

XAE-808

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9 December 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Lee Harvey OSWALD

FBI question concerning report THAT

FBI Liaison

1. At 0900 on 9 December ~~Mr. Papich~~ of the FBI called and advised that the Bureau had a communication from their Miami field office setting forth information which had been received in a memorandum from our office in Miami concerning a report which had been received from a Western diplomat alleging that the assassination of President Kennedy was the result of a plot prepared and executed jointly by the Chinese Communists and CASTRO through intermediaries. ~~Mr. Papich~~ provided some details concerning the information received from their Miami office which in substance is the same information as that set forth in JMWAVE cable 8658 (IN 75902). ~~Mr. Papich~~ advised that the Bureau had during the night located Robert NIETO, interviewed him, and was informed by him that he has no information concerning ~~CORTES~~ and FEITO. ~~Mr. Papich~~ stated that the Bureau is very much interested in this allegation, is endeavoring to run down the lead relating to the bank in New York, that the Bureau has information concerning Ramon B. ~~CORTES~~, born 31 August 1916, who was indicted in Dallas, Texas, in 1960 on a charge of impersonating the Honorary Consul of Guatemala. He said that this ~~CORTES~~, according to Bureau information, was in Mexico City as of August 1962 and this Cortes might be considered as possibly being identical with the Ramon B. Cortes mentioned in this matter.

2. ~~Mr. Papich~~ stated that the Bureau would like to evaluate this information if possible and he would guess that this information originated with someone who had just come out of Havana and that this might be some rumor or something planted by the Soviets to make it rough on the CHICOMS and CASTRO. It was agreed that anything might be possible but he gave no information supporting any such theory. He said that the Bureau was very much interested in identifying the source and it would appreciate any information we can give on where and how this diplomat got this information since it would help the Bureau to evaluate this information. He said that the Bureau would find the identity of the source and possible access to the source, if in this country, most helpful.

3. The matter was discussed with ~~Mr. Whitten~~, G/WH/3, and he subsequently advised that he had discussed the matter with representatives of ~~WH~~ and with ~~Mr. Reams~~ and that I could advise ~~Mr. Papich~~ of the identity of the source in the event the Bureau was insistent. After discussing the matter further with ~~Mr. Whitten~~ and consistent with his position, I telephonically contacted ~~Mr. Papich~~ and advised him as follows:

- a. The Western diplomat in this case, who is our source, is a ~~French diplomat~~. We do not know the identity of his source.

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- b. This ^{SOURCE} ~~French diplomat~~ has reported information from his sources on occasions which have proven to be not too reliable.
 - c. Our relationship with this ^{SOURCE} ~~French diplomat~~ is somewhat delicate.
 - d. The ^{SOURCE} ~~diplomat~~ is not in the United States, has not been in the United States, and is not currently in a location where he could be directly contacted by the Bureau.
 - e. We have in fact no direct contact or direct communications at this time but we do have some possible means of developing further information which the source may have on this matter.
 - f. The ^{SOURCE} ~~French diplomat~~ may have reported similar information to his government and if further information is received concerning this allegation, the fact that this allegation came from a French source should of course be considered.
 - g. We are endeavoring to take all possible steps through our own means to develop further information on this allegation. We are giving priority attention to the matter and it is hoped that we will be in a position to provide the Bureau additional information.
4. ^{FBI} ~~Mr. English~~ remarked that perhaps we could contact the ~~French~~ directly on this matter and I responded by stating that we were doing all we could.

~~Birch D. O'Neal~~
 Chief, CI/SIG

✓cc: ~~Mr. Whitten, C/WB/3~~