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BY LIAISON

*C, 4 info remains unclassified. Please refer to 7/22/89.
SP6. By info 1/2/77. 2000.*

Date: December 4, 1967

To: Director
Central Intelligence Agency

Attention: Deputy Director, Plans

From: John Edgar Hoover, Director

Subject: JOHN DISCOE SMITH
ESPIONAGE - RUSSIA

*SP1 CLK/gm L
1,6*

The Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) Daily Report for November 21, 1967, states that Tass International Service in English at 1411 GMT on November 21, 1967, pointed out that in an Ivestia interview, John D. Smith said he was convinced that the late President John F. Kennedy "fell victim to a broad conspiracy in which the CIA was involved."

Could you supply a translation of the Ivestia article to which this refers? The "broad conspiracy" line is one which is currently in vogue among certain critics of the Warren Commission Report.

It is also noted that in the FBIS Daily Report for November 20, 1967, on page bb18, a footnote to a broadcast by Moscow Radio Peace and Progress, relating to Smith states: "The Tbilisi Domestic Service in Russian at 0850 GMT 18 November reports that in the newspaper MOLODEZH GRUZII you will find the confession of the former agent of the U. S. Central Intelligence Agency entitled 'I shot at the President.'"

Since this would appear to be part of a build-up of disinformation regarding the assassination of John F. Kennedy and involving John Discoe Smith, would it be possible for you to identify the newspaper MOLODEZH GRUZII and furnish a translation of the "confession?"

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LW:as (9)

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

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Director
Central Intelligence Agency

NOTE:

Smith, born 3/31/26, Quincy, Massachusetts, a cryptographic technician for the Department of State 1950-59, disappeared abroad in late 1960 or early 1961. He was characterized as a paranoiac and a drunk who thought his wife was a CIA agent and that he was under constant surveillance by the CIA. Tass, the Soviet news agency, announced in Moscow 10/24/67 that John Smith of Quincy, Massachusetts, a former CIA agent, had acquired Soviet citizenship and was writing an expose of CIA in the Moscow publication "Literary Gazette." Since that date installments of his expose have appeared in "Literary Gazette" and interviews (purportedly) of Smith by Soviet broadcasters have been primarily beamed to India where Smith was assigned to the U. S. Embassy, New Delhi, 1954-59.

The Bureau had an interest in Smith because [our Shamrock source furnished a film roll containing a KGB document dated in April, 1961, which set out thumbnail character sketches of] numerous State Department personnel, many of whom had served in India and the adjoining areas. Bureau investigation prior to the Soviet publicity determined that Smith would have had knowledge of the various individuals [in the KGB document.] (S)

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