

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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Callahan	_____
Conrad	_____
DeLoach	_____
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TO : MR. BELMONT *View*

DATE: November 29, 1963

FROM : G. A. EVANS *Can*

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

Deputy Attorney General Katzenbach made available a draft statement to be issued by the President as soon as possible with reference to the formation of a Presidential Commission to look into the assassination of President Kennedy. This has previously been forwarded to the Director's office.

The following additional information was received from Katzenbach. He wanted to deliver the draft statement to the Director himself but could not because he had to see the Chief Justice immediately at the President's request to determine if the Chief Justice were agreeable to heading up the President's Commission. The President wanted Warren to act in this capacity because of his international reputation in judicial circles.

Katzenbach said that the President came to the conclusion he would have to appoint a Commission in this matter because Senator Eastland was adamant in the Senate Judiciary Committee going forward with its own investigation. It was only a Presidential Commission that could forestall action by the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Katzenbach said that from his contacts at the White House, it was obvious that the appointment of this Commission represented no lack of confidence whatsoever in the FBI; that, in fact, the early publication of the FBI report is still most urgent and most important.

Katzenbach also said that any change the Director desired in the proposed Presidential statement could be made and he would be in touch with us just as soon as he returned from the Supreme Court. Since Representative Boggs jumped the gun and put out a press release about the Presidential Commission, the White House feels it essential to announce this publicly later today.

ADDENDUM: Katzenbach advised the Chief Justice had declined to head the Commission. He does not know who may be selected as a replacement. The White House will clear any revised statement with the Director before it is issued.

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

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Section 1

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
Memorandum

TO: MR. BELMONT
FROM: C. A. Evans
SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

DATE: 11/25/63
cc Mr. Belmont
Mr. Evans
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan

Tolson
DeLoach
Evans
Mohr
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

Deputy AG Katzenbach handed to me this morning the attached memorandum which he has sent to Bill Moyers, who will be the principal assistant to President Johnson in the White House. Katzenbach said that this memorandum was prepared by him after his discussions with the Director yesterday.

It is Katzenbach's feeling that this matter can best be handled by making public the results of the FBI's investigation. He thought time was of the essence, but that the report, of course, had to be accurate. He said he was thinking in terms of its release by the end of the week if at all possible.

Katzenbach further pointed out that he is having no success in selling the White House on the idea that this report should be released there. He understands that President Johnson has expressed himself as feeling this should be handled on a Department of Justice level. It is Katzenbach's belief that it would be most inappropriate for Robert Kennedy to issue this report. Katzenbach asked that the Director be informed of his feeling that, if the report is not released by the White House, then it should be made available publicly by the Director, pursuant to Presidential instructions.

Presidential Commission

ENCLOSURE

Enclosure
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ENCLOSURE

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8 DEC 10 1963

November 25, 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. MOYERS

It is important that all of the facts surrounding President Kennedy's Assassination be made public in a way which will satisfy people in the United States and abroad that all the facts have been told and that a statement to this effect be made now.

1. The public must be satisfied that Oswald was the assassin; that he did not have confederates who are still at large; and that the evidence was such that he would have been convicted at trial.

2. Speculation about Oswald's motivation ought to be cut off, and we should have some basis for rebutting thought that this was a Communist conspiracy or (as the Iron Curtain press is saying) a right-wing conspiracy to blame it on the Communists. Unfortunately the facts on Oswald seem about too pat--too obvious (Marxist, Cuba, Russian wife, etc.). The Dallas police have put out statements on the Communist conspiracy theory, and it was they who were in charge when he was shot and thus silenced.

3. The matter has been handled thus far with neither dignity nor conviction. Facts have been mixed with rumour and speculation. We can scarcely let the world see us totally in the image of the Dallas police when our President is murdered.

I think this objective may be satisfied by making public as soon as possible a complete and thorough FBI report on Oswald and the assassination. This may run into the difficulty of pointing to inconsistencies between this report and statements by Dallas police officials. But the reputation of the Bureau is such that it may do the whole job.

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ENCLOSURE

The only other step would be the appointment of a Presidential Commission of unimpeachable personnel to review and examine the evidence and announce its conclusions. This has both advantages and disadvantages. It think it can await publication of the FBI report and public reaction to it here and abroad.

I think, however, that a statement that all the facts will be made public properly in an orderly and responsible way should be made now. We need something to head off public speculation or Congressional hearings of the wrong sort.

Nicholas deS. Katzenbach
Deputy Attorney General