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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO

W. C. Sullivan

FROM

W. A. Branigan

SUBJECT

YURI IVANOVICH NOSENKO
ESPIONAGE - RUSSIA

SYNOPSIS:

This memorandum summarizes the results of interview of Yuri Nosenko by Bureau Agents during the week of 2/24-28/64.

Yuri Nosenko is the Soviet intelligence agent who defected to the CIA in Geneva, Switzerland, 2/5/64. CIA furnished us with information concerning its interviews of the subject. On 2/24 Agents began interviewing Nosenko. He furnished considerable information concerning recruitments and recruitment attempts against United States citizens and United States Government employees in the USSR. He stated that the Soviet Intelligence Service not infiltrated the FBI. Most of the information which Nosenko furnished is substantiated by facts already in our files. Lee Harvey Oswald, Nosenko said the KGB considered him to be unstable. When told that he could not stay in the Soviet Union, he attempted suicide by cutting his wrists and was rushed to a hospital. Through the Red Cross or Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), he was permitted to stay in Minsk, Russia. Nosenko next heard of Oswald when he visited the Soviet Embassy, Mexico City, and MFA made inquiry of the KGB and was told that he was of no value. Nosenko last saw Oswald in connection with the assassination of President Kennedy. According to Nosenko, Marina Oswald was not a KGB agent. She was considered particularly intelligent and had been dropped from the Komsomol (young communist group) for nonpayment of dues. Nosenko furnished information which indicates Anatole Kotloby, subject of a current investigation is identical with a KGB agent. He also furnished information that a former governess of the children of the United States Ambassador in Moscow and now a teacher at the American School was recruited by the KGB on the basis of her seduction by two African students in Moscow.

CIA has stated it believes Nosenko is a deception agent and a plant to disrupt American intelligence work. We do not accept this analysis as necessarily correct. We are interviewing Nosenko with an open mind and are checking out the information which he furnishes. After this has been done, it is believed an intelligent evaluation can be made of his worth. Details of the highlights of the information furnished by Nosenko during the week of 2/24-28/64 are attached.

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Memo W. A. Branigan to W. C. Sullivan
 Re: YURI IVANOVICH NOSENKO
 65-68530

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3. Johanna Ross. Johanna Ross is an American citizen who went to Russia as a governess for the children of the American Ambassador. Nosenko stated that she is promiscuous and was seduced by two African students and was then compromised by the KGB. Our files show that Ross is the holder of a current United States passport and investigation of her background has been instituted. (S) (X) (u)

4. Information concerning various American citizens who have been compromised in the USSR and recruitment attempts made against them has been given by Nosenko. [He referred to the attempt to recruit Robert James Barrett, American medical student who was an interpreter at the United States Plastics Exhibition in Russia in 1959. No recruitment attempt was made in 1959; however, when he returned to Russia in 1961, he was recruited on the basis of the compromise effected during his 1959 trip. Barrett is now an informant of the Bureau. In addition, Nosenko told of recruitment operations against employees of the American Embassy, such as James E. Keyzers, Joseph Marone, Matthew Zujus, Edwin Smith, James Storsberg, Peter Binder and Walter Mule, all of which we had previously known.] (S) (X) (u)

5. [Information about attempts to recruit newspapermen stationed in Moscow has been given by Nosenko. [He said an Associated Press representative in Moscow had been recruited. At this time there are three representatives and we have opened cases to attempt to identify the one who has been recruited.] Nosenko told of the recruitment of Sam Jaffe, American Broadcasting Company correspondent in Moscow. We have interviewed Jaffe and he gave us this information prior to his recent return to Moscow. [Nosenko also claims that Thomas Whitney had furnished nonessential information to the KGB in Moscow but refused to do so on his return to the United States. He also said that Eddy Gilmore of the Associated Press was a recruitment target and that Francis Stevens of United States News and World Report was compromised. We knew of the compromise action against Stevens since he had told us about it and we also knew that Whitney and Gilmore, both married to Soviet citizens, were targets.] (S) (X) (u) (75)

6. Nosenko also gave information concerning individual travelers to Russia, who had been recruited and individual case files have been opened on them. (S) (X) (u)

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