

FILE

XAAZ-36310

23 December 1966

MEMORANDUM TO: DC/SB/SOV

FROM :

SUBJECT : Suggested Graphological Assessment of OSWALD Handwriting

1. I discussed this informally with Mr. Arthur Dooley, CI Staff, who is knowledgeable on the OSWALD Case. Mr. Dooley mentioned that a graphological assessment had not been done to his knowledge to determine if personality restructuring had been attempted on OSWALD in the USSR. Mr. Dooley questioned whether such an assessment would really make a worthwhile or reliable contribution to the issue of OSWALD's motivation, and warrant the time and expense involved; that if such an assessment was attempted in any formal sort of fashion, the "official" results may only add confusion to the motivation issue, since such results would not have truly scientific validity. He noted that the samples, to his recollection, represented various environmental conditions ranging from normal passport applications, to condensed diary notations and notes; that a child's handwriting changes from grade school to college as the speed of notetaking increases and the pressure mounts. In this case you are dealing with a disturbed mentality as well.

2. Based on his familiarity with the case Mr. Dooley feels that OSWALD's motivation is largely explained in terms of his neurotic background, his failure to achieve status, and his very deep resentment to all authority. After his stay in the Soviet Union, OSWALD's writings indicate that he felt neither society had much to offer; and in effect, he rejected both.

3. Mr. Dooley noted that undoubtedly other factors came into play to formulate OSWALD's idea to assassinate the President. For example, OSWALD saw a movie on TV about an attempted presidential assassination with a rifle shortly before his deed, which could have sparked him into action. As the Warren Commission has indicated, the real motive may never be known.

4. Mr. Dooley said that the files are available for inspection by an SB officer at any time to look for handwriting samples or any other purpose, but in view of the above, he did not feel that anything could be proved for certain and therefore questioned the merit of the suggestion at this time.

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