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Interview with Walter P. Hattigan

311

Date: June 13, 1978

Interviewed by: Mickey Holdsworth and Betty Wolf

A copy of the memo was given to Mr. Hattigan who read it and indicated that he understood the contents.

Mr. Hattigan was given a copy of LIA # 435-173-A which consists of a cover letter dated 12/12/63 from Robert H. Hamprell to the chiefs of SR and WE and to the chief of Station [redacted] forwarding a memo dated 11/25/63 which was written by Thomas B. Casaria to Walter P. Hattigan concerning Casaria's prior interest in Lee Harvey Oswald. This document served as the basis for our questioning.

Hattigan stated that in 1963 he served as chief of [redacted] of [redacted] station under [redacted]. He explained that Casaria was also an officer in [redacted] station but he served under [redacted] and worked out of his home [redacted] to make contact with others in [redacted] station.

Due to the nature of this arrangement, Casaria frequently wrote informal memos such as the one in #435-173-A which were then passed along to the station. These memos would then be forwarded to Headquarters, generally by Hattigan. In this particular instance, Hamprell, who served under Hattigan, forwarded the letter to Headquarters. Hattigan was in the hospital at the time.

Hattigan explained the following portions of Casaria's memo:

- "REDWOOD" represents the Soviet Division.
- The [redacted] was the [redacted] branch for the Soviet Division. Its main function was the collection of

information. Casarin was chief of the [redacted] until his transfer to [redacted]

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- KUTUMP was the cryptonym for the Office of Operations which is currently known as the OEO. If the CIA wished to contact a [redacted], it would have made contact through this office.

However, Haltigan stated that it probably was not standard operating procedure to interview [redacted] due to a variety of factors such as a lack of proper follow-up measures or the fact that these cases would have fallen into the jurisdiction of the FBI.

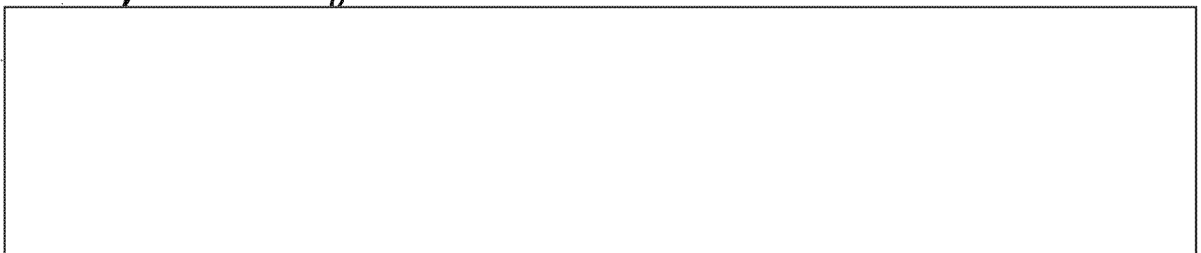
- ODAEID was the cryptonym for the State Department. Haltigan explained that it was not unusual that Casarin would have seen a State Department despatch on Oswald as it would have been routine to receive most of State Department memos.

- Casarin's recollection of having discussed the Oswald case in Summer 1960 as stated in the memo, must have been a mistake. Instead, he probably should have <sup>meant the summer</sup> ~~of~~ of 1962.

- BI refers to biographic information.

- ~~DOVER~~ was a cryptonym for a cover which was probably [redacted]. KUOOVE was the cryptonym for the DDP.

Haltigan explained that in paragraph 3 Casarin's <sup>did not mean</sup> ~~reference~~ that he was phasing out of the DDP ~~altogether~~. Instead, his reference to phasing out of the DDP referred only to his Headquarters assignment within DDP.



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The OCEAN/3 case was [redacted] picked up in Europe for

[redacted] PROHIBITED [redacted] USSR when he left in [redacted]

with an informant guide whom he married. He came out of the USSR in the summer of 1962 and his wife was permitted to join him some months later. Haltigan did not believe this to be a case where the couple was eventually divorced as the memo infers. Haltigan stated that it was unusual for Marina Oswald to be allowed to leave the Soviet Union as not many Soviet wives were permitted to leave during that time period.

- Haltigan was perplexed as to the reference to the "Harvey story" in the last line of the memo. He first stated that it must have been a typographical error which should have been the "Oswald story" instead. When it was pointed out that the sentence contained two other references to Oswald which makes it unlikely that this was merely a typographical error, he expressed confusion with respect to the reference. He could think of no explanation for this, nor did he remember ever speaking to Casarea about this point.

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Haltigan recalled that he arrived [redacted] for his assignment in June, 1962 and that Casarea probably arrived there in September of the same year. Haltigan stated that he had never heard any rumors to the effect that Oswald had been used by the CIA at any time. He felt that because of his assignments within the Agency, he would have been in a position to know if Oswald had been used in any capacity. He mentioned that he had seen [redacted] from 1951-1955 and that Casarea had been there from

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1955 to 1958 or 1959.

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From 1/58 until [redacted] Hattigan worked in SR/9 which was ~~Special Operations Section~~. SR/9 was composed of 6 persons at this time. He explained that SR/10 was responsible for [redacted] and that SR/2, 3, 4 & 5 ~~was~~ responsible for [redacted].

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Since Hattigan was generally approved, [redacted] he expressed the belief that it was almost impossible for them not to have known if Oswald had had some involvement with the Agency in this capacity.

Hattigan advised that SR/9 was responsible for maintaining its own records which they kept in the same manner as DDO files. If someone needed to know if a particular person was being used, they would be able to check it through the files. However, Agency association would not be directly reflected in a 201 file. Instead, there would be a paper in the file ~~referring~~ <sup>referring</sup> to another file in which operational information would be stored. Hattigan explained that a 201 file documents the person but not what the person is doing. A 201 file ~~would~~ <sup>might</sup> contain a PRQ, Part I which is entirely biographical information, a security check and newspaper clipping concerning the individual. A case file, on the other hand, reflects the operational information. A case file ~~would~~ have a two part number, such as [redacted]

311160

[redacted] In regard to the accessibility of case files, Hattigan stated that the area of primary interest is reflected on a 201 file opening sheet and that ~~SECRET~~ go to that branch to seek operational information. When asked about the significance of CI/SEC opening Oswald's 201

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[redacted]

When asked about the significance of CI/SEC opening Oswald's 201

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file, Haltigan ~~was asked~~ <sup>was asked</sup> ~~if he could~~ <sup>possibly say</sup> as he does not know what CI/SEC was doing at the time.

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Haltigan was asked ~~if it was possible~~ <sup>if it was possible</sup> to purge an individual's file of any operational information by removing any <sup>such</sup> reference cards in the 201 file and then removing the pertinent information from the case file. Haltigan stated that he does not know of this type of thing occurring in his experience. He stated that file maintenance was essential for the protection of the operator and stressed that SR/9 in particular was meticulous in its file maintenance.

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