

1 April 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with David W. BELIN, 1 April 1975

Q: What was the line of reporting in CIA during the period I served as working level point-of-contact with the Warren Commission Staff?

A: It was a multiple leveled thing: (a) from the Commission and AWD personally via McCone to Dick Helms; (b) from Helms to the two or three components primarily concerned (SE, then SB, Dave Murphy; LA, then WH; and CI). In practice the substantive SB input worked up by one of its research components headed by Lee Wigren--Minsk photo for example, et al--passed via CI. CI had own defector input. In addition, on sensitive matters of concern to the investigation, Dick Helms and Murphy also dealt directly with the Commission.

*What
was these
sensitive
matters*

Q: Did you hear: ? ? [two crypts, one sounded by "Jackenet" ?]. I had not. Belin recalled that Castro had made a speech in which he had charged assassination intent by emigres and had promised retribution in kind if there was official support.

*RR files?
Monsieur?
9/4/75?*

Q: Had any thought been given to the assumption that an anti-Castro assassination plot might have been underway, and fact it was known to Helms and to Castro? [Mr. Belin said he now knew that Helms was, in fact, aware of something underway regarding Castro. He had no evidence to show that I (RGR) had been informed about it.] Would that change any of the thinking re Oswald's Mexican trip and contacts?

A: Yes, I said, though I intended to give more potential importance to Oswald's KGB contacts and related that I and others--though recognizing the wisdom of the Warren Commission's handling--had felt there had been more to the Soviet aspect that should have been pursued:

a. Fact that his two Soviet consular contacts in Mexico City had been identified as KGB and at least one (both ?) had been traced organizationally to the 13th Department (assassinations).

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b. Our defector information strongly insists that all Western military defectors--like Oswald--were screened by the 13th Department.

c. Thinness of file turned over by Soviets in view of b.

I acknowledged in retrospect that Cuban hypothesis was worth reconsidering, though it would appear that period of solid inter-service (KGB-DGI) relations began later (i.e. after 1967-68, Venceremos, etc.).

Q: Why did Oswald's lies include a denial to Dallas police that he had made the Mexican trip unless there was something important to hide about it? All his other lies concerned key factual elements of his cover story. Why also did Marina deny she knew anything about the Mexican trip in her first story to the FBI--which she later rectified before the Warren Commission? Mr. Belin noted that he had left the hypothesis of Castro/Cuban involvement open in his book. He added that it would have been important to have known the facts about the anti-Castro plot at the time of the Warren Commission investigation. He felt the least he would have done would have been to have insisted on the polygraphing of Marina Oswald regarding her knowledge of Oswald's Mexican trip.


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