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October 25, 1960

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File  
Defectors

MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. Richard M. Bissell, Jr.,  
Deputy Director,  
Plans

SUBJECT : Request for Information Concerning American "Defectors"

Our efforts to answer recent informal inquiries, including some from the White House staff, have revealed that, though CIA and the FBI have detailed records concerning Americans who have been recruited as intelligence agents by Bloc countries, there does not appear to be a complete listing of those Americans now living in Bloc countries who might be called "defectors". Using the definitions of DCID 4/2, these persons might be described as those who have either been capable of providing useful intelligence to the Bloc or those whose desire to resettle in Bloc countries has been significantly exploited for communist propaganda purposes. This would mean that no attention need be paid to Americans whose resettlement within the Bloc had no counter-intelligence implications or had attracted no particular attention; for instance, this definition would not cover individual US citizens of East European or Chinese origin who returned to the "homeland" because they had never been completely assimilated into the American society.

There is attached a list of such persons, covering the last 18 months, and it would be appreciated if the Agency could verify and possibly expand this list for the use of interested Bureaus of the Department.

Robert B. Elwood  
Director  
Office of Intelligence  
Resources and Coordination

Attachment:

List of American "Defectors"  
from May 1959 - October 1960.

cc: INR - Mr. Cumming      SY - Mr. Otepka  
SCA - Mr. McDonnell      ICD - Mr. Oakley (Mr. Zagorski)

IRC:RDGatewood:gfs 10/25/60

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