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27 January 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR: Jim O'Connor, TSD/Security

SUBJECT: Contact with Herman E. Kimsey - Jan Beck, TSD/GARB

1. As you requested at our meeting on 25 January, I have prepared this summary of my contact with Mr. Kimsey since he left the Agency in August, 1962.

2. My contact with K. has been via the telephone, except for a couple of occasions when I had lunch with him or he visited Chief, GARB in Central Building. I cannot recall ever calling him, but his calls to me have been mostly to the office and only a few to my home.

3. With a few exceptions his reason for calling seems to have been non-specific; he just wanted to chat. Often he would open the conversation with the gambit of asking for someone's telephone extension, more than once for [redacted] extension, or for Dick Kuhn's home address. Sometimes he would call my attention to something interesting he had read in the paper about some new technique, some mutual friend, etc. Occasionally he would seem to be fishing for information about old associates, mainly Mrs [redacted] and Dick Kuhn: how they were doing and what they were doing nowadays, and so on. Since I usually avoided answering such questions directly, I cannot tell if he already knew about the person in question and wanted confirmation, or if he was fishing. The bulk of the conversations then consisted mainly of dialogue about his job plans, family, mutual friends outside the Agency, and so on.

4. Several calls were about the one instance when I was directly involved with him on a project. It pertained to a job opening which I had heard about and wanted to pass on to him. It was as a document examiner or a related job with the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, Portland, Oregon. He seemed interested in pursuing the possibility, but in a recent conversation he had still not applied and did not seem interested.

5. The only other calls on a specific subject where those on the subject of the Anastasia story, early in 1964, and on the Polish colonel's claim, 22 January 1965. On the Anastasia subject he mentioned his involvement in the case via Cleve Backster and gave me the general background as he saw it, including a certain intrigue involving "Reds working for 'Life' magazine" and the Soviet and British intelligence services probably being in the background to protect their interests.

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6. Until 22 January he had not mentioned the subject of the Polish colonel at all. He called me at home, and I immediately took up the subject since I had read about his disclosures in the paper a week earlier. When I prodded him about being in trouble over the newspaper interview, he appeared confident that he was not in any trouble because he was "in daily contact with Agency people". He further said that his purpose in the disclosure was to pry loose from the Agency those documents which would help the colonel establish his true identity. But it was pretty obvious that K. was surprised by the big play given the story in the paper. In fact, he had even considered calling the reporter and asking him to retract some distortions - he did not say which - in the story, but on second thought could not put his finger on any clear-cut error worth fighting over. Other items from the conversation: if the colonel's claim is successful K. and Cleve Backster would turn over any share of the fortune to "the fund for promoting the lie detector", except their expenses and time now paid out of their own pockets; K. is convinced of the colonel's claim to the fortune being legitimate. He did not seem to be fishing for information about the reaction in the Agency to the newspaper story. All he said about it was to ask how Lon Thomas reacted. K. did give me the impression that he had examined some (identity?) documents of the colonel when working for TSD/GARB in 1961 (?) because he said that I would recognize the man's picture if I saw it. But he immediately changed his mind and said "it was probably before your time". When I asked him if he wasn't pursuing a matter which he only knew about from his official capacity in working for the Government, he assured me that he had only learned of the colonel's claim to be the son of the Czar late last year (possibly he said at the time of the Presidential campaign). At the end of the hour-long conversation he stated the real reason for calling and that was to tell me that the colonel was to be on television, the 11 o'clock news on ABC/Channel 7. This must have been a mistake on his part because that news program is local and not a network program from New York.

7. This summary is the best of my recollection; if you need additional information, I will be glad to fill in the gaps.

Jan Beck
JAN BECK
TSD/GARB/ODS
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