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6 February 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 6 February 1975

Warner advised that Howard Hunt's lawyer is in touch with his office with regard to Dick Gregory's allegation that CIA was somehow involved in the assassination of President Kennedy. The Director advised Thuermer to refrain from commenting on this matter.

13-00000

3 March 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 3 March 1975

✓ Blake advised that the attached notice to CIA employees regarding cooperating with the Rockefeller Commission is being distributed today.

DRC



# EMPLOYEE BULLETIN

No. 441

28 February 1975

## COMMISSION ON CIA ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE UNITED STATES

As you are aware, the President on 4 January 1975 established a Commission on CIA Activities Within the United States to look into allegations that certain Agency activities conducted within this country exceeded our charter and statutory authority.

Upon completion of its inquiry, the Commission will issue its findings and submit recommendations to the President and to the Director of Central Intelligence.

The President has directed that the Agency extend support and assistance to the Commission, and I have pledged my cooperation to the Commission and its Staff.

I have also told the Commission that any current employee of the Agency is available to the Commission and its Staff for discussions.

The Agency and the Commission Staff have now developed sufficient working experience so that we can design additional procedures to facilitate the Staff's work in examining topics of concern.

All members of the Commission Staff have received security clearances and have been given badges providing them with access to Agency offices in the Washington, D. C. area.

The Commission Staff will, during their inquiries in CIA Headquarters Area Offices, be given access to Agency files related to the Commission's fields of responsibility. The use of specific sensitive data from these files in any unclassified report by the Commission will be subject to consultation between the Director and the Commission.

To facilitate interviews by the Commission Staff Officers with CIA employees, I have advised the Commission that employees are authorized to furnish classified information with certain exceptions. My letter to the Vice President, the Chairman of the Commission, is attached. It sets forth guidelines for the furnishing of classified information.

The cooperative spirit of our relationship with the Commission and its Staff must at the same time take account of the rights of Agency employees. Like other citizens, they have the right to remain silent. The Commission Staff will advise employees of their rights at the beginning of any interview or other appearance.

My own belief, after careful review of all activities in question, is that legal action will not be taken against individuals. The final decision, however, must rest with the Department of Justice and other legal authorities and risk of such action is a judgment each employee must make for himself.

When a current Agency employee is asked to be interviewed by a member of the Commission Staff, the Staff member may notify Mr. E. H. Knoche who is my assistant in charge of liaison with the Commission and its Staff. Mr. Knoche, in turn, will notify the employee. The purpose of this is in no way to inhibit the work of Staff members. It is intended to allow time for the employee to gain general legal guidance if he wants it, and to obtain security guidance from an appropriate senior officer.

There is no requirement that an employee report to his supervisor or other Agency authorities on the nature of the interview. This is a matter of the employee's choice.

In arranging the interviews, I am acutely aware of the need to avoid the appearance as well as the fact of collusion between Agency and employee. None of us has any intention to fabricate or mislead. I am convinced that being forthcoming will vindicate the Agency and its eminent service to our country.

In keeping with long-standing policy, employees with any knowledge of activities conducted within the United States, now or in the past, which they believe to be of a questionable nature can follow the customary practice within the Agency of calling the matter to my attention or that of the Inspector General. This will permit me to take appropriate policy actions with regard to any such activities. It will also ensure my ability to continue to be forthcoming with all those involved in external reviews of Agency activities.

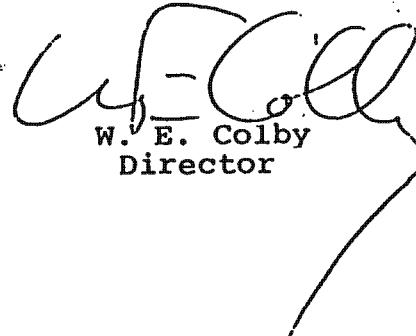
-3-

Employees should also feel free to bring any such matters directly to the attention of the Commission or the Commission Staff outside of Agency channels if they so desire. In doing so, however, employees should bear in mind that the Commission's field of interest is CIA activities within this country.

To contact the Commission, employees can call the Executive Director, Mr. David W. Belin on 456-7010, or the Counsel, Mr. Marvin Gray, Jr., on 456-7014. The mail address is:

Commission on CIA Activities  
Within the United States  
712 Jackson Place, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20500

Names of the members of the Commission Staff and their badge numbers are attached.



W. E. Colby  
Director

Attachment a/s

DISTRIBUTION: ALL EMPLOYEES

BADGES ASSIGNED TO MEMBERS OF PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON  
CIA DOMESTIC ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE UNITED STATES

<u>NAME</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
Belin, David W.	PC-100
Baker, Harold A.	PC-101
Cargill, Robert Mason	PC-102
Clapper, Peter R.	PC-103
Gellhorn, Ernest A.	PC-104
Gray, Marvin Jr.	PC-105
Greene, Ronald	PC-107
Hardy, Timothy S.	PC-108
Manfredi, George A.	PC-109
Olsen, Robert B.	PC-110
Wallison, Peter James	PC-111
Schwarzer, William W.	PC-112
Roethe, James N.	PC-113
Weidner, James B.	PC-114

5 February 1975

The Honorable Nelson A. Rockefeller  
Chairman, Commission on CIA Activities  
Within the United States  
712 Jackson Place, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Vice President:

As you are aware, all employees of the Central Intelligence Agency are required to sign secrecy agreements when they enter on duty. This is a condition of employment, and it requires that they keep forever secret all classified information gained during the course of their employment. The secrecy agreement further requires that they may not disclose classified information in interviews or by publication without prior authorization from the Director of Central Intelligence. There is a provision in the secrecy agreement that the conditions and obligations with respect to the protection of classified information by the agreement continue after employment with the Agency has been terminated.

As I have stated to the Commission, I will make available any employee of this Agency to the Commission for staff interview and for testimony before the Commission. This letter will serve as authorization for any such employees or ex-employees to furnish information as requested by the Commission or its staff on matters that may be classified. As has been discussed with the Commission, there are certain sensitive items which should receive special handling. Such items include names of sources, specific details of technical devices and systems maintained in compartmented channels by the Agency, names of employees, names of persons who may be targets of kidnapping or assassination by foreign intelligence organizations, names of organizations cooperating with the Agency, and detailed information which would pinpoint any of the above. Some information might also conflict with a subject's right of privacy.

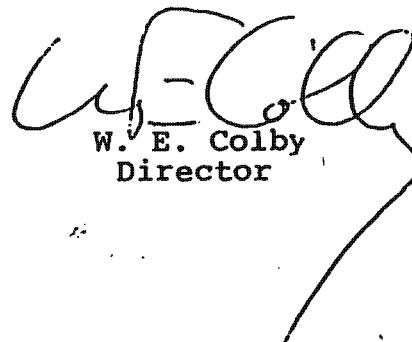
-2-

There is no purpose here to impede in any way the Commission's investigation. I believe, however, in most cases these specific identifying names and details are not necessary for an understanding of our activities. Where the Commission or the staff believes that specific identification is necessary to the purpose of the testimony or the staff interrogation, the matter will be discussed between the Commission and the Agency, and I will be prepared to consult with you and the Commission to determine the course of action to be taken. Where in the judgment of the employee a specific identification is especially sensitive as outlined in this paragraph, an identity number will be assigned pending resolution of the matter between the Commission and the Agency, and in the meantime the identity will not be divulged by the employee.

I appreciate the cooperation of the Commission and of Agency employees in this regard. I am still responsible under the statute and as a professional for the protection of intelligence sources and methods from unauthorized disclosure. In many situations the inadvertent disclosure of a name or identification could have serious repercussions, including placing lives in jeopardy, and I cannot in good conscience put such information at risk.

This arrangement of course does not affect the Commission's procedures for advising prospective witnesses of their rights, securing waivers, nor the employee's or ex-employee's right not to answer certain questions if they are concerned that the answers might tend to incriminate them.

Respectfully,



W. E. Colby  
Director

13-00000

15 May 1975

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD**

**Morning Meeting of 15 May 1975**

The Director noted a call from Strobe Talbott asking for comments on information dug up by Sandy Smith of Time magazine alleging that Herman Kimsey, Hugh McDonald, and the Agency were involved in a plot to assassinate President Kennedy. He provided a note on this topic to Chamberlain for review.

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U.S. Central Intelligence Agency - Director's Office

23 May 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 23 May 1975

General Walters chaired the meeting; the Director was testifying before the Senate Select Committee.

Duckett reported that a thorough in-house technical analysis of photography of two men in Dallas at the time of the JFK assassination has conclusively established that they are not Hunt and Sturgis, as alleged by some.

13-00000

3 June 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 3 June 1975

General Walters chaired the meeting; the Director was at the Army War College.

Nelson said that a Max Gorman Gonzalez is suing CIA for \$1 million. Gonzalez claims that his imprisonment in Florida resulted from his association with "CIA agent Frank Sturgis." (Note Frank Sturgis never associated with CIA as explained in Morning Meeting Minutes of 30 May 1975)  
*also see Attached Statement of Assistant Director*

Thuemer opined that we can expect a number of inquiries when the Rockefeller Commission report is released. Until such time as it is released and the Director has developed a policy, Thuemer will refrain from comment.

13-00000



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Office of The Assistant  
To The Director

(703) 351-7676  
(703) 687-6931 (night)

May 30, 1975

STATEMENT

Recently the news media have mentioned  
the names of Mr. Virgilio Gonzales and Mr. Frank  
Sturgis.

Neither Mr. Gonzales nor Mr. Frank Sturgis  
have ever been connected with the Central Intelligence  
Agency in any way.

23 June 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 23 June 1975

In response to the request by Senator Huddleston of the Senate Select Committee for any CIA information on the 20 June murder of Chicago underworld leader Giancana, the Director concurred with Nelson's proposal to query our Chicago field office.

Proctor initiated a short discussion of the distribution of the edited remarks of the Director's 18 June talk to employees on the Rockefeller Commission Report. The Director will review the final version, after which it will receive wide in-house distribution.

13-00000

2 September 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 2 September 1975

Berend noted that at tomorrow's meeting with Dan Rather, the latter will seek information from the Director on any alleged Agency contact with Lee Harvey Oswald. Chamberlain briefed on the material provided the Rockefeller Commission and will provide same to the Director.

13-00000

8 September 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 8 September 1975

↓ Bolten advised that Senator Schweiker may wish to add to the Senate Select Committee's agenda the allegations that CIA as well as FBI withheld information on Oswald from the Warren Commission.

13-00000

22 September 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 22 September 1975

The Director was at the White House; General Walters chaired the meeting.

✓ Berend called attention to the Agency statement issued on the Oswald phone taps, as reported in the attached article, "Oswald Calls to Embassies Reported Taped by CIA," from the 21 September New York Times. He stated that he was unaware that CIA had issued such a statement and asked to be kept advised.

# Oswald Calls to Embassies Reported Taped by C.I.A.

By NICHOLAS M. HORROCK

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Sept. 20—  
The Central Intelligence Agency secretly tape-recorded two telephone conversations between Lee Harvey Oswald and the Cuban and Soviet Embassies in Mexico City some eight weeks before President Kennedy was shot to death on Nov. 22, 1963, in Dallas, Government sources familiar with the events said today.

The call to the Soviet Embassy, according to the sources, alerted the C.I.A. to the presence of Oswald in Mexico City, and on Oct. 10 the agency warned the Federal Bureau of Investigation. There is no indication that the F.B.I., which was investigating Oswald for

his pro-Castro activities, ever followed up on the information.

The call to the Cuban Embassy the sources said, was not associated with Oswald until after the death of Mr. Kennedy. A Federal commission headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren found that Oswald, acting alone, had slain the President.

## To Avoid Publicity

The calls were reportedly placed by Oswald on a trip to Mexico City in late September and early October, 1963. The events of this trip have never been fully made public and have been the subject of speculation for more than a decade.

The reports of the calls are the latest developments in the increasing speculation about the Warren Commission's conclusions. Evidence that the C.I.A. and the F.B.I. may have been less than candid with the commission has added to the questions surrounding the as-

Continued on Page 49, Column 1

# Oswald Call Reported Taped by C.I.A.

Continued From Page 1, Col. 2

sassination and has led to more calls for a reopening of the inquiry.

The Mexico City trip was given scant treatment in the Warren Commission report because publication of information about it might have exposed "sources and methods" of the C.I.A. and impaired national security, intelligence officers and commission staff sources have said.

In response to inquiries about the matter from The New York Times, the C.I.A. issued an unusual public statement on the matter. It would not confirm that there were any tape-recorded conversations but said:

"On October 9, 1963 Central Intelligence Agency headquarters received information that a person named Lee Oswald contacted the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City in late September or early October, 1963. In transmitting the information on 10 October 1963 Central Intelligence Agency headquarters said Lee Oswald was probably identical to Lee Henry (sic) Oswald a former radar operator in the United States Marine Corps, born 18 October 1939 in New Orleans who defected to the Soviet Union in 1959 and who subsequently made arrangement to return to the United States with a Russian wife."

#### From F.B.I. Reports

"This biographical data was based upon Federal Bureau of Investigation reports provided to Central Intelligence Agency following Oswald's defection to the Soviet Union."

"This information was also provided to the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Department of the Navy, the United States Ambassador and his staff in Mexico and to the Representative of the F.B.I. in Mexico."

"Following the assassination of President Kennedy, Central Intelligence Agency records revealed that a person believed to be Oswald was in contact with the Cuban Embassy on 27 September 1963 for the purpose of receiving a transit visa for use enroute to the U.S.S.R."

"In addition a number of photographs of individuals believed to be in contact with the Cuban and Soviet Embassies in Mexico City were received from the Central Intelligence Agency station in Mexico and were compared with pictures of Lee Harvey Oswald by C.I.A. officers in Mexico City and C.I.A. headquarters and by United States authorities in Dallas, Texas."



United Press International  
Lee Harvey Oswald

photograph of Lee Harvey Oswald. Their determinations, and the raw data upon which they were based, along with the reports of his visit to the Soviet Embassy, were made to the Warren and Rockefeller Commissions as were all other materials relevant to the investigation of President Kennedy's death."

Three staff members of the Warren Commission were assigned to investigate the Mexico City trip and other matters involving the C.I.A.—William T. Coleman, now Secretary of Transportation; Howard P. Willens, a former Justice Department official now in private law practice, and W. David Slawson, a law professor in California.

Mr. Coleman said in a telephone interview that he was "disturbed" about the possibility that United States security might be harmed by recent disclosures of F.B.I. and C.I.A. activities. But he acknowledged that he and other staff members had received information from the C.I.A. on Oswald's activities in Mexico, and they did not run counter to the commission's conclusion that Oswald, acting alone, killed President Kennedy and a Dallas police officer, J. J. Tippitt.

#### Sure Others Learned

Mr. Coleman said he was sure that J. Lee Rankin, the Warren Commission's chief counsel, had been informed of the C.I.A. Mexico City data and that "at least two or three commission members" knew. He could not remember if the commission had ever discussed the matter in executive session. Mr. Willens and Mr. Slawson declined to make public comment.

Sources familiar with the contents of the tapes said that Oswald had been seeking a transit visa from Cuban officials and that he had been rebuffed. One source said that the call to the Soviet Embassy had been an effort to get help in furthering his application

been no "conspiratorial" tone to the conversations and one source called them "benign." Moreover, the sources said, of the C.I.A. had information that the Cubans were suspicious of and unsympathetic to Oswald. One source said the Cubans regarded Oswald's behavior in returning to the United States from the Soviet Union and then asking to go back as "strange."

Asked if anything said might have "triggered" Oswald, a Castro supporter, to take "retaliation" against President Kennedy, one source said he thought not but said that he thought Oswald had been "frustrated" by the Cubans.

#### Known by F.B.I.

The F.B.I. acknowledged at the Warren Commission hearings that it had received information from the C.I.A. about Oswald's Mexican contact with the Soviet Embassy on Oct. 10, 1963. Former F.B.I. agents involved in the investigation said the bureau knew that Oswald had been trying to return to the Soviet Union.

Under bureau operating procedures at that time, the F.B.I. followed up on any unexplained visit by an American citizen to Communist embassies and consulates. It would have been particularly watchful in the case of Oswald, who had defected once.

The bureau jargon for such unexplained visits was "bogies" and agents were sent to interview the person on why he or she had been in contact with the Communists. The only reason this was not done in Oswald's case, these sources said, may have been because he was already under an F.B.I. security investigation in connection with pro-Castro activities.

The bureau's formal response to these questions was to refer to the Warren Commission report. In the report it was noted that James P. Hosty Jr., special agent of the Dallas field office, attempted to interview Oswald about his Cuban activities on Nov. 1.

13-00000

24 September 1975

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD**

**Morning Meeting of 24 September 1975**

The Director was returning from St. Louis; General Walters chaired the meeting.

Carver called attention to his memorandum of 23 September attaching a memorandum prepared for the President by Messrs. Buchen, Lynn and Kissinger on implementation of the Rockefeller Commission recommendations. Noting that he had obtained this memorandum from D/DIA, he expressed his concern that the Director was not aboard.

Berend called attention to a false story carried in the 23 September Baltimore News American alleging that working levels of the CIA were aware two months before the JFK assassination that Oswald planned to kill President Kennedy but did not report this information up the line. General Walters asked Berend to draft a statement of denial for public release.

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25 September 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 25 September 1975

✓ Blake reported that the Senate Select Committee intends to talk to Treasury officials re possible Customs involvement in the New Orleans mail intercept activity.

✓ The Director referred to the CIA/Oswald story carried in the 23 September Baltimore News American and asked that in lieu of issuing a press release an appropriate letter to the paper be prepared (see Morning Meeting Minutes of 24 September).

26 September 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 26 September 1975

The Director was at the White House; General Walters chaired the meeting.

Bolten noted that the Senate Select Committee has established a subcommittee to look into the Warren Commission findings relating to information provided by the CIA/FBI. He reported that we are in a good posture to respond to requests from this subcommittee and emphasized that the record indicates that all our information was made available to the Commission.

13-00000

2 October 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 2 October 1975

The Director was attending an ICG Meeting at the White House;  
General Walters chaired the meeting.

Bolten recalled that the Senate Select Committee has created a subcommittee to review Warren Commission findings and noted the probable criticism that we have no record of advising the Commission re any plots against Castro.

13-00000

~~TOP SECRET SENSITIVE~~

3 October 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 3 October 1975

The Director was attending an ICG meeting at the White House; General Walters chaired the meeting.

Thuermer relayed an inquiry from David Martin of the AP regarding implementation of the Rockefeller Commission's recommendations re the CIA's Inspector General and General Counsel Offices. Martin will be told that the White House is the appropriate spokesman on this matter.

Bolten reported on the satisfaction expressed by our employees/former employees with the legal representation being provided for them by Justice during the current investigations.

16 October 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 16 October 1975

The Director was at the White House and General Walters was out of the city; Mr. Duckett chaired the meeting.



Blake advised that he will be circulating a fact sheet regarding Representative Abzug's request of the National Archives for our material related to the Warren Commission report.

Chamberlain noted that John Hughes, Tom Latimer, and Scott Breckinridge have not yet reviewed the 500-page SSC report on assassination plotting but will do so; and given the length of the report and the problems that may arise because of true names contained therein, their review is certain to extend into next week.

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28 October 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 28 October 1975

Warner advised that the Judge ruled in the Fensterwald FOIA case upholding our position that some documents should be withheld on the grounds of privacy to another party. He also noted a FOIA suit against the National Archives involving some of our Nosenko material and noted that he is keeping Counsel to the President Buchen informed.

The Director noted that Scott Breckinridge, Tom Latimer, and Bill Hyland have each read the Senate Select Committee report on assassinations and that he has sent a letter to the President strongly recommending that it not be published. He asked that this be tightly held and advised that he is limiting his substantive dialogue on this topic within the Agency to Scott Breckinridge.

13-00000

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE

4 November 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 4 November 1975

 The Director instructed Chamberlain to have Scott Breckinridge visit the Senate Select Committee staff on the Committee's Assassination Report.

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~~TOP SECRET//COMINT//E~~

6 November 1975

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 6 November 1975

The Director was attending an ICG meeting at the White House and General Walters was out of the country; Mr. Duckett chaired the meeting.

✓ Chamberlain reported on Scott Breckinridge's review of the Senate Select Committee's Assassination Report and advised that Charles Kirbow has agreed to all his recommendations to date.

✓ Warner noted that the President's letter on the Assassination Report in effect says it is classified, and he will develop a think piece for review later in the day saying that any unilateral congressional declassification of the Report should be subject to judicial review.

11 November 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 11 November 1975

Mr. Blake chaired the meeting. The Director, General Walters, and Messrs. Duckett and Proctor were having breakfast with Congressman Milford.

Chamberlain noted that Scott Breckinridge and Mitch Rogovin are meeting with the Senate Select Committee staff this morning re the assassination report and that it is vague whether or not Bill Hyland and Tom Latimer will join this review.

13-00000

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE

12 November 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 12 November 1975

The Director was attending a Christian Science Monitor breakfast; General Walters chaired the meeting until the DCI arrived.

Rogovin reviewed his and Scott Breckinridge's 11 November discussions with the Senate Select Committee re deletion of certain identities from the Committee's assassination report. He described how the Committee intends-- probably on 18 or 19 November--to obtain Senate concurrence to make the report public.

13-00000

17 November 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 17 November 1975

Chamberlain reviewed names which Breckinridge and Leader report are identified in the Senate Select Committee assassination report. He advised that Breckinridge is forwarding to the Director options for addressing this problem and that of the report in general.

The Director noted that he has executed an affidavit and will attend Judge Gesell's hearing this morning on Sidney Gottlieb's injunction to prevent publication of his (Gottlieb's) name in the Senate Select Committee assassination report.

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE

18 November 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 18 November 1975

The Director was attending a meeting of NRO ExCom principals, and General Walters was addressing the Inter-American Defense College; Mr. Duckett chaired the meeting.

Chamberlain advised that the Inspector General's office has completed indexing material furnished the Rockefeller Commission. He explained ground rules for reviewing documents included in this material and noted that requests to do so should originate at the Deputy Director level.

Rogovin read from Judge Gesell's ruling on the suit filed by Sidney Gottlieb to prevent publication of his name in the Senate Select Committee's assassination report. (See

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attached article, "Judge Bars CIA 'Plot' Anonymity," in today's Washington Post.) He reported that Gottlieb's attorney is appealing the ruling this morning.

18 NOV 1975

## WASHINGTON POST

# Judge Bars CIA 'Plot' Anonymity

By Timothy S. Robinson  
Washington Post Staff Writer

**U.S. District Court Judge**  
Gerhard A. Gesell yesterday refused to delete the name of a former CIA official from the Senate intelligence committee's final report dealing with alleged assassination plots on foreign leaders.

Gesell issued the ruling in open court after a day of secret hearings on a suit filed by an anonymous former CIA official in an attempt to remove his name from the report or block publication of the report, scheduled to be released later this week.

The official, who was described by a Senate committee attorney as "a public official that participated in acts that are abhorrent to our society...[and] who sought to kill foreign leaders," is reported to be in fear of assassination himself if his name is publicly tied to various plots investigated by the committee.

Although Gesell agreed that the ex-CIA man's life could be in danger if his name is published in the report, he said the "public interest greatly outweighs any private interest" of the plaintiff.

Informed sources identified the plaintiff in the suit as Dr. Sidney Gottlieb, former CIA director of technical services who has testified in closed sessions before the Senate committee.

Gottlieb, who has been granted immunity from prosecution, has been linked in public reports with the alleged destruction of documents about controversial CIA programs and an alleged plot to ship poison overseas to be used in a CIA-sponsored assassination attempt.

Attorneys Terry F. Lenzen, Thomas H. Truitt and Donald T. Bucklin—who have represented Gottlieb in previous actions—refused to disclose the identity of the plaintiff in the suit they filed before Gesell.

The suit was filed secretly over the weekend with Gesell, who scheduled a closed

hearing yesterday morning at the request of the plaintiff's attorneys.

For more than two hours, sheets of black plastic covered the windows of a locked courtroom door as various witnesses testified about the alleged assassination plots with which the plaintiff was reportedly connected and about the reported threats on the plaintiff's life.

At least one current high-ranking CIA official was reported to be among the witnesses.

The Senate committee also provided a copy of its planned report to Gesell, who later described it in open court as a "report in narrative form and in great detail, telling of a number of alleged assassination plots."

Gesell opened his courtroom at 2:15 p.m. yesterday for an hour of arguments by attorneys over the legal issues involved in the case.

Much of that argument centered around the rights of Congress to publish legislative material unlettered by the courts and the plaintiff's possible right of privacy that might be invaded by the public linking of his name to assassination plots.

In refusing to block publication of the report, or to order the plaintiff's name deleted, Gesell noted that the Senate committee had voluntarily deleted the names of 29 of the 32 current and former CIA employees named in the final report.

However, he said he had no right to interfere with the committee's decision to name the plaintiff, whom he described as a "central figure in the report."

Gesell said he felt specifically that he had no power to block the publication of 30 uncensored Senate CIA committee reports that are first expected to be made available to senators and their staffs.

As for the publicly distributed documents scheduled to be released later, Gesell said, the court must balance the individual's alleged right to privacy against the public's right to be fully informed by Congress on a matter of such "major public concern" as the alleged CIA assassination plots.

13-00000

19 November 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 19 November 1975

✓ The Director noted that he has written to Chairman Stennis and Chairman McClellan expressing his concern over release of the Senate Select Committee's assassination report. He indicated that he will probably hold a press conference today on this subject.

20 November 1975

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD**

**Morning Meeting of 20 November 1975**

✓ The Director noted the dispatch of several letters to the Senate opposing publication of the Senate Select Committee report on assassination plotting and advised that the President is writing a few Senators on this topic this morning.

Thuermer noted that Senator Church is scheduled to give a news conference today at 1430 on the outcome of the Senate's deliberations re the release of the Senate Select Committee's report on assassination plotting.

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE

21 November 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 21 November 1975

The Director was attending an ICG meeting at the White House; General Walters chaired the meeting.

McMahon reported that all 12 individuals whose identities were kept by the Senate Select Committee in its assassination report have been contacted re security assistance.

Cary indicated that in view of the release of the assassination report, the Director should probably write the Senate Rules Committee expressing his concern that other classified information in Senate hands be given adequate protection. Evans highlighted the current exchange between the Review Staff and the House Select Committee staff on retrieval of materials provided which envisions our storing same for them at the Records Center in [redacted]. He recommended that a similar dialogue commence with the Senate Select Committee. In response to General Walters' observation, Elder will review and consult the DCI.