

November 29, 1963

92

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND ABE FORTAS

AF

.....have one Mr. President add I rewrote it..I told him I was going to..

LBJ That's good..OK..go ahead..

AF You're ready?

LBJ Yes, have you got anything else to say to me?

AF Yes sir. Boggs made his announcement.. Carr called me the Attorney General of Texas..and he was going on and on and I thought he ought to be told about the plans for the Commission ... and I max swore him to secrecy..because Boggs had already said it.. and I didn't tell him anything..he was very much for it.. said it was a wonderful idea and all to the good that I think I got that underway..I just wanted to cover that..

LBJ You think I ought to tellhim...talk to him before it is over..I imagine so..

AF I can do it..don't you bother with him..I can talk to that guy every day.. every day..practically every hour...

LBJ Well, somebody better call him because he'll think I have broken faith with him..

AF I called him and already told him I'd call him again..

LBJ You tell him as soon as it is done..put that first on your list..as soon as I get some clearances..O.K..go ahead..

AF The President today announced that he was appointing a Special Commission to study and report upon all facts and circumstances relating to the assassination of the late President, John F. Kennedy and the subsequent murder of the man charged with the assassination.

The President stated that the majority and minority leaders of the Senate and the House of Representatives have been consulted with respect to the proposed Special Commission. (I do not know the facts... relating to this paragraph and this has to be confirmed)

The members of the Special Commission are:

The President stated that the Special Commission would be instructed to evaluate all available information concerning the subject of the inquiry. The Federal Bureau of Investigation, pursuant to an earlier Directive of the President, is making a complete investigation of the fact. An inquiry is also scheduled by a Texas Court of Inquiry, convened by the Attorney General of Texas under Texas law.

The Special Commission will have before it all evidence uncovered by the FBI and all information available to any agency of the Federal government. The Attorney General of Texas has also offered his cooperation. All Federal agencies and offices are being directed to furnishing services and cooperation to the Special Commission. The Commission will also be empowered to conduct any further investigations when it deems desirable. The President stated that the investigations now underway by the FBI and others..together with the report of the Special Commission, will make certain that all aspects of the assassination and murder are known and that the public is fully informed.

That is the end.