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24 MAR 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Administration

FROM : Robert W. Gambino
Director of Security

SUBJECT : Morrow, Robert Dietz

1. This memorandum is for your information only.

2. Mr. Angus M. Thuermer, Assistant to the DCI, has advised that Mr. Fred Blumenthal of Parade magazine had telephonically contacted him and said that a Robert D. Morrow had written a book entitled Betrayed, which was due for publication in May 1976. Mr. Blumenthal advised that he is currently reviewing this book, and that it contains some critical comments concerning the Agency, e.g. the Agency was responsible for the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Mr. Blumenthal also stated that Mr. Morrow claims to have been a CIA contract man. Mr. Blumenthal desired to verify Mr. Morrow's claimed association with the Agency, and Mr. Thuermer requested that this Office review its files to ascertain whether Mr. Morrow was in fact associated with the Agency, and if so, what information could be passed to Mr. Blumenthal.

3. The Office of Security does have a file on Robert Dietz Morrow, born 20 January 1928 at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Mr. Morrow, as of June 1962, was President of Morrow Products, Inc., located in Baltimore, Maryland, and the Security Staff of the Office of Logistics was granted a Secret contract clearance for use by the Office of Communications on 10 September 1962. The Agency then entered into a contract with Morrow Products, Inc., to produce a prototype of an adapter to be used with a radio receiver which purportedly would greatly reduce interference. A model of the adapter was delivered to the Office of Communications in February 1963, but the device was found to be worthless and the contract was terminated.

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4. Subsequently, on 1 October 1963, the U. S. Secret Service arrested a Cuban exile leader, Mario Garcia Kohly, Sr., Mr. Morrow and his wife, Cecily, in connection with a plot to flood Cuba with \$50,000,000 in counterfeit pesos to depress the Castro economy. Mr. Kohly was the leader of this scheme, while Mr. Morrow and his wife were charged with making the plates for the counterfeit bills. Mr. Morrow, when interrogated by the U. S. Secret Service, advised that Mr. Kohly supplied him with a counterfeit 20 pesos bill which Mr. Kohly said was offered for sale to him from agents of the CIA in Miami. Mr. Morrow also stated that he had become associated with a "certain agent" after building a device which he demonstrated to this agency. The Secret Service was advised in 1963 that the Agency did not have any interest in Mr. Kohly.

5. There is no information in this file verifying Mr. Kohly's allegation that he had obtained the counterfeit bill from agents of the CIA.

6. Mr. Thuermer has been advised that he may tell Mr. Blumenthal that the Agency entered into a contract with Morrow Products, Inc., in September 1962 whereby Mr. Morrow was to develop a piece of equipment, but that the contract was terminated in April 1963 after the prototype of the equipment had been tested and found to be unsatisfactory.


Robert W. Gambino

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