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Interview with Walter P. Hattigan

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Date: June 13, 1978

Interviewed by: Mickey Holdenwith and Betty Wolf

A copy of the ~~original~~ ^{memo} was given to Mr. Hattigan who read it and indicated that he understood the contents.

Mr. Hattigan was given a copy of CIA # 435-173-A which consists of a cover letter dated 12/12/63 from Robert H. Hampell to the Chiefs of SR and WE and to the Chief of Station in Paris forwarding a memo dated 11/25/63 which was written by Thomas B. Casasia to Walter P. Hattigan concerning Casasia's prior interest in Lee Harvey Oswald. This document served as the basis for our questioning.

Hattigan stated that in 1963 he served as Chief of the Soviet Section of the Paris station under diplomatic cover. He explained that Casasia was also an officer in the Paris station but he served under ~~another cover~~ and worked out of his home using cut-outs to make contact with others in the Paris station. Due to the nature of this arrangement, Casasia frequently wrote informal memos such as the one in #435-173-A which were then passed along to the station. These memos would then be forwarded to Headquarters, generally by Hattigan. In this particular instance, Hampell, who served under Hattigan, forwarded the letter to Headquarters because Hattigan was in the hospital at the time.

Hattigan explained the following portions of Casasia's memo:

- "REDWOOD" represents the Soviet Division.
- The "6 Branch" was the Operational Support and Research Branch for the Soviet Division. Its main function was the collection of

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information. Casarin was chief of the 6 Branch until his transfer to Paris.

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- KUTUMP was the cryptonym for the Office of Operations which is currently known as the OEO. If the CIA wished to contact a returning defector, it would have made contact through this office. However, Haltigan stated that it probably was not standard operating procedure to interview returning defectors due to a variety of factors such as a lack of proper follow-up measures or the fact that these cases would have fallen into the jurisdiction of the FBI.

- ODACID was the cryptonym for the State Department. Haltigan explained that it was not unusual that Casarin would have seen a State Department despatch on Oswald as it would have been routine to receive most of State Department memos.

- Casarin's recollection of having discussed the Oswald case "in Summer 1960" as stated in the memo, must have been a mistake. Instead, he probably should have ^{meant the summer} ~~been~~ of 1962.

- BI refers to biographic information.

- ~~DOVER~~ was a cryptonym for a cover which was probably a business firm. KUOOVE was the cryptonym for the DDP. Haltigan explained ^{in paragraph 3} that Casarin ^{did not mean} ~~referred~~ that he was phasing out of the DDP altogether. Instead, his reference to phasing out of the DDP referred only to his Headquarters assignment within DDP.

- ~~WAVE~~ was the legal Traveller program, whereby they (the DDP) gave ^{to persons} certain travelling to Soviet bloc countries ~~the~~ ^{the} requirements which they reported back to the Agency ^{upon} their return.

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Hattigan recalled that he arrived in Paris for the agreement in June, 1962 and that Lammie possibly arrived there in September of the same year. Hattigan stated that he had never heard any reference to the effect that Oswald had been used by the CIA at any time. He felt that because of the arrangements with the Agency, he would have been in a position to learn if Oswald had been used in any capacity. He mentioned that he had been in Japan from 1951-1955 and that Lammie was there from

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the point. In this, you did not mention the spelling in Lammie's name. The report to the reference. He would like to see an explanation of the word meaning a typographical error, the appearance of the word and other references to Oswald which make it unlikely that they "instead. When it was printed out that the sentence contained was a typographical error which should have been the "Oswald in the last line of the memo. He just stated that it would have - Hattigan was surprised as to the reference to the "Hawley story" to leave during that time period.

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have the Soviet Union as not many Soviet units were permitted stated that it was unusual for names Oswald to be referred to the couple was eventually divorced as the memo refers. Hattigan months later. Hattigan did not believe this to be a case where in the summer of 1962 and the wife was permitted to join him with an activist guide whom he married. He came out of the USSR

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the West travelled primarily in the USSR when he left in 1962. The USSR picked up a couple for

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1955 to 1958 or 1959.

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From 1/58 until 1/74 Hattigan worked in SR/9 which was ~~Special Operations Section~~ ~~Special Operations Section~~. SR/9 was composed of 6 persons at this time. He explained that SR/10 was responsible for the Legal Travellers program which utilized U.S. citizens and that SR/2, 3, 4 & 5 ~~were~~ ^{were} responsible for running foreigners in that program. Since Hattigan was generally apprised ^{by SR/10} of those persons who were travelling to the USSR under the program, he expressed the belief that it was almost impossible for them not to have known if Oswald had had some involvement with the Agency in this capacity.

Hattigan advised that SR/9 was responsible for maintaining its own records which they kept in the same manner as DDO files. If someone needed to know if a particular person was being used, they would be able to check it through the files. However, Agency association would not be directly reflected in a 201 file. Instead, there would be a paper in the file ~~referring~~ ^{referring} to another file in which operational information would be stored. Hattigan explained that a 201 file documents the person but not what the person is doing. A 201 file ~~would~~ ^{might} contain a PRQ, Part I which is entirely biographical information, a security check and newspaper clipping concerning the individual. A case file, on the other hand, reflects the operational information. A case file ~~would~~ ^{would} have a two part number, such as ~~74-6~~ 6, where the first number reflects the country or area of interest and the second number refers to the specific operator. In regard to the accessibility of case files, Hattigan stated that the area of primary interest is reflected on a 201 file opening sheet and that ~~SR/9~~ ^{SR/9} go to that branch to seek operational information.

When asked about the significance of CI/SEC opening Oswald's 201

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file, Hattigan ~~is not~~ ^{is not} really say as he does not know what CI/STG was doing at the time.

Hattigan was asked ~~whether it was possible~~ ^{whether it was possible} to purge an individual's file of any operational information by removing any ^{such} reference cards in the 201 file and then removing the pertinent information from the case file. Hattigan stated that he does not know of this type of thing occurring in his experience. He stated that file maintenance was essential for the protection of the operation and stressed that SR/9 in particular was meticulous in its file maintenance.

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