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ARTICLE

Mr. A. H. Belmont

January 30, 1964

Mr. W. C. Sullivan

LEE HARVEY OSWALD
IS - R - CURA

[Handwritten signature]

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. J. P. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Callahan
- 1 - Mr. W. C. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Brannigan
- 1 - Mr. Baumgardner
- 1 - Mr. D. J. Brennan

SYNOPSIS

Purpose of memorandum is to explore allegation Lee Harvey Oswald was FBI informant and related points covered by President's Commission last week during appearance before Commission of Henry Wade, District Attorney of Dallas County, Texas, and to set forth pursuant to Director's request (1) procedures we use in development and control of FBI informants, (2) the system used in handling informants in Special Intelligence Service (SIS) program, and (3) details concerning Wade's SIS service while in the FBI.

Contrary to testimony, Oswald was never FBI informant, was never paid money for information and was never assigned any symbol number. Procedures we use in informant program preclude the possibility of Oswald's connection with FBI as an informant without knowledge of Seat of Government.

We closely supervise all aspects of informant program. Field offices cannot develop security informants without Bureau authorization, which is based on exhaustive background investigation to determine reliability, trustworthiness and stability.

When we do authorize, we follow informant's development through progress letters which field offices submit at four-month intervals.

We approve use of symbols and code names, maintain an index of these and none may be used twice by the same field office.

We authorize payments on regular basis and maintain current records of every expenditure made showing to whom made and why.

SAC has only limited authority to make payments without Bureau authority in certain instances and we control this by limiting amount, and by end-of-month accounting procedure which lists all such payments, to whom made, and for what purpose.

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Memorandum Mr. W. C. Sullivan
to Mr. A. H. Belmont
RE: LEE HARVEY OSWALD

Absence of Payments to Oswald

Had any of our offices even made payments to him under the SAC's authority, these would have been shown in the receipts and vouchers submitted by each office. These records have been checked and double checked and no such payment was ever made.

Symbol Numbers Identifiable

Had Oswald been assigned a symbol number, this would be a matter of record not only by number but also by name. As a matter of fact, we can identify every symbol number used, past or present. The number 179 supposedly assigned Oswald is currently used by the Dallas Office for a criminal informant, Velma Yvonne Graham, a Negro madam who runs a house of prostitution. In New Orleans, where Oswald spent some time, the number 179 was used by the New Orleans Office back in 1941 to designate an informant, Joseph A. Partridge, who was reporting security information and who was discontinued in 1944. As previously noted, once a number is used in any capacity, whether to designate a security or a criminal informant, it cannot be used by the field office again. In Mexico, to which Oswald traveled just prior to the assassination of President Kennedy, our Legal Attache there currently has a security informant 179 who was so designated in 1960. He is Ignacio Olivo, who furnishes information on the Mexican-Russian Institute of Cultural Exchange in Morelia, Michoacan, Mexico.

Procedural Steps Never Taken

Furthermore, Oswald could not have been assigned such a symbol number without a prior background investigation by any field office considering him for development. Had any field office considered developing him, it would have had to obtain approval by the SOG. There is no record of any such request by any field office and no record of any such approval.

DATE: 11-14-2017

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

5010-106

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

SECRET

TO : W. C. Sullivan

DATE: 1-25-64

FROM : W. A. Branigan

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
INTERNAL SECURITY - RUSSIA1 - Belmont
1 - Mohr
1 - DeLoach
1 - CallahanToison _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____1 - Rosen
1 - Sullivan
1 - Malley
1 - Branigan
① - Gheesling
① - StokesCLASSIFIED BY SPI CLK/gmh
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X (1) (GPR)

This reviews an article concerning the assassination of President Kennedy in the March, 1964, issue of "Saga" magazine by former Special Agent William W. Turner (E.O.D. 2-5-51 - Dismissed 7-19-61) who is presently appealing his dismissal before the Circuit Court in the District. Turner's self-centered, embittered, illogical attitude is well known to us and his article is what we might expect from him.

SUMMARY

Turner attempts to argue that the blame for the assassination should be laid to FBI bungling by way of not prewarning the Secret Service of Oswald's potential as an assassin and that the cause of this was a lack of cooperation and communication between the Bureau and the Secret Service. In the lead paragraph of the article, Turner claims that he went to Dallas "just a few hours" after the assassination to conduct a personal FBI-type inquiry as he sensed that "there were too many questions unanswered, too much information concealed." This is patently crystal-ball nonsense and at the outset shows his true motivation. In light of his stated conviction that Oswald was indeed the assassin and that he acted on his own without left wing, right wing or crime syndicate plotting, the article is particularly vicious in its suggestion that someone other than Oswald is basically to be blamed for the deed. Turner's case is pure sophistry the basic premises of which are hereinafter reviewed point by point. His argument consists of part fact, largely inaccurate and irresponsible newspaper reports and outright falsehoods. He endeavors to lend credence to his argument by trading on his past experience as a Bureau Agent and it is in this realm that he clearly lies in discussing Bureau investigative techniques in this case. He concludes his article with a four-point appeal to effect that 1. Presidential appearances henceforth not be in open cars and that the President be required to wear a bullet-proof vest when appearing in public. 2. That an attempt on the President's life be made a Federal offense. 3. That President's route in and out of city not be publicized and 4. That a permanent Federal Commission be established to insure proper cooperation and communication between agencies such as Bureau and Secret Service and that the Commission be empowered to override the Bureau when necessary to guarantee proper

105-82555

/WMC:pdh/pa

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105-82555-2006
SECRET

Memorandum to Mr. Sullivan
Re: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
105-82555

SECRET

Statement: Oswald prudently transferred his political activities to New Orleans (date not indicated) as Dallas is a city that leans to the right and because of local Dallas police vigilance against communist-type activity.

Fact: Oswald left Dallas and traveled to New Orleans in late April, 1963, as he was out of work and at the urging of his wife due to his having attempted to assassinate General Walker on April 10, 1963. The inference that Oswald feared Dallas police vigilance is nonsense for he returned to the Dallas area five months later to live.

Statement: It is FBI responsibility to make dissemination to Secret Service but there is historical evidence that proper dissemination is not always made at the Washington level. In support he cites that in 1945 the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) told the Bureau about Klaus Fuchs who they suspected was a Soviet agent, however, the FBI took no action. He also cites that in 1960 the FBI collected damaging information about Bernon F. Mitchell and William H. Martin, National Security Agency (NSA) employees, and again failed to alert anyone after which Mitchell and Martin fled to Cuba thence to Russia where they compromised U. S. secret codes throughout the world.

Fact: The name of Fuchs and his British address came to attention of RCMP after arrest of Israel Halperin in February, 1946, as a result of the disclosures of Igor Gouzenko, Soviet Code Clerk who defected in Canada in 1945. Halperin, a Canadian, was named by Gouzenko as a member of a Soviet military intelligence network in Canada. Fuchs' name and his address in England were in an address book and diary in Halperin's possession. The book and diary were furnished to the Bureau on 3-12-46 and names and addresses of Americans appearing in the documents were furnished to the field. The documents were furnished by the Canadians to the British and no action was taken by the Bureau with respect to individuals living abroad. Fuchs first became an espionage suspect in 1949 on the basis of [Bureau Source 5] information (not (S) to be disseminated). We, however, advised the British and in January, 1950, Fuchs confessed in England to his espionage activities. When Mitchell and Martin defected to the Soviets in June, 1960, we had never conducted any investigation of them nor had we received any allegations concerning them.

- 4 -

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