

SECRET
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~~XAAZ-17364~~
17 Mar 64
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MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, CI/R&A

SUBJECT: Comment Regarding
Article Alleging OSWALD was Interviewed
by CIA Employees

1. On 28 February 1964 the Northern Virginia Sun carried an article (see tab a) alleging -- among other things -- that "State Department records show that OSWALD had several meetings with the CIA representative in the US embassy in Moscow. During this period, the assassin was seeking to renounce his citizenship. One State Department cable, No. 234, dated November 2, 1959, reports that OSWALD was interviewed by the CIA and other embassy officials."

2. This allegation is absolutely unfounded as the following facts bear out:

a. The article cites a State Department "cable" No. 234, dated 2 November 1959. Such "cable" probably does not exist; however, the State Department despatch, No. 234, dated 2 November 1959, from the US Embassy in Moscow is no doubt the one which the article intended to cite. That despatch carried the security classification "Confidential". (See tab b).

b. That despatch contains no statement or inference that Richard E. Snyder, the Second Secretary of the US Embassy in Moscow, who talked with OSWALD on 31 October 1959, has CIA connection. Snyder's name is the only name of a person mentioned who might have spoken with OSWALD. The only other US official whose name was mentioned in that State Department despatch was Edward L. Freers who signed the despatch as Charge d'Affairs, ad interim.

609-786

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JUN 1976

for FOIA Review on

201-289248
DATE 17 Mar 64

RESTRICTED TO CI/R&A

GROUP 1
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*Brief history of Agency
interest in Subj.*

ZR (201-748009)
c. Richard E. Snyder (DPOB: 10 December 1919, Passaic, N.J.) applied for employment with CIA in June 1949 and submitted a complete PHS form at that time. He entered on duty with CIA on 8 November 1949 as a GS-9 (\$4600.00 per annum). According to his Personnel file (see tab c) he was assigned to OPC and was slated to serve in [redacted] (the file contains no entry showing that he actually served in [redacted]). He did, however, serve in Heidelberg, beginning in March 1950. While in Germany he apparently resigned effective 26 September 1950 in order to assume a position with HICOG. There are no further entries in his Personnel file. The SR Division, however, has an unofficial file on him (see tab d). That file shows that Nelson BRICKHAM, an SR Division staff employee, was in contact with SNYDER for about one year (1956-1957). BRICKHAM used SNYDER as a spotter at Harvard where SNYDER was studying Russian and had access to other students who might be going to the USSR. There is no record of POA, OA or CSA action in that connection. In March 1959 (probably just before SNYDER's departure for Moscow), State requested that he be given two weeks of the OBS Course (probably ORR's training in Soviet Order of Battle).

*Brief history of Agency
interest in Subj.*

ZR (201-175339)
d. Edward L. Freers was never an employee of CIA. He has been an employee of the Department of State since 1941 and has served in various countries. In 1952, while a "Peripheral Officer" with the State Department in Rome, OPC requested "liaison clearance" on him; the clearance was granted in April 1952. The interest was dropped in 1955 and the clearance was cancelled. From September to November 1956, IO Division officials were in official contact with him because of his position at the Department of State. For that purpose IO requested and received liaison clearance from the Office of Security. In addition, the Office of Security file contains the following record of interest and clearance action concerning FREERS:

- April 1957 - SE/PP
- April 1958 - OSI
- August 1958 - C/PP/LO
- August 1959 - C/PP/LO
- January 1962 - DPD-DD/R

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3. The original article containing the subject allegation was written by Robert S. ALLEN and Paul SCOTT. ALLEN is a former associate of Drew PEARSON's. The article has been replayed in various publications which carry the ALLEN-SCOTT articles. Many of the replays appear to have deleted the citation of the State Department "cable". Among the publications carrying the allegation in its entirety is the current issue of Human Events (see tab e) which is published in Washington, D.C. The publisher is one James L. WICK on whom the FBI has furnished adverse information. The founder of that publication was Frank C. HANIGHEN. According to the FBI ^{Pearson} had been a member of the "Intelligence Committee" of the CP USA in 1944.*

with the same name

4. ALLEN's and SCOTT's attacks on CIA are well-known and have been persistent. In December 1961 Col. Grogan wrote a memorandum to the DCI concerning both of them. In May 1962, C/CI/R&A wrote a memorandum to the Office of Security and attached several items concerning these two men (see tab f). A surface analysis of the various articles written by this duo shows that they have been sharpshooting at Mr. Dulles whenever the opportunity has presented itself. The recent article shows that they are still at it: in connection with Mr. Dulles' service on the Warren Commission, they accuse him of displaying "...a militant protectiveness regarding the CIA". The Office of Security has furnished a copy of a detailed biographic account of ALLEN and a copy of (a portion of) an investigative report on SCOTT (see tab g). These papers contain no derogatory information.

* being checked further.

- Original - Mr. Rocca w/atts
- 1 - C/CI/SIG w/o/atts
- 1 - Security w/o/atts

17 March
Hartman

3. Frank C. HANIGHEN - Mr. Papich was asked on an urgent basis whether the individual of this name described in a Bureau report dated 7/4/44, subject, "Lily Turner Davins", a member of the Intelligence Committee of the CPUSA, could be identical with the founder of the Human Events magazine. Mr. Papich was able to establish that there were allegations of Communist connections concerning the founder of the magazine. CI/R&A - Hartman

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