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TO : GALE

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ELBERT T. TURNER, LHO

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : J. H. GALE

~~SECRET~~

DATE: 11-26-63

FROM : E. T. TURNER

1 - Gale
1 - Sullivan
1 - Branigan
1 - Turner

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
INTERNAL SECURITY - RUSSIA

3/24/98
CLASSIFIED BY: 5668 SLD/nd
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Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

In accordance with your request, the following explanations are submitted with regard to my participation in the captioned case:

1. Why I did not review the complete file during the period 10-10 to 11-22-63:

During this period the work on my desk was extremely heavy. The publicity on the Jack Edward Dunlap case broke in the newspapers on 10-10-63 and for the next 3 or 4 weeks a major portion of my time was involved in handling that case. In addition, the Special Espionage School which began on 10-14-63 required that I lecture or lead discussions for 13 hours during the 2-week school. This required considerable preparation.

In addition, during the reorganization of the Espionage Section which occurred just prior to 10-10-63, a block of new cases dealing with Soviet espionage activities in Mexico [and Canada] was assigned to me and an effort was made to become acquainted with as many of these as possible as well as handling the normal mail on the other cases assigned to me (total case load approximately 95), and to handle the other duties on my desk which includes review and approval of signature mail in the Officials Unit of the Soviet Section.

When the teletype from CIA dated 10-10-63 was received, I do not recall if I made a preliminary review of the file before initialing the teletype for the file. In this connection, it is noted that mail in this case prepared by other supervisors in the Unit had previously crossed my desk and I had a general idea of the background of the case. It appeared that additional information would be forthcoming from CIA and other action at that time did not appear warranted. Correspondence which came in subsequently concerning the subject's activities with the Fair Play for Cuba Committee was of primary interest to the Nationalities Intelligence Section although it was reviewed by me. On receipt of WFO airtel dated 11-19-63 indicating a contact with the Soviet Embassy in Washington, I called the file for the purpose of reviewing it in detail and to analyze the case. The file had been received but had not yet been reviewed on 11-22-63.

REC-142

67-182287-251

1 JAN 24 1964
105-82555
ETT:cgw
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REC-9

25 DEC 27 1963

4 JAN 2 1964

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SOVIET SECTION

REC-142
UNIT

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Memo for Mr. Gale
Re: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
105-82555

well as the Espionage Section. I do not know which Section received it first nor do I know the date on which I received it. It is noted that a new file had been opened on it and it was later changed to this file. As indicated above I do not recall if I made a preliminary review of the file before initialing the teletype. Again, it is noted that the publicity on the Dunlap case broke on 10-10-63 and that during the week beginning 10-13-63 I had 11 hours' lecture before the Special Espionage School. I do not know if I received or initialed the CIA teletype prior to receipt of the Legal Attache's cable and the preparation of a reply thereto.

ACTION

For information.

ETT
ADDENDUM: ETT:lm1 11/27/63

I would like to add that during the reorganization of the Division in early October, 1963, I volunteered to take over the work involving Soviet cases in Mexico (and Canada,] [s] inasmuch as I already had approximately six double-agent cases relating to those countries already assigned to me and there appeared to be a need to correlate all of these cases and handle them as a group.

~~SECRET~~