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Vol. 1

Unauthorized Disclosure Subject  
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The United States Senate

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Colby  
4 of 5

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Report of Proceedings

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Hearing held before

Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations  
with Respect to Intelligence Activities

- Record Number 157-10011-10024 -

COMMITTEE HEARING

SSCI Box 239, Folder 14

Wednesday, May 21, 1975

Washington, D. C.

(Stenotype Tape and Waste turned over  
to the Committee for destruction)

WARD & PAUL

410 FIRST STREET, S. E.  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20003

(202) 544-6000

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1 the first man contacted by Mr. Maheu, worked through a  
2 Cuban exile leader. And he offered -- and he said that he  
3 could do something of this nature provided he got some funds  
4 and the assistance. And he was supported in this regard.  
5 And I think again we have some doubts as to the accuracy of  
6 his reporting.

7 Mr. Schwarz. In November 1961 did Mr. Bissell instruct  
8 a William Harvey to take charge of the gambling syndicate  
9 operation designed to kill Fidel Castro? Page 3 of Mr. Greer's  
10 report, which is at the beginning of your report.

11 Mr. Colby. I believe so, yes.

12 Yes. That is what our evidence says, the summary  
13 says, "of the evidence available". And this is the evidence  
14 available in 1963. And there have been some minor changes in  
15 some of the details of this summary, very minor changes.  
16 But the essence of this report is still roughly accurate, I  
17 believe.

18 Mr. Schwarz. Mr. Harvey -- was Mr. Harvey the man that  
19 had hired an agent in order to kill Lumumba?

20 Mr. Colby. Mr. Harvey was the head of Staff D, Staff D  
21 of the Operations directorate ~~was responsible for communica-~~  
22 ~~tions intelligence work on the secret level.~~ A substantial  
23 ~~portion of this staff's work involves attempts to penetrate~~  
24 ~~embassies, particularly abroad -- or totally abroad, I don't~~  
25 ~~think they have ever done one here, in order to get at their~~

1(B)

1(B)

1 codes and ciphers, and in the process, you obviously work up  
2 some people who are able to do this kind of work, which is  
3 quite different from the normal life style of most of us.

4 Mr. Harvey had been a very venturesome officer in the  
5 past. He was responsible for the Berlin tunnel. And he was  
6 sent down to take this job. And he assumed as part of it the  
7 capability of -- he was given by Mr. Bissel this chore of  
8 carrying on this particular operation as well.

9 Mr. Schwarz. Had he been the person who had, in  
10 connection with the abortive effort to kill Mr. Lumumba,  
11 hired an agent for that purpose?

12 Mr. Colby. I have forgotten whether he hired him. He 1(B)  
13 hired a foreigner. And this foreigner's job -- our records  
14 indicate that this foreigner's job was tied up with the pene-  
15 tration of code rooms and the safe cracking and things of this  
16 nature for that purpose. And there are some very obscure  
17 references that an additional assignment was to look into the  
18 possible assassination of Mr. Lumumba. The evidence is  
19 that he went down to what is now Kinshasa, Elizabethville in  
20 1960, stayed there a few weeks, and left in October, I  
21 believe. And then Mr. Lumumba was killed thereafter in a totally  
22 separate set of circumstances in which we had nothing to do.  
23 There is some indication that a CIA officer who was asked  
24 to have something to do with this particular job said he did  
25 not want to do it.

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1 was not advised of the assassination activities. Quite likely  
2 I cannot say that for sure, but I know the compartmentation  
3 system was such.

4 Chairman Church. What was the name of the CIA agent who  
5 was given the responsibility for liaison between the CIA and  
6 the Warren Commission?

7 Mr. Colby. To my knowledge it is Mr. Raymond Rocca.

8 Chairman Church. Where is it now?

9 Mr. Colby. He retired at the end of December of last year.  
10 He remained working for us for a few months. I think he is  
11 retired. I think he is retired. I believe he is still in  
12 the Washington area.

13 Mr. Knoche. Yes, he is still working with us.

14 Mr. Colby. Still working with us to help on the transi-  
15 tion of the whole counter intelligence program.

16 Chairman Church. Why did he retire?

17 Mr. Colby. That was the Angleton case, Mr. Chairman, and  
18 the facts of that case were that I had had some professional  
19 differences in the organization with Mr. Angleton as to the  
20 way the counterintelligence business was run ~~and the way the~~ 1(b)  
21 ~~Israeli account was handled~~. I believed that it required a  
22 higher degree of coordination of the other elements of the  
23 Directorate and of the Agency. We had debated this on various  
24 occasions in the past. I did reorganize that staff in 1973 and  
25 took a number of functions away from it. The liaison with the

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1 FBI for instance, and a couple of other things. I gradually  
2 endeavored to open up the Israeli account to a better relation-  
3 ship with our other Near Eastern activities. We debated this  
4 over many months and on several occasions. We could never  
5 really agree to it because he insisted on the importance of  
6 retaining it where it was. 1(b)

7 Mr. Angleton had done a very good job of establishing that  
8 liaison years ago and knew a lot of the senior Israeli who  
9 were involved in it.

10 I believed there was inadequate coordination in the Arab  
11 areas. 1(b)

12 Also, I believed that there was a undue degree of compart-  
13 mentation of that staff, that it needed more interchange with  
14 our other divisions. We debated this and discussed it and I  
15 set as my time limit for this discussion the end of December  
16 because there were some very substantial retirement benefits  
17 that people would loose if they stayed after that point. Then  
18 unfortunately the Seymour Hirsh article of December 22nd came  
19 to our attention before it was actually published, and so I  
20 brought Mr. Angleton up and said that I was going to make two  
21 basic decisions. I was going to move the Israeli account from  
22 his control and I was going to put some sucessor leadership 1(b)  
23 into the Head of the Counterintelligence Staff. I said I would  
24 offer him a post of tying together some counterintelligence  
25 doctrine, he could stay working with us. He did not have to

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1 Chinese Communists subsequently blamed the Chinese Nationalists  
2 and the US for sabotaging the aircraft. The aircraft employee  
3 had fled to Taiwan. We had nothing to do with that incident  
4 and frankly heard about it after it occurred.

5 In the fall of 1956, a senior Chinese Nationalist official  
6 informed an officer of CIA that a Chinese National planned to  
7 assassinate Chou En Lai during his visit to Cambodia in  
8 November '56 and had been thwarted by the Cambodian arrest of  
9 the Chinese Nationalist officer sent to Phnom Penh to supervise  
10 the attempt. We learned of this after it had happened and we  
11 had nothing to do with it.

12 ~~We had a relationship with the Chinese Nationalists~~  
13 ~~Intelligence Service over the years and they clearly have done~~  
14 ~~things without our knowledge or involvement, and in a number~~  
15 ~~of areas, but we have also worked together on some areas.~~ 11/8/71

16 These are two that were separate.

17 Also I was asked to look at the photographs of Howard Hunt  
18 and Sturgis that appeared in Newsweek some years ago. We  
19 obtained this photograph from the FBI last night about 5 o'clock.  
20 We had not had it before. We had a copy of the Newsweek  
21 edition..

22 These are photographs of Howard Hunt in 1949, 1950 and  
23 1961. This is the only photograph we have of Mr. Sturgis.  
24 It is taken out of the Newsweek.

25 We have had no connection with Mr. Sturgis and so we have

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1 individuals in it.

2 Senator Schweiker. Did you get the other photograph, the  
3 supposed Oswald photograph leaving the Embassy?

4 Mr. Colby. I don't have that with me. It is in the  
5 Warren Commission published report. It is in there.

6 Senator Schweiker. It is in there?

7 Mr. Colby. Yes. It was cropped slightly in order to  
8 conceal where it was taken but it was --

9 Senator Schweiker. It is in the Warren Commission?

10 Mr. Colby. Yes, it is in the Warren Commission.

11 Just one additional matter.

12 Chairman Church. Just one thing I would like to say to  
13 you, Mr. Colby, before I forget it. ~~You have made reference~~  
14 ~~to the Israeli account and the special way that it had been~~  
15 ~~handled under Mr. Angleton. Before we finish our review with~~  
16 ~~you of covert operations we would like to have a more detailed~~  
17 ~~statement of that matter.~~ 1(4)

18 Mr. Colby. Right.

19 Chairman Church. And I think you should prepare to  
20 discuss it with us and we will have further questions to ask  
21 you in connection with it.

22 I just wanted to give you notice.

23 Mr. Colby. Right. In our lexicon it doesn't count as a  
24 covert action but that is all right, no problem, I will cover  
25 it.

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12 1 them.

2 Mr. Harvey was given the responsibility of this by Mr.  
3 Bissel and originally it continued as a separate action from  
4 the Castro operation, but Mr. Harvey was also given that  
5 responsibility, and for all intents and purposes they became  
6 wedded.

7 Mr. Helms was the person who formally approved ZR Rifle  
8 as a project. ZR Rifle had a dual purpose that has not been  
9 clarified by our inquiry. It apparently was in fact used for  
10 the stated purposes, as far as organizational activities went  
11 along, ~~which was to steal codes~~, and Mr. Helms, when he  
12 approved the project, authorized accounting on certification,  
13 which meant that rather than the usual vouchers supporting  
14 expenditures, that the officer involved would simply certify  
15 that the money had been spent and this would be accepted.  
16 It had a project amount of some dollars, \$7500 - \$10,000 --  
17 some of it to include the salary of an agent, some to include  
18 operating expenses.

19 So Mr. Helms' main appearance in the approval of ZR Rifle  
20 does not necessarily equate with the date when he became  
21 familiar with the Castro operation.

22 Mr. Schwarz. Because of the dual purpose of Rifle, Rifle  
23 means both, rifle files and used rifles?

24 Mr. Breckinridge. It may mean either or both.

25 Mr. Colby. It is supposed to disassociate but sometimes

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1 Mr. Schwarz. November 1961?

2 Mr. Breckinridge. I think that is probably correct. It  
3 was in the fall of 1961 that Mr. Harvey was given this assignment  
4 by Mr. Bissel. I think Mr. Bissel left in 1962. I am not sure  
5 of the dates, So Mr. Bissel would have known at that time.  
6 But I am not sure after that.

7 Chairman Church. Helms succeeded Mr. Bissel as chief  
8 of operations?

9 Mr. Colby. Deputy Director of Plans.

10 Chairman Church. Deputy Director for Plans.

11 Your record shows that Helms had knowledge of the ZR Rifle  
12 operation, which, among other things, was to develop an executive  
13 capability -- whatever that means. Presumably that means a  
14 capability to conduct an assassination if and when authorized  
15 by proper authority?

16 Mr. Breckinridge. That is my understanding.

17 Chairman Church. Is that your understanding?

18 Mr. Breckinridge. Yes, sir.

19 Chairman Church. Do your records show that, or is that  
20 based upon what has been revealed through your interrogation?

21 Mr. Breckinridge. First, let me go back and clarify, then  
22 I will answer this question, if I may.

23 Mr. Helms approved ZR Rifle, ~~which the record shows has the~~  
24 ~~responsibility of stealing codes, essentially.~~ 1(b)

25 My understanding, from my interviews, is that ZR Rifle had

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1 Chairman Church. Senator Hart.

2 Senator Hart of Colorado. Mr. Colby, in connection with  
3 ZR Rifle, I think you testified or your associate said this was  
4 a multi-purpose operation, ~~including stealing codes~~; and the <sup>1(B)</sup>  
5 development of the capability of what euphemistically is called  
6 executive action.

7 In your professional judgment, and with your history of  
8 your background in the Agency, does it make any sense to you that  
9 a major operation, a major intelligence gathering operation ~~of~~  
10 ~~the sort of stealing codes, which I assume means from other~~ <sup>1(B)</sup>  
11 ~~governments~~, would be mounted under the direction of a man  
12 about whom all I know is that Mr. Harvey has a background of  
13 something like a soldier of fortune, and funded at the level,  
14 I should say, of \$7500 to \$10,000?

15 Does it not suggest to you that ~~stealing codes~~ was in <sup>1(B)</sup>  
16 fact an internal cover for what was explicitly an assassination  
17 operation with unlimited, non-voucher financial capability?

18 Mr. Colby. No, not that it is purely a cover.

19 In the first place, Mr. Harvey had a very successful tour  
20 in Berlin where he ran the Berlin tunnel operation, which was  
21 one of our major successful intelligence operations.

22 Mr. Harvey was a very colorful figure who had his lifestyle,  
23 which is different than some others, but he had been very  
24 effective at that, ~~and very adventuresome in that category of~~ <sup>1(B)</sup>  
25 ~~signals intelligence~~ and a very venturesome idea of that nature.

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1 He was in the assignment of Chief of the FI Division staff.

2 That staff's major function is to conduct the signals intelligence  
3 work which must be done in the clandestine service. 1(B)

4 It handles our efforts today to penetrate into foreign  
5 code rooms abroad, and things of that nature, and it involves  
6 the breaking into of safes and things, all that complicated  
7 material. 1(B)

8 Now, the thing that puts it together with this "capability",  
9 executive action, is the high degree of compartmentation of  
10 this material, that kind of a project. In other words, a  
11 code-breaking, a stealing operation, obviously that is to be  
12 kept very, very secret. If you get caught in it, it has all  
13 sorts of very bad diplomatic implications, and so forth. 1(B)

14 Therefore, there is a system of very sharp compartmentation of  
15 the work of that particular group.

16 You also are dealing with some very venturesome people  
17 who are willing to crawl into somebody else's code room and 1(B)  
18 take the chance of getting caught.

19 So, given you have a man who had some good technical  
20 experience, who is a venturesome type himself and is running a  
21 program which is not too far off the requirements of high  
22 compartmentation, and a very high risk kind of operation, and  
23 therefore, for Mr. Bissel to have selected Harvey to carry out  
24 this project seems to me that it is compatible that he could  
25 be running code-breaking projects, or code stealing projects.

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1 as well as this other activity.

2 Now, in the lifestyle at the time, not mentioning the second  
3 one, this gets back into the recordkeeping that we have been  
4 discussing. It was not to be put on the record although to be  
5 done. That is a perfectly proper hypothesis, it seems to me,  
6 but to say that ~~the code stealing~~ was only a cover I think is <sup>1</sup><sub>B</sub>  
7 probably an unwarranted conclusion.

8 Senator Hart of Colorado. What about the level of funding  
9 of \$7,500 to \$10,000?

10 Mr. Colby. That is not very much money for that kind of  
11 an operation.

12 Senator Hart of Colorado. Precisely. I think it is too  
13 little.

14 Mr. Colby. No. For a capability of that nature, it is  
15 largely a staff operation. In other words, you use your own  
16 staff officers. You may hire an agent or something, but I don't  
17 think you can draw much conclusion from the actual number on  
18 the figure one way or the other.

19 This might not have been the only such project. You know,  
20 an assassination project would cost you more money than that,  
21 too.

22 Senator Hart of Colorado. Absolutely.

23 Mr. Colby. I find it hard to say that that is the only  
24 amount of money involved. I think you get into a situation  
25 where additional money would be put into either of those kinds

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Chairman Church. Before you do, would you just explain exactly what the relationship between CIA and Glancana and Mahau was because that is not clear in my mind.

Would you develop for the Committee that whole relationship?

Mr. Breckinridge. Robert Mahau used to work for the FBI and he resigned from the FBI and opened a private investigative firm here in Washington and CIA used him from time to time for certain kinds of support activities.

Chairman Church. What kind of support activities?

Mr. Breckinridge. On one occasion he obtained a female companion ~~for an important foreign leader~~ <sup>1(B)</sup>

Chairman Church. What other kind of support?

Mr. Breckinridge. In the early days -- and this becomes an embarrassment. As nearly as I can reconstruct, the people who knew him decided to put him on a retainer in the Office of Security, which they did for awhile, until he was so successful he said he no longer needed the retainer, which he didn't do much to earn. He later got involved representing one of the Greek shipping interests and we were given the results of some of the information that he obtained from that where there was a fight between Niarcho and Onassis. We think he may have had some involvement in another ~~for a foreign leader~~

~~leader's~~ companionship when he was in this country. I don't have the details. I think we can probably reconstruct it for you.

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1 Mr. Schwarz. I would like to pick up on the discussion  
2 we had.

3 Chairman Church. Mr. Schwarz has five minutes more, and  
4 we will conclude, and I would like to ask the Committee to stay  
5 on for ten more minutes for an executive session.

6 Mr. Schwarz. In the discussion we had on the use of  
7 criminal elements, we have dealt with the Castro operation.

8 In the middle of the book supplied to us by Mr. Breckinridge  
9 earlier this week, there is a discussion about the Lumumba  
10 operation, and the Agent Q. J. Win.

11 Now, is it a fact that Q. J. Win was the agent, or asset,  
12 however you would refer to him, who apparently was considered  
13 for the effort to assassinate Lumumba, which never took place;  
14 is that right?

15 Mr. Colby. Yes, sir.

16 Mr. Schwarz. Now, is it accurate that Q. J. Win operated  
17 ~~in Europe trying to spot and assess individuals whom the Agency~~  
18 ~~could use in safecracking operations?~~ 1(B)

19 Mr. Colby. This is what is reported, and it is quite  
20 possible.

21 Mr. Breckinridge. The record indicates that.

22 Mr. Schwarz. And is it further so that one of the CIA  
23 officers who first met Q. J. Win ~~in Luxembourg, was on a~~  
24 ~~trip overseas to find safecrackers and document suppliers?~~ 1(B)

25 Mr. Colby. Yes, that is what it says.

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