

11/15/71 Mary, As you know, I never conceived Boxley in any sinister, federal role, so I kept no files. I am aware of a report that there were two with a name similar to his ~~alias~~ in CIA, but I recall no more. So, realizing it may be without significance, I report that if you have not seen it, Parade for 11/12/72 has a story on CIA recruiting in which an interview with William B. Wood, the Southwestern personnel representative for the agency, is quoted. ...Heard that Penn was going to name assassins in a "national magazine". That blessing had not yet reached me ...Don't forget that remaining file you are going to return. I hope to be able to get back to that writing soon...And we do hope that Duck can straighten out this time and that what health and tranquility is still possible returns to your family. Best,

bcc: I had not, in fact, believed that Boxley (Bill Wood) had ever had any CIA connection and had so told Mary. So, when I was there a year ago, he wanted to see me. His purpose was far out: to prove that he had, too, been CIA. He had an abundance of not easily forged proof. I admit he must have been, if I can't see why he went to all that trouble to convince me or why it made any difference except to perhaps make him look a bit worse.

Keeping Up... With Youth

by Pamela Swift

CIA Recruiting

The War in Vietnam has caused more problems than it has resolved. One of these is the problem of recruiting competent university graduates for the Central Intelligence Agency.

Despite its honorable and brilliant director Richard Helms, the CIA has suffered a tarnished reputation among some students, not only because of its past infiltration of campus groups but also

because of its clandestine operations in Southeast Asia as well as its cloak-and-dagger ambience, all of which is anathema to many young people.

Still, the agency needs recruits. How does it get them? One method is through open solicitation, and another is through covert means.

The open method is best exemplified in a recent interview in *The Daily Texan* with William B. Wood, the Southwest personnel representative for the agency.

Called upon and questioned by Danny Douglas, a young University of Texas journalism student, Wood is quoted as having said: "I want to make it clear that we do not run a clandestine organization, and there is no cloak-and-dagger purpose in our hiring students."

Wood, according to the interview, then went on to point out that professional opportunities existed in the CIA for seniors and graduate students of almost any discipline—journalism, physics, political science.

"We are also interested," he explained, "in students with foreign language knowledge, especially unusual languages like Laotian and Swahili."

Wood's pitch for young recruits was frank and forthright.

Now, consider another CIA approach. It is best described in the following letter recently sent to this department.

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HELP WANTED
MEN AND
WOMEN
RUSSIAN
LINGUIST

Important, interesting position for a person with native fluency in written and spoken Russian.

Employment in Washington, D. C. area. Must be willing to serve abroad. Salary: \$8,500 to \$12,500 depending on education and experience. Liberal benefits. U. S. citizenship required.

Send complete curriculum vitae to:

Mr. George Roberts
Main Post Office
P. O. Box 1390
Washington, D. C. 20013

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THIS AD IN CHICAGO NEWSPAPER
CAUGHT STUDENT'S EYE.

continued

Keeping Up... With Youth CONTINUED

Dear Pamela Swift,

My curiosity was first aroused by a cryptic advertisement in The Chicago Tribune which announced, "Russian linguist important, interesting position for a person with native fluency in written and spoken Russian." I enclose a copy of the advertisement.

In spite of the fact that I am not a fluent speaker of Russian, I did major in Russian in college, so I sent off a letter of inquiry. Within a week I received a letter of reply with the heading, "Headquarters U.S. Army Research Translation Group."

I enclose a copy of the letter, with the word "colleague" misspelled.

After reading the letter several times I inquired through many friends about the U.S. Army Research Translation Group. I looked through several Department of Defense directories. No one seemed ever to have heard of it. I wondered what it was.

Again, curiosity triumphed,

and I phoned the telephone number given in the letter. A secretary connected me with Colonel Stratton. My conversation with him was relaxed and brief although it seemed to me that he spoke English with some sort of foreign accent.

Colonel Stratton warned me that the average student who majored in a Slavic language generally lacked sufficient command of the spoken language. I inquired about job details, and the colonel was rather hazy. All he would say was that the job entailed transcribing and translating Russian language tapes into English.

Classroom meeting

We arranged to meet at a military location, and I subsequently wandered around there for a while before I found the right room. It was a classroom with fixed seats.

Colonel Stratton turned out to be a man with gray hair and rather

long sideburns, at least for a military man. He sat at the instructor's desk, and a younger man took a seat in the fifth row and off to the side. I was asked to sit in the first row.

The conversation was friendly, warm and informal. The colonel asked questions about my background and schooling, while the younger man took notes.

Colonel Stratton didn't seem terribly interested in me until at his invitation I began speaking Russian. He was surprised that I could carry on a simple Russian conversation, and that in addition I could speak other languages. He gradually grew enthusiastic.

He thereupon explained some of the job particulars. I would sign up after a training period in the U.S., for a two-year hitch overseas. If assigned to a "friendly" country such as West Germany, I would put in a 40-hour week in the U.S. Embassy translating the tapes. In a neutral country I would live incognito,

attending a university as a cover and translating tapes at home.

Although everybody would like to be stationed in Paris, Colonel Stratton explained, the odds of my being sent to Paris were very slim. Most probably, he said, I would be sent to some Latin American country because of my knowledge of Spanish. I would then be enrolled in some university and given tapes to transcribe at home.

Pay was high.

The job sounded glamorous, and the pay offered, about \$11,000 per year, high, plus all sorts of allowances and benefits.

I was tempted very much to sign up, but then Colonel Stratton and his colleague began speaking Russian, and I was surprised to discern the number of grammatical mistakes they made in Russian.

It was only when the interview was approaching its end that I began to think of the risks in-



HEADQUARTERS
U.S. ARMY RESEARCH TRANSLATION GROUP
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20310

Dear _____ and addressed
to our Mr. Roberts.

Our organization is currently searching for linguists with native or near-native fluency in the Russian language for transcription, translation, and research work both here in the Washington, D.C. area and abroad. Experience indicates, however, that only a very few U.S. born and non-native speakers are able to pass our rather difficult transcription test.

You may be interested to know that a colleague and I will be in the San Francisco area during the week of _____ to _____ to our advertisement and interview several candidates who replied to our advertisement in the San Francisco Chronicle. If you are interested in seeing me and exploring the matter further, you may call me collect at Code 202 965-0247 during the week of _____ between the hours of 0900 and 1600 (Eastern Standard Time), so we can arrange a mutually agreeable time to meet in San Francisco.

Sincerely yours,

Alexander Stratton
ALEXANDER STRATTON
Lieutenant Colonel, Inf.
Commanding, Detachment 5.

APPOINTMENT LETTER CAME FROM "ARMY RESEARCH TRANSLATION GROUP."
NAME, ADDRESS, AND DATES HAVE BEEN DELETED TO CONCEAL IDENTITY.

involved in the work. Suppose I was sent to some South American country like Bolivia and given Russian voice tapes to translate? Where would the tapes come from? How were they obtained? Was someone tapping someone else's telephone line? Did the Soviet Embassy in Buenos Aires regularly tap the U.S. Embassy telephone lines? Did the U.S. Embassy in turn tap the Soviet Embassy telephones?

Suppose, I asked myself, I was apprehended transcribing Russian tapes in Buenos Aires? Who would protect me? Who would acknowledge me? Who would take the responsibility for me?

Ironically enough, Colonel Stratton, a most perceptive man,

must have read my mind, because it was he who raised the question of the morality of the work. He said he didn't know how I felt about it, but he could very well understand why many young people under the circumstances would not consider working for the U.S. Government in that particular job.

He asked me to give it some thought and to phone him any time I wanted exam tapes mailed to me.

I decided after a few days that I didn't want that type of job. Later, I learned that Colonel Stratton represented the Central Intelligence Agency.

I only wish he had told me so at first.