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Memorandum

TO : MR. SULLIVAN *WJG - 45*

FROM : MR. BRANIGAN *See*

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION ON THE
ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. Lenihan
1 - Mr. Stokes
1 - Mr. Papich
1 - Mr. Branigan

10139
9
Belmont ☒
Mohr ☒
Casper ☒
Callahan ☒
Conrad ☒
DeLoach ☒
Evans ☒
Gale ☒
Rosen ☒
Sullivan ☒
Tavel ☒
Trotter ☒
Tele. Room ☒
Holmes ☒
Gandy ☒

WJG
Pursuant to our Liaison Agent's request, we are in receipt of a communication from the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) with respect to the means by which information, which has been or may be acquired by CIA, should be made known to the Presidential Commission.

WJG
In this communication, which is attached, CIA reviewed in general terms their investigative interest in the assassination investigation. CIA advised that they would arrange directly with the Commission for the protection of information developed by them and they anticipated that certain of their personnel would appear before the Commission. CIA requested:

1. That the Bureau not disseminate information received from CIA without prior concurrence of that Agency.

2. In those instances in which CIA provided information which we considered pertinent to the Commission's interests and/or complementary to information developed or received by the Bureau, we should refer the Commission to CIA. In such cases CIA asked to be advised of such referrals in order that they could initiate action preparatory to meeting a request which could be anticipated directly from the Commission.

3. CIA requested that in any instance in which the above procedure does not meet the needs of the Bureau that we inform them through our liaison in order that the matter can be resolved.

WAB:hrt
(10)

REC-34-104090-79

22 FEB 1964

REVIEWED BY FBI/JFK TASK FORCE

ON 10/29/93

WJG
KEROX
FEB 7 1964
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☐ RELEASE IN PART
☐ TOTAL DENIAL

Memo for Mr. Sullivan
RE: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
105-82555

SENSITIVE
FOREIGN
INTELLIGENCE
SOURCE

1B
1C either false or exaggerated. He identified Nikolai B. Rodin as the head of Department 13. ~~Third Agency~~ information was subsequently in the Summer of 1963 corroborated by our informant. Neither [S] of these sources furnished any specific information indicating Soviet plans to assassinate leaders of the Western nations. Both said, however, that Department 13 is a highly secret organization and operates its own agents independently of other sections of the KGB.

The Legal Attache in Bonn in June, 1962, reviewed information furnished to the Germans by Bogdan Stashinsky which indicated that he was recruited by the KGB in 1952, trained at an intelligence school in Kiev, then transferred to Karlshorst in East Berlin in 1954 where he operated as a KGB officer until 1958. His principal duties were to service dead drops in West German cities and carrying propaganda material. In 1958 he was told that because he had proved himself he would be given an important mission against Ukrainian emigre groups in the West. This mission turned out to be the assignment to assassinate Dr. Lev. Rebet and Stefan Bandera, emigre leader in Munich. He murdered Rebet in 1958 and Bandera in 1959 using an ingenious weapon manufactured by the KGB which emitted a poison gas into the face of the victims and which made death appear to be from heart attack.

After Stashinsky's confession to the West Germans, former Congressman Charles J. Kersten on 5-18-62 advised the Attorney General that he was to participate in the trial in West Germany as counsel. A copy of his letter was sent to the Bureau which indicated that he desired to show the official connections between Stashinsky and the Soviet Government and requested a conference with the Attorney General. Kersten's statement to the German court as reported in the "Los Angeles Correspondence," a publication in Munich, included the following statements concerning Stashinsky: "He was to learn English. His field would probably be Great Britain and the U.S."

On 12-3-63 the Administrative Assistant to the Attorney General furnished to the Bureau copies of a letter from Kersten to President John F. Kennedy, a copy of which was sent to the Attorney General, dated 11-7-63 in which he pointed out that the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee wanted to bring Stashinsky to the U.S. for testimony but the State Department was opposed. He advocated bringing Stashinsky to the U.S. to expose activities of the Soviet Government. In his letter he said "before his defection Stashinsky was being trained for high-level killing in England and the U.S. There undoubtedly others in such training."

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SECRET

There is no indication that Lee Harvey Oswald was ever recruited or trained by Department 13. During interview in 1962 he claimed that he worked in a radio factory in Minsk while he was in Russia. His diary and correspondence to his mother and brother while he was in Russia plus the interviews of his widow confirmed this. It is considered very unlikely that Oswald would have been recruited by Department 13 because of his suicide attempt a few days after his arrival in Russia; his demanding and arrogant personality and critical remarks about the Soviets contained in his diary, in correspondence with the American Embassy in 1961 and his correspondence with his mother and brother in 1961-62. It is inconceivable that the Soviets would have used an individual of this kind to carry out assassination of leaders of Western countries even if the Soviets have such plans.

ACTION:

None. The above is for information.

ETT
re: Oswald
W.E.S.
Q

SECRET - 3 -