

57-16

11:20 a.m.

November 25, 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON
MR. BELMONT
MR. MOHR
MR. CONRAD
MR. DE LOACH
MR. EVANS
MR. ROSEN
MR. SULLIVAN

PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

I called Mr. Walter Jenkins at the White House and advised him that we had killed the editorial in the Post. I said the matter had been discussed with Mr. Friendly, the managing editor.

I further advised Mr. Jenkins that Mr. Friendly had said it had been discussed; that they did not think the report ought to be released by the Attorney General or anyone in the Department of Justice; that it should be released either by the President or some distinguished jurist who would review it.

Mr. Jenkins asked what I thought of this, and I said I thought we ought to see how the report shapes up; as it looked at the moment, I thought it probably would be better to have it released by the President; that yesterday the President felt it should be kept in the Department of Justice; but from the attitude of Friendly, his feeling is that in the country there is so much feeling against the Attorney General it might not be accepted as the complete and true picture notwithstanding the fact the investigation was made by the FBI. I said, in view of the Post's position which they naturally would have, it seemed to me the reports we will submit will have all the exhibits and could very readily be made available to the press by either the Attorney General or the President.

Mr. Jenkins said he assumed the report will be pretty conclusive; almost speak for itself. I said it would; that the main one on the assassination we can probably have ready within the next twenty-four hours and I

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- Tolson _____
- Belmont _____
- Mohr _____
- Casper _____
- Callahan _____
- Conrad _____
- DeLoach _____
- Evans _____
- Malone _____
- Rosen _____
- Sullivan _____
- Tavel _____
- Trotter _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holmes _____
- Gandy _____

JEH:rm (12)

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31 FBI/PA 5/1/63
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Section 1

Memorandum for Messrs. Tolson, Belmont, Mohr, November 28, 1963
Conrad, DeLoach, Evans, Rosen, Sullivan

5717

think we should hold that until we get the report on the Oswald situation; in that case it may be a situation where he has been made a martyr by being shot by Ruby. I stated that I am aiming for a deadline of Wednesday of this week for a report on both.

I also advised Mr. Jenkins that we are getting in touch with District Attorney Wade in Dallas and offering any assistance and all cooperation which we understand he will give us. I said there can be no doubt at all from a technical point of view that Oswald bought the gun from a mail-order house in Chicago; handwriting identified; came to a post office box in Dallas maintained by his mother; had the gun at his house; his wife admitted gun was there but couldn't identify gun; but on morning of the assassination, the man who picked Oswald up to bring him to work said Oswald carried a package wrapped in brown paper; he asked Oswald what was in the package and Oswald said they were curtain rods the lady had given him as he was going to decorate his own house with them; and the paper was found in the hallway, together with the gun and three shells. I told Mr. Jenkins that Oswald had four shells and only fired three shells; that we have one complete bullet found on the stretcher on which the President was carried into the hospital, which apparently fell out of the President's head; that the other two bullets were pretty well broken up but sufficiently complete to allow us to identify them as being the three fired by this particular gun.

Mr. Jenkins stated this is very conclusive. He said he would advise President Johnson about it and that the President will be very pleased.

Very truly yours,

J. E. H.

John Edgar Hoover
Director

SENT FROM D. O.
TIME 5:30 P.M.
DATE 11/28/63
BY J. H.

10:42 a.m.

November 26, 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON
MR. BELMONT
MR. MOHR
MR. CONRAD
MR. DE LOACH
MR. EVANS
MR. ROSEN
MR. SULLIVAN

I called Deputy Attorney General Nicholas deB. Katzenbach and advised him that I had just talked with the President who was very much disturbed; that he heard somewhere that the Washington Post had been tipped off by somebody in the Department that a Presidential Commission would be appointed to look into the entire situation down in Dallas; that this is not correct; that he does not intend to have any Presidential Commission; that he wants to have two reports prepared by the Bureau - one on the assassination and one on Oswald. I also told Mr. Katzenbach that the President had advised that the State Attorney General is going to have a court of special inquiry immediately designated as provided under Texas law; that the Attorney General of Texas sometime today will announce that a special court of inquiry has been called; that the President said the Judge is a very fine, outstanding man and Wade a capable prosecutor and Wade spoke very highly of cooperation with the Bureau.

I also told Mr. Katzenbach that I had instructed Mr. Malley in Dallas to see Wade at once and tell him we want to cooperate in every way we can in whatever he may be doing, just as we expect him to cooperate with us; any evidence we get, any testimony necessary from our personnel will be made entirely available to him.

I advised Mr. Katzenbach that the President asked that we get word of this picture to Mr. Guthman. I further indicated there would be a lot of calls today.

Mr. Katzenbach asked who steered the Post onto this and I replied that the President said the Post had the story and tomorrow morning

JFH

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TELETYPE UNIT

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Memorandum for Messrs. Tolson, Belmont, Mohr, November 25, 1963
Conrad, DeLoach, Evans, Rosen, Sullivan

intended to run a strong editorial in favor of this Presidential Commission; that he asked if I could dissuade the Post from carrying the editorial and I told him, frankly, that I seldom read the paper but would get word as to what is being done and the possibility of the District Attorney who is still conducting an investigation. I mentioned that the District Attorney yesterday announced that the case was closed and later retracted and then said the investigation would continue. I stated that I was going to try to get word to the Post that to put out an editorial of that kind would do more harm than good.

I told Mr. Katzenbach that if things continue as they are being done now, I thought we could get the report up by Wednesday of this week. Mr. Katzenbach said he thought so, too, and that he had sent a memorandum over this morning indicating the same thing.

I further advised him that the President felt the way we agreed upon yesterday would be best; that the report on the assassination was practically completed; that we were going into the report on Oswald today; that we must find out why the police allowed Ruby in; that the picture in the Post this morning showed definitely that no effort was made to push the fellow away or grab him. I said that I understood Ruby had been very close and had many friends among the men in the police department; that he had brought down sandwiches the second day and, when they indicated they did not want the sandwiches, he gave them to the newsmen; that he ran a night club and was friendly with the police and probably they just let him in the building; that unfortunately they had given a timetable down there on when it was going to take place to the minute.

I also informed Mr. Katzenbach that I spoke to the Attorney General last night about the procession today; that I thought the parade from the White House to the Cathedral was very dangerous; that I told the Attorney General I felt he ought to give some thought to that because we had received information that he himself would be killed and Johnson would be killed in the parade today, and we ourselves had already assigned forty of our men to the Secret Service to be along the line of march there. I said I gathered that the plan of marching up had not been changed and would go through. Mr. Katzenbach answered that, unfortunately, he thought that was true.

Mr. Katzenbach advised that Mr. Guthman had met with Mr. DeLoach and that would be done.

I advised Mr. Katzenbach that, if I learned we could stop the editorial, I would let him know. Mr. Katzenbach indicated that

Memorandum for Messrs. Tolson, Belmont, Mohr, November 23, 1953
Conrad, DeLoach, Evans, Rosen, Sullivan

to something. I replied that I thought it would be very good; that any contact
he might have over there would be very helpful to dissuade them from carrying
such an editorial.

Very truly yours,

J. E. H.

John Edgar Hoover
Director

SENT FROM D. O.
TIME 3:21 PM
DATE 11/23/53
BY OCH

10:25 a.m.

November 25, 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON
 MR. BELMONT
 MR. MOHR
 MR. CONRAD
 MR. DE LOACH
 MR. EVANS
 MR. ROSEN
 MR. SULLIVAN

President Johnson called and stated apparently some lawyer in Justice is lobbying with the Post because that is where the suggestion came from to form a Presidential Commission which the President thinks would be very bad. I said that I, too, thought this would be bad. The President said they had gone to the Post to get an editorial and the Post is going to run an editorial favoring a Presidential Commission unless certain things are done.

The President stated there were two things he wanted to advise me of. First, they want to handle this matter as I suggested yesterday; that we put all available means into the investigation; that the FBI make a full report to the Attorney General; and that the Attorney General release the report.

Second, since it is a state matter and the State Attorney General is a young, able prosecutor and very cooperative, they are going to run a court of inquiry which is provided for by state law and with him there will be one of the most outstanding jurists in the country. The President said the State Attorney General will announce this today and asked that I notify our press man and that we offer full cooperation which we would also receive from the state authorities.

The President also asked that I use whatever influence I might have with the Post. I advised him that I did not have much influence with the Post but we would do what we could.

President said A commission

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. Belmont
- Mr. Mohr
- Mr. Conrad
- Mr. DeLoach
- Mr. Evans
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Sullivan
- Mr. Tavel
- Mr. Trotter
- Tele. Room
- Miss Holmes
- Miss Gandy

JEH:rm (12) 34

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MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

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REC-40 60-10900-63

Memorandum for Messrs. Tolson, Belmont, Mohr, November 25, 1963
Conrad, DeLoach, Evans, Rosen, Sullivan

I advised the President that we would take care of
this.

Very truly yours,

J. E. H.

John Edgar Hoover
Director

SENT FROM D. O.
TIME 1:40 PM
DATE 11-25-63
BY <i>Jr</i>