

Memorandum

TO: Mr. Mohr

DATE: 4-24-64

FROM: C. D. DeLoach

SUBJECT: WILLIAM MANCHESTER
AUTHOR OF BOOK REGARDING
ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

Handwritten notes and signatures:
✓
Tolson
DeLoach
Mohr
Bishop
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

My memorandum of 3-31-64 indicated that Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy had invited captioned individual to do a book concerning the six days surrounding the assassination of the President. This book will be published in 1968 or 1969. Referenced memorandum reported that Ed Guthman of the Department was most anxious for the Director to meet with Mr. Manchester concerning the book. Guthman promised that no questions would be asked concerning the FBI investigation of the assassination.

The Director indicated that he would not meet with Manchester in view of the false allegations mentioned by Deputy Attorney General Katzenbach to the Warren Commission indicating that information had been "leaked" by the FBI concerning our investigation of the assassination. The Director indicated that Manchester should see me.

Guthman's office called again on 4-21-64 and asked that I see Manchester at 3:30 p. m. on 4-22-64. Upon seeing Manchester, he advised me that he was primarily interested in the activities of the Director immediately following the assassination of the President. I told Manchester that the Director of course was the first one to advise the Attorney General that his brother, the President, had been shot and that the Director later advised that his brother was dead. Manchester told me that he knew this to be a fact and that he had visited the Attorney General's home and the swimming pool where the Attorney General had been standing at the time the Director had called him. He pointed out however that he desired to obtain this information from the Director rather than from an assistant.

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NOT RECORDED

Manchester told me that he was having some difficulty in obtaining the information that he wanted. He mentioned that most people felt that nothing could be given to him until after the report of the Warren Commission had been issued. I told Manchester I thought that for the most part this would certainly be true for the FBI inasmuch as we were the agency appointed by the President to be chiefly responsible for the investigation of both the assassination and the murder of Oswald. Manchester told me that questions actually would not involve the FBI investigation of this case. He stated that even if this were true he still felt that answers should be given to his questions inasmuch as his book would not be published for 4 or 5 years following the issuance of the Commission report.

- 1 - Mr. Tolson
- 1 - Mr. Evans
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. M. A. Jones
- 1 - Mr. Malley

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58 MAY 14 1964

COPY SENT TO MR. TOLSON

Scotting

DeLoach to Mohr memo
RE: William Manchester
Author of Book Regarding
Assassination of President Kennedy

I told Manchester that I felt certain he could understand our position in being reluctant to give him specific facts concerning our investigation, particularly inasmuch as a Departmental official had seen fit to allege to the Warren Commission that the FBI was "leaking" information. I told Manchester that this allegation had of course been false. However, the fact still remained that the FBI did not want to be placed in the position of releasing information prior to the issuance of the Commission report.

Manchester stated that although he could understand our viewpoint he would still like to talk to the Director concerning the Director's specific activities immediately following the assassination. I asked Manchester what he had in mind. He stated it would be far better if we furnish him a great deal of information and then let him later pose specific questions in order to round out the information. I told him this seemed to be the cart pulling the horse inasmuch as we would first want to know what he had in mind and before we went to a great deal of work. I told him regardless of what he desired he would still have to realize that no information concerning our investigation could be released until after the issuance of the Commission report.

Manchester asked if the allegation were true that the FBI had known that Oswald was in Dallas, Texas, and at the Texas Book Depository at the time of the assassination of the President. I answered in the affirmative, however, explained at great length the fact that Oswald was not a violent-type person and there had been no reason to notify Secret Service of his presence. I also explained to Manchester the cooperation which had existed for many years between the FBI and Secret Service and of the fact that we constantly informed Secret Service of threats made against the President.

Manchester told me that he was having considerable difficulty in getting any information from Secret Service. He stated that this organization has been criticized so severely and its personnel are so heartbroken over the tragedy that they are reluctant to talk about the assassination.

In leaving, Manchester told me that he would be in town for approximately three months living in a rented apartment. He stated that sometime during this three months he would appreciate having a visit with the Director. I told him that the Director's schedule was quite filled, however, we would be in touch with him if the Director had an opportunity to see him. I also told him that rather than wait for an appointment might desire to write out his questions and give them to me. I reminded him, however, that it was doubtful that we could be of any assistance to him until after issuance of the Commission report.

The meeting with Manchester was on a cordial and pleasant basis, however, he fully understands our position. Bufiles reflect that our relations with him in the past have been most cordial. He does appear, however, to be somewhat of a dreamy non-specific type of individual.

ACTION: None at this time.

[Handwritten signatures and initials are present below the ACTION line.]