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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

19 JUN 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR : Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Attention: Mr. S.J. Papich

SUBJECT : Der Spiegel Interview with District Attorney
James C. GARRISON

1. The 22 May 1967 edition of Der Spiegel carries the text of an interview of GARRISON conducted by an unidentified Spiegel reporter on an unstated date in GARRISON's office in New Orleans.
2. Although many of GARRISON's answers merely repeated comments made earlier to representatives of the American press, some of the material is new, at least in degree of emphasis. The more significant of these non-repetitive comments have been translated and arranged according to the five subjects to which they pertain: CIA (Attachment 1), the FBI and the Attorney General (Attachment 2), Jack Ruby (Attachment 3), Clay Shaw (Attachment 4), and GARRISON himself (Attachment 5).
3. Two of GARRISON's comments merit highlighting. The first is the remark, attributed to him by the reporter, that the Attorney General of the United States is not good enough for GARRISON's staff (Attachment 2). This statement has not been seen elsewhere in our press coverage. It is noteworthy, however, that GARRISON does not deny having made this statement but rather tries to explain why he said it.
4. The other remark of particular interest was made by GARRISON in response to a query about whether he would accept support from any quarter, including Izvestiya. His answer included the comment

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that the Soviet government and press had shown themselves more intensely interested in learning what really happened to President Kennedy than the American government and press.

FOR THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR PLANS:

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Attachments:

1 thru 5, described para. 2, above

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Notes from Der Spiegel of 22 May 1967

1. In the middle of last week Garrison reported that Ruby and Oswald knew each other before the assassination and that both were CIA agents. (p. 106)

2. / Spiegel reporter: "Who in your opinion is so afraid of the truth?"
Garrison: "We are now experiencing, philosophically speaking, a struggle between power and truth. The question is whether power can suppress truth through brutal methods. I mean, there is no way in the world to stop the truth. Many people in Washington -- especially in CIA and the FBI -- are plainly of a different opinion." (p. 114)

3. Garrison: "Newsweek belongs to the Washington Post and the CIA is also in Washington."

Reporter: "Mr. Garrison, what does the CIA have to do with all this?"

Garrison: "The CIA knows that we recognize the CIA's claws (literally, hooks) in the whole conspiracy. Oswald was really a co-worker of CIA -- not an agent with card and pistol, but a co-worker. In Oswald's notebook are encoded telephone numbers, among them that of the CIA chief in New Orleans. We found that out, and also that he worked together with exiled Cubans. And some of these Cubans in exile -- exactly five -- we have discovered in photographs of the assassination; one of them carried a gun."

Reporter: "But that doesn't explain why the CIA supposedly wants to disturb your investigations."

Garrison: "Naturally the CIA did not plan the assassination. But they have hushed up the fact that some of the people involved worked for CIA. Neither the Warren Commission nor President Johnson nor Congress learned of this. Therefore our office is controlled /meaning "kept under observation"/, therefore our telephones are tapped, therefore people are paid to hinder our investigation. Between CIA of today and the former Gestapo there is scarcely a difference -- at most that the CIA works more silently." (p. 120)

Der Spiegel, 22 May 1967

1. Garrison says that he arrested FERRIE right after the assassination and immediately turned him over to the FBI but that from that day to this he has never received a copy of an FBI report on FERRIE.

2. The Spiegel reporter replies that this concerns the FBI but that Garrison has also said that the Attorney General of the U. S. is not good enough for his (Garrison's) staff.

3. Garrison answered that he said this only because the Attorney General had made unfounded (or unprincipled) remarks about his investigation. (p. 113)

Der Spiegel, 22 May 1967

Garrison: "In any case Jack Ruby worked for the CIA, without being paid by it. With its approval he acquired weapons and munitions for the anti-Castroites. For this reason he came to New Orleans three times in the summer of 1963, and we have witnesses to show that he knew Oswald, that he was together with him not only in Texas but also here in Louisiana."
(p. 120)

Der Spiegel, 22 May 1967

1. The Spiegel reporter has asked Garrison about drugging and hypnotizing Russo. Garrison replies that he did it in order to make sure that Russo, whose charges were sensational, was telling the truth. The reporter replies that Russo told a different story after being drugged and hypnotized, so that it looked more as though Garrison used these methods to get witnesses to make statements in support of Garrison's theories.

2. Garrison: "In order to show you how far we went in the interests of fairness, I will tell you something that I have not told the press before now: before we arrested Clay Shaw, we gave him the chance to undergo the same drugs, the same tests?"

Reporter: "Because you were convinced he wouldn't do it?"

Garrison: "We even said: 'if these tests show that he is telling the truth, he will not be arrested.' He refused. Are we then really such shady characters?"

Reporter: "But this proposal to Clay Shaw shows that you weren't so sure of your case."

Garrison: "Please consider: I required my own witnesses to take these tests -- something I was not obliged to do in any way. I offered the same tests to the accused and so held open for him the door to freedom -- which I was equally not obliged to do. . . . It will be interesting to see these same reporters [Garrison's critics] when they come crawling here on all fours." (p. 108)

Der Spiegel, 22 May 1967

Spiegel reporter: "Your entire investigation, with its numerous secrets, its remarkable witnesses and testimony, is chiefly a source of nourishment for rumor-mongers and gives you, into the bargain, so much publicity that one day you can make capital of it, in order, let's say, to write a book or to become governor of Louisiana or Mayor of New Orleans."

Garrison: "If anybody accuses another person of such grave offences, /committed/ so that he can get ahead or gain personal advantages, then in my opinion he does not deserve to live. That our press is able to attribute something like this to me really says everything about it. What enrages me most is that I could be considered capable of killing or wounding another human being only to get some kind of advantages or publicity for myself. Nothing of the sort. I like nothing better than to be left in peace; I despise publicity. But it's simply so, that I still fight from principle, whereas other people give up and obviously that is something unusual today." (Pp. 109-110)

Reporter: "Mr. Garrison, for a long time now you have answered all questions with 'no comment'. Why does Mr. No-Comment choose to give his commentary precisely to a German publication?"

Garrison: "I find the interest in the truth /that exists/ in Europe and especially in Germany wonderful. And it somehow makes me sad that this interest has not appeared in America."

Reporter: "And therefore, presumably, you are pleased by every kind of support, and it does not matter whether it comes from the mother of Lee Harvey Oswald or from the Soviet government's newspaper Izvestiya."

Garrison: "Certainly no one can accuse me of being a Communist. Therefore I feel completely free to say that the Soviet government and the Soviet press are stronger in telling the truth, more strongly interested in learning what really happened to President Kennedy, than are the American government and the American press."

Reporter: "Is that really an interest in the truth? The Soviet censor continues to forbid the distribution of the Warren Report."

Garrison: "Perhaps it didn't satisfy their literary requirements." (P. 120)