

Released under the John  
F. Kennedy  
Assassination Records  
Collection Act of 1992  
(44 USC 2107 Note).  
Case#:NW 55154 Date:  
04-06-2013

# File #:

62-116395

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# Serial Scope:

592 - Bulky

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18



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

February 1, 1975

SULLIVAN MEMORANDA  
TO JOHN DEAN  
(MRS. ANNA CHENNAULT)

On October 29, 1968, Mr. J. Bromley Smith, a White House staff member and Executive Secretary of the National Security Council, was in telephone contact with Cartha D. DeLoach, former Assistant to the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Smith advised that he was speaking in behalf of President Lyndon B. Johnson and requested that a telephone surveillance be installed on the Embassy of South Vietnam. He also stated there was an urgent need for The White House to know the identity of every individual going into the South Vietnam Embassy for a three-day period. Physical surveillance of the South Vietnam Embassy was instituted immediately and Director Hoover sent a written request for this telephone surveillance to the then Attorney General (AG) Ramsey Clark. On October 29, 1968, the AG authorized the installation. JS

Also, on October 29, 1968, at the request of The White House, the AG was requested to approve telephone surveillance on the residence of the then Vietnamese Ambassador Bui Diem. The AG approved this latter installation on October 30, 1968. (S)

On October 30, 1968, Smith advised that President Johnson desired an immediate physical surveillance on Mrs. Anna Chennault, widow of General Claire Chennault of "Flying Tiger" fame. Physical surveillance was instituted on Mrs. Chennault to cover her activities in Washington, D. C., and New York City.

Results of physical surveillance were disseminated to Smith at The White House.

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Classified by 6272  
Exempt from GDS, Category Number 2  
Date of Declassification Indefinite

7-23-99  
CLASSIFIED BY SP4BJA-MVB  
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X16

# 421800

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
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Sullivan Memoranda to John Dean

On November 7, 1968, Smith called DeLoach and stated that President Johnson wanted the FBI to abandon its physical surveillance of Mrs. Chennault [as well as the physical surveillance on the South Vietnam Embassy. However, according to Smith, President Johnson desired that we keep the telephone surveillance on the South Vietnam Embassy in operation. Smith additionally mentioned that President Johnson was of the opinion that the intelligence obtained by the FBI in this operation was of the highest order.] He stated that the facts furnished by the FBI had been exactly what had been needed by The White House and that he and the President were very grateful. (S)

On November 12, 1968, at the instruction of President Johnson, outgoing telephone calls made by then Vice-Presidential candidate Spiro Agnew on November 2, 1968, at which time he was in Albuquerque, New Mexico, were checked (through toll records) by the Albuquerque Office of the FBI. The purpose was to determine if Agnew had made toll calls from Albuquerque (to the South Vietnam Embassy or] to Mrs. Chennault (no such records were located by Albuquerque). This information was furnished to President Johnson on November 13, 1968. Also, the arrival and departure times of Agnew in and out of Albuquerque, New Mexico, on November 2, 1968, were verified at the request of The White House. (S)

On January 6, 1969, instructions were received from The White House to discontinue telephone surveillances on the South Vietnam Embassy and the residence of Ambassador Diem and these telephone surveillances were discontinued on the same date. (S)

On January 29, 1975, DeLoach telephonically contacted John J. McDermott, Assistant Director of the FBI, and advised that Nicholas M. Petrock, a reporter for the "New York Times" newspaper, had contacted DeLoach and, among other questions, queried DeLoach about President Johnson, through DeLoach, ordering a telephone tap and physical surveillance of Anna Chennault. DeLoach advised McDermott

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that during the period of the Presidential election in 1968, [the National Security Agency (NSA) had intercepted a cable from the South Vietnamese Embassy to Saigon which indicated that Chennault had been in contact with the South Vietnamese Ambassador in an effort to persuade him to keep the South Vietnamese Government from attending the Paris peace negotiations until after the election since it would not devolve to the credit of the Republican Party.] (S)

In this regard, DeLoach alleged that President Johnson talked to him prior to his death regarding this matter and that President Johnson told him that if President Johnson started to get pressured concerning the Chennault matter, that President Johnson still had a copy of the cable, presumably in the Johnson library, with which President Johnson could prove the Republicans had tried to sabotage the peace negotiations and that President Johnson would reveal the contents of this cable.

FBI files do not contain any information which could be identified with the cable referred to above by DeLoach. [FBI files do indicate that on September 12, 1967, NSA requested coverage on the teletype facilities of the South Vietnamese Embassy, Washington, D. C., which was authorized by the AG on January 4, 1968, and installed on January 25, 1968. FBI files further indicate that at the request of NSA, the FBI installed coverage on a teletype machine at the residence of then Vietnamese Ambassador Bui Diem at 4535 32nd Street, Northwest, Washington, D. C., which installation was approved by the AG on October 24, 1968.] (S)

[To summarize, about telephone and teletype surveillances were legitimately placed pursuant to requests from The White House and NSA with the approval of the AG.] (S) Physical surveillance of Mrs. Chennault was consistent with FBI responsibilities to determine if her activities were in violation of certain provisions of the Foreign Agents Registration Act (Section 601, et seq., Title 22, USC) and of the Neutrality Act (Section 953, Title 18, USC).

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From a review of FBI files, it would appear that the reason The White House was interested in the activities of the South Vietnam Embassy, Mrs. Chennault, and Spiro Agnew, was to determine whether the South Vietnamese had secretly been in touch with supporters of Presidential candidate Nixon, possibly through Mrs. Chennault, as President Johnson was apparently suspicious that the South Vietnamese were trying to sabotage his peace negotiations in the hope that Nixon would win the election and then take a harder line towards North Vietnam. In this regard, it is noted that on one occasion, Smith advised DeLoach that President Johnson was undecided as to whether Mrs. Chennault was working for certain factions within the United States (possibly for the Republican Party) or whether she was actually working for North Vietnam. (S)

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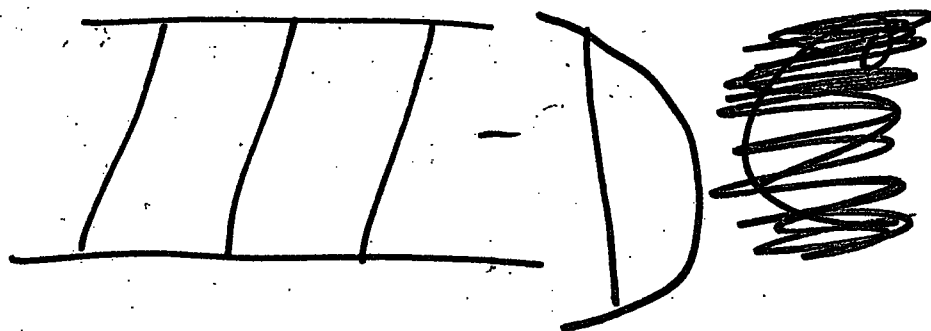
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Reviewed by Mark Galvin SSC, 8/6/78  
" " Mike Epstein, SSC. 8/17/78

FMD/16  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 12/8/00 BY SP-2 ALM/216

delivered 8/26/75

62-116395

Ser. 592



DELIVERED WITH  
8/20/75 Request

#MDR16  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 12/8/00 BY SP-2 ALM/MLG

1. Use of FBI resources to gather political intelligence.

A. Moyers' request for a special check of the Bureau's files concerning persons employed in Senator Goldwater's office, October 26, 1964. ✓

B. Johnson's request to check certain telephone calls of then Vice Presidential candidate Agnew, November 12, 1968.

C. Colson allegation (on Today Show, February 7, 1975) that while in the White House in 1971 or 1972, he was supplied with information from the FBI about "one unfortunate incident" in the life of George McGovern. ✓

D. Colson allegation that the FBI furnished extensive information to the White House in 1971 or 1972 in the nature of "personal gossip" concerning former President Kennedy. ✓

EASTERN CONGRESSMAN

E. ~~██████████~~ matter -- possibly unjustified ✓

dissemination to Watson and ~~Katzbach~~.

2. Improper use of the FBI in connection with the political processes.

A. "Special Squad" at the 1964 Democratic National Convention.

B. Possible "special treatment" for then Vice President Humphrey in connection with the 1968 Democratic Convention.

3. Use of FBI to report on certain activities of critics of an Administration's policies.

A. Coverage of Senate Foreign Relations Committee ~~telephone~~<sup>television</sup> presentation at Watson's request, February 1966. ✓

B. Information provided to the Johnson and Nixon Administrations concerning contacts between Congressmen and representatives of the Soviet Union. ✓



4. Use of information in the FBI files to respond to or discredit critics.

A. Congressman Anderson matter.

B. Walter Jenkins matter.

C. Dissemination to Marvin Watson (November 8, 1966) of information concerning 7 individuals who wrote unfavorable articles concerning the Warren Commission's findings.

D. Investigation of Don Reynolds in connection with the Bobby Baker case.

5. Improper use of the FBI in connection with legitimate law enforcement activities.

A. Bobby Baker investigation. ✓

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