

MEMORANDUM

November 4, 1996

To: Jeremy Gunn

From: Eric Scheinkopf

Subject: Paul Hoch's November 26, 1994 letter and the defector issue

I have read Paul Hoch's November 26, 1994 letter and examined those parts that address the defector issue. There is nothing in his letter that suggests places to look on the issue of "fake defectors" but the accompanying newsletter does hint at where to look for information although the word defector is not mentioned.

On the first page of his letter to Judge Tunheim, Mr. Hoch notes that "some of the records which might be most useful to historians are those which could be used in control studies." He then goes on to cite the HSCA's defector study and writes that if such a study had not been undertaken, "the records of those other defectors might not have qualified as assassination related." It appears that Mr. Hoch is citing the defector issue more as a means of addressing a point that certain records "which are not intrinsically assassination related" should be able to be viewed by the public even if a study such as the HSCA's defector study is not undertaken.

Mr. Hoch does include a copy of the news letter Echoes of Conspiracy with his letter, Volume 15, #1, in which he discusses the possibility of Oswald working for a U.S. government agency. On page 8 of the newsletter, he says "I now think some such special relationship is more likely to be with Army or Navy Intelligence." This is the only indirect reference to the defector issue. Hoch goes on to say that he could understand why no one in 1964 would admit that "we sent Oswald to Russia and brought him back, but that had nothing to do with the assassination." Hoch then said he would look at "some anomalies" in the handling of some files in 1964. From the end of page 8 to the first third of page 9, he talks about DoD files with special emphasis on the ONI file.

Attachment

E:\wp-docs-paulhoch.wpd
FILE 4.0.2 (defectors)