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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

Commission No. 1532

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Articles*

1 OCT 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. J. Lee Rankin  
General Counsel  
President's Commission on the  
Assassination of President Kennedy

SUBJECT: Joachim JOESTEN

1. Attached are reproduced copies of a set of German documents seized by the U.S. authorities at the end of World War II. The documents concern Joachim JOESTEN, author of Oswald: Assassin or Fall Guy?, Marzani & Munsell Publishers, Inc., 1964. The captured documents in this set range in dates from July 1936 to November 1937 and contain the statement that JOESTEN had been a member of the Communist Party of Germany since 1932. You will note that the attention of the German security organs was directed at JOESTEN as early as 1936. At that time the Communist Party had been outlawed in Germany and the German authorities apparently had begun collecting information about JOESTEN and his activities. Their investigation seems to have culminated in the proposal for revocation of his German citizenship.

2. A two page memorandum, dated 8 November 1937, prepared by the Gestapo, included in essence all of the facts provided in the other documents in the set. Therefore, we have translated that memorandum and are attaching the translation.

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E.O. 11652, Sec 5  
*Col. Ltr - 7/24/76*  
*BY M. G. NARS Date 2/2/76*

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downgrading and  
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3. The captured German documents were originally held in England by the Department of State and the British authorities and have since been microfilmed and returned to the West German Government. The microfilmed copies are currently available in Washington, D.C. at the National Archives where the materials concerning JOESTEN may be viewed by referring to Serial 4918 frames 256482 through 256489. The originals are currently available at the West German Government's Bundesarchiv in Koblenz, Germany.

*Richard Helms*

Richard Helms  
Deputy Director for Plans

Attachments - As stated

cc: Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Department of State  
Immigration and Naturalization Service

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G. 11.52 Sec 502(a)  
C.A.R. 7/26/76  
By mg, NARS Date 2/2/76

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