

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

- 1 - Mr. A. J. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. C. D. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. A. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. W. C. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. W. A. Branigan
- 1 - Mr. R. E. Lenihan

DATE: 5/18/65

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

TO : Mr. W. C. Sullivan

FROM : W. A. Branigan

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
INTERNAL SECURITY - RUSSIA - CUBA

The New Classics House, Chicago, Illinois, recently sent to the Director, a copy of a book entitled, "Oswald" by Kerry Thornley.

Kerry Thornley was a former associate of Lee Harvey Oswald at a Marine base near El Toro, California, during the approximate period April, 1959, to June, 1959. During that period, Thornley was in frequent contact with Oswald, but did not associate with him off the base nor was he a close friend of Oswald.

Following Thornley's discharge from the Marine Corps, Thornley worked as a doorman and waiter, and wrote a book entitled, "The Idle Warriors," based upon his experiences in the Marine Corps. He was unable to obtain a publisher for the book. However, following the assassination Thornley decided the main character in his book closely resembled Oswald in philosophy and actions and is now trying to interest publishers in the book. In the current book entitled, "Oswald," Thornley uses several chapters from "The Idle Warriors" in an effort to embellish his knowledge of and his association with Oswald.

In his current book entitled, "Oswald," Thornley does not produce any facts concerning Oswald that were not brought out during our investigation of Oswald. Much of his effort is spent in psycho-analyzing Oswald and speculating as to Oswald's motives for the assassination and his plans for the future had he escaped. Thornley is of the opinion Oswald had a desire for power and that failing to achieve his objective either in the United States or in Russia, sought fame through killing President Kennedy. Thornley feels that Oswald would never have confessed to the crime, but would have maintained he was innocent to the very end. The final chapter of Thornley's book is merely a report of his testimony before the Warren Commission. In this testimony he refers to the fact that he had been interviewed by the FBI, but does not elaborate on his testimony nor is he at all critical of the FBI.

OBSERVATIONS:

This book by Thornley is not a good piece of literature. The

Enclosure

ENCLOSURE

105-32555

ENCLOSURE ATTACHED REC-103

MAY 20 1965

REL:wlg:skp

(7) skp

CONTINUED - OVER

5425

510

105-82555 Section 227

Memorandum Branigan to Sullivan
RE: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
105-82555

language in the book at times is raw and there does not seem to be any continuity of contents. It sells for seventy-five cents a copy, in paper back form and appears to be an effort by Thornley and the publisher to make a quick financial killing. It is highly doubtful if it will achieve this purpose.

ACTION:

For information. A copy of the book is attached.

Rel

See

V.

[Handwritten mark]