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SECRET 3111240
Robert E. Webster
DOB 23 Oct 28 - Ohio

CIA has no operational relationship with Mr. Webster - letter from Dallas to Bundy dated 15 April 61

Was employed as plastic expert by the Land Development Corp. of Cleveland Ohio

Sub enlisted electronics specialist in U.S. Navy

Traveled to USSR in connection with the American Exhibition in Moscow, 1959

17 Oct 59 officially renounced his U.S. Citizenship

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No file opening request

dated 10/17/20159-

3/14/78

Probably opened on 10/20/59 from news articles - earliest CIA agency was AF doc. 10/23/59.

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Weber, Robert E.

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Vol. I

Bio sheets & newspaper articles provide following info:

- Weber made a series of trips to Moscow during March-July 1959 in conjunction w/ Rand Corp. exhibit at the Moscow Exhibition.
- Weber disappeared "on a trip" on 9/10/59 when the Rand Corp. personnel were scheduled to leave Moscow.
- N reportedly renounced U.S. cit. @ Oct. 17-19, 1959. Was informed by Sovs. that if he accepted Sov. cit., he wouldn't be able to leave country.

10/6/59 SD Telegram, ^{+1082, (H news)} Moscow to Secy State; RE: Receipt of letter from Weber stating his decision to remain in S.U. to live & work. Emb. unable to determine N's whereabouts in Leningrad.

10/8/59 MFR by [redacted] SR/COP/FI; RE: ^{1111 1332} Attempts to locate Weber; receipt of (above) Emb. cable.

- ATIC Cleveland asked whether W was carrying out clandestine work for CIA which hadn't been coordinated w/ them. Was advised that this was not case & to best of our knowledge, N had not been briefed by & was unknown to either DDP or OO officers.
- Check made w/ Mr. Mills; had encountered W on a few social occasions; we will consult w/ Messrs. Wickelman & Rayles to produce a more complete picture of W.

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10/20/59 MFR, by Bruce L. Solie, OS/SRS; RE: Weber

- Egerton advised Papier called Roman re Agency interest in W.
- OS files - no clearance; was an OO/c int. in N in late May '59, but W wasn't contacted by OO/c prior to trips to USSR.
- CI/OA files - no record.

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R. E. Webster (cont.)

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- 10/21/59 Office Memo, E.S. Ritterburg, Cleveland to Chief, ^{Contact Dir.,} DCAM, Attn: Support Br. (Crowley); RE: R.E. Webster case at recent Machine Searching Conference on 10/20/59 - Our org. has no interest in matter.

- 10/22/59 office memo, Ritterburg, Cleveland Resident Agent to Chief, ^{Contact} Dir; Attn: Support (Crowley); RE: Webster - questions asked by Major Rlt. Cochran of OSI:

a) is this office doing anything re W's defection?

b) if not, do they contemplate doing anything?

c) what would this office have done if W not normally?

Ritterburg called next day w/ response that they knew only what was in newspapers re W; (not very cooperative)

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- 10/30/59 office memo, Ritterburg to Crowley; RE: Kest (of WRU) conversation w/ H.J. Rand re R.E. Webster

- 10/26/59 memo, Sheffield Edwards to Dir., FBI; ^{Agency interest in} RE: Webster

- W has never been used by Agency; was considered for debriefing May-June 1959, however he wasn't contacted prior to dep. for USSR

In view of W's empl. w/ RAC, please forward any info. obtained in investig. of W.

10/23/59 info. on Vera Sockenko, W's girlfriend

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10/28/59 Report on W:

✓ W was given sec. clearance 6/5/59 but never had access to military info.

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R. E. Webster (cont.)

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(cont.)

Report of interview of N by Snyder, ^{on 10/17/59} in presence of H. T. Rand & Geo. Bookbinder at the DBVIR in Moscow. - reasons for defection; also signed renunciation of U.S. cit.

3/22/60 Office Memo, Kittenburg to Act. Chief, Contact Div.; Attn: Support Branch (Crowley) - 1st indication (thru 3/22/60 Cleveland Press article) of N's desire to ret. to U.S.

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3/25/60 DM, Kittenburg to Travis

- Rand contacted by N's father to aid in bringing N home.
- Rand indicated he would contact SA & Sov. Emb. Wash. to see what could be done.
- R quoted Snyder of US Emb Moscow as saying there would be no difficulty from U.S. side. Even though N is Sov. cit., Sov. quota is never filled & since his broken no laws, he should be able to enter US as alien if necessary.
- R indicated may be value in bringing N back for intell. reasons.

Several Office Memos Re N's interest & actions re return to U.S.

12/20/60 File Review of Office of Security files, SA reflected (besides doc. re N's defection) the following:

5/4/60 Telegram (# 2697) Am Emb Moscow to SA: RE: Visit of N that afternoon; interviewed by Security & Consular Officers; asked for advice re ret. to U.S.

- States that N's father should be advised to execute visa petition & also forward notarized letters of invitation from self & Mrs. W. for N's use in making Sov. exit visa appl.

- W was given standard instr. letter to duplicate letter entries into Emb.

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R. E. Webster

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Vol. I contains third agency docs as follows:

17 FBI Reports -

2 Rept. of AF Memos

4 SA docs. - 11/12/59; 3/22/60; 4/4/60; 6/8/60

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Vol. II ✓ - PRQ - Part I Undated; sometime after return to US

- News articles re W's ^{permission} return to US @ 5/16/62.

- Undated Memo, [Jae B.] Hare, Assessment & Evaluation Staff, Office of Ling. to Mr. Rudy Salaban, SR/6 Attaching:

Report of Court Assessment of R. E. Webster - assessed on 7/23-24/62

- Report based on psych. testing

- Attach. to Pitt Report 21345 - "Hint of Hoan's Retention stems from R. E. Webster"

3rd Agency - 1 FBI Report of 1/8/62

Vol. III

Office Memos from Cleveland re Raid & W's ret.

Correspondence bet. W & family

CIA Info Report Country: USSR
Subj: Renigrad Scient. Res. Inst. of Poly. Plastics (NIIP)
Disc. & Org. of Sov. Plastics Tech.

Date of Info.: 11/12/59 - 4/18/62

Report # 00-B 3232798

CO/00 Case 38246

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Joint report of Foreign Tech. Div., AF Systems Command, & CIA

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R. S. Helbater

31-11145

VII, III (cont.)

6/4/62 Request for Approval or Investigative Action

To: CI/Op. App. & Supp. Div.

From: AC/SR/6/Supp.

: Sec. Supp. Div. / DS

R. J. Balaban

Reqs.: Provisional Covert Security Approval

Spec. Area of Use: Debriefing to obtain Sov. realties data

Clearance req. to debrief subj. re experience as a resident of S.U. prior to & during defection to USSR @ 9/10/59.

6/22/62 Memo, DR Security (Invest. & Oper. Supp.) to Chief, SR Div.; Attn: Balaban
- A PCSA may be granted for use as described; subj. is not to represent himself nor to be represented as an emp. of CIA. If change in status is desired, new request should be made.

7/5/62 Author. to expend funds ^{for debriefing of Covert Associates of int. to SR Div. (REW)}
Funds for use of safe house approx. 14 days. Chargeable to Project
DDA

7/11/62 Memo: Request for Handwriting Analysis

7/12/62 Telememo [] Pittsburgh, to EE USSR (Booley), Att.
data recorded on Sov. personalities

7/16/62 Personal History Statement of Helbater

7/18/62 Memo [] Chief TS B/GARB to Chief DR/P/SC; RE:
Handwriting analysis re per req. of 7/11/62

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Robert E. Webster

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7/24/64 MFR by [redacted] RE: Assessment of R.W. in area of plastics

7/24/62 Interview Report by Dr. [Chas. L. Bohrer] 10pp; RE:

Background info. of N^o; ^{initial} stay in S.U. & ret. to U.S.

7's: Is this man Sov. controlled? Highly unlikely.

If not, could he become so? Possibly, if things don't go well in future & he is offered suitable financial reward.

Undated MFR of 7/19/62 Debriefing of R.E.W. by [redacted] CA/PROP/OB;
RE: Views on Sov. attitudes N/also additional notes

8/1/62 MFR by [redacted] RE: Area in interrogation which cast a shadow on W's bona fides.

8/27/62 Memo, Asst. Stone, IR/CR to [Eleanor Reed] RE: appraisal of detem.

8/30/62 memo, [redacted] SR/CI/ces to SK/6/support; RE: Photo Ident.

11/1/62 memo, [Virgil R. Harris] Chief, SR/6 RE: Debriefing of REW 7/16-17/62

I. outline of life story of REW - complete chron.

II. Misc. info. on Sov. Realities 1959-62: TV, ^{sociological & see conditions, prices,} trans, mail, medical treatment, vote

III. Biog. info. on Sov. Personalities known to W-1959-62

IV. Assessment of REW

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Vol. III 3rd Agency docs.

2 SD telegrams - 5/4/62 and 3/27/62

5 FBI reports 3/6/62 - 5/24/62

3/15/78

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R. E. Webster

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Vol. IV

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4/16/63 Memo, Balaban to Chief, SR/6 ; re: Debriefing of R. E. Webster

1. Subj. debriefed by undersigned together w/ OO/Contact Div. & AF reps. in Pittsburgh during 7/2-3/62.

Balaban = Rudy Valentino

Assigned Team

= [redacted]

= Robert Starling

= [redacted]

= Major E. J. Zetina

= Mr. F. G. Jaycocks

} OO Office, Pittsburgh

} AF Foreign Sec. Div., Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio

Recommended that subj. be brought to D.C. for detailed debriefing.

Arrangements for 2nd debriefing made by OS

Subj. stayed at Marriott Hotel, Key Budge, during 7/15-28/62

Enclosure A: List of staff personnel who participated in debriefing

" B: Notations made by Balaban during various phases of debriefing

" C: Secrecy agreement, dated 7/16/62, signed by subj.

" D: " " & stmt. of truthfulness, signed by subj.

" E: short biog. on Subj.

Refs to Oswald

5/11/64 memo, Angleton to Dir., FBI re LHO

- Attached copy of names, addresses & phone #'s re S.U. - one address

Kondrat'yevskiy in denigrad of Lev Prizentsev is same or similar to H's address here.

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12/5/66 MFR, from [redacted] re "Am. Defectors to USSR" w/ attached chron. re H

3/16/78

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R. E. Webster

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5/10/67 Memo, [redacted] J. (Chief, Pitts Office) to Dir. DCS; RL: RSW
- We've had no contact w/W since 1/63 when we completed handling of him
under Case 38,246.

Vol. IV - 3rd agency materials

4 FBI Reports 10/22/64 - 2/13/67

INS bio sheet - 1969

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RE.W.

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Defection:

How aided by Sovs? Popov & Shokin - high govt. officials (KGB)

How aided in obtaining employment?

Any contact w/sov. intell.? After attempts ^(3/60) to return to U.S.? After ret. to U.S.
contacts at Sov. Emb. in Moscow

- SA

- CIA

PRQ - P.T.I. - why; when (1st def.)?

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Debriefing

Did debriefing indicate any desire by agency to use him

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