not really interested in what Levine was saying. Further, he said he got the impression that Mr. Dulles is not the type of man who would act decisively.

Levine explained that, as a result of talking to Marina Oswald and making additional inquiries, he believes that Lee Harvey Oswald was active when in Minsk, Russia, with a group of Cubans there. Levine stated that outside of Minsk there is a little village called Prakhovka which is used as a training station by the Soviets for MINER foreigners from different parts of the world who are returned to their native countries to carry out missions for the Soviets. Mr. Levine said he believed that Lee Harvey Oswald was trained as a propagandist.

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 (8) JUN 5 1964
 ENCLOSURE

REC-49 105-82555-397
 JUN 5 1964

S/R. L. Lichten

Memorandum for Mr. Belmont
RE: LEE HARVEY OSWALD

by the Soviets in behalf of Castro's Cuba and returned to the United States under their instructions to conduct propaganda for the Cubans. He said he did not believe that Lee Harvey Oswald was trained in or returned to the United States by the Soviets for espionage purposes for they wouldn't trust him to carry out anything so responsible and so sensitive. He did believe that they were of the opinion he could be used safely for propaganda activities such as those in which he engaged in the name of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. Also, Mr. Levine said he believed that Marina Oswald was allowed to come into this country by the Soviets as a "sleeper." He expressed the opinion that he didn't believe she was a "sleeper" in the espionage sense but rather one whom the Soviets could safely go to after she was here three, four or five years to determine whether or not she could be of any value to them. He said he is of the opinion that Oswald was in contact with the Cuban Embassy in Moscow, USR Texas LA D.C.

I asked Mr. Levine for the evidence to support these views, and he said he did not have any evidence but they represented deductions he had made from his study of the case.

He went on to say that letters had been sent to the "Militant" (organ of the Socialist Workers Party, a Trotskyite group) from Dallas, Texas, as follows: a letter dated October 14, 1963, signed R. L.; a letter dated March 11, 1963, signed L. H.; a letter dated April 22, 1963, signed Thelma Luccio; and a letter dated April 5, 1963, from Houston, signed E. L. Texas

Levine believes that Lee Harvey Oswald went through six stages in his social thinking. These are: (1) a general socialist; (2) a socialist infatuated with Russia; (3) a full-fledged Marxist-Leninist communist; (4) deviation toward Trotskyism; (5) a Castro communist; (6) at the time of his death, a supporter of the Chinese (a Maoist).

Levine showed me a copy of a document entitled "The 33 Fresh Clues to the Mind of Kennedy's Assassin," dated April 14, 1964. He wanted to know whether we had covered all of these. Again, I told Mr. Levine I was not discussing the matter with him. He offered to let me make a copy of this, which I did, and he said he would be very glad to discuss these matters with the Bureau. I asked him for the evidence he had relating to these clues. He said he had an appointment at the Department of State within an hour and could not go into it, but that he did have considerable information relating to the 33 clues and would be glad to submit this data to the Bureau on being interviewed.

We are aware of and have run out the great majority of the items to which he refers. However, we cannot afford to ignore what additional information Levine claims he has, which I doubt is anything

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of real value. It is believed desirable to have Supervisor Robert E. Lenihan, who is very knowledgeable in this case, along with a WFO Agent visit Mr. Levine at his home in Waldorf, Maryland, which is nearby, and get from him whatever additional material he has concerning the 33 items.

RECOMMENDATION:

That arrangements be made to have Mr. Lenihan and a WFO Agent handle this matter as indicated above.

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Isaac Don Levine
Apr 8, 1964

The 33 Fresh Clues to the Kind of Kennedy's Assassin

(Based on a behind-the-scenes investigation
at Dallas and New Orleans)

by
Isaac Don Levine

1. The documentary evidence destroyed by Marina Oswald, at the direction of Oswald's mother, the night of the assassination.
2. The story of the rifle on November 22 as told by Marina.
3. The history of the rifle in the Payne's garage, and its fate since the April attempt on General Walker.
4. Marina's surprise at the discovery of Oswald's handwritten note to her about his attempt on General Walker, and the sensational circumstances of how it was found.
5. A White Russian friend drops in on the Oswalds the evening following the attempt on General Walker, and Marina's report of the curious incident.
6. A full account of Oswald's abortive attempt on the life of Richard Nixon.
7. Oswald's hostile attitude towards the FBI as revealed in a handwritten draft of a letter by him dated Nov. 9, and his lying as demonstrated by the document.
8. Marina and the FBI interview of Nov. 5.
9. The Oswalds' move to New Orleans. Marina's six intimate letters from New Orleans to Ruth Paine. Oswald's planned trip to Russia.
10. Oswald's unpublished first interview on the radio in August, 1963, as recorded on tape.
11. Marina's own story of her husband's departure for Mexico and projected trip to Cuba and Russia.
12. The drilled "peso" necklace from Mexico and Marina's denial of prior knowledge of his Mexican trip. *earlier*
13. The missing wedding ring on Oswald's finger and where Ruth Paine found it.
14. The unexpected arrival of Oswald Thursday evening, Nov. 21. His hour in the garage.
15. Oswald urges Marina to move from the Paine house. *26*
16. He asks about the new shoes for Marina. *JUN 5 1964*
17. How Marina knew he was wakeful in bed the last night they were together. *105-82555-3971*

ENCLOSURE

18. How he left Marina the morning of Nov. 22. His superstition about bidding adieu.
19. How the news of the assassination came to Marina.
20. Oswald's courtship of Marina at Minsk. His apartment there.
- ✓ 21. The Cubans in Minsk and the report on his relations with the Cuban embassy in Moscow.
22. The Cuban student who visited the Oswalds at New Orleans, and his report on the meeting.
23. The contradiction between Oswald's letter to Senator Tower and her diary entry on their exit visas. The mysterious background of the letter to Tower.
24. The Argentinian family in Minsk and the Oswalds.
25. His concealment from Marina of his attempt at suicide.
26. Oswald's view of Trotskyism.
27. Oswald's view of Communist China.
28. Oswald's vision of the son he expected from the pregnant Marina.
- ✓ 29. Marina's Komsomol career and the story of "Kamo" — the Soviet revolutionary hero.
30. Oswald's ideological attitude towards Marina.
31. How she displays in her diary her Soviet indoctrination — her attitude towards Lenin and Khrushchev — her knowledge of foreign literature. The ballet incident.
- ✓ 32. The true political motive of the assassination.
- ✓ 33. Marina's last remark to Ruth Paine (March, 1964) about this author's inquiry.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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Holmes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DeLoach	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mohr	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cooper	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Callahan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Conrad	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DeLoach	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Felt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gale	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rosen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sullivan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tavel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Trotter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tele. Room	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Holmes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gandy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

- 1 - Belmont
- 1 - Mohr

TO : W. C. Sullivan

DATE: 5/13/64

FROM : W. A. Branigan

- 1 - DeLoach
- 1 - Sullivan
- 1 - Malley
- 1 - Branigan
- 1 - Lenihan

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
INTERNAL SECURITY - RUSSIA - CUBA

W.A. Branigan
Lenihan

Re memorandum Sullivan to Belmont dated 5/11/64 (attached) which sets forth results of Mr. Sullivan's conversation with Isaac Don Levine, well-known anticommunist writer, on 5/9/64. During this conversation Mr. Levine furnished Mr. Sullivan a copy of a document entitled "The 33 Fresh Clues to the Mind of Kennedy's Assassin" dated 4/14/64. Mr. Sullivan pointed out that undoubtedly the FBI has run out the great majority of the items to which Levine refers but indicated we cannot afford to ignore any additional information Levine claims he has. Mr. Sullivan recommended Levine be interviewed by Supervisor Robert E. Lenihan of the Domestic Intelligence Division and a Washington Field Office Agent concerning the 33 items in question.

On 5/12/64 Mr. Levine was interviewed at his residence in Waldorf, Maryland, by Special Agents (SA) Robert E. Lenihan and James F. Morrissey. Mr. Levine's wife was present during most of the interview at Mr. Levine's request inasmuch as she was able to refresh his mind concerning a number of points involved.

In connection with the document entitled "The 33 Fresh Clues to the Mind of Kennedy's Assassin," Mr. Levine stated that such document was not prepared by him as a lead document for the FBI since he felt certain in his own mind that most, if not all, of the items mentioned had undoubtedly been covered by the FBI's investigation in this matter. He stated that he prepared the document to send to "Life" magazine and possibly other magazines to interest the editors of such publications in an article he was writing on the assassination. He felt such document would whet the appetites of magazine editors and the public and would result in Levine's obtaining a contract for an article. Levine stated that "Life" magazine and others have indicated a reluctance at this time to publish an article on the assassination because of the probability that the Warren Commission will publish results of its investigation in the near future. However, Levine is continuing his inquiries and investigation with the intention of writing a historical-type document, particularly as it involves Lee Harvey Oswald and Marina Oswald.

Enclosure

105-82655

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58 JUN 9 1964

EX-103 REC-49761-384 8255-3971
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 E. B. I.
 REC'D DIRECTOR

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Memorandum to Mr. Sullivan
Re: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
105-82555

During the interview with Mr. Levine on 5/12/64 the interviewing Agents went over very carefully with Mr. Levine and his wife the 33 items which he referred to as 33 fresh clues. There was only one item which came up which has not been thoroughly run out. This involved Item #21, wherein Levine refers to the Oswalds' contacts with Cubans in Minsk, Russia, and the report of Oswald's relations with the Cuban Embassy in Moscow. Levine indicated he received information from a reliable and responsible source who formerly was a professor in Cuba to the effect that Lee Harvey Oswald and Marina Oswald had associated with Cuban nationals in Minsk and that Oswald had personal contact with two Cuban diplomats in Moscow, Russia, during Oswald's residence in Russia. Levine did not have the name of his source available at the time of the interview but on the morning of 5/13/64 Mr. Levine telephoned Supervisor Lenihan and identified his Cuban source as Herminio Portell-Vila, 5431 Connecticut Avenue, Northwest, Washington, D. C. *ct-1-11*

We have previously received information from Marina Oswald that she and Lee Harvey Oswald had an acquaintance in Minsk by the name of Alfred who was a Cuban residing in Minsk. According to Marina, Alfred whose last name she did not know was a Cuban citizen and a resident of Cuba who for some time had been studying in Russia. He studied at the University of Minsk for about six months and later studied at the University of Moscow. Marina indicated that she believes Alfred is presently attending the University of Moscow. Marina indicated that Lee Harvey Oswald had met Alfred at a social affair in Minsk. *USSR*

We have previously interviewed Herminio Portell-Vila, a former professor of history at the University of Havana, Cuba, in connection with other matters of interest to this Bureau. Dr. Portell-Vila is currently employed as a writer for the Spanish-language weekly magazine "Bohemia Libre" published in New York City and has written articles for this magazine regarding the assassination. Dr. Portell-Vila's articles in question contain numerous distortions and speculation, including the fact that Oswald had accomplices to assist him in the assassination. We contacted Portell-Vila on 2/17/64 concerning these articles at which time he stated he obtained the data for such articles from public source material, such as American newspapers and magazines, foreign language newspapers and publications. He stated he had no direct or specific knowledge bearing on his allegations.

In view of the fact that Levine claims he learned from Dr. Portell-Vila that Oswald had contacts with two Cuban diplomats in Moscow, we have instructed Washington Field to immediately reinterview Dr. Portell-Vila and pin him down to specifics concerning such allegation.

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105-82555

OBSERVATIONS:

Mr. Levine and his wife were most cooperative during the interview of them on 5/12/64. The interviewing Agents got the impression, however, that the Levines were interested in obtaining data that might substantiate some of their speculations concerning the assassination and Lee Harvey Oswald. At the very outset of the interview, however, SA Lenihan carefully explained to Mr. and Mrs. Levine that the Bureau Agents were there to receive any information they might offer which they felt would have a bearing upon the assassination of President Kennedy and that appropriate investigation would be conducted on the basis of any information they furnished which necessitated further inquiry. SA Lenihan also made it very clear to Mr. and Mrs. Levine that the Bureau Agents would make no comment whatsoever concerning data they furnished. Both Mr. and Mrs. Levine indicated they understood the Bureau's position in this matter but desired to furnish any data they might possess which they felt might be of assistance to the Bureau. Thereafter, at no time during the interview did either Mr. or Mrs. Levine attempt in any manner to elicit information from the Bureau Agents.

ACTION:

For information. Immediately upon receipt of results of WFO's contact with Dr. Herminio Portell-Vila such data will be immediately furnished to the President's Commission and any additional investigation called for as a result of our interview of Dr. Portell-Vila will be immediately conducted.

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