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DATE: 11-14-2017

JFK Assassination System
Identification Form

Date: 4/15/201

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SECRET

26 JUN 78 22 39z

RECEIVED
FEDERAL BUREAU
OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

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FM SAN FRANCISCO (109-36) (P) (SQAD 16)

TO DIRECTOR IMMEDIATE

MIAMI IMMEDIATE

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ALLEGED PLOT TO ASSASSINATE COLONEL CESAR QUINTEROS, CHIEF OF
GUATEMALAN SECURITY, FCI - GUATEMALA - TERRORISM.

[ON JUNE 22, 1978, A SOURCE OF QUESTIONABLE RELIABILITY
FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO A SPECIAL AGENT OF THE
SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
(FBI): ON JUNE 21, 1978, THE ASSET WAS IN TELEPHONIC CONTACT
WITH A PROMINENT MIAMI ATTORNEY, BEN COHEN. COHEN IS CURRENTLY
BEING INVESTIGATED BY THE BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND FIRE-
ARMS (ATF) AND IS UNDER SECRET INDICTMENT BY THE FEDERAL GRAND
JURY ON A WEAPONS VIOLATION. THE SOURCE INDICATED THAT COHEN
INTRODUCED HIM ON THE TELEPHONE TO A WILLIAM BELL. BELL] (S)

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PAGE TWO SF 109-36 S E C R E T

INDICATED THAT HE HAD TRAVELLED EXTENSIVELY IN GUATEMALA AND WAS INTERESTED IN STARTING SEVERAL BUSINESSES THERE INVOLVING THE IMPORTING OF LUMBER, CATTLE, AND THE PRODUCTION OF SINGLE FAMILY DWELLINGS AND ALSO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WEAPONS FACTORY IN GUATEMALA. BELL INDICATED THAT HE WISHED TO USE THE SOURCE'S CONTACTS IN THE GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT TO EXPEDITE HIS OWN BUSINESS INTEREST IN THAT COUNTRY. IN THE PROCESS OF DISCUSSING THE POLITICS OF GUATEMALA, BELL MENTIONED TO THE SOURCE THAT HE WAS AWARE OF A PLOT TO ASSASSINATE THE CHIEF OF GUATEMALAN SECURITY, COLONEL CESAR QUINTEROS. (X)

ON THE FOLLOWING DAY, JUNE 22, 1978, THE ASSET WAS AGAIN IN TELEPHONIC CONTACT WITH BELL. THE ASSET DETERMINED FROM BELL THAT THE ASSASSINATION CONTRACT HAD ORIGINATED FROM LEBACON AND WAS SUPPOSED TO BE THE RESULT OF A PERSONAL VENDETTA AND WOULD BE CARRIED OUT BY TWO UNNAMED INDIVIDUALS. BELL INDICATED THAT HE IS PERSONALLY ACQUAINTED WITH THE TWO INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE SUPPOSED TO ASSASSINATE QUINTEROS. BELL INDICATED THAT THE TWO INDIVIDUALS WERE BROTHERS AND BOTH WERE RETIRED SPECIAL FORCES OFFICERS. BELL INDICATED THAT ONE OF THE BROTHERS HAD BEEN ON THE ASSAULT TEAM WHICH LOCATED AND ASSASSINATED CHE GUEVARA IN (S)

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BOLIVIA. BELL DESCRIBED THIS INDIVIDUAL AS BEING SIX FEET, FIVE INCHES TALL AND WEIGHING 270 POUNDS, AND "SOLID AS A ROCK." HE INDICATED THAT THIS INDIVIDUAL'S BROTHER WAS ALSO QUITE LARGE IN STATURE. (S)

BELL STATED THAT THESE TWO INDIVIDUALS WERE CURRENTLY IN FLORIDA AND THAT HE HAD TALKED TO ONE OF THEM ON THAT DATE. BELL INDICATED THAT THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT WAS TO OCCUR BEFORE THE JULY FIRST INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT ELECT LUCAS IN GUATEMALA CITY, GUATEMALA. (S)

THE SOURCE INQUIRED OF BELL WHETHER OR NOT QUINTEROS ON PRESIDENT ELECT LUCAS WAS AWARE OF THE ASSASSINATION PLOT. BELL INDICATED THAT HE HAD WARNED QUINTEROS OF THE ALLEGED ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AND HAD IDENTIFIED THE WOULD-BE ASSASSINS TO HIM. BELL STATED THAT THE TWO WOULD-BE ASSASSINS HAD BEEN IN GUATEMALA BEFORE AND THAT THE GUATEMALAN SECURITY ORGANIZATIONS KNEW THE INDIVIDUALS AND HAD PHOTOGRAPHS OF THEM. BELL INDICATED THAT PRESIDENT ELECT LUCAS WAS NOT AWARE OF THE ASSASSINATION PLOT UNLESS QUINTEROS HAD INFORMED HIM OF IT. (S)

BELL INDICATED THAT HE WAS KEEPING TRACK OF THESE TWO INDIVIDUALS AND WOULD KNOW AS SOON AS THEY LEFT FLORIDA AND (S)

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WOULD AT THAT TIME CONTACT QUINTEROS' STAFF WITH THE INFORMATION.

(S)

THE ASSET ASKED BELL WHETHER OR NOT THE TWO WOULD-BE ASSASSINS COULD BE STOPPED IN THE UNITED STATES BEFORE THEY LEFT THE COUNTRY. BELL INDICATED THAT HE DID NOT THINK SO BECAUSE THEY HAD TOO MANY FRIENDS IN THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. BELL INDICATED THAT IF HE WENT TO THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT AND TALKED TO JACK KING, WHO HANDLES CENTRAL AMERICAN AFFAIRS, AND ASK KING TO PREVENT THESE TWO INDIVIDUALS FROM LEAVING THE COUNTRY, KING WOULD PROBABLY REFUSE BECAUSE THE TWO INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN COOPERATING WITH THE STRIKE FORCE PROSECUTING GROUP IN FLORIDA IN IDENTIFYING DRUG DEALERS THERE. BELL STATED THAT THE STRIKE FORCE PEOPLE WOULD BE VERY ANGRY WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT SINCE THESE TWO INDIVIDUALS HAD COOPERATED WITH THEM AND WERE CURRENTLY DOING SO. (S)

BELL INDICATED TO THE ⁰SOURCE THAT HE HAD KNOWN THE TWO WOULD-BE ASSASSINS FOR A LONG TIME AND KNEW THEM TO BE EXTREMELY CLEVER MEN WHO HAD DONE THIS TYPE OF JOB IN THE PAST. BELL INDICATED THAT THEY HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN A LOT OF QUESTIONABLE ACTIVITIES IN THE PAST WHICH HAD NEVER COME OUT INTO THE PUBLIC LIGHT. HE INDICATED THAT HE KNEW ONE OF THE BROTHERS HAD BEEN (S)

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IN DALLAS AND IN NEW ORLEANS WITH OSWALD IN 1963 BEFORE PRESIDENT KENNEDY WAS ASSASSINATED IN DALLAS. HE SAID THAT THIS SAME INDIVIDUAL HAD ALSO BEEN IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE BEFORE MARTIN LUTHER KING WAS ASSASSINATED. BELL INDICATED THIS INDIVIDUAL WAS MERCENARY AND HAD NO POLITICAL LOYALTIES. HE STATED THAT HE HAD HEARD RUMORS THAT THIS INDIVIDUAL HAD BEEN IN CUBA RIGHT BEFORE THE DAY OF PIGS INVASION. THE IMPLICATION WAS THAT THIS INDIVIDUAL MAY HAVE WARNED CASTRO'S GOVERNMENT OF THE IMPENDING INVASION. (S)

BELL INDICATED THAT HE WAS CURRENTLY RESIDING IN ROOM 1240 OF THE FONTAINEBLEAU HOTEL IN MIAMI, FLORIDA AND THAT HE WOULD BE REMAINING THERE UNTIL JUNE 28, 1978, AT WHICH TIME HE WOULD BE FLYING TO GUATEMALA CITY, GUATEMALA. BELL TOLD THE SOURCE THAT HE COULD CONTACT HIM AT THE FONTAINEBLEAU HOTEL OR IN POPANO BEACH, FLORIDA, AT THE EAGLE ARMS COMPANY, WHERE BELL IS THE TREASURER OF THE COMPANY. (S)

ON JUNE 23, 1978, A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND FIREARMS (ATF) ASSIGNED TO THE OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA RESIDENT AGENCY, FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION: HE INDICATED THAT RESEARCH DONE BY HIM THROUGH ATF SOURCES HAD

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DATE: 11-14-2017

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DETERMINED THAT [WILLIAM BELL WAS A FORMER SPECIAL FORCES COLONEL WHO HAD BEEN ASSIGNED TO THE JOINT U.S. MILITARY ADVISORY GROUP.

BELL IS CURRENTLY THE TREASURER OF EAGLE ARMS CORPORATION IN POPANO BEACH, FLORIDA. EAGLE ARMS CORPORATION MAKES PROTOTYPE WEAPONS FOR NINE MILLIMETER AMMUNITION AND IS NOT LICENSED TO MANUFACTURE ANYTHING OTHER THAN PROTOTYPES.] (S) HE INDICATED THAT

[ON THE BASIS OF THE DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION FURNISHED BY BELL,] (S) HE HAS REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE IDENTITIES OF THE TWO WOULD-BE ASSASSINS ARE A (FNU) PAPPY SHELTON, WHO IS A RETIRED SPECIAL FORCES MAJOR, AND HIS BROTHER, JOE SHELTON, ALSO A RETIRED SPECIAL FORCES OFFICER. HE STRESSED THAT THIS IS NOT A POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION, HOWEVER, [IT FITS WITH THE INFORMATION THAT BELL GAVE THE ASSET THAT] (S) ONE OF THE WOULD-BE ASSASSINS WAS A MAJOR OF THE ASSAULT TEAM THAT ASSASSINATED CHE GUEVARA. THE ATF REPRESENTATIVE INDICATED THAT [HIS SOURCES HAD VERIFIED THAT] (S) MAJOR PAPPY SHELTON HAD BEEN ON THIS ASSAULT TEAM [AND ALSO FIT THE DESCRIPTION GIVEN BY BELL.] (S)

[THE CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN THE SOURCE AND WILLIAM BELL WERE RECORDED BY THE SOURCE.] (S) A SPECIAL AGENT OF THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION HAS REVIEWED [THESE TAPES] (S) AND CAN VERIFY THAT

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PAGE SEVEN SF 100-36 S E C R E T

THE INFORMATION [PROVIDED BY THE SOURCE RELATIVE TO HIS CONVER-
SATIONS WITH BELL] ^(S) IS ACCURATE. X

~~CLASSIFIED BY 7500, JES B AND BY INDEFINITE~~

ADMINISTRATIVE:

RE SAN FRANCISCO TELETYPES, JUNE 22 AND 23, 1978, CAP-
TIONED "CESAR QUINTEROS (PHONETIC), FOREIGN POLITICAL MATTER -
GUATEMALA," AND BUREAU TELETYPE TO SAN FRANCISCO AND MIAMI,
JUNE 24, 1978, CAPTIONED AS INSTANT MATTER.

THE PRECEDING INFORMATION IS SUITABLE FOR DISSEMINATION.

(U)

THE SOURCE MENTIONED IN THE ABOVE SECTION IS FORMER

SF 9886-001 ^(S) (X)

THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND
FIREARMS WHO FURNISHED THE INFORMATION ABOVE IS SENIOR RESIDENT
AGENT OF THE OAKLAND OFFICE, BILL MALLERY. (U)

SAN FRANCISCO NOTES THAT [THE ASSET RECORDED THE CONVERSA-
TIONS BETWEEN WILLIAM BELL AND HIMSELF AT HIS OWN VOLITION AND
WAS AT NO TIME UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE FBI. ^(S)

THE ORIGINAL COPIES [OF THE TAPE RECORDINGS MADE BY THE
ASSET] ^(S) ARE BEING MAINTAINED BY THE ATF OFFICE IN OAKLAND FOR

SECRET

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PAGE EIGHT. SF 109-36 S E C R E T

ANY POSSIBLE EVIDENTIARY VALUE THEY MIGHT HAVE IN THE INVESTIGATION OF [BEN CONER]. (S)

THE FOLLOWING MAJOR CONTRADICTION IS NOTED BY SAN FRANCISCO.

[BELL INDICATED TO THE ASSET THAT HE HAD WARNED QUINTEROS OF THE ASSASSINATION PLOT.] (S) HOWEVER, IN REFERENCED BUREAU TELETYPE TO MIAMI QUINTEROS ADVISED THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN ADVISED OF THE ASSASSINATION PLOT BY ANYONE. [BELL MAY BE LYING ABOUT ADVISING QUINTEROS OF THE ASSASSINATION PLOT] (S) OR QUINTEROS HIMSELF MAY HAVE BEEN PREVIOUSLY AWARE OF THE PLOT AND IS JUST PROTECTING HIS SOURCES. EVEN IF [BELL IS LYING] (S) ON THIS ONE POINT, ENOUGH [OF HIS STORY] (S) HAS BEEN CORROBORATED THAT IT SHOULD BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY. X

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XX

6-12-78

TO DIRECTOR, FBI
ATTN: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT,
RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION

FROM LEGAT, MEXICO CITY (175-14) (RUC)

SUBJECT HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)
Re Bureau teletype, 6-7-78.

Two teams representing HSCA arrived in Mexico City during the period 5/28 - 31/78. The announced purpose was for one team to look into the Mexican aspects of the assassination of former President JOHN F. KENNEDY and the second would be doing the same thing with regard to the assassination of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING.

On 6-8-78, MEX-244 advised that he had been approached for an interview by one of these teams. He was visited at his home on 5-25 - 26-78 by HONORIO HERNANDEZ ESCANDON, of the Federal Judicial Police, who asked him if he would participate in such an interview. After consulting with this office, the source agreed.

On 5-31-78, he was interviewed in his home by GARY CORNWELL, HAROLD LEAP, EDWIN JUAN LOPEZ and "DANIEL" HARDWAY. They were accompanied by Cdte. FLORENTINO VENTURA, of the Federal Judicial Police (FJP), and two other FJP representatives. After the interview, the source agreed to participate in a second interview in which his remarks would be tape recorded. This was set for Saturday, 6-3-78, but he was not contacted on that date.

On 6-5-78, he was visited by HERNANDEZ, Dr. ALFONSO OROZCO CONTRERAS and one member of the Committee staff, who may be LOPEZ, and served as interpreter during the earlier meeting. OROZCO was introduced as a "coordinator" of some department of the FJP.

3 - Bureau
(1 - Foreign Liaison Desk)
1 - Mexico City

JJF:lmg
(4)

DATE: 11-14-2017

MEX 175-14

The source stated that he had participated in a recorded interview which lasted about forty minutes. He was asked to look at two albums of photographs and was able to pick out a photograph which he believed to be LEE HARVEY OSWALD, even though it was not a particularly good likeness.

The HSCA representatives apparently had a verbatim account of information furnished by the source when he was first interviewed at the U. S. Embassy after the KENNEDY assassination. There were many details in this account which the source was no longer able to remember. He did remember bumping into a man leaving the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City in late September or early October, 1963. He can recall that this man was counting money and a few other details related to the experience. He has consistently stated that he believes this man was OSWALD.

The source said that HSCA representatives questioned him about the Spanish-speaking ability of those who interviewed him at the Embassy. They suggested that those conducting the interview might have misunderstood at least some of the information which the source was furnishing at that time. They asked whether the statement was read back to him and signed by him. He now is unable to recall, but believes it was not. He states that he did acknowledge that there might be a possibility that some of his information was misunderstood by those interviewing him at the time, but that he could not, after fifteen years, recall the details.

The Bureau will note that the Mexico City file pertaining to the source was not opened until 9-9-64, and Bureau authority to deal with him on a confidential basis was received in a letter dated 10-8-64. There was no relationship of any kind between the source and this office prior to 11-22-63 and no confidential relationship at the time he was first interviewed at the U. S. Embassy in Mexico City.

MEX-24 was involved in some aspects of the JAMES EARL RAY investigation in the State of Jalisco, Mexico. That source has been alerted to the visit of the HSCA Team, but has reported no contact to date.

DATE: 11-14-2017

HSCA

1 2

5/26/78

UNCLAS E F T O

ROUTINE

FM DIRECTOR FBI (62-117290)

TO FBI COLUMBIA ROUTINE

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)

REFERENCE COLUMBIA TELETYPE MAY 22, 1978.

COLUMBIA SHOULD PROMPTLY DETERMINE IF CO 80-C (FORMERLY CO 80-S) HAS ANY OBJECTION TO DISCLOSING HIS CONFIDENTIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FBI DURING TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HSCA ON JUNE 6, 1978. IF HE HAS NO OBJECTIONS TO SUCH DISCLOSURE, THEN HE SHOULD BE TOLD THE FBI IS AGREEABLE. IF INFORMANT DOES NOT WANT HIS CONFIDENTIAL RELATIONSHIP REVEALED, ADVISE HIM THAT IF HE DESIRES, REPRESENTATIVES AT FBIHQ WILL BRIEF CONGRESSMEN LOUIS STOKES, CHAIRMAN, HSCA, AND SAMUEL DEVINE, RANKING MINORITY MEMBER, HSCA, CONCERNING INFORMANT'S SITUATION PRIOR TO INFORMANT'S APPEARANCE BEFORE THE COMMITTEE IN EFFORTS TO PREVENT QUESTIONING CONCERNING HIS INFORMANT STATUS.

JTA:LFJ (5) 5/26/78 8988/4 3685

1 - 170-931

1 - LEGAL COUNSEL DIVISION

ATTN: D. O. COULSON

1 - CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

ATTN: M. V. HALE

1 - MR. G. J. FOSTER

SEE NOTE PAGE 3

HSCA

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OO HQ

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OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

O 221944Z MAY 78

FM COLUMBIA (137-2845) (P)

TO DIRECTOR IMMEDIATE

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATION (HSCA), BUFILE 62-117190.

CO 80-C (FORMERLY CO 80-S) WAS CONTACTED THIS DATE BY MARK A. STEISER AND ROBERT A. WALKER, STAFF INVESTIGATORS FOR CAPTIONED COMMITTEE. THEY VISITED WITH CO 80 AT HIS RESIDENCE AND INTERVIEWED HIM IN DETAIL CONCERNING ANY KNOWLEDGE HE MIGHT HAVE OF THE REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING ASSASSINATION AS WELL AS KENNEDY ASSASSINATIONS. HE HAS BEEN SUBPOENAED FOR CLOSED HEARING JUNE 6, 1978, AT WASHINGTON D. C. AND WAS TOLD BY ABOVE INDIVIDUALS THAT HE WOULD BE ASKED ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS NOT PRESENTED TO HIM AT MEETING THIS DATE. CO 80 REQUESTED GUIDANCE FROM THE BUREAU AS TO WHETHER OR NOT HE SHOULD REVEAL TO COMMITTEE HIS CONFIDENTIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE BUREAU. THE BUREAU IS REQUESTED TO ADVISE IF CO 80 SHOULD MAKE AVAILABLE TO COMMITTEE HIS INFORMANT RELATIONSHIP.

BT

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DATE: 11-14-2017

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Mr. Bassett

5/9/78

D. Ryan

- 1 - Mr. Bassett
- 1 - Mr. Cregar
(Attn: Mr. Nolan)
(Attn: Mr. Kinsey)
- 1 - Mr. Mintz
(Attn: Mr. Coulson)
- 1 - Mr. Ryan
- 1 - Mr. Foster

LEE HARVEY OSWALD

PURPOSE: To furnish additional information relating to news reporter Kent Biffle's interest in captioned subject.

DETAILS: Kent Biffle's name was noted, among others, in personal papers belonging to Lee Harvey Oswald (Bufile 105-82555-2579). Biffle was interviewed by the FBI on 12/16/63 (Bufile 105-82555-1212). He advised that he was formerly employed by the Fort Worth (Texas) Press as a reporter in the latter part of 1959 and had been assigned to prepare articles on Oswald's defection. He mentioned no personal contacts with Oswald, but stated he utilized public source information on Oswald and had contact with Oswald's mother and brother for background information. He also stated that the resultant articles (three) contained "all the information which he actually knew about Oswald."

Recent review of information obtained from a very sensitive source in 1959 discloses that Biffle telephonically tried to contact Oswald in Russia. One call on 11/14/59 to Oswald at the Hotel Metropole in Moscow was "placed" by a "Mr. Biffle," although no conversation was recorded. Another call to the hotel by a "Ken Bissle" on 11/16/59 was cancelled because of a poor connection [New York file 65-14825-1-1677 and 1679]. The source of this information has not been utilized since 1970, has not been disclosed according to information in file (Bufile 105-17367) and remains sensitive having been characterized in 1970 as a source, the "disclosure of which would seriously affect the internal security of the United States." X

Since source information does not disclose the results of any contact between Biffle and Oswald while Oswald was at the Hotel Metropole in Moscow in 1959; since the FBI did interview Biffle concerning his interest in Oswald, which he explained; since the new details add nothing nor change what is known; and since further written dissemination of these new details might only serve to compromise a former source by the potential, resultant publicity, it is not felt that written dissemination of the new information is warranted at this time. X(u)

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DJC:mel (7)

CONTINUED - OVER

Classified by: SP8 BTG/ice
Declassify on: OADR 9/8/84
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CLASSIFIED BY: 6437
EXEMPT FROM GDS CATEGORY 2, 3
DATE OF DECLASSIFICATION INDEFINITE