

MEMORANDUM

February 8, 1996

To: Jeremy Gunn
cc: Tim Wray, Doug Horne, Dave Montague

From; Eric Scheinkopf

Subject; Ways to proceed on defector study program

This memorandum is a follow up to the mission statement of January 31. In that memorandum, I noted that one way to learn more about defectors would be to take the names of a few and see if any news stories were written about them at the time of their defection. If a person was sent to the USSR as a "plant," I noted it would be logical to have this person publicized in a negative way. It is recommended that we examine the cases of a small number of individuals such as those cited below.

Robert Lee Northrup

Mr. Northrup was a staff employee of the CIA from May 1951 to May, 1958. The HSCA study on defectors has no information on his defection. Northrup's name was listed on a CIA memorandum prepared on October 31, 1960 for the Chief of the Security Research Staff. This memo says that a more detailed summary was prepared on him.

Robert Edward Webster

Mr. Webster was an official with the Rand Development Company who had made several trips to the USSR to prepare for the 1959 U.S. exhibition in Moscow. He had received Soviet citizenship but only after altering his stated reason for defection and saying that he could help the Russians manufacture the Rand spray gun that he was exhibiting in the USSR. Webster returned to the United States in 1962 and shortly thereafter was debriefed by CIA representatives as well as individuals for the Air Force. Later he was brought to Washington for a 2 week debriefing.

Bruce Frederick Davis

Mr. Davis served about five years in the United States Army before leaving his post in Germany. In August of 1960, he defected to East Germany, spent one month in East Berlin and then entered the USSR. That October there were articles in Izvestia and

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Pravda that discussed his defection. He was settled in Kiev as a student at the Kiev Institute of National Economy. In May, 1963 he made a visit to the US Embassy to renew his passport and reapply for a West German visa. In July of that year, he was returned to military control. While there is no record of any CIA contact with Davis, the HSCA defector study report notes that one file contained a report of a debriefing.

Recommendation

Each of these individuals is a good choice to examine for possible news articles regarding their defections. Northrup's background might have provided a good opportunity for him to be "coached" about how to be a defector and for a story on his "defection" to be easily concocted. Webster is a good person to study because he worked for a prominent US organization and when he came back was debriefed in part by the Air Force. Davis, like Oswald, served in the military, and there is a report that he was debriefed. I recommend that we find out what news stories, if any exist, on these individuals and then make a decision on this line of inquiry as to the possibility of a "fake" defector program.