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Classification: SECRET

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Betsy Wolf
November 7, 1978

Kawson, John Howard 201-5,603

A review of this file indicates that it is very old with documents dating back to 1946. There is no 201 file opening sheet in the file. Most of the documents in the file are third agency documents primarily from the FBI.

Background (from 27 July 1951 ^{Special} [TMMW] 1794 [redacted] 16-3)

DPOB: 25 September, 1894 (or 1895) in New York City or Long Island

Kawson was a motion picture writer in Hollywood who reportedly had been a member of the Communist Party since 1934. He was allegedly one of the most important persons in the Communist movement in Hollywood in the late 1930's. Kawson served a 1-year sentence from 1950-51 for contempt of Congress for refusal to testify before the House Committee on Un-American Activities in Oct. 1947.

The file indicates that:

- 1) Kawson planned to travel in Eastern Europe for approximately 1 year beginning in May 1961.
- 2) the Cuban Institute of Motion Picture Arts & Industry expressed an interest, during 1961, in having Kawson as a teacher & film writer.

Correspondence was arranged through:

Sofia Herrero de VELASCO, Patricio Sang 36, Apartamentos 6, Mexico 12, D.F., Mexico and Teresa PROENZA Diogenza (201-291531), at the Cuban Embassy in Mexico.

The file does not state exactly when Kawson went to the USSR. Information from an FBI Report on Kawson dated 18 Dec. 61 indicates that Kawson is in a sanatorium near Moscow & plans to remain in Soviet Union for about 8 months after his release - to work with movie industry.

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10144-10116

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- RELEASE IN FULL
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A copy of an index card re KAWSON bears notation:

[074-006-676/03]

SX - 05230

28 NOV. 63

Card indicates that KAWSON is a "occ. cinema script writer" & is residing in MOSCOW as of 1963.

File Title: John KAWSON Loose Documents

Report No. 51 dated 28 NOV. 63 reports info. re KAWSON in MOSCOW from a source, "VIADUCT". Source describes KAWSON's attitude & treatment in MOSCOW; also states that KAWSON has now returned to U.S.

File Title: KAWSON, John Howard Loose Documents

Contains only reports in which KAWSON is mentioned.

^{No}~~Other~~ indication appears of any CIA contact w/ KAWSON following his return from the USSR.

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