

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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TO : ADDP

DATE: 8 July 1968

FROM : C/TSD

SUBJECT: Assessment of Sirhan

Dear Cord,

I felt, after talking to you about the original assessment statement on Sirhan, that the essence of what the psychologists were trying to say could be said more succinctly. They have made another attempt at restating the way they see Sirhan, and I think have done better this time. Attached is the restated assessment.


Sid

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Personality Assessment of

Sirhan Sirhan

We have been asked to react to Sirhan's handwritten "diary" and make some kind of personality interpretation from his handwriting, his doodles and his comments. Obviously, with the flood of other material on Sirhan appearing in the newspapers and national magazines, it is probable that we have been contaminated or influenced by material presented there.

There is no question in our minds but that Sirhan is a [] person. On the basis of his handwriting alone, he would have been picked up as [] We are convinced that due to the [], professionals charged with the responsibility of describing him to the courts and the public will have many honest disagreements. As a result, after the trial is over there will be a general gnawing doubt about the "true" Sirhan Sirhan.

We doubt that we can describe his "illness" really satisfactorily. Had we seen his handwriting before he assassinated Senator Kennedy, we would have described him as [] However, under no circumstances would we have predicted that he was "capable" of doing what he did. We do not see him as the kind of person who can be [] and systematically []. We do see him as []. On the basis of the way we see his illness, what he did can only be explained by a tragic combination of []. The odds against him being successful were tremendous. Obviously, we cannot see him as part of a conspiracy. He could be a tool of a conspiracy in the sense that the attempted assassin of Secretary of State Seward and the assigned assassin of Vice President Andrew Johnson (George Atzerodt) were tools of the Booth conspiracy. It is very unlikely however that he could have effectively acted under precise instructions.

In summary, he appears to be a person who is innately [], but who will appear [] conditions. Basically, he is an [] who [] behind a usually normal []. He would be unexpectedly and [] whenever he felt []. Most people of this type attack their mother

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- 2 -

or their girlfriend. Occasionally they will lash out against an employer or colleagues (a case in point is the recent Pennsylvania case of the "quiet" man who killed his car pool and then himself). Sometimes they will pick public figures and make abortive attempts to get at them. Essentially, we see Sirhan as being much more like the impulsive assassins of Garfield and McKinley than the calculating assassins of Lincoln and President Kennedy.

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