STATE DEPARTMENT MATERIAL RELATING TO THEIR INTEREST IN DEPICTORS IN GENERAL, SEPTEMBER - DECLINER 1960. (Draft - 6/26/70-PLH)

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Analysis of the attached 14 pages:

Gatewood to Macomber, 9/23/60: Macomber appears to be "H"; that is, Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations (CE 948). I suggest that his inquiries were prompted by the defection of William Martin and Bernon Mitchell of the NSA (referred to as "Bernon and Mitchell" in the text.) On September 6, 1960, at a widely publicized press conference, they stated that they had taken up Soviet citizenship because of their opposition to U.S. intelligence methods.

The second of the Americans mentioned in the last part of the first paragraph is presumably Webster.

"The relevant NSC paper" strikes me as a bit odd. Maybe it related to the Martin-Mitchell case, maybe they just had a paper defining defectors lying around?

Although the FBI is mentioned several times on this and later pages, none of this activity is reflected by the FBI headquarters file (CE 834). There were lots of things that didn't get in that file, so I am not inclined to make much of this.

This page came from CD 294. Although CD 294 and CD 1114 should be identical (or, at least, everything in the former should be in the latter, since both were all that could be found of the complete Oswald files), I am 99.9% sure that only 1 of the 10 pages attached to this memo is in the available part of CD 1114. (As a qualification, it should be noted that CD 294 consists of unbound pages, and there is no reason to believe that it is now complete or in the correct order. CD 1114 may also be messed up, but at least the pages there are numbered.) I'm a bit confused about how much and what is withheld from these CD's. The official Archives list indicates 3 items withheld from CD 294 and 11 from CD 1114, all under Guideline 2 (classified information). Although the pages in CD 294 have obviously been gone over for declassification purposes, I suspect that the copies in CD 1114 are withheld. Maybe I'll ask the Archives to check this, but I think that should wait. If these pages are not in CD 1114, I won't know what to make of it, but it will look pretty fishy.

Note that Chayes testified that these CD's included everything the State Department could find in its files on Oswald. (5H334-5) Chayes asked for everything; "I think there was one stage where perhaps that wasn't understood, but we got that corrected." (Hmm....) I haven't checked it out, but I think the documents in CD 1114 reflect distribution to files which are not in that CD. To see if this is true, we need to work with a table of organization. One important example the CMA/Mexico desk had some material on Oswald, but I don't think we have the copies from their file. (It strikes me that it should have been obvious to Chayes that if he wanted the complete file, he should have gone through what he got right away to see who else got copies. Hmm.)

This page indicates distribution to INR (Intelligence and Research) and RSB (Office of Research and Analysis for Soviet Bloc).

Otepka to Gatewood, 10/18/60: Does the check mark 5 lines from the bottom indicate that the promised information was in fact furnished? I would like to see it. Other than that, this page looks pretty innocent.

A copy with identical handwritten additions (i.e., the "same" page, appears as page 1 of 11-36(17) in CD 1114. All the names - including Oswald! - have been deleted. Possibly a couple of introductory lines are deleted from both versions? I doubt it. Note that file II is the SOV file - what is this doing there? The remaining 16 rages of II-36 (at least the available ones) do not seem to relate to this page or to each other - none of the other pages in this memo are included. Tages 2 and 3 are post-assassination. I guess I should get at least some of this item. It may be some "sub-file" of SOV, or a file from some other office that got in there by mistake.

Gatewood to Otepka, 10/24: I guess I don't really see how Gatewood's points 1-3 are related to Otepka's memo of 10/18. Apparently the Martin-Mitchell case produced some reaction that led - in no obvious way - to Gatewood wanting Otepka to keep track of Americans recruited as Soviet agents, and defectors. ???

From the description given in the paragraph after point 3, the attachment to this letter of 10/24 from Gatewood has to be the memo of 10/25 from Elwood. The "few additional names" probably are the 5 which appear on the attachment to the memo to the CIA (viz. infra).

Elwood to Bissell, 10/25: I don't suppose there is anything sinister about inquiries "from the White House staff." Not much odd in this page. (Am I wrong?)

Attached list of defectors: I don't think we have any interest in who is and who is not on this list. If we do, we could check newspapers, The Invisible Government, and such sources.

This particular copy of the list was attached, in CD 294bc, to the/copy(not shown) of the "Dear Dick" letter that is mentioned below. I don't think this list remained attached to any of the other versions of the memo to the CIA.

Gatewood handwritten note of 10/21: A mystery to me. Seems likely that "Ricodelli" is Ricciardelli.

Routing slip: this apparently accompanied the "Dear Dick" letter when Elwood sent it to Cumming for his signature. Query: why would they want a list of defectors? The Commission focused on the fact that there was nothing to keep these people from getting passports, but passports are never mentioned in these pages. The State Department has some responsibility for American citizens living abroad, but most defectors are no longer citizens. I guess it is a reasonable list to have around, and if the CIA really had no such list (do we believe that), the State Department would be as good a place as any for it.

Cumming to Dick, 10/25: this has the same text as the memo from Elwood, also to Bissell, same date. What goes? It would help to know the exact relationship between Gatewood, Cumming, and Elwood. Who was the boss?

"ICD" is not identified in the list of office symbols provided to the Commission (CE 948).

McAfee to Otepka, 12/2: looks rather routine. Note "Hold for SZ," "SDZ," and "INR/es file" added by hand. Who (or what) is SDZ?

I wouldn't mind seeing the attached CTA list. It should include Oswald, hence should be in File XI. (That file is generally in chronological moleculation reverse order; item 21 is 6/3/60 and item 19 is 3/2/61, so this "ought" to be item 20 which is not listed as withheld, but was not in the file when I saw it either. I will ask, but not for a while yet.

PLH 6/26/70