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DATE: 11-14-2017

W. C. Sullivan

W. A. Branigan

LEE HARVEY OSWALD
INTERNAL SECURITY - RUSSIA - CUBA

1 - Belmont
1 - Mohr
1 - DeLoach

10-2-64

1 - Callahan
1 - Sullivan
1 - Rosen
1 - Malley 1 - Branigan
1 - Stokes

State Department advises that Commission request to declassify Legal Attache Mexico City's 5-18 "Secret" summary memorandum is not likely to cause harmful repercussions between Mexico and U. S. and it has no objection to declassification. This recommends that we prepare a sanitized unclassified version of the summary for delivery to the Commission, a procedure which the Commission now states will meet its needs.

The Commission on 9-22 asked us to declassify the "Secret" 181-page 5-18-64 summary prepared by Legal Attache Mexico City. The principal reason for classification of the summary was to avoid disclosure of active investigation in Mexico by Bureau personnel, a factor the Mexicans strongly opposed and to protect highly sensitive security informants (Mex 18 and 19) who provided some of the data in the document. Because of possible international repercussions between Mexico and U. S. if the summary was made public, we on 9-23 sought the views of the State Department. State's 9-29 written reply expresses view that declassification is not likely to cause harmful repercussions between Mexico and U. S. and, accordingly, it interposes no objection to declassification.

Legal Attache, Mexico City, is opposed to declassification of the document in its present form and suggests that, if possible, a sanitized version be prepared by deleting three nonsubstantive items which are not referred to in the Commission's report and by deleting references to sources of information through which reader may distinguish between Mexican sources and Bureau Agents.

On 10-1 Miss Hennigan, secretary to W. David Slawson, staff member of the Commission, advised that if public disclosure of the summary in its present form is in any way objectionable to the Bureau, a redraft of same deleting or changing the material which may be harmful to Bureau's operations would fully fit the Commission's needs providing the rewrite covers all of the Mexican aspects of this investigation touched upon by the Commission report.

105-82555

JCS:pdh
(10)

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

The summary can readily be amended to suit the Commission's needs and at the same time to protect Mex 18 and 19 and to avoid disclosure of the extent of our investigation in Mexico. This can be accomplished by deleting reference to three items which are not touched upon in the Commission's report and by rewriting an introduction paragraph on page one deleting a specific reference to a confidential source abroad (Legat). The Commission's report on page 304 records that ". . . the Government of Mexico initiated a thorough investigation to uncover as much information as possible on Oswald's trip. Representatives of U. S. agencies worked in close liaison with Mexican law enforcement authorities." A slight revision of introductory paragraph on page one will accurately fit the above statement of the Commission.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that to properly protect our operations in Mexico, the 5-18 summary be written in unclassified form as aforesaid. To do this will not require complete retyping. We propose to amend principally by deleting five to six pages and to reproduce the document by Xerox and to renumber the pages.