MEMORANDUM FOR:  Mr. J. Lee Rankin

SUBJECT:  Anonymous Telephone Calls to United States Embassy in Canberra, Australia, Relative to Planned Assassination of President Kennedy

1. I refer again to paragraph two of your memorandum, dated 12 February 1964, relative to dissemination to the secret service made by C.I.A.

2. On 24 November 1962, C.I.A. received from the Department of the Navy a copy of a cable from the Naval Attaché in Canberra, Australia (IN 6737, Top secret, later re-designated to secret), reporting a telephone conversation the previous day with an anonymous individual who had described himself as a police chauffeur for the Soviet embassy in that city. The individual, while discussing several matters of intelligence interest, touched on the possibility that the Soviet Government had financed the assassination of President Kennedy. Reference was made in this cable to the receipt of a similar anonymous telephone call on 15 October 1962.

3. Upon receipt of this cable from Navy C.I.A. took the following action:

   a. Cabled to Canberra asking full details of the telephone conversation of 23 November and the call made on 15 October 1962. It should be noted that C.I.A. had not previously known of the 1962 telephone call.
b. The CI station in Washington, on 17 November, furnished all available information on the 176 telephonic call. It appears that sources on that occasion believed that from certain countries' plans to pay a handsome ransom to captive for the release of President Kennedy.

c. On 17 November, the CI station also furnished complete detail on the anonymous telephonic call on 11 November 1963.

d. On 19 November, CI disseminated this information, as supplied by its Canberra station, to the White House, Department of Justice, and Federal Bureau of Investigation, with a copy to the Secret Service. A copy of this dissemination in its exact text is attached to this memorandum.

4. The CIA station in Canberra arranged for discussion of the calls with the Australian security service. In the opinion of the Australian authorities, the caller was a Soviet. In any event, they were not able to identify any Polish employee of the Soviet embassy, the automobile described by the caller as the one he drove, or the license plate number given by him. No further information on this call has been received. Available evidence would tend to show that the caller was some type of agent. This conclusion, however, cannot be confirmed.

5. Please note that the nature of the information in this memorandum and its attachment requires the use of a sensitivity indicator.

Richard Helms
Deputy Director for Plans

Attachment
Distribution:

Original & 1 - Addresses
2 - BDP
1 - C/RA/H/1
1 - C/CIA/16G
1 - C/CIA/246
1 - C/RA/70/Hal1
1 - C/RA/261

Originated by: C1/RA/70/Hall/3164/31 May 1964