

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

- Teletype
- Facsimile
- Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- TOP SECRET
- SECRET
- CONFIDENTIAL
- E F T O
- CLEAR

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~SECRET~~

Date 6/27/78

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (62-117290)
(ATTN: Congressional Inquiry Unit, Division IV)

FROM: SAC, WFO (62-11126)

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS,
U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (HSCA)

ReButel, dated 6/14/78, and WFO teletype, 6/15/78.

Enclosed for the Bureau are five (5) copies of
an LHM, dated and captioned as above.

(Handwritten initials)

EX-106

REC-50

ENCLOSURE

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3-WFO

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ENCLOSURE ATTACHED

Classified by [Signature]
Declassify on: OADR 2/18/83
211,326

DOC. CONTROL
CLAR [Signature]

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Approved: _____

Transmitted _____ (Number) _____ (Time)

Per _____

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Washington Field Office
Washington, D. C. 20535
June 27, 1978

~~SECRET~~

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (HSCA)

In response to the request of HSCA concerning tapes or verbatim transcripts of interviews of Yuri Nosenko on February 26-27, 1964; March 3, 4, 6, 1964; and undated information appearing in an August 13, 1970, communication, all of which pertain to Oswald or the assassination of John F. Kennedy, an exhaustive search of the files of the Washington Field Office (WFO) of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), was conducted. The results of the search failed to disclose the existence of the tapes or transcripts for the relevant period. The scope of the search, which involved the use of thirty-three Agents and two clerical employees, included all those files pertaining to Nosenko, Kennedy, and Oswald; the Washington Field Tape Library, the Tape Destruction and Retention File of Technical and Microphone Surveillances; the Nosenko Index; as well as the safe of the Special Agent in Charge.

Results of Search

The search did indicate that from February 24, 1964, until April 3, 1964, a series of ten interviews of Nosenko were conducted in English and Russian by Special Agents of the Washington Field Office.

There were scattered references in the files (S-1)(C) reviewed that at least some of the interviews were taped. Specifically, in a memorandum dated March 26, 1964, the writer stated as follows: "During the interview of the ()

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Classified by *SP3 CLK/PC*
Declassify on: OADR 5/2/83

#211,326

S-1(CSA)

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all that is classified in 1987 was officially declassified later

CIA INFO 12/1/80
CLASSIFIED
PER LTR 870.
6/17/85
SP3 CLK/PC
1/2/87
#211,326

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS HSCA

subject by Bureau Agents on February 24, 25, 26, 27, 1964, tape recordings of the conversations were made. There are a total of ten tapes covering these interviews. It is believed these should be retained for an indefinite period until subject's reliability has been properly established." However, there was no indication that this recommendation was ever acted upon. Further, there were no references in any communication coming out of the interviews that the tapes were either retained, transcribed, translated, or destroyed. It was noted in these communications that extensive notes were taken by the interviewing Agents.

SCOPE AND DISPOSITION OF THE RESULTS OF THE NOSENKO INTERVIEWS.

The ten interviews with Nosenko were wide ranging, encompassing many counterintelligence subjects, some of which referred to Oswald's activities. The product of this effort was embodied in a voluminous series of letterhead memoranda which were retained in two volumes of a sub file of Nosenko's main file at Washington Field. With reference to tapes and transcriptions, it was not until October, 1967, when the [redacted] CIA took over Nosenko [S-7] [C] debriefings, that a clearly defined systematic method was developed to interview, tape, transcribe, and disseminate information. It was not until December, 1968, that Special Agents at Washington Field formerly joined with the CIA in this endeavor, that is, interviews were conducted with representatives of both the Agency and the Bureau present with the objective of establishing Nosenko's reliability. (X) s-1

(u)

CONCLUSIONS

1. Tapes were made of some of the ten FBI interviews of Nosenko from February 24, 1964, to April 3, 1964. S;
2. The tapes were neither retained nor destroyed. Why? Three reasons. One, given the penchant of the FBI to record the disposition of significant material, it would seem inconceivable that the Agents would dispose of items deemed significant without recording either their retention or destruction. The fact that the Agents took "extensive notes" during the interviews has led the reviewers to conclude that the tapes were used as investigative aids to review the

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ASSISINATIONS HSCA

accuracy of the Agent's notes. Two, there was no compelling legal reason to retain the tapes. They were not recorded surreptitiously but with the full knowledge of the interviewee. Lastly, the FBI was not involved, at that point in time, in establishing Nosenko's bona fides, a responsibility of CIA, but rather, the FBI was most definitely interested in extracting the counterintelligence information Nosenko had to offer. The veracity of the information he provided would subsequently be established through investigation and thus was independent of the need to establish the reliability of the source. (S) (u) S-1

(S-1) (u) In summary, Washington Field's search indicates that tape recordings were made of at least some of the interviews requested by the HSCA; however, there was no evidence that the tapes were either retained, transcribed, or destroyed. The probable reason for not retaining the tapes was that at that time the FBI interviewed Nosenko not to establish his bona fides, but to extract the counterintelligence information he could provide, clues to unresolved espionage cases as well as espionage cases of which the FBI was not previously aware. (S) The object was to obtain the information and reduce it to a form for dissemination as quickly as possible so that FBI Agents in the field could begin immediate investigation. Once this was done, the tapes and notes were disposed of as there was no compelling reason to retain either notes or tapes.

The material appearing in the April 13, 1970, communication did not contain any substantial information which was not previously furnished to the Bureau. Further, it was noted that the information pertaining to the Oswald and Kennedy assassination recorded on FD-302s for the dates February 26-27, 1964; March 3, 4, 6, 1964, was compared against information contained in Letterhead Memoranda furnished to the Bureau for the same dates. This information was found to be essentially verbatim.

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ADMITTED BY: _____
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DATE: 7-26-83

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

G.J.F./JRC

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FM WASHINGTON FIELD (62-NEW)

TO DIRECTOR (62-117290) PRIORITY

BT

~~UNCLAS~~ EFTO

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS, U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (HSCA)

#245152 Spr...
Classified by *SP3 cl/fcl*
Declassify on: *OFOR 5/2/83*
#211,326

RE BUREAU TELETYPE, DATED JUNE 14, 1978.

IN RESPONSE TO THE REQUEST OF THE HSCA CONCERNING TAPES FOR VERBATIM TRANSCRIPTS OF INTERVIEWS OF YURI NOSENKO ON FEBRUARY 26-27, 1964; MARCH 3, 4, 6, 1964; AND ON UNDATED INFORMATION APPEARING IN AN AUGUST 13, 1970, COMMUNICATION, ALL OF WHICH PERTAIN TO OSWALD OR THE ASSASSINATION OF JOHN F. KENNEDY, AN EXHAUSTIVE SEARCH OF THE FILES OF THE

WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (FBI), WAS CONDUCTED. THE RESULTS OF THE SEARCH FAILED TO DISCLOSE THE EXISTENCE OF THE TAPES OR TRANSCRIPTS FOR THE RELAVANT PERIOD. THE SCOPE OF THE SEARCH, WHICH INVOLVED THE USE OF 33 AGENTS AND TWO CLERICAL EMPLOYEES, INCLUDED ALL THOSE FILES

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR CLASSIFICATION ACTION

20 JUL 18 1978

of Closure of (all) files
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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

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*but not
66 R!*

PAGE TWO WF 62-NEW U-N-C ~~1-1-6~~ EFTO
PERTAINING TO NOSENKO, KENNEDY, AND OSWALD; THE WASHINGTON
FIELD TAPE LIBRARY, THE TAPE DETRUCTION AND RETENTION FILE
OF TESUR AND MISURS; THE NOSENKO INDEX; AS WELL AS THE
SAC'S SAFE.

RESULTS OF SEARCH.

THE SEARCH DID INDICATE THAT FROM FEBRUARY 24, 1964,
UNTIL APRIL 3, 1964, A SERIES OF TEN INTERVIEWS OF NOSENKO
WERE CONDUCTED IN ENGLISH AND RUSSIAN BY SA'S OF THE WASHINGTON
FIELD OFFICE. [REDACTED]

*Classified
by [unclear]*

[REDACTED]

*b1
03*

THERE WERE SCATTERED (S-1)(C)
REFERENCES IN THE FILES REVIEWED THAT AT LEAST SOME OF THE
INTERVIEWS WERE TAPED. SPECIFICALLY, IN A MEMORANDUM, DATED
MARCH 26, 1964, THE WRITER STATED AS FOLLOWS: "DURING THE
INTERVIEW OF THE SUBJECT BY BUREAU AGENTS ON FEBRUARY 24,
25, 26, 27, 1964, TAPE RECORDINGS OF THE CONVERSATIONS WERE
MADE. THERE ARE A TOTAL OF TEN TAPES COVERING THESE INTERVIEWS.
IT IS BELIEVED THESE SHOULD BE RETAINED FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD. (S)(u)

*These 10 tapes
cover only four
of the 10 Nosenko
interviews*

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[UNTIL SUBJECT'S RELIABILITY HAS BEEN PROPERLY ESTABLISHED.]
HOWEVER, THERE WAS NO INDICATION THAT THIS RECOMMENDATION
WAS EVER ACTED UPON. FURTHER, THERE WERE NO REFERENCES
IN ANY COMMUNICATION COMING OUT OF THE INTERVIEWS THAT THE
TAPES WERE EITHER RETAINED, TRANSCRIBED, TRANSLATED, OR
DESTROYED. IT WAS NOTED IN THESE COMMUNICATIONS THAT
EXTENSIVE NOTES WERE TAKEN BY THE INTERVIEWING AGENTS.] (S) (u)

~~SECRET~~

*non-sequitur
de KGB files
LHO*

SCOPE AND DISPOSITION OF THE RESULTS OF THE NOSENKO
INTERVIEWS.

THE TEN INTERVIEWS WITH NOSENKO WERE WIDE RANGING, EN-
COMPASSING ALL THOSE SUBJECTS, INCLUDING OSWALD'S ACTIVITIES,
WHICH WERE OF COUNTERINTELLIGENCE INTEREST TO THE FBI. THE
PRODUCT OF THIS EFFORT WAS EMBODIED IN A VOLUMINOUS SERIES
OF LETTERHEAD MEMORANDA WHICH WERE RETAINED IN TWO VOLUMNS
OF A SUB FILE OF NOSENKO'S MAIN FILE AT WASHINGTON FIELD.
WITH REFERENCE TO TAPES AND TRANSCRIPTIONS, IT WAS NOT
UNTIL OCTOBER, 1967, WHEN THE [REDACTED]

*also non-sequitur
no mention of
Oswald's KGB
beliefs or work
agents or work
com. interests
not to mention
me.
disclosed by CIA*

[REDACTED] CIA TOOK OVER NOSENKO DEBRIEFINGS, THAT A CLEARLY DEFINED
SYSTEMATIC METHOD WAS DEVELOPED TO INTERVIEW, TAPE, TRANSCRIBE,

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[3-D] [C]
(S) (u)

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PAGE FOUR WF 62-NEW ~~SECRET~~ EFTO

AND DISSEMINATE INFORMATION. IT WAS NOT UNTIL DECEMBER, 1968, THAT SA'S AT WASHINGTON FIELD FORMERLY JOINED WITH THE CIA IN THIS ENDEAVOR, THAT IS, INTERVIEWS WERE CONDUCTED WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF BOTH THE AGENCY AND THE BUREAU PRESENT WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF ESTABLISHING NOSENKO'S RELIABILITY. (S) (u)

CONCLUSIONS.

1. TAPES WERE MADE OF SOME OF THE TEN FBI INTERVIEWS OF NOSENKO FROM FEBRUARY 24, 1964, TO APRIL 3, 1964. (S)

2. THE TAPES WERE NEITHER RETAINED NOR DESTROYED. WHY? THREE REASONS. ONE. GIVEN THE PENCHANT OF THE FBI TO RECORD THE DISPOSITION OF SIGNIFICANT MATERIAL, IT WOULD SEEM INCONCEIVABLE THAT THE AGENTS WOULD DISPOSE OF ITEMS DEEMED SIGNIFICANT WITHOUT RECORDING EITHER THEIR RETENTION OR DESTRUCTION. THE FACT THAT THE AGENTS TOOK "EXTENSIVE NOTES" DURING THE INTERVIEWS HAS LED THE REVIEWERS TO CONCLUDE THAT THE TAPES WERE USED AS INVESTIGATIVE AIDES TO VIEW THE VERACITY OF THE AGENTS NOTES. TWO. THERE WAS NO IMPELLING LEGAL REASON TO RETAIN THE TAPES. THEY WERE NOT RECORDED SURREPTIOUSLY BUT WITH THE FULL KNOWLEDGE OF THE INTERVIEWEE.

*non-requirement -
The Birth Legal
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LASTLY, [THE FBI WAS AT THAT POINT IN TIME NOT INVOLVED IN ESTABLISHING NOSENKO'S BONA FIDES, A RESPONSIBILITY OF CIA, BUT RATHER, THE FBI WAS MOST DEFINATELY INTERESTED IN EXTRACTING THE COUNTERINTELLIGENCE INFORMATION NOSENKO HAD TO OFFER. THE VERACITY OF THE INFORMATION HE PROVIDED WOULD SUBSEQUENTLY BE ESTABLISHED THROUGH INVESTIGATION AND THUS WAS INDEPENDANT OF THE NEED TO ESTABLISH THE RELIABILITY OF THE SOURCE.] (S)(u)

IN SUMMARY, WASHINGTON FIELD'S SEARCH INDICATES THAT TAPE RECORDINGS WERE MADE OF AT LEAST SOME OF THE INTERVIEWS REQUESTED BY THE HSCA; HOWEVER, THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE THAT THE TAPES WERE EITHER RETAINED, TRANSCRIBED, OR DESTROYED. [THE PROBABLE REASON FOR NOT RETAINING THE TAPES WAS THAT THE FBI AT THAT TIME INTERVIEWING NOSENKO NOT TO ESTABLISH HIS BONA FIDES BUT FOR THE COUNTERINTELLIGENCE INFORMATION HE COULD PROVIDE, CLUES TO UNRESOLVED ESPIONAGE CASES AS WELL AS ESPIONAGE CASES OF WHICH THE FBI WAS NOT PREVIOUSLY AWARE.] (S)(u) THE OBJECT WAS TO OBTAIN THE INFORMATION AND REDUCE IT TO A FORM FOR DISSEMINATION AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE SO THAT FBI AGENTS IN THE FIELD COULD BEGIN IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION.

*no copies
made in the
archives
referred to
memo on 2/10
as M.C. agent
or as entry USSR*

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Handwritten notes:
1. 9/22 - 10/20/68
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PAGE SIX WF 62-NEW ~~UNCLASSIFIED~~ EFTO

ONCE THIS WAS DONE, THERE WAS NO COMPELLING REASON TO RETAIN EITHER NOTES OR TAPES.

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THE INFORMATION APPEARING IN THE APRIL 13, 1970, COMMUNICATION DID NOT CONTAIN ANY SUBSTANCIAL INFORMATION WHICH WAS NOT PREVIOUSLY FURNISHED TO THE BUREAU. FURTHER, IT WAS NOTED THAT THE INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THE OSWALD AND KENNEDY ASSASSINATION RECORDED ON FD-302'S FOR THE DATES FEBRUARY 26-27, 1964; MARCH 3, 4, 6, 1964, WAS COMPARED AGAINST INFORMATION CONTAINED IN LETTERHEAD MEMORANDA FURNISHED TO THE BUREAU FOR THE SAME DATES. THIS INFORMATION WAS FOUND TO BE ESSENTIALLY VERBATIM.

BT

Handwritten notes:
Another report... not a
question of accuracy but of
completeness & clarity what
was in the reports was not
complete re LHO - no agent
+ an anti-comet

~~SECRET~~