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DB MEMO #6385
3 January 1964

The letter was received at the American Post Office, which is located in the central city terminal in Stockholm. All mail deposited in Sweden must leave in this area of the Post Office.

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, WE/2 through WE/2 Station.

ATTENTION: Mr. [redacted] The envelope is identified in all respects.

SUBJECT: Technical Analysis of Letter and Envelope -
DB CASE #4361

REFERENCE: WE/2 Memo dated 13 December 1963

A possible irregularity in the time lag between the internal letter and the letter, the date of the postmark and the date of receipt.

1. In response to referenced request, an original typewritten letter and envelope addressed to the American Embassy, Stockholm, were examined in order to determine the origin of the letter and the nationality of the writer.

2. The following conclusions were drawn concerning the letter and envelope:

a. The typewriter in question is equipped with an obsolete style of German-made type which, according to our references, was fitted on a number of typewriters made in Germany during the 1920s and early 1930s. The possible makes would be Stoewer, Torpedo, Mercedes, Rheinmetall, Urania, Orga, Fortuna, Continental, Kappel, Groma, Triumph, Merz and possibly some others. Of these makes, the Torpedo, Mercedes, Rheinmetall and Triumph were probably the most widely distributed.

b. The machine in question is equipped with a black and red ribbon. The keyboard is very probably Swedish, as shown by two strike-overs: umlaut-a for hyphen and "z" for "a". These characters are adjacent on the standard Swedish keyboard, but not on the German. The umlaut-a was not used in the street address, "Strandvagen" (where the dots should have been placed over the second "a"). This might be either a simple oversight or an attempt to conceal the writer's familiarity with the correct spelling.

c. The paper of the letter is of the international standard (DIN) size "A4" which is almost universally used in Sweden. The linen-textured stationery seems to be rather common in Sweden. The two smaller pieces of blank paper match the letter paper with respect to width, thickness, color, texture and look-through, and were probably cut from another sheet of the same type. The envelope matches specimens of Swedish envelopes taken from DB/S-Postal Intelligence files.

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d. The letter was posted from the Stockholm Ban post office, which is located in the central railway terminal in Stockholm. All mail deposited in street mail boxes in this area or in the post office would be processed through this station.

e. The cancellation cachet on the envelope is identical in all respects (format, postmark, number style and length of killer bars) to exemplars available in our office.

f. The postage is correct for Swedish internal mail and the postage stamp is of current issue.

g. A possible irregularity is the time lag between the internal date of the letter, the date of the postmark and the date of receipt in the American Embassy. The total time from the internal date of the letter to the time of receipt is eight days, the time between the date of posting and the date of receipt is more than three days. This transit time of more than three days for intra-city mail appears irregular when compared with the average transit time of only two-three days for arrival between Stockholm and the United States.

3. The text of the letter warrants some comments because a number of peculiarities were noted - aside from pure spelling or typing errors - which seem to indicate a Swedish writer. The following words represent either Swedish spelling or modification: "reserv", "established", "murded", "Krustjev". Other examples of Swedish grammar and syntax would be: "must" (as past tense), "in Soviet" (Swedish form but not spelling), "he was spy" (without indefinite article), "FBI, USA" (without definite article), "should" (rather than "would"), "outsungled" (Swedish past participle form), and "whole the world" (pure Swedish form).

4. Another significant detail is the name given, "Ryo Liang Yuan". "Ryo" is not a standard spelling in any known Romanization system used for Chinese. "R" is seen in the new Chinese Communist national system, but never in combination with "yo". "Ryo" is a Japanese spelling. In the name given it is not known whether the Chinese or Western presentation is used, in other words, whether "Ryo" or "Yuan" is meant to be the surname. Among Chinese syllables which could be represented by the Japanese "Ryo" are Liao, Liang and Lang. Of these Lang (TC:7893) and Liang (TC:2733) are used as surnames. In either case, "Ryo" is hardly a name by which a real Chinese would identify himself.

5. In summary, and based on the above information, it is concluded that the letter was transmitted via normal Swedish postal channels. The letter is probably a "crank letter", most likely written by a Swede, using a Swedish-keyboard typewriter and Swedish stationery.

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6. For further information concerning the typewriter and paper analyses, and the Swedish style of language usage, contact Mr. Jan Beck on x2009. For further information on the spelling of the ostensible writer's name, you may contact Mr. Gerald Worth on x2608. For further information regarding the Postal aspects of this case, please contact Mr. Robert H. Banks on x2303.

7. The original letter and envelope are being returned herewith.

ALBIN R. TRECIOKAS
Chief, TSD/DB

Attachment: (1)
As stated

Distribution:
Orig & 1 - Addressee

1 - TSD/GARB/A&R
1 - TSD/DB/3
1 - DB files
1 - PI chrono
1 - Case 4361
TSD/DB/5-PI/RHBanks/x2303/ery

SECRET