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MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. J. Lee Rankin

SUBJECT: Anonymous Telephone Calls to United States
Embassy in Canberra, Australia, relative to
planned assassination of President Kennedy

1. I refer again to paragraph two of your memorandum,
dated 12 February 1964, relative to disseminations to the secret
services made by CIA.

2. On 24 November 1963, CIA received from the Department
of the Navy a copy of a cable from the Naval Attache in Canberra,
Australia (IN 67327, Top Secret, later downgraded to Secret),
reporting a telephone conversation the previous day with an
anonymous individual who had described himself as a Polish
chauffeur for the Soviet Embassy in that city. This individual,
while discussing several matters of intelligence interest, touched
on the possibility that the Soviet Government had financed the
assassination of President Kennedy. Reference was made in this
cable to the receipt of a similar anonymous telephone call on
15 October 1962.

3. Upon receipt of this cable from Navy CIA took the
following action:

a. Cabled to Canberra asking full details of the
telephone conversation of 23 November and the call made
on 15 October 1962. It should be noted that CIA had not
previously known of the 1962 telephone call.

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b. The CIA Station in Canberra, on 17 November, furnished all available information on the 196 telephone call. It appears that source on that occasion stated that "from certain countries" planned to pay a hundred thousand dollars for the assassination of President Kennedy.

c. On 17 November, the CIA Canberra Station also furnished complete detail on the anonymous telephone call of 17 November 1964.

d. On 19 November, CIA disseminated this information, as supplied by its Canberra Station, to the White House, Department of State, and Federal Bureau of Investigation, with a copy to the Secret Service. A copy of this dissemination in its exact text is attached to this memorandum.

e. The CIA Station in Canberra arranged for discussion of the calls with the Australian security service. In the opinion of the Australian authorities, the caller was a drunk. In any event, they were not able to identify any Polish employee of the Soviet Embassy, the automobile described by the caller as the one he drove, or the license plate number given by him. No further information on this call has been received. Available evidence would tend to show that the caller was some type of drunk. This conclusion, however, cannot be confirmed.

5. Please note that the nature of the information in this memorandum and its attachment requires the use of a sensitivity indicator.

Richard Helms
Deputy Director for Plans

Attachment

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