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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. W. C. Sullivan

DATE: November 5, 1965

FROM : Mr. F. J. Baumgardner

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Sullivan

SUBJECT: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES
KLAN INVESTIGATIONS
RACIAL MATTERS (KLAN)

1 - Mr. Branigan
1 - Mr. Baumgardner
1 - Mr. Rosack

A source of the Bureau who is serving as Public Relations Director for Robert M. Shelton, Imperial Wizard, United Klans of America, Inc., Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, has furnished information obtained by him during his contacts with Shelton.

According to Shelton, about two weeks before the assassination of former President John F. Kennedy, he was in contact with James Venable, a leader of another Klan organization. Venable told Shelton that he was in contact with Lee Oswald and that Oswald had been active in some bombings in Alabama. Venable offered the services of Oswald to Shelton and stated he could be used by both groups. Shelton stated he declined Venable's offer and that this declination was made in the presence of Calvin Craig (Grand Dragon of Shelton's organization) and Bob Thompson (Vice President of Shelton's organization and a racial informant). Shelton also stated that according to Venable, Oswald was in Atlanta, Georgia, at a time when former President John F. Kennedy was scheduled to speak before a Georgia Tech group. This speaking engagement was canceled and he did not appear in Atlanta; however, there was some picketing activity in Hurt (phonetic) Park, Atlanta, and the source got the impression the Atlanta newspapers at this time contained information or a photograph that will prove Oswald was in Atlanta at that time. Shelton further claims that he saw a registration card for Oswald while he was staying in one of the Marriott Motels in Atlanta.

Shelton told his Attorney, Lester Chalmers, to get in touch with Congressman Edwin D. Willis, Chairman of the above-captioned Committee. According to our source, Chalmers contacted Congressman Willis and arranged to meet him in New Orleans on the evening of 11-5-65. Chalmers intends to present Shelton's story to Willis but not to make any recommendations to Willis as to what he should do. If Willis wants to talk personally with Shelton, he will make him available at the time and place set by Willis.

JGD:chs

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Tolson
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Mohr
DeLoach
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
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Sullivan
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Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

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5 JMD

Delivered to Mr. Tolson 11/15/65

Memorandum to Mr. W. C. Sullivan
RE: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES
KLAN INVESTIGATIONS

SAC Ponder of the Atlanta Office advised on 11-5-65 that Robert Thompson, our informant, stated that no meeting such as Shelton described ever took place. SAC Ponder further advised that at the time of President Kennedy's death, there were numerous allegations that Oswald had been in Atlanta and these allegations were given considerable newspaper publicity. The allegations were thoroughly and completely investigated by the Bureau and found to be false. It is believed Shelton was aware of the newspaper publicity concerning Oswald being in Atlanta; therefore, he concocted the above story. It is to be noted that Shelton according to a Washington Field source believes Venable is furnishing information to captioned Committee concerning his (Shelton's) organization.

RECOMMENDATION:

In view of the above, no action should be taken in this matter.

WCS *JS*
JS
Recommend DeLoach call Willis & discreetly find out if Chalmers contacted him with such a story. If he did, we can interview Shelton without danger to the informant.

- Yes.* *WCS*
- 1) Willis advised 11/9 that he had not been approached by Chalmers or anyone else re this matter.
 - 2) Willis does not believe fact - & was told they were false.