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OCTOBER 1967
FBI - MEMPHIS

MEMORANDUM FOR MEMBERS OF SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE
AND DESIGNEES

Schedule for Consideration
of Assassination Report

October 21, 1975

Annexed hereto is a copy of the transcript of this afternoon's Committee session at which agreement was reached concerning how to proceed with the draft Assassination Report. In summary, it was agreed as follows:

(1) Consideration of the Report is to be divided into two pieces: (i) the sections related to the particular plots in the particular countries and to executive action (Section III) (these were referred to as the "text" sections in the session this afternoon), and (ii) Chapters I, II, IV and V (i.e., the Introduction and Summary, the section on Covert Action, the Findings and Conclusions, and the Recommendations).

(2) With respect to the "text" or countries/plots sections, proposed changes are to be submitted to the undersigned by the end of this week, or at the latest by Monday afternoon. Staff is instructed to attempt to work out an agreed-upon treatment of such proposals with the subcommittee

to be the final judge. It is expected that if any Senator does not like the result of the treatment of such proposals, it could be covered in separate views.

(3) With respect to the other sections, a plenary session of the Committee will be held commencing Wednesday, October 29, for the purpose of considering any proposed written amendments. Any such proposed amendments should be submitted to [the undersigned] by the end of the day Monday so as to permit the staff to organize and analyze the proposals.

We will send you shortly a schedule indicating the staff members who are particularly knowledgeable about the various chapters in the text or countries/plots sections. These persons are available for questions or other assistance.

Frederick A. O. Schwarz, Jr.
Charles Kirbow

Copies to William G. Miller
Curtis R. Smothers

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1 available in the full book for the Committee.

2 Then tomorrow we have hearings in the morning and in the
3 afternoon as well because of Helms. So, the Full Committee should
4 take this up Thursday. We will be free Thursday afternoon.

5 Mr. Miller. Yes.

6 The Chairman. For this purpose?

7 All right, why do we not begin the Full Committee's
8 consideration on Thursday afternoon?

9 Senator Hart (Colorado). Mr. Chairman, are you seeking
10 opinions on how to proceed?

11 The Chairman. Yes.

12 Senator Hart (Colorado). What if we had an agenda of
13 controversial items; that is to say, there is either division
14 at the staff or Subcommittee level, and just attack it that way?

15 The Chairman. I think as far as the Subcommittee is
16 concerned, when we complete our work, we will not have any
17 divisions.

18 Senator Hart (Colorado). All right. Or flagging.

19 The Chairman. We have some things to flag, yes, some
20 things to flag which we can --

21 Senator Hart (Colorado). And then leave it to individual
22 members to flag anything else.

23 The Chairman. The Subcommittee will be united on its
24 report, and the staff is united on the report.

25 Senator Hart (Colorado). That is what I meant with flag.

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1 The Chairman. We could flag certain things which we think
2 ought to be called to the special attention of the Full Committee.
3 I would be glad to do that.

4 Senator Hart. (Colorado). And presume everything else is
5 non-controversial unless some individual Senator on the Full
6 Committee raises it.

7 The Chairman. Mr. Lombard?

8 Mr. Lombard. Mr. Chairman, I wonder if I could suggest
9 this from the staff point of view. If the Senators might not
10 have three or four days to read the document themselves -- now,
11 as you recall, it was not ready prior to the adjournment, and
12 the mechanics of getting it together were just too much -- I
13 think this might move along a lot more quickly if we allowed a
14 few days for each Senator and designee to read the entire
15 report, on the textual part. I am not talking about the
16 findings and recommendations; and to submit within that period
17 any suggested changes, and then have a plenary session of the
18 Committee on the findings and recommendations.

19 The Chairman. Let me see, Mr. Lombard, if I understand
20 you correctly, that suggestions with respect to the change in
21 the textual part --

22 Mr. Lombard. Would be made during the reading period.

23 The Chairman. Would be made during the reading period.

24 Mr. Lombard. And incorporated, if possible.

25 The Chairman. And incorporated if possible.

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1 Mr. Lombard. Right.

2 The Chairman. And then when we hold the plenary sessions
3 we confine them to the findings and recommendations and the
4 summary findings.

5 Mr. Lombard. Yes, sir. Because it's my opinion that if
6 we have additional views, not only dissenting views, and if
7 I sense what is going along here, I think that we are very close
8 to achieving unanimity, with the understanding that there may
9 be additional views, if we try to go through this thing section
10 by section, having known the Senators for a number of years --
11 this should not be taken amiss -- but we will never get there.

12 The Chairman. We will never get there.

13 Mr. Lombard. So what I would like to suggest is that we
14 permit the report to lie on the table, so to speak, for four
15 or five days so that the reading and objections to the actual
16 cases could be made, and I do not think there will be many of
17 those. I do not think you will get much of that. And then
18 have a meeting on the findings and recommendations, and at
19 that time the Senators could voice objections or amendments to
20 the findings and conclusions.

21 The Chairman. What do you have to say about that, Mr.
22 Schwarz?

23 Mr. Schwarz. Suppose as a suggestion additionally to that,
24 that there be a day certain for having amendments in writing,
25 which will give a little time to focus on them, not just have them

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1 come out on the table.

2 Mr. Lombard. I am not suggesting what time, but I am talk-
3 ing about a two step process so that we have a reading process,
4 and then that we would have suggestions on the cases, and then
5 later we would go to the findings and recommendations.

6 The Chairman. It may be that your suggestion, Mr. Lombard,
7 would save us time, and I think we now ought to strive to save
8 as much time as possible, but it would have to be agreeable
9 to the members that we proceed this way, and if we give this
10 additional time, I think that along with any suggested changes
11 in the general text, members should prepare such amendments as
12 they might wish to make to the findings, and then the plenary
13 session could be confined.

14 Mr. Lombard. You have said it better than I said it.

15 The Chairman. I am following you.

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1 We'll have to settle on the dates also.

2 Mr. Lombard. It seems to me that, in other words, if
3 we would set next Wednesday for our plenary session, which
4 would be for the purpose of going over the findings and recom-
5 mendations and approving the report on that date -- well, if
6 possible, and then we would have the three days following this
7 for the filing of additional reports, so that could really
8 be done by Friday, the whole thing wrapped up.

9 The Chairman. Well, if you think that that is the most
10 expeditious way to move -- Mike?

11 Mr. Madigan. I would just want to say that if any dates
12 are going to be set, it would be the middle of next week
13 because Senator Baker's wife's grandmother died, and he's
14 not going to be able to be back here until late Thursday.
15 It is a personal problem.

16 Mr. Lombard. If we do want to work on this individually
17 rather than as a group, it is going to go fast.

18 The Chairman. Well, how does it strike the Committee,
19 this proposal?

20 Senator Mondale. It's the Chairman's choice.

21 The Chairman. All right. The only problem that I see
22 with it is that if we delay it for another week, when we do
23 go into the plenary session, we've got to go in prepared and
24 the Committee has to be satisfied to confine the plenary
25 sessions to the findings, the recommendations, and the summary

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1 of the findings in order to get our work done. And insofar as
2 possible, the staff will incorporate suggestions by individual
3 members as they relate to the text.

4 Mr. Lombard. The individual Senator, if he's not
5 satisfied, can always put in additional views.

6 The Chairman. And the staff should cooperate with
7 the individual suggestions made with respect to possible
8 revisions in the text itself.

9 Mr. Lombard. Mr. Chairman, one further thing. Can
10 we have an assumption here that the section on Bobby Kennedy
11 is in fact going to be nailed down?

12 The Chairman. Oh, yes, we're going to nail that down
13 today, the section on Bobby Kennedy. So that will be available
14 to the members to handle. We've been trying to nail that down
15 for a long time.

16 Mr. Lombard. It is a steady wicket.

17 The Chairman. All right, then, if we can get Senator
18 Tower after this vote --

19 Mr. Kirbow. Senator, he was going to move this same type
20 of lay-it-on-the-table motion. I'm sure he'll agree with that.
21 We'll try to have him here.

22 Mr. Schwarz. Does the proposal contemplate having the
23 amendments available before the session Wednesday? Otherwise
24 the session Wednesday is going to be terribly disorganized.

25 Mr. Lombard. Yes.

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The Chairman. They will have to be available.

Mr. Lombard. But we are confining the amendment process to the findings and recommendations.

Mr. Schwarz. The other is more informal.

Mr. Lombard. It doesn't come up at the plenary session on Wednesday. If you have any kicks about the evidentiary report, they should be submitted to staff, and if they're not incorporated and you don't like it, you put it in your additional views. Otherwise, you're going to nitpick about a lot of things.

The Chairman. I think, Mr. Lombard, that's an excellent suggestion.

Mr. Maxwell. What we should do is fix a time then, if people who are going to provide for evidentiary changes, say either by the end of this week or by Tuesday morning.

Mr. Schwarz. It's awfully late, Tuesday morning.

Senator Huddleston. How about Monday?

The Chairman. Let me make this suggestion. Let's be sure that all members are informed that this is the Committee's decision and not just the Chairman's choice.

First, beginning now, any suggested changes in the text relating to the different cases in Section 3 of the report, should be submitted to the staff of the Committee for possible incorporation in that section of the report. The drafting subcommittee should be the final judge of what goes in or

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1 doesn't go in, or the form in which it goes in of the text.

2 Then if a Senator is dissatisfied with that decision,
3 he is always free to express his own view of that particular
4 point in his supplementary views.

5 Mr. Lombard. Well, then it will also gain a lot more
6 signatures.

7 The Chairman. Now the suggestions that members wish to
8 make with respect to Section 3 and possible changes, should
9 come to the general counsel, Fritz, and to Charley.

10 Mr. Schwarz. At my 10023 mailing address?

11 The Chairman. And they should be made as quickly as
12 possible and they should be in.

13 Mr. Schwarz. But just as soon as possible because we're
14 in the process of doing the same thing on looking for style
15 problems and clarity.

16 The Chairman. Yes, we're trying to finalize this, so
17 those suggestions, I think, should be in by the end of the week.

18 Senator Schweiker. Which section are we talking about?

19 The Chairman. We're talking about Section 3, which is
20 just the rendition of what happened in the various cases.

21 Mr. Kirbow. The plots themselves.

22 The Chairman. Those should be in by the end of the week.

23 Senator Schweiker. You mean part 3, Tab D? My table
24 doesn't even have a 3 on it.

25 Mr. Kirbow. It's under your Tab.--

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1 Senator Schweiker. Topic-wise, what are you talking
2 about?

3 The Chairman. The country by country cases where we
4 set up the evidence.

5 Mr. Kirbow. Tab D,E,F,G, and H should be the ones.

6 Senator Schweiker. We also get this from nomenclature.

7 The Chairman. Let those be submitted to Charley and
8 to Fritz for incorporation, and the Subcommittee will be the
9 final judge on whether they will be incorporated and Senators
10 will be free if they're not satisfied with that decision to
11 incorporate their suggestion in supplementary views.

12 Then the plenary sessions will begin next Wednesday of
13 the Full Committee. The plenary sessions will be confined to
14 the summary, findings, and the recommendations, and any
15 suggested changes in any of those should be submitted to the
16 Full Committee for its consideration prior to next Wednesday.
17 Make it by the close of business Monday, so they can be
18 properly formulated by the staff and presented at the first
19 plenary session.

20 Mr. Lombard. But that would not rule out our amendment
21 on Wednesday if called up for a vote.

22 The Chairman. Not at all, but the plenary session will
23 do its work then.

24 Mr. Schwarz. The theory is you could see it in advance.

25 Mr. Lombard. This is normally done and something might

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happen, it would not preclude a Senator from exercising his right to offer a formal amendment on Wednesday, even though he hadn't notified the Committee.

The Chairman. No, we won't try and do that.

Senator Hart of Colorado. Mr. Chairman, I intend in the next 48 hours to make a rather strong statement on the floor for the record on leaks, and it will be documented and it will be critical of the Administration and the agencies for preempting this Committee, and I will circulate the text of that before I make the statement to each member.

The Chairman. Thank you.

(Whereupon, at 3:52 o'clock p.m., the hearing in the above-mentioned matter was concluded.)

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