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Nilett Allegation

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The HSCA investigated the allegation of former CIA employee James Nilett who claimed that shortly after the assassination of President Kennedy, Nilett was advised by fellow employees at the CIA's [Tokyo Station] that Lee Harvey Oswald was a CIA agent who had received financial disbursements under an assigned cryptonym. (13)

James Nilett first advised the HSCA of this allegation during an interview on January 28, 1978 which he later confirmed in Executive Session testimony before the committee. (HSCA Staff Interview of James Nilett, 1/28/78, p. 11; HSCA Executive Session Testimony of James Nilett, 3/27/78, p. 16; HSCA Executive Session Testimony of James Nilett, 3/27/78, p. 17.)

Nilett explained that he had been employed by the CIA as a finance officer from 1957 through 1966 until his resignation from the agency in 1966. (HSCA Staff Interview of James Nilett, 1/28/78, p. 11; HSCA Executive Session Testimony of James Nilett, 3/27/78, p. 17.)

He served as a fiscal account assistant on the Support Staff at the [Tokyo Station] from June of 1960 to June 1964. (Ibid., p. 5; Classified Staff Summary of Review of CIA personnel, p. 111, 6303, 4, N, sp.).

Nilett advised that, in addition to his regular responsibilities there, he had

served security duty on the off-shores in order to supplement his income. (Staff Interview of James Nilett, 1/28/78, p. 11; JFK Doc. # 6446; HSCA Executive Session Testimony of James Nilett, 3/27/78, p. 25-29.)

This additional job put him in contact with other employees of the [Tokyo Station]

who would come by the office and engage in informal conversations regarding national and international affairs. (HSCA Staff Interview of James Nilett, 1/28/78, p. 5; JFK Doc. # 6446; 1)

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Wilcott told the HSCA that on the day after President Kennedy's assassination, he was informed by a CIA case officer that Lee Harvey Oswald was a CIA agent. (Exhibit 3, 1968 Testimony of Wilcott, 1/28/75, p. 6-8.) Wilcott further advised that he was informed that Oswald had been assigned a cryptonym and that Wilcott himself had disbursed payments for Oswald's project using that cryptonym. (Ibid., p. 11-13.)

Although Wilcott was unable to identify the specific case officers who had initially informed him of Oswald's Agency relationship, he named several employees of the [Tokyo] Station whom he believed he had subsequently dismissed the allegations. (Ibid., p. 8-10.)

Wilcott advised the committee during his interview that after learning of the alleged Oswald connection to the CIA, he had never checked the [Tokyo] Station] disbursement records for evidence of the Oswald project. (Interview of James Wilcott, 1/28/75, p. 44, T-144-644-16.)

[* Add Insert on next page]

He explained that this was because, at that point in time, he viewed the information as mere shop talk and gave it little credence. (Interview of James Wilcott, 1/28/75, p. 44, T-144-644-16.)

Neither did he report the allegations to any formal investigative bodies following the assassination as he considered the information to be hearsay.

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[Note: Kilcullen stated ^{in Executive} ~~during~~ Session testimony that while he may have casually reviewed his personal advance book to see if any money had been distributed to Oswald, he never checked the Agency's official cash disbursement records. [HSCA Executive Session Testimony of James Kilcullen, 3/23/75, pp. 13-19.]

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which would not serve to further any investigative purposes. Ibid.

In an attempt to ascertain the truth regarding Sileotta's allegations concerning Lee Harvey Oswald's relationship with the CIA, the HSCA interviewed several present and former CIA employees who were selected on the basis of the position each held with the CIA during the years 1954-1964.

Among those persons interviewed were individuals whose responsibilities covered a broad spectrum of areas within the [Tokyo Station] during this period, including the Chief and Deputy Chief of Station as well as officers in finance, registry, the Soviet Branch and Counterintelligence. (HSCA Staff Summary of Interviews of CIA Employees, p. III-0717-0718, H. Leo.)

The interviews were designed to elicit information regarding the following areas of concern: 1) Did the person ever see any written documentation which indicated that Lee Harvey Oswald was an intelligence agent or a source of information utilized by the CIA? ; 2) Has the person ever advised that Oswald fit either of these categories? ; 3) Did the person ever overhear or participate

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in any conversation in which allegations were made that Lee Harvey Oswald was a CIA agent or an intelligence source for any government service? 4) Has the person in a position in which he or she would have known if Oswald had been recruited as a CIA ^{agent} during his military tour of duty in Japan? 5) What was the person's initial awareness of the allegation that Oswald may have been a CIA agent? 6) Did the person know the ^{James Wilett while stationed} ~~the~~ ^{Wilett} person in [Japan]?

(Ibid., p. 1110715-0719).

In summary, the results of the interviews were as follows. During the course of employment in the [Tokyo Station] ¹³ none of the individuals questioned had ever seen any documents or heard any information indicating that Lee Harvey Oswald was a CIA agent. This allegation was not known to anyone until the time of publication of Warren Commission critical literature or until the Garrison investigation in the late 1960's. Some of the individuals, including the chief of counterintelligence within the Soviet Russia Branch in [Tokyo],

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expressed the belief that it was possible that Lee Harvey Oswald had been recruited by the KGB during his military tour of duty in Japan as the CIA's

[¹³ Tokyo Station] had identified a KGB program aimed at recruiting U.S. military personnel in Tokyo during ^{the} period ^{that Oswald} of whom was stationed there. (Ibid.)

An intelligence analyst whom Wilcott had specifically named as having been involved in conversation regarding the Oswald-CIA agent allegation

following the assassination told the HSCA that he was not in [Tokyo] ¹³

[Station] following the JFK assassination. A review of this individual's [13] office of Personnel file indicates that he was, in fact, transferred from [The Tokyo Station] to the United States in 1962. (HSCA Staff Summary of CIA File Review, p. 11110719, Harlde Leap).

Almost all those persons interviewed who worked in the Soviet Russia Branch stated that they would have known if Lee Harvey Oswald had, in fact, been recruited as a CIA agent when he was in Japan, as they were in positions either to have handled him or at least to have had knowledge

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of the recruitment. (HSCA Staff Summary of Testimonies of CIA Employees, CIA P. 11110717, H. Long).

These persons expressed the opinion that had Oswald been recruited without their knowledge, it would have been a rare exception contrary

to the working policy and guidelines of [the San Diego Station] (I bid.) (3)

Addendum - ^{Appendix} 1/23/78 - Wolf indicates that Chief of Station ⁽¹⁹⁶¹⁻⁶⁴⁾ was indicated that he definitely would have known had LHO been an agent. - Goldsmith 3/13/78.

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