

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont

DATE: March 26, 1964

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: THE PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION
ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT

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	

W
D.E. [unclear]
[unclear]

Mr. J. Lee Rankin of the President's Commission contacted the Bureau and, in the absence of Malley, spoke with Supervisor Rogge. He asked Rogge if it would be convenient for him to be at his office at 2:00 p. m. to pick up a letter which he desired to hand deliver to the Bureau.

Rankin, in delivering the letter, stated that he wanted to point out that he was asking that the letter be personally delivered because if the Bureau had any observations concerning it he would appreciate being called and he would give any of our observations immediate consideration. Rogge stated that Mr. Rankin was most laudatory in his comments and attitude of the Director and the Bureau.

It is noted that the attached letter transmits questions developed as a result of a close examination by the Commission staff of material which has been furnished by the FBI. Rankin indicated that the Commission has reviewed material which has been furnished by other Governmental agencies and that the Bureau, as well as the other agencies, was being requested to submit answers to various questions being submitted by the Commission. The Commission feels that these questions might be raised at a later date and desired these answers for the record.

It is also noted that Mr. Rankin's letter dated March 26, 1964, expresses the Commission's thanks to the Director for the assistance rendered.

The questions relate primarily to the activities of Oswald prior to the assassination and are presently being reviewed so that appropriate answers can be prepared.

ACTION BEING TAKEN:

This matter is being afforded expeditious attention and the completed results will be submitted to the Commission.

- Enclosure
 1 - Mr. Mohr
 1 - Mr. W. C. Sullivan
 RDR:ige (10)

- 1 - Mr. Conrad
 1 - Mr. Branigan
 1 - Mr. Lenihan
 S.S. REC. UNIT

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SECRET DIVISION

Time to [unclear]
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Questions for Federal Bureau of Investigation

1. Was there any FBI interest in Oswald before the April, 1960 FBI interviews of Mrs. Marguerite Oswald and Robert Oswald? If so, what was the nature and extent of the interest? What initiated the April, 1960 questioning of Mrs. Oswald and Robert Oswald?

2. At page 31 of the FBI Report on the Investigation of the Assassination of President Kennedy, it is stated that:

"An FBI investigation of Oswald had been instituted on May 31, 1962, so that the FBI would be notified of his re-entry by Immigration authorities. The purpose of this investigation was to determine if Oswald had been recruited by a Soviet intelligence service."

What was the nature of the FBI's investigation prior to May 31, 1962? Why was the investigation to determine if Oswald had been recruited by Soviet intelligence not instituted earlier, since his plans to return to the United States were known much earlier than May 31, 1962. (According to the report of SA Fain of July 3, 1961, page 10, the files of the State Department Passport Office were reviewed on May 9, 1961, and revealed Oswald's correspondence with the U.S. Embassy in Moscow regarding his desire to return to the United States.)

3. Since the State Department advised the FBI on June 4, 1962 of Oswald's scheduled return, why did the FBI apparently wait until June 22, nine days after arrival, to check on his arrival? Why did the FBI not interview Oswald upon his arrival?

4. Did the FBI learn of Oswald's return to Fort Worth from his sister-in-law, Mrs. Robert Oswald (who advised on June 26, 1962 that he had arrived in Fort Worth on June 14), or was this information developed independently, and if so, in what way? Was Oswald placed under surveillance upon his arrival in New York, or was the first FBI contact the interview with him on June 26, 1962?

5. What was the FBI evaluation of Oswald as a result of the June 26, 1962 interview?

6. Why was Oswald interviewed so soon thereafter on August 14, 1962? What was the FBI evaluation of Oswald as a result of this interview? Where was this interview held, how long did it take, and was there anything remarkable about Oswald's demeanor during the course of the interview?

7. The Retail Merchants' Credit Association of Fort Worth has stated that the FBI inquired about Oswald on February 27, 1961, and again on February 7, 1963. If these inquiries took place, why are they not mentioned in the FBI reports for the period involved?

8. The report of SA Hosty of September 10, 1963 contains the following item:

"On April 21, 1963 Dallas confidential informant T-2 advised that LEE H. OSWALD of Dallas, Texas, was in contact with the Fair Play for Cuba Committee in New York City at which time he advised that he passed out pamphlets for the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. According to T-2, OSWALD had a placard around his neck reading, 'Hands Off Cuba Viva Fidel'."

Is this information correct as of the date indicated, and does it describe activities which occurred before Oswald's move to New Orleans?

9. How and when did the FBI learn of Oswald's move to New Orleans?

10. What prompted the New Orleans FBI Office inquiry into Oswald's activities, which inquiry appears to have begun at least as early as June 26, 1963? (See report of SA Knack, October 31, 1963, page 3.)

11. Why are items about Oswald's residence and employment in New Orleans set forth in almost identical form in the report of SA Hosty of the Dallas FBI Office (September 10, 1963) and the report of SA Knack of the New Orleans FBI Office (October 31, 1963)? Why is there no other mention in the Hosty report of information set forth in the Knack report under dates earlier than the date of the Hosty report, and in several instances under dates earlier than the items about residence and employment that appeared in both reports?

12. Did SA Quigley, who interviewed Oswald at the New Orleans jail, or SA Knack, who prepared a report on Oswald, review earlier FBI reports on Oswald? Were they aware that, contrary to his statement, Oswald had not lived with his mother following discharge from the Marine Corps, but rather had gone to Russia? Were they aware that, contrary to his statement, his wife's maiden name was not "Procca", and that they had not married in Fort Worth but in Russia?

13. The information about Oswald's residence and employment in New Orleans is also substantially duplicated in the report of SA De Brueys of October 25, 1963 on the Fair Play for Cuba Committee -- New Orleans Division. Why, however, is Mrs. Oswald described only as

"his wife" in the Hosty and Knack report entries concerning residence information given by Mrs. Jessie Garner, while the De Bruey's report identifies her more specifically as, "his wife, Marina Nikolaevna Oswald" in the same reference to Mrs. Garner's statement? Was either SA Quigley or SA Knack aware of this indication that Mrs. Oswald's maiden name was not "Prossa"?

14. What was the FBI reaction to the advice obtained on August 30, 1963 from Mr. Bill Stuckey that Oswald had told him he had worked and been married in Russia as contrasted with his inconsistent statements to SA Quigley on August 10?

15. The report of SA Quigley of October 31, 1963 states that on August 22, 1963 Radio Station WJGU made available a transcript of the radio broadcast in which Oswald participated on August 21, 1963. Why does the report of SA De Brueys of October 25, 1963 not include this item, but state instead that on September 12, 1963 a confidential informant made available a transcript of the same radio broadcast?

16. The report of SA Knack of October 31, 1963 states that on October 1, 1963 a confidential informant who was acquainted with some phases of Communist Party activities in New Orleans, advised that Oswald was unknown to him. Why does this item not appear in the report of SA De Brueys, which instead includes a similar reference to a statement by a confidential informant made on October 15, 1963, that the informant did not know of Oswald or his wife? Why does this item not appear in the Knack report?

17. The De Brueys report of October 25, 1963 states that on October 7, 1963 a confidential informant advised that P.O. Box 30016 did not exist in the New Orleans area, and on the same date inquiry at the New Orleans Retailers' Credit Bureau failed to turn up any record of an A. J. Hidell. Why do these items not appear in the report of SA Knack of October 31, 1963?

18. When did the FBI first obtain from the New Orleans Police Department the list of Russian names and telephone numbers which had been obtained from Oswald's wallet at the time of his arrest? If this information was retained by the New Orleans Police Department but not made available until after the assassination, has the FBI received any explanation for this delay?

19. How did the FBI evaluate Oswald's voluntary request to be interviewed by the FBI in New Orleans, particularly in view of the attitude he displayed at earlier interviews?

20. What was the FBI evaluation of Oswald as a result of the August 10, 1963 interview? What was the FBI evaluation of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee during the summer of 1963, and of Oswald's work for it?

21. Why did the FBI Investigation Division furnish an identification record to the New Orleans FBI Office consisting of a description of the two occasions on which the FBI had received Oswald's fingerprints: first, upon his entry into the Marine Corps; second, upon his arrest in New Orleans? Why was this information furnished under FBI number 327 925 D, and not under Oswald's FBI Bureau File Number which is 105-82555?

22. The FBI Report on the Investigation of the Assassination of President Kennedy, page 39, states that in October, 1963, an investigation was initiated to ascertain the whereabouts of the Oswalds, following advice from a rental agent that they had vacated their apartment and that Mrs. Oswald and their child had departed in a station wagon with Texas registration. What was the reason for this investigation to ascertain Oswald's whereabouts?

23. What was the FBI reaction to the CIA report of October 10, regarding Oswald's visit to the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City? Why did the FBI not request additional information or follow-up information by the CIA? What was the FBI evaluation of Oswald in view of the CIA report?

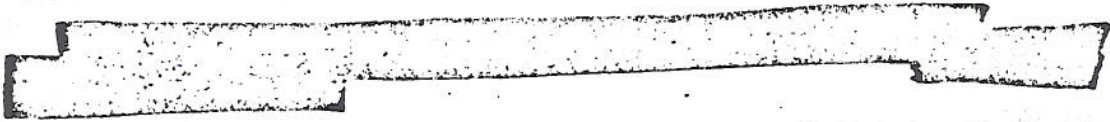
24. Was the FBI aware of Oswald's application on June 24, 1963 for a passport, or the issuance of a passport on June 25, 1963? Why did the FBI not request that the Passport Office of the Department of State include Oswald on a list which would have resulted in advice to the FBI of any application for a passport?

25. What prompted the FBI efforts to locate Oswald on October 18 in Fort Worth, or Robert Oswald on October 19 in Fort Worth (before receiving advice on October 25, 1963, that Oswald had given the New Orleans Post Office a forwarding address in Irving, Texas)?

26. Why did the FBI make three attempts within eight days (October 29 - November 5, 1963) to locate Oswald? After being advised of his place of employment by Mrs. Paine, did the FBI attempt to locate him through that lead? Were any further efforts made between November 5 and November 22 to locate Oswald, and if not, why not?

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27. Did SA Hosty interview Marina Oswald and Mrs. Paine alone on November 1, 1963, or was he accompanied by another agent or agents? At what time of day did SA Hosty conduct the interview on November 1, 1963, and did he receive any advice regarding the time when Oswald was expected to visit Mrs. Paine's house that day, or when he might be there on another day?



29. Did SA Hosty state to anyone on November 22, 1963 that Oswald had contacted two known subversive agents about 15 days before the assassination, but that the entire information was Top Secret? If so, to what did SA Hosty refer?

30. When and for what reason were pages 279 through 283 of the report of SA Gemberling of February 11, 1964 prepared (setting forth the entries in Oswald's address book which had not been included in the report of SA Gemberling of December 23, 1963)?

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