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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

SEA-57-68

DATE: 7 February 1968

TO : Director, DCS
attn : John W. McConnell
FROM : Chief, Seattle Office

SUBJECT: Alleged Anti-CIA Comments made by Priests at Seattle University

REF : Denver memorandum DEN-51-68, dated 1 February 1968, with attachment

1. You will find attached a copy of a Memorandum for the Record dated 31 January 1968 and written by Don Jordan of the Denver Office. The text of the memorandum needs no further explanation.

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2. I made a cursory check with local sources who were unable to confirm or deny the allegations made by Mrs. Margaret Fanning, mother of Miss Clare Louise Fanning who is currently a student at Seattle University. Since the matter is not exactly in our ken and might be of interest to the FBI I made a digest of the original memorandum and gave a copy to the Seattle FBI Office. A copy of the digest was also given to Mr. [William Barrus], CIA O/S, Seattle Resident Agent. A copy of the digest is attached. Seattle FBI Office said that they probably will not take any action but would pass the information along to their headquarters in Washington DC. In all probability the information will be attributed to the Seattle Field Office.

3. I made a further check with Colonel Michael J. Dolan, Placement Officer, Seattle University, to determine if he had heard anything about the subject matter on the campus. Colonel Dolan works with Mr. Thomas L. Culhane, CIA, OP/RD. Mr. Culhane says that Colonel Dolan can be trusted to be discreet in any dealings that we might have with him. Colonel Dolan was unable to give me any information of a substantive nature regarding Subject but stated that Miss Fanning is having academic problems and her grade point has gone down steadily since enrollment at Seattle University. Her present courses are all taught by laymen so if she has any contact with the Jesuit priests the contact would be outside of the classroom. It was Colonel Dolan's opinion that the university administration would be very interested in running down information of the nature outlined by Mrs. Fanning. Colonel Dolan has stated he will make some discreet inquiries without implicating either Mrs. or Miss Fanning.

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4. If it is determined that there is any truth to the allegations we will be advised. We suspect, however, that Miss Fanning is fabricating in order to cover up her poor academic progress.


WAYNE H. RICHARDSON

WHR:ks

cc: Chief, Denver Office (Attn: D. S. Jordan)

Attachments

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31 January 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Call from Mrs. Margaret Fanning Regarding Anti-CIA Activity at the University of Seattle

1. On 18 January 1968, 1100 hours, the Denver Office received a call on the listed number from a woman who identified herself as Mrs. Margaret Fanning. Mrs. Fanning stated that she lives in Pueblo and that at the time of the call she was at Stapleton Airport enroute to Texas. Mrs. Fanning's reason for calling us was her great concern about what her daughter, Clare, is being taught about the CIA and the Kennedy assassination at the University of Seattle where Clare is a student.

2. Mrs. Fanning has received several telephone calls recently from Clare in which Clare informed her mother that some of the priests at the University of Seattle (a Jesuit school) had convinced the students that Garrison's theories about the assassination are correct and that the charges about the Agency's implication are also correct.

3. Mrs. Fanning stated that her daughter is actually afraid of the CIA and considers that the CIA is comparable to the Gestapo. Mrs. Fanning stated that she tried to persuade Clare that what she (the daughter) had heard is totally untrue but Mrs. Fanning had no success whatsoever in changing her daughter's viewpoint.

4. Mrs. Fanning also stated that Clare asked her to be sure not to repeat to anyone any of the foregoing information and that the priests at Seattle University had instructed their students not to discuss these matters with their parents. Mrs. Fanning was obviously most upset that a faculty member at a university, particularly a priest, had instructed students not to discuss matters presented to them at the school with their parents. In this connection, I suggested to Mrs. Fanning that she possibly had legitimate grievance against the school and that she might write a letter to the president on this particular item.

5. I also pointed out to her that if there is in progress at the University of Seattle activity which could be construed as a threat to the US internal security, the FBI would be interested. I expressed appreciation for Mrs. Fanning's concern about the misinformation on the CIA which is apparently being disseminated at the University of Seattle but pointed out that there is very little we can do about such matters.

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