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OLC #77-4381

File: Assassinations -
Altman source

October 7, 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Anthony A. Lapham

FROM : A. R. Cinquegrana
Office of General Counsel

SUBJECT : BLUEBIRD/ARTICHOKE Soft File Review - "Kelly" -
Dimitrov, D.A.

1. I have been reviewing summary sheets prepared by the Office of Security concerning several hundred soft files on individuals associated, or considered for association, in some way with the Agency's BLUEBIRD/ARTICHOKE activities. In the course of that review I came upon the following case which I discussed with Dick Lansdale and which we agreed should be brought to your attention for your information and whatever action you may deem appropriate.

2. As is indicated in the attached copy of the soft file summary and the 27 January 1952 memorandum upon which it is based, D. A. Dimitrov, designated "Kelly," is a Bulgarian expatriate who appears to have been imprisoned in Greece some time in 1950 and 1951 on false pretenses because the Agency feared he would accept an offer from French Intelligence. After six months in custody, he was flown to Panama where he was misrepresented as a psychopath and confined in a U.S. Military Hospital for several months. The official security file shows he was then removed from the hospital and held by the Agency at Fort Clayton in Panama for three years. He was then returned to Greece and ultimately allowed to enter the U.S. as a refugee. It appears from the attached copy of a 7 February 1952 memorandum that the "Artichoke approach," i.e., the use of drugs to reverse his hostility toward the U.S. and U.S. intelligence agencies, was never consummated.

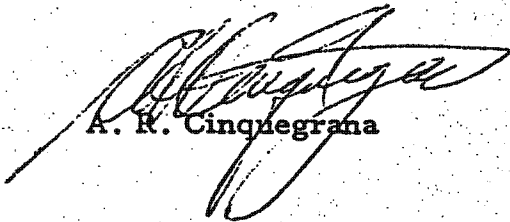
3. This man has had several contacts with the Agency since coming to the U.S. In 1961 an Assistant to the DCI was contacted by a representative of Parade magazine who had been informed by Dimitrov of his confinement by the Agency. The Office of Security responded to the effect that this man was disreputable, unreliable, and full of wild stories about CIA. As you will note from the attached transcript of an 8 September interview on Good Morning America, Mr. Dimitrov (now General Dimitrov and known as General Donald A. Donaldson) apparently is alive and alleging that he knows who ordered the assassination of President Kennedy.

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4. Based solely upon the soft file summary, and prior to reviewing the official security file from which I extracted the additional details, it appeared to me that the nature of the Agency's treatment of Dimitrov might be something which should be brought to the attention of appropriate officials both within and outside the Agency. The fact that he is still active and is making allegations connected with the Kennedy assassination may add yet another dimension to this story.



A. R. Cinquegrana

Attachment

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I. Soft File Summary

1. Title of File: Kelly
2. Brief Biographic Data: Kelly's true name is DIMITROV, a 29-year-old Bulgarian who was head of a small political party based in Greece and ostensibly working for Bulgarian independence.
3. Nature of Relationship/Interest: It was learned that French Intelligence Service was attempting to bribe KELLY and make him a double agent and Kelly appeared to be interested in the French offers. Accordingly, a plan was made to have KELLY believe that he was going to be assassinated and for protection he was placed in custody of the Greek police who then put him in prison. KELLY was held in the prison for six months until the Greek authorities decided that KELLY was a nuisance and they told our people to take him back. He was then flown to Panama where, through arrangement, he was placed in a U. S. military hospital as a psychopathic patient. According to the 25 January 1952 memorandum, KELLY had been in the hospital for several months and the hospital authorities want him out since he is causing problems. He is not a psychopathic personality. Because of his confinement in a Greek prison and his stay in a military hospital, KELLY became very hostile toward the United States and our intelligence operations in particular.

OPC was considering an "ARTICHOKE" approach to KELLY to see if it would be possible to reorient KELLY favorably toward us. However, OPC advised on 2 February 1952 that some opposition had arisen in the top level of OPC to the handling of the KELLY case in the manner that had been proposed. Since this opposition had arisen, nothing would be done to the KELLY case.

4. Period of Relationship: No dates supplied
5. Indications of Drug Experimentation: None found
6. Co-optee Interest: Not indicated

Project Associates: (possible) Dr. Robert Ecke.

II. Office of Security File Summary - DIMITROV, Dimitre Adamov (Iyle O. Kelly) (QKSTAIR) (SHAM/BGCONVOY) #46165

1. Short Summary of Agency Interest/Use:

The file was opened in October 1950, when DIMITROV was of operational interest to the Agency while employed for Radio Athens in Greece. Previously, DIMITROV had fled from Bulgaria in July 1947. As of October 1951, DIMITROV was in a hospital in South America, apparently under Agency auspices. In 1956 DIMITROV was brought to the United States, apparently after returning to Athens from South America, and the Agency made no further operational use of DIMITROV. In June 1960 DIMITROV [under case #33259--Dimitre DIMITROFF ("Diko")] had contact with the Contact Division outlining his background, claiming financial difficulties, and requesting the Agency back his plans for covert activity against Bulgaria. The Agency apparently took no action in this regard. During this contact DIMITROV claimed that circa 1951 he was held in a hospital/cell in Panama City.

2. Background Investigations: None
3. Confirmation of ARTICHOKE/BLUEBIRD/MKULTRA Interest: No
4. Project Associates: None

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : File

FROM : Morse Allen

SUBJECT: Kelly Case

DATE: 25 January 1952

On Friday, 25 January 1952, the writer was called to the office of Mr. Bannerman for the purpose of a conference with one Mr. [redacted] EE/OPC, concerning the instant case.

Mr. [redacted] explained in substance the Kelly case as follows: Kelly, (whose real name is Dimitrov), is a 29-year-old Bulgarian and was the head of a small political party based in Greece and ostensibly working for Bulgarian independence. Kelly was described by [redacted] as being young, ambitious, bright (elementary college education), a sort of a "man-on-a-horse" type but a typical Balkan politician. According to Prichett, our people discovered that French Intelligence Service ~~was~~ attempting to bribe Kelly and make him a double agent and Kelly was looking with favor upon the French offers. Accordingly, a plot was rigged in which Kelly was told he was going to be assassinated and as a "protection", he was placed in custody of the Greek Police who threw Kelly into a Greek prison. Kelly was held in the Greek prison for six months until the Greek authorities decided that Kelly was a nuisance and they told our people to take him back. Since our people were unable to dispose of Kelly in Greece, they flew him to Panama where, through arrangement, he was placed in a U.S. Military Hospital as a psychopathic patient. Kelly now has been in the U.S. military hospital for several months and the hospital authorities now want to get him out since he is causing considerable trouble, bothering other patients, etc. Kelly is not a psychopathic personality.

[redacted] explained that they can dispose of Kelly by the simple process of sending him to a friend of his in Caracas, Venezuela, and as far as they are concerned, that type of disposal is perfectly o.k. However, because of his confinement in a Greek prison and his stay in a military hospital, Kelly has become very hostile toward the United States and our intelligence operations in particular. Hence, OPC is considering an "Artichoke" approach to Kelly to see if it would be possible to re-orient Kelly favorably toward us. This operation, which will necessarily involve the use of drugs is being considered by OPC with a possibility that Dr. Ecke and Mike Gladych will carry out the operation presumably at the military hospital in Panama. Also involved in this would be a Bulgarian interpreter who is a consultant to this Agency since neither Ecke nor Gladych speak Bulgarian.

Mr. Bannerman pointed out to [redacted] that this type of operation could only be carried out with the authorization of Security and that, under no circumstances whatsoever, could anyone but an authorized M.D. administer drugs to any subject of this Agency of any type. Bannerman pointed out that there was a strong possibility that the military

days.
operation
 this
 authorities would not permit their hospital to be used for type of work
 and also that a re-conditioning operation of this type might take as
 long as 30-60. Bannerman further pointed out that ~~such~~ if such an
 operation were carried on, Security would have to be cognizant of it,
 would have to be co-ordinated into the ~~organization~~ and would possibly
 take over and run the operation themselves since this type of work
 is one ~~in~~ which Security handles *for this agency*.

patch It was agreed between [redacted] Bannerman, and the writer that a
 conference would be laid on Monday afternoon when OPC representatives
 and the Bulgarian interpreter return from Boston and their talk with
 Mike Gladych. At which time, the angles would be explored and a dis-
~~patch~~ ~~patch~~ would be forwarded to our people in Panama directing them to
 find out whether the Army would permit such an operation and whether
 the Army would allow the Agency to have the use of the necessary rooms,
 medical facilities, etc. as would be required for this type of operation.
 At this time, it was also to be determined whether the disposal of Kelly
 Venezuela could in fact be laid on.

Comment:

This particular operation was mentioned in general terms to the
 writer by Mr. Walter Driscoll approximately thirty days ago on an in-
 formal basis but no significant details were given at this time.

While the technique that Ecke and Gladych are considering for use
 in this case is not known to the writer, the writer believes the approach
 will be made through the standard narco-hypnosis technique. Re-conditioning
 and re-orienting an individual in such a matter, in the opinion of the
 writer, cannot be accomplished easily and will require a great deal of
 time and the fact that an interpreter is necessary in the case com-
 plicates it considerably more. It is also believed that with our present
 knowledge, we would have no absolute guarantee that the subject in this
 case would maintain a positive friendly attitude toward us even though
 there is apparently a successful response to the treatment. The writer
 did not suggest to [redacted] that perhaps a total amnesia could be created
 by a series of electro shocks, but merely indicated that amnesia under
 drug treatments were not certain.

MORSE ALLEN

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : File
FROM : Morse Allen
SUBJECT: Kelly Case

DATE: 7 February 1952

1. On Wednesday, 30 January 1952, at 9:30 AM, the writer called Mr. [redacted] relative the Kelly case. [redacted] stated that the OPC [redacted] and interpreter had made a trip to Boston and had seen Gladych. [redacted] stated that Gladych and the interpreter had reached complete accord on the handling of the Kelly situation. [redacted] then stated that he was trying to arrange that the Kelly case could be lined up completely before he set up conferences with I & SO relative the trip to Panama. [redacted] promised to call the writer at the end of the week.

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2. On/February 1952, at 12:15 AM, [redacted] called the writer relative the Kelly case. [redacted] stated that in OPC at the top level, some opposition had arisen to the handling of the Kelly case in the manner that had been proposed. [redacted] stated that since this opposition of the higher-ups had arisen, nothing would be done relative the Kelly case. [redacted] stated that he would call immediately upon any new developments along these lines. The writer informed [redacted] that I & SO would be glad to consider the matter and would wait until it was brought up again and would await his call relative any new developments.

MORSE ALLEN