

Harold West

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Contact Report

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Persuant to critic publications and specific ~~statements~~ ^{allegations} by former CIA employee James Wilcott that LHO was a CIA agent, Staff Investigator Harold West interviewed the following CIA personnel to determine if there ~~was~~ ^{is} ~~collaboration~~ ^{any} for ~~the~~ Wilcott statements ~~based on personal knowledge~~ relating to the Oswald ^{agent} issue.

1. Robert P Wheeler, DOB 4 Oct 15, SSN 258-12-0844, 6600 Melwood Rd, Bethesda, Maryland, telephone no. 229-6368. Position with CIA, was ²⁷ Deputy Chief of Station, Tokyo, ¹³ Japan, June 59 to ~~Oct~~ 64. Interviewed at CIA Hdqrs 4-13-78. Subject is retired.

Jun 60

2. Leo Rosenbaum, DOB 2 Dec 23, SSN 122-14-2221, 1815 Opalocka Dr., McLean, VA, telephone no. 356-5283. Position with CIA for the period ~~May 59 to Aug 64~~ was chief of Counter Intelligence, SR Branch, ¹³ Tokyo, Japan. Interviewed CIA Hdqrs 4-10-78. Subject is retired.

Jun 61 to Jun 63

3. Hope Irene ³ Mason, DOB 24 May 33, SSN [redacted]. Subject presently employed at CIA Hdqrs and has cover. ³ [Mason] position with the CIA in 1963 at ¹³ Tokyo, Japan was Intelligence assistant for the SE Section. Interviewed at CIA Hdqrs on 4-7-78.

was above

4. Frederick C. Randall, DOB 28 Oct 26, SSN 508-20-4068, Presently employed at CIA Hdqrs and has cover. Randall position with the CIA in Sept 61 to Aug 65 was Chief of Registry at the ¹³ Tokyo Station. Interviewed at CIA Hdqrs on _____

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5. James S Wood, DOB 20 Feb 28, SSN _____
presently employed at CIA Hq. Wood's
position from Apr 64 to ~~Jan 66~~ at Tokyo¹³
station as finance officer. Subject
interviewed at CIA Hq on 3-31-78.

6. ^{James} George von Bruegel, DOB 12 Dec 21
SSN 074-18-5912, 14801 Springfield Rd
Germantown Md, telephone 948-6908. Former
CIA case officer, [Tokyo¹³ Japan] to SRB
from July 63 to July 67. presently retired,
interviewed 4-10-78. ~~interviewed 4-11-78~~

7. Howard M. Orr, DOB 22 Jul 22,
SSN 275 12 4377, address 8405 Weller Ave,
McLean Va, telephone 893-3325, presently
retired. Positions with CIA, HDQS 59-61 (SR Div)
[Tokyo¹³ Aug] 61-63 (case officer SB.), Nov 63 HDQS, SR
Div, desk officer for Japan. interviewed 4-11-78

8. George A Fiel, DOB 29 May 21 SSN _____
address 27 Bay Tree, North Myrtle
Beach, South Carolina 29582, telephone
903-249-3193. Presently retired.
Fiel was Chief of the Soviet Branch at
the [Tokyo¹³ station] from June 1960 to June 1965
interviewed 4-29-78

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9. Robert N. Keith, DOB 11 Aug 27, SSN 257-78-6051, address 2011 Glenway Dr. Sanford, Fla. 32771, telephone - 305-323-7434 former ^{CIA} case officer at [Tokyo¹³ Station], SR Branch Jan 59 - 6 Oct 63, interviewed 4-30-78
10. Jerome E. Fox, DOB 9 Oct 28, SSN 102-22-918 address 3663 NW 21st, Miami, Fla. telephone 305-634-2997, former CIA intelligence analysis at [Tokyo¹³ station] from Jul 1959 to Dec 1962, worked in program involving military intelligence. interviewed 5-1-78
11. William V. Broe, DOB 24 Aug 18, SSN 032 01 8164 address 111 Indian Trails, Scituate, Mass telephone 617-545-6113. former ~~CO~~ CIA [COS²⁷ Tokyo¹³, Japan] from 1961 to 1965 interviewed 5-15-78
12. William Crawford, DOB 19 Sept 24, SSN 429-26-4954 address 4944 Cass St, Apt 806 San Diego, Ca. 92109 telephone 714-273-2770 former CIA executive officer at Atsugi air base in charge of the U-2 program. (Details of interview conducted 5-14-78 submitted in separate report)

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CIA employees

The above ~~individuals~~ were selected for interview because of the position they held ~~at the time~~ with the CIA at [the Tokyo^B station] ~~and the time period~~ during the time period frame of 1959 to 1964.

James Wilcott ~~made~~ gave testimony in a closed hearing before the SCA that a CIA case officer ~~told him~~ stationed in [Tokyo^B, Japan] told him that LHO was a CIA agent and ~~also~~ also mentioned LHO's crypto ~~system~~. The ~~conversation~~ ~~that~~ took place in the [Tokyo^B station] shortly after the word of the JFK assassination was received on 23 Nov 63. Wilcott ~~also~~ stated that could not recall the name of the case officer or the crypto ~~system~~. Wilcott also advised that considerable conversation

[in Tokyo^B] ~~at the time~~ took place among CIA employees concerning the Oswald-CIA agent issue.

The basic questions asked of the CIA employee selected were as follows

- (a) Have you ever seen written documents which would indicate that LHO was a ^{intelligence} CIA agent or a source of information?
- (b) ~~Have~~ ^{Were} you ever ~~heard~~ advised orally that LHO was an agent?
- (c) Have you ever heard conversation or heard ^{conversational} speculation that LHO was a CIA agent or intelligence source for any government ^{Service} ~~agent~~?
- (d) Were you in a position to know if LHO was recruited as an ^{CIA} agent during his tour of duty with the military in Japan.

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(e) When was the first time you ever heard the allegation that LHO ~~was possibly~~ ^{may have been} a CIA agent.

(f) Did you know James & Elsie Wickott [in Japan]?

~~Some~~ ^{all} of the ~~other~~ individuals interviewed stated they never saw any documents nor heard any information that LHO¹³ was a CIA agent while stationed in [Tokyo]. Only after ~~this departure~~ the critic publication and the Garrison investigation in the late 60s were they ~~so~~ ~~was~~ aware of the ~~published~~ allegation.

Subjects 2, 7 & 8 expressed belief that LHO ~~could~~ ^{may} have been recruited by the KGB during his tour of duty in Japan. They based their belief on the fact that during the period of time that LHO was in Japan, [the CIA¹³ station in Tokyo] had identified a KGB program specifically ~~described~~ ^{designed} designed to recruit U.S. military personnel in Tokyo. However they had no information that the recruitment of LHO by the KGB did in fact take place.

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Subject Jerome E. Fox was ~~specifically~~ one person who Wilcot could remember ~~that~~ ^{with who} he had conversation ~~with~~ concerning the speculation that LHO was an agent for the CIA. The conversation supposedly took place [in Japan] after the information ^{was received} that LHO was the assassin of JFK. Fox advised investigator Leap that he was in the U.S. at the time of assassination on 23 Nov 63. Fox's CIA personnel reflects he was transferred from [the Tokyo¹³ station] to the U.S. in 1962.

Subjects 2, 7, 8, 9 and 11 all thought they would have known if LHO had been ~~re~~ recruited as a CIA agent while he was in Japan. All the subjects worked within the SR Branch of the [Tokyo station¹³] and theoretically ~~would have~~ one of them would have handled or had knowledge of the recruitment. All thought if Oswald had been recruited without their knowledge it would have been a rare exception to the working policy and guidelines [of the station¹³].

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