

MEMORANDUM

April 13, 1998

To: Jeremy Gunn
Executive Director

cc: Bob Skwirot
CIA Team Leader

From: Michelle Combs
Associate Director for Research and Review

Subject: CIA-IR-7 Claude Barnes Capehart

In response to ARRB's informal request CIA-IR-7, I reviewed the records on Claude Barnes Capehart held by the CIA. Though Mr. Capehart has been employed by two different private business contractors as a workman on U.S. Government classified projects, there is no evidence that he was ever employed by the CIA as an officer, staffer, asset, or source. The records indicate that at least one of the private contractors for whom Mr. Capehart worked, Global Marine, Inc., did have CIA contracts and the records indicate that a background investigation was run on Mr. Capehart in August and September 1973 to work on those contracts as a crane operator/driller from October 30, 1973 - July 9, 1975.

Notes on Mr. Capehart's pre-employment interview for Global Marine, Inc., dated 23 June 1973, specify that he was being considered for a position as a crane operator/driller. On October 4, 1973 he was security approved for use as a crane operator/driller for Global Marine on their contract. As part of his work with Global Marine Inc., he signed secrecy agreements in October 1973 and January 1975. His final secrecy agreement was terminated on July 9, 1975.

The CIA holds two records on Mr. Capehart--an Office of Security File and a very thin medical file. The Office of Security file contains background investigation information and copies of secrecy agreements which commonly are required for workers on classified government contracts. The Office of Security file, which was reviewed by the House Select Committee on Assassinations, is in the process of being released with few redactions. The medical file concerns an accident which occurred on one of the construction sites and will not be released to the public. There is no information on or evidence of any possible psychological problems in the medical file. The medical file contains no information of possible relevance to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. The CIA reported that it has never had an Office of Personnel file or a 201 file on Mr. Capehart.

There is no evidence in either the Office of Security file or the medical file to suggest that Mr. Capehart has worked for the CIA on any additional contracts nor in any capacity other than as the employee of a private contractor, Global Marine, Inc., working on CIA contracts. There is no information in the records to support Mr. Capehart's allegations concerning the Kennedy assassination nor to confirm his whereabouts during the relevant time period.

According to information in the CIA security file, much of it provided by Mr. Capehart in his June 17, 1973 employment application to Global Marine, Inc., Mr. Capehart left high school immediately after the 1941 bombing of Pearl Harbor to work in a shipyard. He served in the Army from September 1943 - July 1946 as a "medical aid man" and was discharged as a sergeant. He worked in a variety of blue-collar jobs for the period covered by the file.

Mr. Capehart's location in November 1963 is difficult to ascertain. One document in his security file indicates that he lived in Bakersfield, California from March 1955 to September 1964 and in Las Vegas, Nevada from September 1964 to February 1966. Yet, in his application to Global Marine, Mr. Capehart indicated that from March 1963 to October 1963 he was employed by Wheeler Trucking of Las Vegas, Nevada until he "quit over a labor dispute;" from October 1963 to December 1963 he worked for the Monolith Portland Cement Company in Las Vegas, Nevada as a truck driver; and from December 1963 to January 1965 he was employed by Reynolds Electric of Las Vegas, Nevada as a Rotary Drill Helper.

The CIA security file contains a Request for Security Access Approval to "Project R, Phase I" document dated November 11, 1963 which lists Mr. Capehart as employed by the Monolith Portland Cement Company. A biographical data document dated November 20, 1963 lists Mr. Capehart as living in Las Vegas, Nevada. A rubber stamp on this document with the date November 29, 1963 indicates that "Services" and "Archives" had no records on Mr. Capehart. A November 26, 1963 document shows that a security name check (of FBI, ONI, ACSI, CSC, and OSI and CSIF) was requested by a SAIC/ District Field Office (the location of the office is not evident). The document notes that the subject (Capehart) is employed by or under contract to the Reynolds Electrical Engineering Company. The Security Access Approval was granted on December 20, 1963. It is unclear whether Monolith Portland Cement Company was a subcontractor for Reynolds or whether either of these companies was working on a CIA contract or on another government agency contract. There are indications in the record that a Civil Service Commission background investigation was run on Mr. Capehart in December 1965, but the records do not specify the reason for the investigation. A November 24, 1971 letter from the manager of the Personnel Department of Reynolds Electrical Engineering, Co., Inc. verified that Mr. Capehart had been employed by Reynolds intermittently since October 16, 1961. The only period of employment specified in the letter was the last, November 20, 1967 through November 15, 1971. On his employment application to Global Marine, Inc. Mr. Capehart also reported that he received a "Q" clearance in 1967 for his work for Reynolds Electrical

Engineering Co., Inc. to work on “the Nevada test site.” There is no confirmation of this clearance in the security file.