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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM:	EXTENSION	NO.
DC/CI 2C43	9477	
	DATE	16 October 1978

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)	DATE RECEIVED	DATE FORWARDED	OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)
1. IG 6E 08	18 OCT 1978	19 OCT 1978		
2.				
3. D/I C		20 Oct		
4. ~~DSCA~~				
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16 October 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

FROM : Leonard McCoy
Deputy Chief, CI Staff

SUBJECT: Chronology of an Effort to Inspire Objective Review of the Nosenko Case

BACKGROUND

With the HSCA emphasis on the Nosenko case in its review of the Kennedy assassination, and the prospect of a more concentrated review of the Nosenko case by the House or Senate Committees, I feel that the time has come to record in the Nosenko file the effort which I made in 1965-67 to have the Nosenko case reviewed by a group of objective officers. This chronology has not been recorded before, but a general statement concerning this effort was incorporated in J. L. Hart's paper on the "Monster Plot".

CHRONOLOGY

1961-February 1964

By the time Nosenko defected and arrived in the U.S. in February 1964, my evaluation of him was already prejudiced by information which the case officer for Nosenko's 1962 contact had provided me informally. This information related to the bona fides of a Soviet agent called [redacted]CHITCHAT ([redacted]WIRELESS) whom Nosenko identified in June 1962 as a Soviet deception operation. When we met [redacted]CHITCHAT in London in August 1961 with the primary purpose of establishing his bona fides, the case officer and polygraph operator concluded that [redacted]CHITCHAT was bonafide; I took the position with them and with [redacted] and later directly to the DDP, that [redacted]CHITCHAT was not bonafide. Therefore, when KISEVALTER told me in mid-1963 that a new KGB agent source had identified [redacted]CHITCHAT as a deception operation I was predisposed to consider this new source to be bonafide. After his defection I learned that Nosenko had been this source.

Summer 1964

When Nosenko defected it became my task to formulate requirements to exploit him for positive intelligence and to draft reports to publish the information which he provided in

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response to those requirements. Most of the limited but significant information which he provided was published in two CS disseminations. After the publication of these reports, C/SR Murphy directed that no further reports would be disseminated, and instructed that the drafts be held until further notice. (It never came.)

As the Nosenko defection became public and known in the intelligence community, there was pressure for information from Nosenko and access to him, particularly from DIA. DDP Helms visited DIA Director Carroll to inform him that Nosenko's bona fides was in question and that therefore no further information from him would be published and he would not be made available to DIA for debriefing. In accordance with regulations concerning CIA priority in intelligence officer defector cases, the Inter-Agency Defector Committee was excluded from the Nosenko case.

November 1965

In November 1965 a series of reports from [redacted] was received from the FBI on various technical subjects. As the responsible officer for evaluating and disseminating [redacted] reports, I prepared evaluations for each of the reports which were drafted on the basis of this information. C/SR Murphy examined these evaluations and disputed each of them with me, arguing generally that all of the information was "give-away" and part of a KGB deception operation. He directed that I reevaluate the reports and correct the evaluations accordingly. Being still dissatisfied with the evaluations, he informed me that I needed to be educated about KGB deception operations and that to achieve this he directed that I read the notebooks on the Nosenko case.

Up to this point I was generally aware that Nosenko was judged by the Division to be a deception agent and that he was under interrogation to resolve his bona fides. Two notebooks of memoranda concerning Nosenko were delivered to me by C/SR/CI [redacted] These notebooks were each 3-4 inches thick and were comprised of mostly Top Secret memoranda signed by the DCI, DDCI, DDP, C/SR, DC/SR and C/SR/CI. After I had been reading these memoranda part-time for two days, C/SR/CI called to say that he needed the notebooks every day and had to have them back within two days. After I had the notebooks for four days he collected them from me.

Upon reading the first few memoranda and noting various contradictions, inconsistencies, and inaccuracies I resolved to note these down and comment on them. As the volume of

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these problems grew it became apparent that it would not be possible to simply state these orally to C/SR/CI but that they raised a fundamental question which affected the entire issue of Nosenko's bona fides. With this realization I decided to put as much information as possible together in the very short time available so that an alternative position on Nosenko's bona fides could be considered.

December 1965

Upon completion of this paper I asked C/SR/RR, Katharine Colvin, to review it and advise me as to whether it was sufficiently substantial to be presented to C/SR. She agreed that it was, and pointed out that it would probably cause some difficulties with the Division Chief, but that it should go forward. The memorandum was then typed by the SR/RR secretary and I delivered it to C/SR personally. (A true copy typed from the original draft is attached as Attachment A.)

C/SR had barely glanced at the Introduction to this memorandum when he became highly emotional, shouting and pounding on his desk. He said that he knew I felt very strongly about the Nosenko matter and that he would call DDCI Helms immediately and we would go together to settle the issue in his presence. I asked that he first read the memorandum. He asked who else had read it and I named C/SR/RR, DC/RR Ops Group Stolz, and DC/SR/RR Lubbehusen. He then asked that I collect all copies of the memorandum and bring them to his office immediately. (I did so, but some days later the secretary came in to say that she had as usual retained one copy for her files.)

The next day C/SR called C/SR/RR, DC/SR/RR and me to his office. He pointed out that my memorandum was an extremely serious matter and that it was not possible for us to have a valid position on the Nosenko case because we were not privy to a number of sensitive cases which he was not permitted to inform us about. He said that the memorandum should not be discussed with anyone, implying that if any of us violated this injunction, we would be fired. (C/SR/RR did a memorandum of conversation of this meeting.)

Two weeks later I was on Saturday duty in the SR Division front office and C/SR came in to argue the Nosenko case briefly. He pointed out that Nosenko's claimed access was equivalent to that of an OSI nuclear physicist who was simultaneously deputy chief of CI Staff and SR Division. I attempted to express disagreement with this characterization, but C/SR's manner and tone of voice did not permit anything like a sensible exchange of views on the topic.

Spring 1966

From personal contact with psychiatrist Dr. Bohrer and psychologist Gittinger in the winter or spring of 1966, I learned that they had independently arrived at the professional judgment that Nosenko was sociopathic, and therefore could not be reliably evaluated on the basis of substantive information analysis such as was used against him in the two notebooks. It seemed to me that these conclusions would now bring the case to a close, placing the bona fides evaluation in permanent suspended animation, leaving us with the job of sorting Nosenko's information for CI and PI use according to the degree to which it was substantiated by collateral reporting. When I heard that these two officers were scheduled to meet with C/SR to present their findings, I waited for the word to leak out that the Division had given up its case against Nosenko. To my surprise, I learned instead that when Bohrer and Gittinger met with C/SR, the latter advised them that if they insisted on their conclusion he would have to take the position that their support of an identified Soviet deception agent raised serious questions about their own bona fides!

At about this time friend Breitweiser returned from overseas to take the position of Special Assistant to ADDP Karamessines. I asked him to lunch and described to him what I knew to date of the Nosenko case, encouraging him to raise the matter with the ADDP, hopefully to result in objective review of the case.

April 1966

Being convinced that there had been no progress on the Nosenko case, I called DDCI Helms' secretary Dunlevy and asked her agreement for me to bring a matter to Helms' attention privately. I then took the surviving copy of the memorandum to the DDCI's office and left it with Mrs. Dunlevy for him. A day or two later he called to say that he had read it, that he was concerned about the Nosenko case, and he asked my permission to show it to John Gittinger, whom he intended to ask to look into the case! I of course agreed to his doing so. (Months later I received this document back, but the cover sheet was exactly as I had prepared it, with no mark to show that anyone had seen it.) Gittinger told me a few days later that Helms had called him in and given him my paper, asking him to review the case and return to him with some advice. Helms then called C/CI Angleton and told him that he was sending Gittinger down to Angleton to be briefed on all sensitive matters which were essential to understanding the Nosenko case. Gittinger then went to Angleton's

office for the briefing, but Angleton told him nothing, saying that Gittinger knew everything that was pertinent to the case.

December 1966

Having heard nothing encouraging about the Nosenko case, and becoming more and more pessimistic about the Soviet operations program, I prepared and personally typed another memorandum, summarizing the situation as it appeared to me, and delivered it to Mrs. Dunlevy for DCI Helms about the middle of December 1966. (This memorandum is attached as Attachment B.) Helms then asked me to come up and discuss the matter with him. In this meeting he stated that he appreciated the situation, encouraged my continued attention to the problem, and insisted that I stay in the job I had, coming straight to him if I ran into any trouble as a result of my dealings with him. By this time, C/SR had directed all SR/CI officers not to discuss the Nosenko case with me.

March/April 1967

Sometime during this period DCI called to ask that my Nosenko memorandum be brought up to him so he could give it to DDCI Taylor. He said that he had asked Taylor to take charge of the Nosenko case, and that Taylor was turning it over to Security Director Osborn for independent review.

In April I prepared and personally typed a paper with some proposals for disposition of the Nosenko case, called Taylor, and met with him on those proposals. Aside from a Keystone Cops episode of Support Chief White running in and out of the office, apparently trying to get a tape recorder to operate, I can recall only that Taylor asked how C/SR could have fooled so many people about Nosenko. I replied that C/SR was the supreme confidence man. (Memorandum attached as Attachment C.)

In early April 1967, as a result of a pro-Nosenko briefing I gave BOURBON (CKBEEP) case officer Flint, home on TDY, C/SR learned that I had been to see Taylor about Nosenko. After investigating within the Division to determine the sources of information I had told Flint, C/SR called me in to advise me that he knew of my meeting with DDCI Taylor. After asking if there was anything personal in my opposition to his Nosenko stand, C/SR made a plea for better cooperation and understanding between us. (A memorandum of this unpleasant incident is attached as Attachment D.)

June 1967

Having heard that I had been promoted, then discovering that I had not, I asked for a meeting with ADDP Karamessines. When we met I expressed concern about this strange turn of events. The ADDP said that he and the DDP were disturbed that I did not come to them with the Nosenko memorandum. He said that my going to the DDCI made them wonder what their jobs really were, and that he would not think of taking a matter straight to the Director even though he had known him for many years (which caused me to wonder if he knew of my visit to Helms). He said that he and the DDP were fully aware of C/SR's position on the Nosenko case and fully agreed with it. He then directed me to leave CI to those who were responsible for it and to concentrate on doing my own job. In addition, he said that my promotion would go through, and that I should inform C/SR of this decision. (It did, one pay period later than others promoted at the time.) Since I was on leave at the time, no memorandum of the conversation was written.

September 1967

Because of my concern that there might be unfortunate consequences as a result of management learning that I had circumvented the chain-of-command, I prepared and personally typed a chronology of events and took it to Taylor so that he would be informed enough to assure that his Nosenko review did not become complicated by an element of personal or organizational revenge. (Attachment E.)

Late 1967

It became apparent that the Nosenko review was under way and the Division case was coming apart.

Leonard McCoy

Attachments
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