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HRP 92-5

18 Nov 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Plans)

SUBJECT: Letter from Hugh S. Cumming, Jr., Department of State

Transmitted for your signature is a proposed reply to the letter of 25 October 1960 from Hugh S. Cumming, Jr., Department of State, in which Mr. Cumming requested information concerning Americans living in Bloc countries who might be called "defectors."

S. H. Horton

S. H. Horton
Acting Chief
Counter Intelligence Staff

Attachment

Document Number 596-252 F

for FOIA Review on JUN 1976

COPY OF
1371-447

Document Number 1371-447
for FOIA Review on JUN 1976

10-6003
US-7

21 NOV 1960

The Honorable Hugh S. Cumming, Jr.
The Director of Intelligence and Research
Department of State
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Hugh:

Please refer to your letter of 25 October 1960 and my reply of 3 November in which you were advised that our files were being searched for information concerning Americans living in Bloc countries who might be called "defectors." It is hoped that the attached list with brief information on each will meet your needs.

In addition to those appearing on your list, there is included information on Virginia Frank COE and Maurice Hyman HALPERIN. While these individuals have not renounced their American citizenship or declared themselves in any way, both are employed by the Bloc countries in which they now reside and are capable of supplying useful information to the governments of those countries. They are accompanied by their wives.

There have been several instances of persons who might have been called "defectors" at one time but have since returned to the United States apparently disenchanted. We have not listed them.

Although we have confined our research to the relatively recent period noting that your list deals with those cases occurring during the last eighteen months, I do wish to mention Alfred K. STERN and his wife, Martha Dodd STERN. They fled from Mexico

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to Czechoslovakia on Paraguayan passports in 1957. Both are under indictment in the United States District Court, Southern District of New York, for espionage activities. They reside in Prague and Mrs. STERN makes contributions to various Communist and Soviet publications.

Sincerely yours,

RICHARD M. BISSELL, JR.
Deputy Director
(Plans)

Attachment

18 nov 60

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LIST OF AMERICAN "DETECTORS"

BLOCK, Morris
Defected July 1959

The following information is SECRET:

Morris BLOCK, a machinist and shipyard worker, was born in New York City on 30 March 1920. His wife, Mollie BLOCK, an office worker, was born in New York City on 6 March 1911. Married in 1945 the BLOCKs resided in the area of New York City until 1949 when they made a trip to Poland. In 1957 Morris BLOCK traveled to the USSR to attend the Sixth World Youth Festival. At the close of the Festival BLOCK was one of a group of Americans to travel to Communist China. In the summer of 1958 BLOCK attempted unsuccessfully to travel to the USSR using an altered passport. Accompanied by his wife and adopted daughter he made another attempt to reach the USSR in July 1959 and was successful. In December of 1959 a Ukrainian newspaper published a letter written by BLOCK in which he severely criticized life in the United States and detailed his own history of unemployment and alleged "persecution" by the FBI after his return from China. The letter also stated that BLOCK intended to live in the Soviet Union.

GOE, Virginus Frank
Traveled to China
c 1958

The following information is SECRET:

Formerly Secretary of the International Monetary Fund and Director of International Finance, U. S. Treasury Department, Virginus Frank GOE is reported to be currently employed as an economist in the Chinese Communist State apparatus. It will be recalled that in 1948 Elizabeth HENTLEY, an admitted former Soviet espionage agent, testified before the Committee on Un-American Activities, United States House of Representatives, that Frank GOE was a member of a Soviet espionage group headed by Nathan Gregory SILVERMASTER, which was active in Washington, D. C., in the early 1940's. According to our records, GOE and his wife, Ruth Evans GOE are residing in Peking, China at the present time. Prior to the fall of 1958, the GOEs resided in New York City.

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DAVIS, Bruce Frederick
Defected August 1960

The following information is UNCLASSIFIED:

A soldier from Los Angeles, California with the United States Army in Germany, Bruce Frederick DAVIS was reported to have defected on 19 August 1960 and to have asked for asylum in the USSR. Army officials are reported to have stated that DAVIS had been absent without leave since 19 August 1960 when his car was found on the border in northern Bavaria between East Germany and West Germany. Prior to his defection DAVIS had served in the Army for four years and nine months. On 22 October 1960 the Soviet press carried a statement by DAVIS according to which he defected to East Germany on 19 August 1960 because of doubts that the U.S. Government was genuinely pursuing a peaceful policy. DAVIS mentioned his decision to repudiate his U.S. citizenship and expressed hope that he will obtain political refuge in the USSR, continue his education, live and work among Soviet people. DAVIS is the son of Mrs. Dorothy TALEBERT of Scottsdale, Arizona. He was born in Rome, New York, on 1936.

DUBOIS, David @ David
G. DUBOIS. True name,
David Graham MC CANNIS
Traveled to China on
February 1959

The following information is SECRET:

Born on 9 March 1925 in Seattle, Washington, David Graham MC CANNIS, who also uses the name of David DUBOIS, is the son of Shadrach T. MC CANNIS (deceased) and Shirley Graham DUBOIS. His step-father is the well-known Negro leader and writer, William Edward Burghardt DUBOIS, who in February 1959, at the age of ninety-two, traveled with his wife to the USSR and to Communist China. MC CANNIS was issued a U.S. passport on 4 February 1959 and it is assumed that MC CANNIS traveled to Communist China at approximately the same time. A memorandum from the Federal Bureau of Investigation directed to the Department of State on 18 December 1959 indicated that MC CANNIS was attending Peking University and that he planned to remain at the University for about three years. A later report indicated that MC CANNIS would remain in China after the completion of his studies.

DUTKANICZ, Joseph
Defected July 1960

The following information is SECRET:

On 16 July 1960, Joseph DUTKANICZ, a Sergeant with the United States Armed Forces was reported missing with his family from his post in West Germany. On

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28 July 1960, the Soviet news agency Tass reported that DUTKANICZ had sought asylum in the USSR. On 25 August 1960, United States military authorities in West Berlin announced that DUTKANICZ had been absent without leave since 6 July 1960 and that the Army had no confirmation of the report that he had defected to the Soviets, or that he was in Moscow. DUTKANICZ, who was born in Poland around 1927, was taken to Germany during World War II. After being liberated by the American Army he immigrated to the United States and was then drafted into the Army. His address in the United States was given as Tujanea, California. We are informed that DUTKANICZ has had difficulties with his wife and that she reported that he had relatives in the USSR and that he had admitted that he was a Communist and that he had associated with German Nationals who were Communists.

FLETCHER, Ernie F.
Defected June 1959

The following information is UNCLASSIFIED:

A New York Times article of 14 July 1959 stated that Sergeant Ernie F. FLETCHER was believed by the United States Army authorities to have defected to Communist East Germany. According to this article, Soviet Army Headquarters in East Berlin issued a statement on 29 June 1959 indicating that FLETCHER had asked for political asylum in East Germany. "Facts on File, World News Digest," gives the date of FLETCHER's defection as 8 June 1959 and his home as Covington, Kentucky.

HALPERIN, Maurice Hyman
Traveled to the USSR in
October 1958

The following is SECRET:

On 15 July 1960 Maurice Hyman HALPERIN and his wife, Edith Frisch HALPERIN applied at the United States Embassy in Moscow, USSR for a renewal of their passports. HALPERIN is reported to have stated that he had been in the USSR since December 1958 as a visiting professor of the Social Sciences Division of the USSR Academy of Sciences on a contract which expires in 1961. In 1948 Elizabeth BENTLEY, an admitted former Soviet espionage agent, stated that she had become acquainted with HALPERIN in the latter part of 1952 through arrangements made by Jacob GOLOS, a known Soviet espionage agent. She further stated that during the time HALPERIN was employed by the Office of Strategic Services in Washington, D. C., he supplied GOLOS with information to which he had access in his office. In late 1953 HALPERIN left

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the United States for Mexico after refusing on constitutional grounds to tell the U. S. Senate Internal Sub-Committee whether he was ever a member of the Communist Party. In 1958, following the efforts made by the Government of Mexico to deport a number of American Communists, HALPERIN and his wife went to the USSR where they now reside.

JONES, Sgt. (fm)
Defected Mid-May 1960

The following information is SECRET:

Air Intelligence Report Number 1430223 of 9 August 1960 stated that Sergeant (fm) JONES, born in 1926, Kentucky, Ohio, (sic) was observed by border guards crossing into the Soviet Zone of Germany near the "Village of Obersuhl." Reportedly JONES wanted to become acquainted with Communism through personal experience and he was quoted as saying, "If I find out that Communism is good, I will stay, otherwise, I will return." JONES was also reported to have stated that he was married and that he had two children.

MARTIN, William Hamilton
MITCHELL, Berton Ferguson
Defected June 1960

The following information is UNCLASSIFIED:

William Hamilton MARTIN and Berton Ferguson MITCHELL of the National Security Agency, Ft. Meade, Maryland, left Laurel, Maryland, where they were both residing on 24 June 1960, ostensibly to drive to the West Coast to see their families. When they failed to return to their jobs at the end of their vacation period (11 July 1960), it was learned that they had gone to Mexico and thence to Cuba where they had obtained transportation to the USSR. On 6 September 1960 MARTIN and MITCHELL appeared before a televised press conference in the House of Journalists in Moscow, and in a scathing denunciation of the United States, gave their reasons for leaving their country and for seeking Soviet citizenship. The two men were hired by the National Security Agency in 1957. Both had previously served in the United States Navy where they had become friends. Shortly before his flight from the United States, MITCHELL had had three one-hour sessions with a psychiatrist. During these sessions MITCHELL reportedly discussed his "domineering" father, his "overly-protective" mother and his affairs with both men and women. MARTIN was born in Columbus, Georgia on 27 May 1931. His parents now reside at Ellensburg,

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Washington. MITCHELL was born in San Francisco, California on 11 March 1929, and his parents now reside at Eureka, California.

OSWALD, Lee Henry
Defected October 1959

The following information is SECRET:

Born 18 October 1939 in New Orleans, Louisiana, Lee Henry OSWALD joined the United States Marines at the age of seventeen because he did not want to be a "burden" to his mother who was widowed prior to his birth. While in the Marines, OSWALD, a Private First Class, became a radar operator and had fourteen months service in Japan and the Philippines. About a year before his discharge from the Marines OSWALD began to teach himself to read and speak Russian. After receiving an honorable discharge from the Marines on 3 September 1959 OSWALD visited his mother in Waco, Texas for about three days and then departed. A note written to his mother from New Orleans stated that he had booked passage to Europe and that he was doing something he felt he must do. Shortly thereafter he appeared at the United States Embassy in Moscow and renounced his U. S. citizenship, giving as his reason the plight of the American Negro and U. S. "imperialism" abroad. OSWALD acknowledged mail addressed to him at the Hotel Metropole in Moscow in 1959; however, he has failed to do so in 1960. OSWALD is reported to have stated that regardless of any material shortcomings he sees in the USSR, he will never return to the United States.

RICCIARDELLI, Libero
Defected July 1959

The following information is UNCLASSIFIED:

According to "Facts on File, World News Digest," Libero RICCIARDELLI, ex-U.S. Air Force Major and veteran of fifty World War II bombing missions, said in letters issued to the Soviet press on 19 July 1959 that he had requested Soviet citizenship for himself, his wife and three children. RICCIARDELLI, who was from Needham, Massachusetts was reported to have stated that a trip to the USSR had convinced him that "Communism is the savior of humanity." An article appearing in the 3 August 1959 issue of the magazine Pravda (pages 19 and 20), pointed out that RICCIARDELLI had been engaged in several unsuccessful business ventures and that in

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January 1959 he had "sold his \$15,000 Florida house, his Danish modern furniture, and his Cadillac and told neighbors he was taking his wife and three children to a new job in Barbados." The Newsweek article added, "That was the last that anyone heard of RICCIARDELLI until he turned up in Moscow and started lambasting the U. S."

SLOBODA, Vladimir O.
Defected August 1960

The following information is UNCLASSIFIED:

Specialist Fifth Class Vladimir O. SLOBODA, was born in Poland in 1927 on territory which was attached to the Ukrainian Republic of the USSR in 1939. In 1943, at the age of 15, he was deported to Germany and allegedly wandered in various European countries until 1952 when he entered a displaced persons camp at Frankfurt/Main, Germany. In 1953 he entered the United States Army as a displaced person in Bremen, Germany, under a special act permitting aliens to join the U. S. Army for a minimum of a five year period after which they would be entitled to acquire U. S. citizenship. Prior to serving with a military intelligence group in West Germany, SLOBODA received training at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina and at Ft. Meade, Maryland. In 1958 he became an American citizen. On 2 August 1960 SLOBODA crossed the border into East Germany and asked for asylum in the Soviet Union. On 28 August SLOBODA appeared on a Moscow television broadcast and stated that an attache of the American Embassy in Moscow had helped the United States "get spies into the Soviet Union disguised as tourists, delegates and diplomats." A denunciation of U. S. intelligence, allegedly written by SLOBODA, appeared in Soviet press releases and was broadcast over Soviet radio networks. SLOBODA's twenty-nine year old British-born wife, Lillian SLOBODA, who now lives in Halifax, England, with their three children has stated that prior to his defection, SLOBODA had "lost a lot of money gambling and that he had been very depressed."

WEBSTER, Robert Edward
Defected September 1959

The following information is CONFIDENTIAL:

A plastics expert employed by the Rand Development Corporation of Cleveland, Ohio, Robert Edward WEBSTER traveled to the USSR on business in connection with the American Exhibition which was held in Moscow in the summer of 1959. At the close of the exhibition

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WEBSTER disappeared "on a trip." On 19 October 1959 WEBSTER appeared at the American Embassy in Moscow and stated that he had been granted Soviet citizenship and that he wished to remain in the Soviet Union. He has since changed his mind and is attempting to return to the United States as a Russian immigrant. Born in Tiffin, Ohio, on 23 October 1928, WEBSTER served in the United States Navy during World War II. His wife and two children reside in Cleveland. WEBSTER allegedly has had marital difficulties and in Moscow became involved with a married woman by whom he is reported to have had a child.

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