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CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM

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Ray, James, Lt.

HOU-182-66

15 July 1966

ATTN : Director, Domestic Contact Service
: Chief of Operations

Chief, Houston Office

Possible Propaganda Opportunity for North Vietnam

1. The enclosed news story appeared in the Houston Post on 12 July 1966. It tells of an alleged "confession" by Lt. James Ray, captured by the North Vietnamese, and of plans by his sister, Ann Ray, to serve in the USO in Saigon. *use B-1966*

2. On 15 July, Frank Ray, Sr., father of James and Ann, came to this office (referred by FBI) to discuss certain aspects of this situation. Ray, Sr. lives at 104 Kenwood Drive, Conroe, Texas (Telephone PL.6-3420) where he teaches in the high school. *use B-1966*

3. Ray, Sr.'s concern seemed to be two-fold. (A) He is fearful that Ann's presence in Saigon might be used to extract further "confessions" from James by threatening to have the Viet Cong in the Saigon area harm Ann unless James agreed to further anti-US propaganda. (B) He is fearful that a last-minute decision may be made by the State Department to withhold a passport from Ann (because of the danger mentioned above) and that Ann's disappointment will be very great as she is now very enthusiastic about going to Saigon. Ray, Sr. hopes that if such action is being contemplated by State, Ann will be notified just as soon as possible so that she will not go through USO training for Vietnam.

4. I explained to Ray, Sr. that all I could do would be to try to get his problems presented to the office in the State Department which would be involved. I pointed out that any decision made would have to be based on a consideration of the interests of national security as I felt sure that State would be unwilling to interfere with USO business unless the decision was reached that the matter might adversely affect the national security of the US.

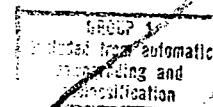
5. I further told Ray, Sr. that I would contact him by the end of next week (Friday, 22 July) and advise him as to whether or not there would be any official development arising from my presentation of his problems.



Copy will be kept

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Chief of Operations

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6. Additional information from Ray, Sr. is that Ann will be at USO headquarters in New York through about 19 July and thereafter for about two weeks at the USO center at Jacksonville, N. C. She is now scheduled to leave for Saigon sometime in August. Ray, Sr. also stated that James had participated in Operation Crossroads in Uganda during 1963.

ERNEST A. RISCHÉ

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Enclosure

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