

MEMORANDUM

June 14, 2017

To: Michelle Combs

From: Peter Voth

Subject: George Kalaris - Research

The main interest of the Board in interviewing George Kalaris is his possible knowledge of CIA records that may be relevant to the assassination story. As James Angleton's successor as the head of the Counterintelligence Staff (CI), Kalaris was responsible for the review of Angleton's private files. These files most likely contained a number of documents related to such matters as the defection of Nosenko, CIA cooperation with the Warren Commission, the activities of Angleton's Special Investigation Group (SIG), and the removal of documents from Mexico City station chief Win Scott's private safe following his death.

The most extensive information on Kalaris is found in Tom Mangold's Cold Warrior, which details his actions upon taking over for Angleton as CI chief, especially his review of Angleton's private files. These files were separated into three main vaults, the first of which contained executive office materials, while the second held files from the HTLINGUAL project. The third vault contained approximately 40,000 counterintelligence files on various people, but after review by Kalaris' staff, only 150-200 of them were retained. Following CI staff review, all of the material in Angleton's safes was entered into the CIA's central filing system. In addition, Mangold reports that Kalaris commissioned Cleveland Cram to write a study on the "History of the Counterintelligence Staff," completed in approximately 1982, which may be relevant to the assassination.

John Newman, in Oswald and the CIA, discusses Kalaris' 18 September 1975 memorandum to the HSCA regarding the opening of Lee Harvey Oswald's 201 file. This document, which is in the CIA Sequestered Collection, states that Oswald's 201 file was opened on 9 Dec 1960 in response to his queries about returning to the U.S. However, Newman points out that Oswald's first acknowledged communication with the U.S. Government regarding this matter was not until 13 Feb 1961, when he wrote to the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, and suggests that the 201 file may have been opened in December because of information gleaned from a heretofore unknown source. Any details about this source and information that it may have provided would most likely be considered relevant to the assassination.

Furthermore, as the author of this memo, Kalaris may be able to answer questions regarding other issues relating to the CIA's files on Oswald, such as:

- The location of destruction records for any Oswald-related documents
- Differences that may exist between the Oswald files of SIG and those of the Office of Security (OS) files, which were begun at different times
- Whether the CI staff liason with the FBI would have had access to Angleton's files when she told the Bureau at the time of Oswald's defection that there was no information on Oswald in CI files, or if it referred only to the holdings of the main CI files
- Whether any documents were moved out of LHO's 201 file, and if it was common for documents to be removed from 201 files
- How did the SIG treat the files of other individuals who defected to the USSR

In addition, Kalaris may be able to answer a variety of questions regarding the review of Angleton's files, such as:

- Procedures for the disposition (refiling, destruction, etc.) of records
- The location of the CI file logbook, which would indicate what documents were in the CI files at what time
- How Angleton's files were organized once they were reviewed by CI staff
- The removal of Win Scott's files from his personal safe after his death
- The criteria used by the CI staff to determine which documents in Angleton's files to retain
- What happened to any audio/visual materials, such as tapes, photographs, etc.
- The location of any materials regarding the defection of Yuri Nosenko or projects carried out by SIG, such as HTLINGUAL