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19 December 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Deputy Director (Plans)

SUBJECT: Anatoly IL'DEV

1. This memorandum is for information only.

2. Subject, a ZIB officer assigned to the Soviet Embassy in Helsinki, accompanied by his wife and six-year-old daughter, requested asylum in the United States from [redacted] Helsinki, at 6:00 P.M. Helsinki time on 15 December 1961. He and his family were issued visitors' visas to the United States. They left Helsinki at 0115 P.M. via commercial airline for Stockholm. They were flown from Stockholm to Visbaden in the Air Atlantic's plane. The flight from Frankfurt to New York was via Pan American. Subjects, with a security escort and accompanied by Mr. [redacted] arrived in Washington at 7:30 P.M., 18 December 1961. They are presently located in a safe-house. Appropriate inter-governmental coordination has been effected. Biographic information concerning Subject is attached at Tab A.

3. Subject has provided fragmentary information to Mr. [redacted] concerning a URIA officer assigned to Helsinki who he alleges was accepted money from the Soviets for documents. He also alleged widespread penetration by the Soviets of the Finnish Government, including a statement that the strategy concerning the recent Soviet note to Finland was worked out in advance with President Ekhoenen, who is a "Soviet agent of influence." As you are aware, the Finnish Government on direct orders of President Ekhoenen in 1959 turned back to the Soviets two escapees.

4. Subject has been extremely nervous since his defection and appears genuinely frightened over the possibility of Soviet punitive action. During the rather hostile trip from Helsinki to the United States, there was no opportunity to debrief him, but in conversation, he indicated that he had a "master plan to destroy the Soviet intelligence service" and was in possession of information critical to the security of the West which affected the United States and other Western powers. He stated that he would talk to no one except Mr. Moore and that interview was to be only for the purpose of arranging an interview with the

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President of the United States who is the only person to whom he will agree to reveal his information.

5. As Subject speaks English somewhat haltingly, I interviewed him at the safehouse on 19 December 1961 with Mr. [redacted] Mr. [redacted] who served as interpreter, and Mr. [redacted] the current case officer in residence. I greeted him in the name of the Director, explained that the latter was unavailable, told him that I had been informed he was in possession of important information concerning United States security, Finland and other areas. After a discussion lasting for about one hour, which has been tape recorded, Subject's position emerged as follows:

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a. Except for an interview with USIA and the FBI, he refused to discuss his information until he has an interview with the President which he estimates would be of a two-hour duration. He indicated that his information is of such a nature that it transcends intelligence interests and requires high policy decisions. I asked him if he would agree to discuss his information with [Mr. Bohlen] and he refused.

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b. Subject has in his possession documents which he has not described, but which pertain only to Finland. He has no documents concerning his "master plan" but claims to have been absorbing information since 1955 with ultimate defection in mind. He refused, however, to be precise as to whether his master plan was based on facts or reflected his own opinion of what could be done. He did state that his information concerned the Soviet intelligence service "which must be destroyed" and western intelligence services including CIA. He also stated that there are enemy forces (individuals) working against the West, which presumably he is in a position to identify.

6. He specifically stated that his information did not involve any imminent attack against the West but he stressed that each day of delay works against Western interests.

7. When it was pointed out to him that he had furnished no information upon which a recommendation as to his reliability or veracity could be based, he stated that it was necessary to "take a risk." Implicit in his position appears to be a real or fancied suspicion of the security or integrity of intelligence services. He states that he has no intention of becoming an agent of CIA but after his discussion with the President, and if the President adopts his recommendations, he will be a willing collaborator.

8. He was asked to prepare a letter addressed to the President

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which would set forth his reasons for wishing to see the President and explaining why he could not discuss his information at a subordinate level. This he has agreed to do. I also asked him to include in the letter the alternative if the President found that the information which he furnished was insufficient to warrant an interview. He said this would be impolite, but stated that in such a case, he would ask to be turned over to the British as his information affected all countries and not only the United States.

ERIC V. YEM
Chief
Western Europe Division

Attachment:
Bio Data

DDP/WE/E/Timm:rm

Distribution:

Orig. & 1 - addressee
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1 - C/OPS
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