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sent to army

File

7/6/61

M. Stevens
SRS/OS

NORTHROP, Herbert Lee, Jr.
#48923

According to what appear to be partial reports of interrogation which the CIA Security Office received in connection with Subjects defection to East Germany on 6 July 1960. He defected to escape an alcoholic mother and heavy debts. Subject, an Airman Second Class, assigned as an analyst with the German unit of the 6900th Security Wing AFSS, defected to East Germany on 6 July 1960 taking with him two suitcases and a brief case. He left his West German apartment at 1800 hours with the intention of defecting (having earlier in the day left a note for his mother stating that he was going to East Germany for good) and disappeared into the East German controlled subway. He returned to his apartment at 0015 hours in the early morning of 7 July 1960 without luggage and was placed under arrest.

During interview by military authorities on 11-12 July 1960, NORTHROP said that he took with him, when he defected, official document containing top secret information in order to establish his bona fides and turned himself in at the defectors reception center in East Berlin. According to Subject he spoke there with two officials who told him to sleep there that night and return in the morning for further discussions. He was deeply disturbed, he said at the lack of interest shown in him and began to realize the seriousness of his actions. After milling around he finally returned to his apartment in West Berlin to turn himself in. He claimed to have defected in a fit of despondency caused by long standing frustration. He stated that he first considered defecting in November or December 1959 because he believed he had no future in the service and felt that he had to get away from his mother who had become a confirmed alcoholic.

It would appear, however, that Subjects long time interest in the U.S.S.R. may have played a part in his defection. He has admitted to a sympathetic interest in the Soviet Union dating back to his high school days when he frequented the office of the Soviet American Friendship Society in Miami and did volunteer work for them. This

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interest in the U.S.S.R. continued while he was a student at the University of Miami (October 1948 - January 1951) and during this time he subscribed to various Soviet publications (Pravda, Soviet Russia Today, New Times, Culture and Life) through the Four Continents Book Company, and was active in the Soviet Friendship Society on the campus. During 1949 he made a trip to the Soviet Embassy in an attempt, he said, to obtain information and literature and he participated in Wallace's campaign for President, attending meetings and distributing literature.

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NORTHRUP's interest in the USSR continued during his overseas CIA employment in (Frankfurt) Germany from January 1952 to July 1956 during which time he made three unauthorized trips to East Germany; and during his current Air Force assignment in West Germany throughout the course of which he has said he made 30 to 50 visits to East Germany "to enjoy the culture." He has been described as an egotistical pseudointellectual who is interested in the cultural aspects of the Soviet Union, had read all of Corllis Lamont's writings, and subscribed to MASSSES and MAINSTREAM. At the time of Subject's defection, a member of the CI Staff recalled that NORTHRUP frequently (two or three times a week) visited the Victor Kamkin Book Store in Washington where he was known and frequently conversed with its manager. There is considerable question regarding Victor Kamkin and various relatives of his.

Subject was born on 7 July 1930 at Miami, Florida of native born parents. He attended high school in Miami and from 1948 to 1951 attended the University of Miami at Coral Gables, Florida majoring in Russian language. In 1948 he received a medal for proficiency in Spanish and from October 1948 to January 1949 was on a "Rattner Memorial Scholarship to study Hebrew" at this University.

NORTHRUP was employed by CIA from 1951 to 1958 when he resigned for personal reasons which he has subsequently said involved a fear that his latent homosexual tendencies would be discovered. He joined the Air Force and in June 1959 was sent to Berlin.

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NORTHRUP was security approved for CIA in May 1951 as an intelligence assistant GS-5 OPC/EE, (Munich) Germany, having previously entered on duty in the provisional pool. As of 28 July 1951 he was a GS-5 translator in the Operations Branch FDD/USUR Branch, Washington, D. C. and in November 1951 transferred to OO Contact Division, DRC(G), (Frankfurt) Germany as an intelligence officer GS-7. He left

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for (Frankfurt) on or about 23 January 1952, was in Washington on TDY as of June, 1954 and was scheduled to return to (Frankfurt) on or about 17 June 1954. He returned from (Frankfurt) in July 1956 and reported to Washington PCS following 56 days home leave at Port Arthur, Texas. (He had lived in Port Arthur, Texas for the period December 1941 - 1947, but otherwise his entire life appears to have been spent in Florida.) In November 1956 NORTHROP was assigned to DDP/CI Staff, Special Investigations Unit, Projects Section, Washington, D. C., as an intelligence officer GS-11. He resigned for personal reasons on 16 May 1958. OSI reviewed his CIA file on 30 September 1958. In February 1959 his file was favorably reviewed with reference to his being considered for participation in the CIA Civilian Standby Reserve Program. In July 1960 CIA was alerted regarding his defection. 15-20

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