insert on CIA withholding from Commission, where I cited PW

There, beginning on page 306, I recount wh how, when it expected perpetual secrecy, the CIA recorded that its policy was not to volunteer anything to the Commission, but to limit itself to response to questions asked by the Commission. This memo, ~~xithxthexnumberx~~ prepared to be presented to higher up on a Monday, reported the CIA employee's conference with the CIA's former head, then a Member of the Warren Commission, Allen W. Dulles. Dulles concurred with the CIA's intent to give the Commission no information at all on what is described as "the Oswald affair" qnd that not even a CIA analysis of it be prepared. One of the ~~xxxxxxx~~ elements of "the Oswald affair" stonewalled by the CIA involved the KGB defector to it, Yuri Nosenko. He will interest us in this book. Richard Helms, then chief of the CIA's dirty-works divisions, which was titled with the euphemism of "Plans," had asked the Commission "on a priotiyy basis" to "hold off on the Nosenko problem." It was to prepare, of all things, a "reply" to what Nosenko had told the FBI that the CIA did not want the Commission to credit. This CIA employee reports how he and Dulles connived to withhold relevant information from the C Presidential Commission of which Dulles was a member and to see to it that the CIA would not have to respond to the Commission's questions under oath. And, although the Nosenko matter was important to the Commission, this ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ employee wrote his superiors, "At no time during these discussions did Mr. Dulles make any inquiries about Nosenko and I volunteered no information on this score."

insert or footnote on file numbers

FBI records are generally assigned three numbers or groups of number before being recorded and filed. The first is the file classification, the second the file number assigned to a particular case and the third the serial number within the case file. The CIA removes its file numbers before releasing records under FOIA. It then applies an arbitrary number. Individual records ~~xxxx~~ in FBI ticklers may or may not also bear a file number, depending on whether the records was added to the tickler before or after it was sent to central files, where file numbers are assigned and applied.

Mr. Paul Hoch
1525 Acton St.,
Berkeley, CA 94702

4/23/87

Dear Paul,

Although the time taken each day in following doctors' orders leaves little time for writing, I'm trying to do a little of it. There are some records I remember clearly enough but cannot locate in my separate subject file of duplicate copies and I'm not physically able to search for because my ability to stand is so limited. If you can provide copies or give me their arbitrary CIA numbers it would be a great help. Copies more so!

In the earlier CIA releases there was a series of exchanges with the Mexico City station relating to Alvarado Ugarte. What I'm interested in are those that seem to indicate that the station was bypassing hq and leaning directly on the White House and those reflecting Ambassador Mann's views and I think desires. Then hq ordered the station to break the fink down, which it did.

Also in those earlier releases was at least one record that struck me as atypical. Hq. directed the station to try and prevent (another?) beating up of Silvia Duran. (I then wondered about the CIA's compassion and that led me to wonder if she was finking for it. Her failure to appear before HSCA increased my wonder.) It is my recollection that it was the local or federal cops that beat her up earlier.

Of early date but later disclosure there was a so-called analysis by a defector, possibly KGB, that was pretty paranoid, about KGB complicity with Oswald or its imagined plans or intentions. It was about 6-7 pages long and I thought wild.

There came a time when the CIA drafted questions to be asked of the USSR. My impression then was that what the CIA drafted was extraordinary and was clearly designed to offend the USSR and turn it off, or discourage production of anything. State's objections were also clear.

In the FBI's Little ZRock disclosures to you there was an SAC memo of a phone call from FBIHQ about two weeks after the assassination. He'd been told not to investigate further unless there was indication of a conspiracy with Oswald.

All of these I've read and know exist but can't stand in front of the drawers holding all those records to search for them. Something else that may not exist in disclosed records but I'm interested in if you know of such records is Operation Strongback, also in the WC hearings as two words. I believe it was an operation against Sukarno in Indonesia. Do you have or know anything about that? And do you know what carrier was used in it? Was it the Wasp?

Hope all is well with you and yours and that those beautiful girls are growing more beautiful in every way.

If you've not heard, Gandolfo is doing a book on HSCA that Cutler is having printed for him. Ted says it is about done. Jimmy Ray's book is overdue. Gandolfo has introduced Garrison's book to Ray's publisher, St. Andrews Press. Its honcho is on the lam, avoiding arrest for something or other, according to Ted. If you've not heard. Wecht is preparing for the 25th with the collaboration of Pitt's political science department. Gary Mack says they have a new kind of film they'll be busing in attempting enhancement of Moorman's, prints from Tink and me. I don't know if the feud between Gary and Hurt has run its course or not. Haven't heard from Henry in some time. Bud was here last week, took us to lunch, and he looks fine.

Thanks and best to you all,

Harold

Mr. Bernard Fensterwald
918 F St., NW #509
Washington, D.C. 20004

5/17/87

Dear Bud,

Lil and I enjoyed sitting and visiting and chatting very much. Thanks.

Because I cannot safely drive to DC anymore we don't have much opportunity to do this with old friends.

In thinking further about what I want to use in the book I remembered two CIA records I know I copied, think I once used in a FOIA case, and now have no idea where they are filed, other than in the unindexed CIA xeroxes which I've kept as I received them. It would help if you can provide me with copies. Jim may remember them and if you and he do not I'll ask Hoch.

One is the CIA's proposal for the letter to be sent to the USSR asking for its Oswald information. I do not recall whether there also was a State record but the nature of the CIA draft caused State to reject the CIA's antagonist draft.

The other is a really paranoid early memo from one of the CIA's stable of KGB defectors. They loved it and circulated it.

This reminds me of something we've never discussed but which Jim knows about.

Out of the blue some years ago I started getting phone calls from a man with a fine command of English but a heavy Russian accent. He identified himself only as "Mr. Martin" and I have a file so captioned. He was hot against Nosenko and he tried to poison me in every way about Nosenko and the story he told about Oswald. What was particularly provocative about this is that I know of no way in which he could have known of my interest in Nosenko as of that early date, before I disclosed it in Post Mortem. Except, of course, that I had made inquiries about Nosenko records at the Archives and gotten some. I've assumed that the CIA sicced him on me. Anyway, there came a time when he suggested that we ought to meet and talk and I invited him up. He was uneasy and declined. I then told him that I had an appointment in Rockville in a few days and would he like to meet me there. He did and we met at the Hechinger store there. I carried photographic Whitewash for identification. We shopped together. I was getting some seeds for Lil (so it was in the early srping) and he got some for his own garden. Said he lived in Wheaton. We ate at a fast-food place across the road. He asked that I not follow him and I didn't. I could have spotted his car and license number but didn't. All of lunch was anti-Nosenko and a few other defectors who did not interest me. He babbled about where some were working. I made a tentative decision that he is the KGB who defected in Walsinki, one of those in the withheld pages of a January Commission ex sess transcript, not the guy who did the Penkovsky (book) for the CIA. I meantioned this name in that FOIA case. As I now recall that man's middle initial is "M." He was paranoid anough to have written the memo of paranoia and hate, not analysis, that the CIA loved.

It may interest Jim to know that Moschella finally came up with a Click file and sent it to me. I'll be writing Emil and will enclose my letter. Seems like they are getting a little closer to the embarrassment of Hoover's praising my writing. Still have not come up with his letter but they've found and provided a copy of my article and the letter to Hoover after the magazine got his.

Thanks and best wishes,

Harold

xerox of John L. Hart's and Richard Helms' HSCA testimony

Lesar once told me that you have CIA records indicating the volume of Oswald records it once had and the great percentage of them it could not now account for and claims it does not have. I'd appreciate this so that I can use it and cite its source.

xerox of Blakey's narration on Duran and her not being a witness.

CIA hq instructions to Mexico City to intercede so Duran would not be beaten up again. This is in the earliest releases but I made no subject-filing copy and would have to search for it.

There is much in those releases reflecting Mann's desires that could have meant World War III, if you made and can easily get copies of them, again so I do not have to search. The Mexico City station appears to have bypaased HQ in sending this kind of inflamatory nonsense to either the White House of State or both. So much was based on the obvious Alvarado Ugarte fabrications HQ ordered the station to break him and not until then did it try.

Anything definitive on the interception(s) in Mexico City?

Anything new on Nosenko? I do have a little I'll be using and remind me to tell you about some of it. They (FBI) are withholding much on a phony claim and the CIA has disclosed nothing.

Anything on the apartment the Oswald's had in Holland for three days? I think I picked this up in an executive sessions transcript.

Pinpointing of first use of Oswald as a red. Anything indicating that this did begin with that army intelligence unit?

What fact you think I should be using and what you think (theory) I should consider.

Did you learn anything about Oswald in Mexico that was not in my file?

Where in HSCA's appendix is what it used on Nosenko? Is it too large to xerox for me? If you have what was used in Hart's testimony, like Miler's(?) handwritten notes that is clearer than what I'd xerox from the printed stuff I'd like copies to use. (I did not buy Sylvia's index.)

Did you ever get anything of substance with regard to those Mexico City pictures? anything of substance on why that particular one was said to be Oswald? Or how?

anything new on Alexis Davison? Did you know he was a "drop" for Penkovsky?