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BISSELL, RICHARD  
ASSASSINATIONS

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ASSASSINATIONS

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[R] - ITEM IS RESTRICTED

MEETINGS 11 JUNE 75

Box 418

~~TOP SECRET~~

Excerpts from Bissell Testimony on 6/9/75

White House

1. Did not self inform 5412, i. e., Nixon. And haven't heard others did. Assumed Dulles (26)
  - a. Not JFK in 11/60 (27)
2. "Not to my recollection" re disclose to Bundy effort to ass. C. underway (28)
  - a. "Explanation" to Chairman (32) was Edwards operation.
3. Knows nothing re outside agency (30)
4. Re Bundy: "Felt that it should be the Director's judgment as to what information about it was provided to him." (34)
5. "Believe" Ike/JFK both advised "guess " through Dulles channel (38)
6. No disclosure to RFK/Taylor (42)
  - a. What is his 4th reason? (45)
  - b. No reason to believe Dulles didn't (46)

Compare Rocky 2302

7. Given everything I know of Dulles "I would expect he had perhaps obliquely advised both of the Presidents of this auxiliary operation, the assassination attempt." (47)

8. "Executive Action"

a. "As far as I know is true" WHI asked to create

Put in actual 1967

'Study capability" (49)

b. Can't remember who (49)

c. OK request (50). Though do remember assigning to Harvey (50-51) (76 - 77)

d. Most likely Bundy or Rostow

e. Doesn't recall telling them about actual (52)

f. what wanted was, much more than assassination

capability: "possibly assassination as a last resort." (57)

What papers?

g. RIDER X (attached)

9. Assumes, as expert and considered opinion that JFK told but is 'guess' (56)

10. Opinion: "Very much doubt if he at any time he JFK was told any of the details" "Guess" that Dulles or staff member had desire to shield -- intimate "something of the

Who might this be?

sort was going forward, but giving the President  
as little info about it as possible" - Purpose: allow  
cancel, or go ahead without "extracting from him an  
explicit endorsement of the detailed specific plan." (61)

g. "Normal practice" in agency to create various kinds of capabilities before reason to be certain could be used. (67). Would not be "particularly surprising" to me if initial steps had been taken without outside request (67-68)

(i) But doesn't disagree with IG report that WH asked. Rests on Harvey's quote of him (69) to best of recollection is true. No reason to believe H. would misquote "and I believe if I said that at the time, as he reported it, it was the truth." (70)

h. was a "capability to secure the removal from office or to render powerless or in some other way to frustrate figures (68)

(i) Task was "perform research on methods, or possible assets, or kinds of Executive Action, presumably on what would be feasible in various parts of the world." (73)

i. "Could have" set up plan for assassination capability on own (79). But "relying on Mr. Harvey's evidence" believes came through WH (80). While doesn't remember conversations, "I believe did have with Rostow at least. May have been initiated within agency but "I believe that if so I talked to him about it." (81)

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R247

MEMORANDUM

To: Fritz Schwarz

COPY \_\_\_\_\_ OF \_\_\_\_\_

From: Bill Bader

Date: June 11, 1975

INVENTORIEDS

ON MAR 15 1977

BY \_\_\_\_\_

In recommending the agent or "asset" WIROGUE to the Chief of Station, Leopoldville, the Chief of the Agency's African Division (probably Bronson Tweedy) wrote in late 1960:

"He is indeed aware of the precepts of right and wrong, but if he is given an assignment which may be morally wrong in the eyes of the world, but necessary because his case officer ordered him to carry it out, then it is right and he will dutifully undertake appropriate action for its execution without pangs of conscience. In a word, he can rationalize all actions."