

MEMORANDUM

October 28, 1996

To: Jeremy Gunn

From: Eric Scheinkopf

Subject: Defector Study "Wrap-up" Memorandum

Earlier this year, I recommended undertaking a study to identify, locate, obtain and declassify records relating to the possibility that an agency or agencies of the United States government "planted" defectors in the USSR in the period from 1955-1963, and if so, whether or not Lee Harvey Oswald was a participant in such a program. I believe that one of the more interesting aspects of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy is speculation that the United States Government may have planted false defectors in the USSR and that Lee Harvey Oswald might have been one of them. It was my hope that information helping to prove or disprove these points could clear up some of the questions that exist about the assassination. This examination was to go beyond the HSCA's study of American defectors to the USSR and not be a rehash of what they had done.

No documentation has been located that suggests the "planting" of defectors in the USSR by any agencies of the United States government. While information on defectors does exist in military files and those of the CIA and FBI, none suggests a "fake defector" program. I examined information on three military defectors cited in the HSCA report as I thought such individuals might have had the opportunity to receive the "training" needed to act as defectors: Bruce Frederick Davis, Joseph Dutkanicz, and Vladimir Sloboda. None of the information I examined even hinted that they were "fake defectors." I had selected these three individuals as they were in the USSR for basically the same time period as Oswald.

Anthony Summers, in his book Conspiracy, mentions the existence of a "fake defector" program (see attached pages). He quotes Victor Marchetti, an ex-CIA official, as saying such a program was run out of Nag's Head, North Carolina by Naval Intelligence. Unfortunately, there is no document cited by Summers to support this claim by Marchetti.

While I did not find any evidence to support the existence of a "fake defector program," this does not mean that I can prove categorically such a program did not exist; only that no evidence has yet been found to support its existence.

I do believe that if any leads come up on this issue that they be pursued. However, if no such leads are brought to the ARRB's attention, then this line of inquiry should not be pursued further. From what I have been told, neither the military or the CIA is aware of such a program and unless we know

where to look in their files, there is no realistic way to look for the existence of such a program.

Attachment