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AGENCY INFORMATION

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UNITED STATES GOVERN ENT

lemorandum

Mr. Belmont/

DATE: November 26. 1963

Cavel Trotter Tele, Roin Holmes -

A. Rosen

SUBJECT:

UNKNOWN SUBJECTS: BOMBING OF SIXTEENTH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA SEPTEMBER 15. 1963 BOMBING MATTERS

While Governor George Wallace, the political figure most closely identified with the views and beliefs of suspect Klan and National States Rights Party (NSRP) members, made an appearance at the funeral of President Kennedy in Washington yesterday, a confidentia informant reported prime suspect Thomas Blanton, Jr., and his father, along with officials of the NSRP, have been jubilant and celebrating.

However, another reliable informant reports the Klan has had no meeting this week and none is planned due to FBI "activities."

Among those at NSRP headquarters who were happy over the assassination were James Warner, Dr. Edward R. Fields, Jerry Dutton and Albert DeShazo. DeShazo, in discussing the current issue of the NSRP publication "The Thunderbolt," which contains bitter anti-Kennedy diatribe, (advance copy of which has been furnished the Attorney General) made the statement they would now have to change the name from Jack to Robert.

An informant reported Edward R. Fields was in contact with Mary Lou Holt, representative of United Americans for Cooperative Government, and both agreed the assassination of the President was an act of God as if he was not a communist, he was a fellow traveler and his demise would prevent his delivering them into the hands of the communists. Fields and Holt discussed at length the FBI's investigation of the Birmingham bombings, and both agreed this investigation was most detrimental to the objectives of their respective organizations. Both asserted they would be happy to see the FBI's attention diverted.

1 - Mr. Mohr

1 - Mr. DeLoach

- Mr. Evans

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Memorandum to Mr. Belmont RE: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS; BOMBING OF SIXTEENTH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

As a result of conferences of Agents working on the bombing cases in Birmingham, it was agreed that the following remain as prime suspects: Thomas Blanton, Jr., Charles Cagle, Robert Chambliss, Troy Ingram, Levi Yarborough. Secondary suspects are Bobby Frank Cherry, Walter Earl Thompson, Billy Neil Tipton, Herbert Eugene Reeves and Ross Keith. While John Wesley Hall is believed to have participated in bombings other than the principal ones being investigated, Agents handling him are convinced he eventually will reach informant status as he has recently furnished signed statement identifying Cagle and Yarborough as the persons who burned the St. James Methodist Church, Warrior, Alabama, August 10, 1963. While witnesses have not been able to corroborate the latter information, Hall has been cooperative in furnishing coverage of special meetings, which coverage has been corroborated, and has also accepted money for securing information and realizes full well the "hold" Agents now have on him.

According to an informant who intercepted a conversation between Matt Murphy, who is acting as attorney for the NSRP, and J. B. Stoner, Murphy advised the FBI has been putting alot of heat on him. Stoner said he likes to discredit Agents publicly because no judge will let him do so in court.

Stoner and Murphy agreed the indictment pending against NSRP members because of their obstructing desegregation in the Birmingham schools is "loose." They said the only overt act charged against Stoner was a speech he made, and Stoner plans to attack the indictment on constitutional grounds that it violated his freedom of speech.

Attorney Ralph E. Coleman, self-admitted segregationist and John Bircher representing Jack and Herman Cash who have been checked as suspects, stated his clients are of the opinion the violence in Birmingham can be traced to disgruntled Klansmen and NSRP members. Coleman implied he has a connection with the Governor's office and said "we" intend to "pull the rug out from under the NSRP." Coleman stated "his sources" have the opinion the prime suspects in the Birmingham bombings are Tommy Blanton, Robert Chambliss, Troy Ingram and Charles Cagle. Coleman had no