157-10014-10080

JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM
IDENTIFICATION FORM

AGENCY INFORMATION

AGENCY : SSCIA
RECORD NUMBER : 157-10014-10080
RECORDS SERIES : HEARINGS
AGENCY FILE NUMBER : 10-H-12

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

ORIGINATOR : SSCIA
FROM : HEDGEMAN, VICTOR
TO :
TITLE :
DATE : 08/21/75
PAGES : 121
SUBJECTS : ASSASSINATIONS, LUMUMBA
CONGO
CIA

DOCUMENT TYPE : TRANSCRIPT
CLASSIFICATION : UNCLASSIFIED
RESTRICTIONS : [redacted] 1A
CURRENT STATUS : RELEASED WITH DELETIONS
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 09/25/98
OPENING CRITERIA :
COMMENTS : Box 3

[R] - ITEM IS RESTRICTED

TOP SECRET

Vol. 3 of 3

NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION
Unauthorized Disclosure Subject
to Criminal Sanctions

R881

The United States Senate

Report of Proceedings

INVENTORIED
ON 3/2/22
BY

Hearing held before

SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE TO STUDY GOVERNMENTAL
OPERATIONS WITH RESPECT TO INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES

Thursday, August 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

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(Witness: Hedgman)

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TOP SECRET

STAFF INTERVIEW

- - -

Thursday, August 21, 1975

- - -

United States Senate
Select Committee to Study Governmental
Operations With Respect to
Intelligence Activities,
Washington, D. C.

The Committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:05 o'clock a.m., in Room 608, The Carroll Arms.

Staff: Burton Wides, Frederick Baron and Rhett Dawson, Professional Staff Members.

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TOP SECRET

P R O C E E D I N G S

Mr. Baron. Would you state your name and address for the record, please?

Mr. Hedgman. My name is Victor S. Hedgman. I can be reached at all times at the Central Intelligence Agency.

Mr. Baron. And Mr. Hedgman, isn't it true that Victor S. Hedgman is actually an alias and that we have agreed that you will testify here today under alias?

Mr. Hedgman. That's correct.

Mr. Baron. And isn't it further true that we have made arrangements with you that your true identity will be recorded on a statement regarding testimony in alias which will be permanently on file at the Central Intelligence Agency for verification purposes?

Mr. Hedgman. That's correct. I believe that this, that I would like to add that I have asked that this be done for my own protection, protection, physical protection, actually.

Mr. Baron. And you understand that we will retain a sanitized copy of this form to attach to your transcript as Exhibit 1?

Mr. Hedgman. I do.

Mr. Baron. All right.

Then let us introduce this statement which you have signed as Exhibit 1.

(The document referred

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to was marked Hedgman Exhibit No. 1 for identification.)

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Mr. Baron. Let me ask you to verify the fact that that is your true signature?

Mr. Hedgman. That is my true signature.

Mr. Baron. Thank you.

Off the record.

(Discussion off the record.)

Mr. Baron. Mr. Hedgman, are you aware that you have a right to counsel before this Committee?

Mr. Hedgman. Yes, I am. But I shall ask for it if I feel the need.

Mr. Baron. All right.

Are you voluntarily appearing here today without counsel?

Mr. Hedgman. I am.

Mr. Baron. And you are aware that at any point during the questioning you may cease answering the questions and request to consult with counsel?

Mr. Hedgman. I am.

Mr. Baron. Are you also aware that all of your constitutional rights are intact here today, including your Fifth Amendment rights to silence?

Mr. Hedgman. I am.

Mr. Baron. Although you are not under oath here today, are you aware that the Committee intends to ask you to swear to the truth of your testimony here as soon as possible?

Mr. Hedgman. I am aware of that, and for the record would

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like to make the point that I am going on recollection of events which occurred nearly fifteen years ago, some fifteen years, some slightly more, some slightly less. So therefore, I will make every effort, but again, I am stressing this fact that I have not had an opportunity to refresh my memory by reading old files or anything of the sort.

Mr. Baron. That is completely understandable.

Mr. Hedgman. I just want this -- I am making this point for the Committee members. I have already made it to you yesterday.

Mr. Baron. And it is understandable that we are asking you to discuss events that took place almost fifteen years ago, but it is your intention to give us the truth as far as you can recall it?

Mr. Hedgman. It is my full intention to give the truth.

Mr. Baron. Thank you.

Mr. Wides. Mr. Hedgman, would you please briefly give us a description of your career with the Agency, and that can be by basically divisions or type of job in a very brief summary.

Mr. Hedgman. I began, was recruited to serve, as what is referred to as a non-official cover agent, and I was a contract as opposed to a staff officer. That was changed shortly afterwards. I think a few months later I was made a staff officer but remained on official cover for the first several

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1 years of my time, working abroad. I returned to Washington
2 where I then became overt in the sense of I worked in the
3 offices and was no longer [redacted]
4 I served as what is known as a case officer in the European
5 area.

6 Mr. Baron. About what time period would you say?

7 Mr. Hedgman. It was '53 to early '57. Early '67 until
8 the mid-60's I served in Europe working primarily on Soviet
9 operations.

10 Mr. Dawson. I think you might have misspoken. You said
11 mid-60's, early '57 to mid-60's. Did you mean 1960?

12 Mr. Hedgman. Mid-1960, yes, I would correct that. From
13 July 6 on until -- I can't remember whether it was June or
14 July of 1963 I served as Chief of Station in then Leopoldville,
15 now Kiershasa, Zaire. I was Chief of Station. I then returned
16 to Washington in the early fall, the exact dates I don't recall,
17 of 1963, and I was what is known as a Branch Chief. I was
18 responsible for the eastern half of Africa from 1963 to June
19 of 1965.

20 June of '65 till June of '67, I was [redacted]
21 Congo.

22 I returned to Washington where I became Branch Chief
23 again for the Southeast Asian area for a very brief time. In
24 essence it was to prepare me for my next assignment which was
25 the Chief of Station, Vientiane, Laos.

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1 Upon completion of that assignment --

2 Mr. Baron. You began that assignment in '67?

3 Mr. Hedgman. No. I began the Southeast Branch Chief job

4 in '67. I began the COS job in the summer of '68, and I left

5 there in the summer of '70.

6 As you know from earlier, ill-health played a role in

7 unfortunately forcing me to leave.

8 I then returned to Washington where I became Deputy Chief

9 of the African Division, January, 1971 until December, 1971, at

10 which time I became Chief of the Division and remained Chief

11 until I retired.

12 Mr. Baron. Until December of '72, would that have been?

13 Mr. Hedgman. No, December of '71.

14 Mr. Baron. No.

15 Mr. Wides. No.

16 Mr. Hedgman. Then I retired 28th of June, 1974.

17 Mr. Wides. You were first approached to go to the Congo

18 as Station Chief for the Congo and other nearby countries in

19 June of 1960?

20 Mr. Hedgman. No. It was quite some time before that.

21 I'm sorry, I can't remember specifically whether it was four

22 months, five months. Actually, they talked to me about it as

23 much as a year --

24 Mr. Wides. And you went out --

25 Mr. Hedgman. Not a year. Maybe seven or eight or nine

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1 months. I don't remember. I was in Washington. My father was,
2 we thought, dying at the time, and I had flown home to be with
3 him.
4 Mr. Wides. And you went there on June 10th or 11th?
5 Mr. Hedgman. I'm sorry --
6 Mr. Wides. Approximately?
7 Mr. Hedgman. It was either the 10th of the 11th that I
8 first arrived.
9 Mr. Wides. The beginning of the second week in June?
10 Mr. Hedgman. Of July.
11 Mr. Wides. Of July, I'm sorry.
12 And that was shortly after the Congolese independence from
13 the --
14 Mr. Hedgman. The independence was on the 30th of June
15 and I was, had been given vacation time, which I got in one
16 day before I arrived, but they called me, I was taking some
17 vacation in Europe on the way down and they phoned me, traced
18 me down, and said get down there, the mutiny had taken place
19 and the place was coming apart.
20 Mr. Wides. Prior to your leaving, and in connection with
21 your preparations and briefings and discussions at Headquarters,
22 had there been any discussion at all with you or that you were
23 aware of regarding the possible assassination of Patrice
24 Lumumba?
25 Mr. Hedgman. Absolutely none. I can say that that is

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1 absolute sureness of recollection.

2 Mr. Wides. And then you had been there a short while, I

3 take it, and in about the last week of July, when Patrice

4 Lumumba and others from the Congo came to the United States, I

5 believe around the 26th of July, am I correct, that both you and

6 the Ambassador returned to America?

7 Mr. Hedgman. That's correct.

8 Mr. Wides. And during your return here, in any discussions

9 you had with officials at CIA or other government officials,

10 did you have any discussions or learn of any discussions

11 regarding the possible assassination of Patrice Lumumba?

12 Mr. Hedgman. No, sir, I did not.

13 Mr Wides. And then you returned to the Congo?

14 Mr. Hedgman. Yes. I believe we returned on the 6th of

15 August, if memory serves me.

16 Mr. Wides. Now, as a very brief background for the

17 next series of questions, is it correct that by early September,

18 that is by the 5th of 6th, Patrice Lumumba had been dismissed

19 as Premier and the U.S. had already become seriously concerned

20 about the beginning of Soviet assistance or involvement in the

21 Congo and the possibility of Soviet influence in the Congo?

22 Mr. Hedgman. I believe those dates are correct of the

23 5th or 6th. It could conceivably be the 7th. Certainly long

24 before that time, those of us interested in the political

25 situation there; that is, the Ambassador, members of the Political

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Section, myself, were greatly concerned about what appeared to be a Soviet effort to take over the Congo.

Mr. Wides. And because of conflict between -- among, I guess, is the appropriate word -- because of conflict, or potential conflict, among the central government under President Kasavubu and others as one faction, Patrice Lumumba and his followers as a second faction, and Mr. Tshombe and his follwers as a third --

Mr. Hedgman. And Gizenga as a fourth.

Mr. Wides. Gizenga, I take it he was somewhat within Lumumba's camp?

Mr. Hedgman. Yes. I'm sorry. I should not have interrupted.

Mr Wides. In any event, there was the potential of imminent fratricidal war?

Mr. Hedgman. Tshombe had already declared the Katanga to be an independent state of Katanga on the 11th of July, if memory serves me.

Mr. Wides. Is it also correct that Mr. Lumumba was the person of those three leaders, of those three factions, whose potential activities concerned the United States the most at that point, particularly with regard to the possibility of Communist influence in the Congo?

Mr. Hedgman. Are we referring to the September period now, late August, September?

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1 Mr. Wides. Yes, yes.

2 Mr. Hedgman. I would say, but there was another -- there
3 was also -- there was also great concern about the Tshombe
4 succession, which we did not recognize.

5 Mr Wides. Right. Right.

6 In early September, did you receive a message from Head-
7 quarters indicating that you would, on a special restricted
8 channel indicating it was for your eyes only at the Station, and
9 telling you that a messenger whom you would recognize would be
10 arriving with a mission for you?

11 Mr. Hedgman. I believe, yes, I received such a message.

12 Mr. Wides. When, would you please state --

13 Mr. Hedgman. And I believe that was the general thrust
14 of the wording. I cannot, at this time, affirm with absolute
15 certainty that that was exactly it, but that is my recollection.

16 Mr. Wides. When would be the best date that you would
17 best be placing that time that you could give us?

18 Mr. Hedgman. I believe it would have been around the
19 beginning of September, but I cannot pin it down more than
20 within a week or ten days.

21 Mr. Wides. About how long before the messenger arrived
22 would you say the cable came, if you can recall?

23 Mr. Hedgman. I cannot recall definitively. I would guess,
24 and I would just guess, a few days.

25 Mr. Wides. And is it accurate that the thrust of the

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cable, you cannot recall particular words, was that a messenger whom you would recognize would be coming to give you a mission to carry out?

Mr. Hedgman. As I understood it, he was coming with instructions. I did not know what type, sort of instructions.

Mr. Wides. Yes.

Mr. Baron. Can you state in your own words just exactly what the gist of that cable was?

Mr. Hedgman. I am not sure that it will be exact or even close, but it is my -- I am going again, and I stress this time now on recollection, and it is not a sure thing, but my recollection was that the cable advised me that a person whom I would know to be or recognize as an officer of the Agency, and I am not sure that it said as an officer of the Agency, someone who I would have recognized would arrive with instructions for me.

Mr. Wides. Did the cable refer in any way to Lumumba that you can recall, that would involve the Lumumba problem or --

Mr. Hedgman. I think, it is my recollection that it did not refer to Lumumba in any way.

Mr. Wides. And with regard --

Mr. Hedgman. Either directly or hint by indirection.

Mr. Wides. With regard to the cables for general procedural aspects, is it correct that it bore a special reference or slug, I believe is the term?

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Mr. Hedgman. I think, I am guessing about that. I think it probably did, because that would have been a normal way to indicate the special handling. I believe the message also was marked for my eyes only --

Mr. Wides. It would not have been marked --

Mr. Hedgman. -- and contained instructions that I was not to discuss the message with anyone.

Mr. Baron. And that you were to destroy the message?

Mr. Hedgman. Not at that time.

Mr. Wides. Did it indicate that any communications that you sent thereafter to the Headquarters in connection with the impending visit were to be given the same slug or --

Mr. Hedgman. I am assuming that it probably did, but I cannot be 100 percent certain. I dont recall sending a message until after I met the gentleman concerned.

Mr. Dawson. Maybe we could approach that a different way. You do recall whatever message you received was not in the normal course of communications with the Agency?

Mr. Hedgman. Well, it came through Agency communications channels, but it -- it was marked Eyes Only, for me.

Mr. Dawson. That's not unusual, necessarily?

Mr. Hedgman. At that time it was more unusual than it is today, I would say.

Mr. Wides. Was it marked RYBAT, do you know?

Mr. Hedgman. I'm sorry, I don't recall.

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Mr. Wides. But RYBAT usually involved a fairly wide dissemination, or at least dissemination to others in the Agency.

Mr. Hedgman. Yes.

Mr. Wides. And when you say, Eyes Only, yourself, this would, of course, include also the communicator who would have encrypted it, necessarily?

Mr. Hedgman. One communicator in Washington and one in -

Mr. Wides. Well, return --

Mr. Hedgman. -- in Kienshasa or Leopoldville at that time.

Mr. Wides. We will return in a moment to how you dispatched communications back.

Now, at some point shortly thereafter, someone did arrive from Washington whom you later determined was the messenger referred to in the cable, is that correct?

Mr. Hedgman. That's correct.

Mr. Wides. And in terms of placing that visit, is it correct that you, your best belief is it was in the second week of September or thereabouts?

Mr. Hedgman. I would say thereabouts, but again, I have tried to think, tried to pin down a date on this, and I cannot, sir.

Mr. Wides. But you place it in terms of --

Mr. Hedgman. I place it in terms of an apartment which

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I rented, and I believe that I rented that apartment in fairly early September.

Mr. Wides. And it was not too long after you had rented it that this person came?

Mr. Hedgman. Yes, yes.

Could we hold on?

Mr. Wides. Yes.

Mr. Hedgman. Yeah. Yeah. Okay. I was remembering another meeting in that apartment, and I was able to identify, pin down the time of that meeting, so --

Mr. Wides. Who was the messanger who arrived?

Mr. Hedgman. [redacted]

Mr. Wides. And at that time, you knew who he was?

Mr. Hedgman. I recognized him as an officer of the Agency.

Mr. Wides. By name, or on-site, or both?

Mr. Hedgman. On-site.

Mr. Wides. And by name or not?

Mr. Hedgman. I do not recall whether I knew his name. I suspect I did, but I cannot reaffirm that.

Mr. Wides. Did you know what office he worked in, or did he have to tell you that?

Mr. Hedgman. I believe that I knew, but this was not with great certaintly, that he worked in the what was then called TSD, Technical Services Division. I did not know what part of

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TSD.

Mr. Wides. Do you recall how he indicated to you that he was the person referred to in the cable we have just discussed?

Mr. Hedgman. I cannot be absolutely certain, but I believe that he referred to the fact that I had received a message and that he was the person concerned.

Mr. Wides. And did you meet him at the airport, or did he --

Mr. Hedgman. No.

Mr. Wides. What were the circumstances under which you first met?

Mr. Hedgman. It seems ridiculous, under the circumstances, that I cannot pin this down.

(Pause)

Mr. Wides. Can we just first go through your recollection of being with him?

Mr. Hedgman. I don't remember whether he came to the Embassy and asked to speak to me, whether I met him as he came out of the Embassy. It is conceivable that I could have been told date and time, place, to meet him.

Mr. Wides. You don't recall --

Mr. Hedgman. I don't recall.

Mr. Wides. -- making any arrangements for his being met?

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Mr. Hedgman. No, I did not.

Mr. Wides. Do you recall where he stayed while he was in Leopoldville?

Mr. Hedgman. I believe he stayed only one night, I am not sure of that, and I think he stayed at the hotel.

Mr. Wides. The main hotel in Leopoldville?

Mr. Hedgman. At the Memeling (?), if he could get a room. Rooms were hard to get. He could conceivably have stayed at my apartment, if he stayed.

Mr. Wides. And your conversations with him all took place in the apartment that you had recently rented?

Mr. Hedgman. It took place in my personal apartment which I had recently rented.

Mr. Wides. Off the record.

(Discussion off the record.)

Mr. Wides. Could you tell us, starting from what you remember as the earliest or the first discussions you had, in substance what message [redacted] brought you and the ensuing conversation?

Mr. Hedgman. It is my recollection that he advised me, or my instructions were, to eliminate Lumumba.

Mr. Wides. By eliminate, do you mean assassinate?

Mr. Hedgman. Yes. I would say that was the, that was my understanding of the primary means. I don't think it was probably limited to that, if there was some other way of doing

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1 it.

2 Mr. Wides. Of doing what?

3 Mr. Hedgman. Of removing him from a position of political

4 threat.

5 Mr. Wides. Was there realistically any way in which he

6 was not a threat as long as he remained alive in the Congo?

7 Mr. Hedgman. Oh, yes. I think if he had been arrested

8 or something like that by the Congolese officials, in my own

9 mind, that would have been, would have achieved it.

10 Mr. Wides. And what did [redacted] indicate with regard

11 to the possibility of physically eliminating him?

12 Mr. Hedgman. It was my understanding that that was

13 probably expected of me.

14 Mr. Wides. Yes.

15 And what did he tell you with regard to how that might be

16 accomplished?

17 Mr. Hedgman. Well, I think he -- certainly, as you are

18 aware, he brought some biological agents. I assume that that's

19 the correct word. But in any case, poisonous agents with him,

20 which he passed to me.

21 As I recall, he brought them with him. That's not

22 absolutely certain, but quite probable, in my opinion, that he

23 had hand-carried them.

24 Mr. Baron. These were lethal biological substances?

25 Mr. Hedgman. Yes. That was my understanding, as a

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1 non-expert. However, in thinking it over, I believe that I --
2 there was -- this was not a sine qua non that I employ this.
3 If there were another method, another way, it would have been
4 acceptable.

5 It was also my recollection, let me just try and think for
6 a moment here -- I can't remember where I was going. I had a
7 point I wanted to make.

8 Well, if it comes back, I will think of it.

9 Mr. Dawson. Would it help you to have her read back that
10 portion where you were just testifying?

11 Mr. Hedgman. I don't think so.

12 Anyway, the biological substance, or specimens, what have
13 you, I think it was up to my judgment, and if there were a
14 better way -- certainly, the point I now recall was in no way,
15 if I implemented these instructions, no way could it be traced
16 back to the United States. It had to be a way which could not
17 be traced back to the United States, either to an American or
18 the United States government.

19 Mr. Wides. With regard to the materials, you said it is
20 your best recollection that he brought them with him?

21 Mr. Hedgman. I believe he did.

22 Mr. Wides. Yes.

23 Do you recall having a discussion with him about the
24 materials as to how to use them and what traces they would leave
25 and the like?

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Mr. Hedgman. I recollect discussing uses of them.

Mr. Wides. Do you recall having the -- were there also, in addition to the lethal agents themselves, related paraphenalia such as a mask, or gloves, or a syringe?

Mr. Hedgman. It is my best recollection there were rubber gloves, a mask and a syringe.

Mr. Wides. Is it your recollection that these did not arrive before [redacted] came; that is, you did not have materials arriving at the Station and yourself wondering what they were all about prior to [redacted] arrival?

Mr. Hedgman. That is correct. I do not believe they came prior to [redacted] arrival.

Mr. Wides. Do you recall while you were discussing this with him that you had in front of you some of the paraphenalia such as the syringe, or the mask, or the gloves, that they were there with you?

Mr. Hedgman. I believe we did.

Mr. Wides. And he was there for only one night?

Mr. Hedgman. That's my recollection, but that is far from sure.

Mr. Wides. Or one or two nights?

Mr. Hedgman. Yes. It's far from -- I -- that's my recollection, but I would not wish to affirm that.

Mr. Wides. So either he brought them with him or they would have had to arrive essentially simultaneously with his

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1 visit in order for you and him to have had them essentially
2 with you while he was discussing them, is that right?
3 Mr. Hedgman. Yes, I believe, as I stated, that he brought
4 them with him or --
5 Mr. Wides. Or if they, if he did not, that they would
6 have arrived while he was there? In other words, are you more
7 certain that they were there at the time you had the discussions
8 with him --
9 Mr. Hedgman. Yes.
10 Mr. Wides. -- than you are that he brought them, even
11 though it is your best belief that he did?
12 Mr. Hedgman. I believe he brought them.
13 Mr. Dawson. Do you recall his giving you any instructions
14 on their handling, the reason that you had rubber gloves?
15 Mr. Hedgman. Yes. I recollect that I told him that I
16 didn't know anything about the handling of such things.
17 Mr. Dawson. And do you recall what he told you about
18 that?
19 Mr. Hedgman. No, I don't really.
20 Mr. Dawson. Did he say to you that in order to handle
21 this substance you had to have the rubber gloves on?
22 Mr. Hedgman. That's an assumption I have made as a result
23 of my recollection that there were rubber gloves. But I cannot
24 be sure.
25 Mr. Wides. Let me go back to the statement that you made

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1 that there was more than one agent.

2 Do you recall definitely that there was more than one?

3 Mr. Hedgman. That is my recollection, yes, sir.

4 Mr. Wides. Now, do you mean by that there was more than

5 one dosage, or more than one vial or pill of the same kind of

6 lethal agent, or that there were several different kinds?

7 Mr. Hedgman. I believe there were two or more lethal

8 agents, types of lethal agents.

9 Mr. Wides. Do you recall him mentioning the word

10 botulism at all? Does that ring a bell?

11 Mr. Hedgman. I cannot be certain of that.

12 Mr. Wides. Do you recall --

13 Mr. Hedgman. I think that it is possible, but I cannot

14 be certain.

15 Mr. Wides. Does it ring some sort of a bell?

16 Mr. Hedgman. Botulism rings a bell, but I am not -- I

17 know what it is, therefore it is, there is an Agatha Christe

18 murder mystery based on it, or something like that.

19 Mr. Wides. Do you recall whether some of them were

20 poisons in the nature of cyanide and the like, or whether they

21 were all represented to be biological agents; that is, a virus

22 or a deadly germ of some sort?

23 Mr. Hedgman. I believe they were biological agents.

24 Mr. Wides. Do you recall whether any were referred to as

25 a virus?

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1 Mr. Hedgman. No, I do not, sir. I don't know. There
2 may have been.
3 Mr. Wides. Since there were different types, I would
4 infer or assume that there was some discussion as to why you
5 might use one or the other in the first attempt?
6 Mr. Hedgman. I believe --
7 Mr. Wides. What can you recall of that?
8 Mr. Hedgman. I believe that I asked or raised the point,
9 and again, I cannot confirm this with absolute certainty, but
10 I believe I raised the point that poisons left traces in the
11 human body, which could be found on autopsy, and that I believe
12 that I was assured that these agents, I'm going to refer to them
13 as that because I don't know the correct term, terminology --
14 Mr. Wides. Lethal, these are lethal agents?
15 Mr. Hedgman. Lethal agents, would be normal traces found
16 in people that die of certain diseases.
17 Mr. Wides. And this would have been with regard to all
18 of them or only one of them?
19 Mr. Hedgman. That's why I hesitated on the botulism,
20 because that would fit, of course.
21 Mr. Wides. Was this assurance given in regard to all of
22 them, or one in particular?
23 Mr. Hedgman. I cannot be absolutely certain of that. I
24 believe all of them, but I --
25 Mr. Wides. Well, wouldn't you have asked which one you

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should use, or whether there was any different among them in terms of preference from the point of view of effectiveness or ease of use, or would you have just been left essentially closing your eyes and picking one? Wouldn't you have had some discussion?

Mr. Hedgman. I would think so. But I cannot -- don't believe I can pin this down.

Mr. Wides. Do you recall any discussion with [redacted] as to differences in the method of administration, preferred method of administration?

Mr. Hedgman. I remember there was a reference to putting one of them in possibly toothpaste which would be used.

Mr. Wides. How would that be accomplished, with a syringe, or --

Mr. Hedgman. I don't remember. I think so.

Mr. Wides. Do you recall specifically that three was a syringe as part of the equipment?

Mr. Hedgman. I believe there was, but I sure wouldn't take my life on it. But if I said I believe there was a syringe, that's my recollection.

Mr. Wides. Now, just to go back for a moment, you said before that he said that your instructions were if possible to eliminate Lumumba, and that you thought that one possible way or the way he was particularly addressing was in the sense of assassination?

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1 Mr. Hedgman. That's correct.

2 Mr. Wides. I take it that once you started discussing
3 these lethal agents, there was no doubt in your mind that the
4 kind of elimination he was there particularly to discuss was
5 killing Lumumba?

6 Mr. Hedgman. There was no doubt in my mind that this was
7 one of the way, and probably what they thought was the only way
8 that would work. But as the Chief of Station, I still, even
9 though a junior Chief of Station, I had a certain amount of
10 freedom of choice, I felt, at the time.

11 In other words, particularly since the emphasis was that
12 it could not be traced back to the U.S. government or the
13 United States.

14 Mr. Wides. Did you see --

15 I'm sorry.

16 Mr. Baron. The purpose of designing a lethal agent that
17 left the traces of a normal disease rather than a poison was
18 exactly that, wasn't it?

19 Mr. Hedgman. Yes, I would assume so.

20 Mr. Baron. To avoid --

21 Mr. Hedgman. It seems to me that was one of the points
22 that came out.

23 Mr. Baron. To avoid attribution to the United States?

24 Mr. Hedgman. To avoid attribution, really.

25 Mr. Wides. Did you see any of the paraphenalia, do you

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recall, that is apart from just a package that was never opened, did you ever at that time, did you see a mask or gloves?

Mr. Hedgman. It is my recollection that I did, but I cannot be absolutely certain of that.

Mr. Baron. Was this a surgical gauze mask?

Mr. Hedgman. It is my recollection, I have that recollection, and yet I could not -- I am being asked to swear to this, of course, and I swear that it is my recollection.

Mr. Wides. Do you recall that the materials were in liquid form, in a vial or bottle, or --

Mr. Hedgman. I do not recall, sir.

Mr. Wides. But I assume, if your best recollection is there was discussion of a syringe, that presumably it was in liquid form?

Mr. Hedgman. I would assume so.

Mr. Wides. Or something that would be turned into a liquid.

Mr. Hedgman. I would assume so, but I honestly cannot tell you what form they were in.

Mr. Wides. And your best recollection was there were two or three or more?

Mr. Hedgman. Yes, two or three.

Mr. Wides. Did [redacted] indicate to you, was there any reference to the prior use or attempted use of these agents for the same purpose of assassination, to his knowledge, by the

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1 Agency?

2 Mr. Hedgman. To my recollection, he did not refer to any

3 past use or knowledge of such.

4 Mr. Wides. Did he refer to any prospective or possible

5 use elsewhere in the world?

6 Mr. Hedgman. Not to my recollection. I don't believe he

7 did. It would not have been normal for him to discuss that with

8 me.

9 Mr. Wides. Do you recall, by any chance, the name of

10 Fidel Castro coming up in the course of this?

11 Mr. Hedgman. Almost certainly it did not.

12 Mr. Wides. Now, with regard to the possibility of other

13 means, first with regard to the possibility of other means of

14 killing Lumumba, did you discuss with him any other ways of

15 arranging Lumumba's death other than using these lethal agents,

16 such as shooting, or --

17 Mr. Hedgman. I think I may well have suggested that as

18 a possibility, shooting.

19 Mr. Wides. Did you discuss with him specific other ways

20 of trying to eliminate him as a political threat, or is it

21 simply your assumption that if you had found some other way,

22 that might have been an alternative option for you?

23 Mr. Hedgman. Would you rephrase that question, or repeat

24 it?

25 Mr. Wides. YOu said that your understanding was that

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1 your instructions were to eliminate Lumumba, and that one way
2 of doing this, which was discussed in concrete form, and which
3 you were given the means for, was killing him or arranging his
4 death, but that that was only one possibility.
5 Did you discuss, in fact, with [redacted] any other ways
6 of eliminating Lumumba, non-lethal ways?
7 Mr. Hedgman. I may well -- non-lethal ways?
8 Mr. Wides. Yes.
9 Mr. Hedgman. I cannot recall with certainty on that. It
10 is my recollection that he was, either was or was very shortly
11 thereafter under the protection of the United Nations in the
12 Prime Minister's combination residence and office. Certainly
13 he was there after 14 September.
14 Mr. Baron. Just to clarify this, the means of --
15 Mr. Hedgman. 1960.
16 Mr. Wides. Let him finish the answer. I don't know if
17 that is fully responsive.
18 What is your best recollection as to whether you did or
19 did not discuss any other way of eliminating Lumumba other than
20 assassination?
21 Mr. Hedgman. I cannot give you assurance. I have
22 tried to go back in my mind on that.
23 Mr. Wides. You can't recall one way or the other?
24 Mr. Hedgman. I cannot recall one way or the other for
25 certainty. I know that it -- somewhere along the line in there,

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I thought of shooting as a possibility, but whether I discussed it with [redacted] I am not sure.

Mr. Wides. Well, I understand that is a possibility that you discussed other means of arranging his death, or you may have discussed other means of arranging his death --

Mr. Hedgman. I may have.

Mr. Wides. -- than use of agents, but earlier you said you considered your instruction to be eliminating him, and that one possibility was through his death, but there were other possibilities. And I am asking you now whether you recall discussing any non-lethal ways to eliminate him as a political threat with [redacted] in connection with your instructions?

Mr. Hedgman. I cannot be certain that I did, sir. There obviously was the possibility that his Congolese political enemies would gain control of him in some manner, get him in their, under their control, in which case he would have been neutralized.

Mr. Wides. But in regard to your instructions to do what you could to eliminate the threat, with regard to action that you would take as the Station Chief, I take it all you discussed with [redacted] were means of arranging his death from the point of view of what you could do?

Mr. Hedgman. I cannot affirm that.

Mr. Wides. But you don't recall discussing anything else?

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1 Mr. Hedgman. No.

2 Mr. Wides. Now, what was your first reaction when [redacted]

3 [redacted] when it first became clear to you what [redacted]

4 was discussing with you in regard to --

5 Off the record.

6 (Discussion off the record.)

7 Mr. Wides. Back on the record.

8 What was that last question?

9 (The Reporter read back the last question.)

10 Mr. Wides. -- efforts to kill Patrice Lumumba?

11 Mr. Hedgman. I would say great surprise. I don't know

12 whether shock would be the word. It's a little hard to recollect

13 one's emotions, but it was an emotional, an emotional reaction,

14 I think.

15 Mr. Wides. Did you raise with him the question of

16 authorization of such instructions to you?

17 Mr. Hedgman. Yes, I did. That's my quite strong recol-

18 lection, that I did.

19 Mr. Wides. What do you recall in essence was what you

20 said to him?

21 Mr. Hedgman. In essence, I think I must have, and again

22 this is, I am guessing as to what my wording was, must have

23 pointed out that this was not a common or usual Agency tactic,

24 and I may have probably said that I never heard of it being

25 done, which I had not, never in my training or previous work in

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1 the Agency had I ever heard any references to such, in my,
2 recollection at least, such methods. And it is my recollection
3 I asked on whose authority these instructions were issued.
4 Mr. Wides. And what did [redacted] reply?
5 Mr. Hedgman. It is my recollection that he identified
6 the President, and I cannot -- the President of the United
7 States -- and I cannot recall whether he said "the President,"
8 or whether he identified him by name.
9 Mr. Wides. But it is your best recollection that he said
10 something more specific than highest authority, that is, the
11 President, or the White House, or President Eisenhower?
12 Mr. Hedgman. I want to get this one right, because I
13 realize it's important.
14 Mr. Wides. Let's start, excuse me, let's start with the
15 most basic question.
16 Is it your recollection that he clearly told you it was
17 an authority higher than the Director of the CIA?
18 Mr. Hedgman. I'm not sure that he put it that way. As
19 I said, I believe --
20 Mr. Wides. But I don't mean that he used those words,
21 but is it clear --
22 Mr. Hedgman. That was my understanding, that it --
23 Mr. Wides. That is was higher than the Director?
24 Mr. Hedgman. Yes.
25 Mr. Wides. Can you recall whether he said "the President"

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1 or "President Eisenhower?"

2 Mr. Hedgman. I cannot recall whether he just said, whether

3 he said "the President" or whether he said "President Eisenhow-

4 er."

5 Mr. Wides. But it was one of those two, is your best

6 recollection?

7 Mr. Hedgman. I would say almost certainly, but not -

8 in other words, I am at about the second level of affirmation

9 here.

10 Mr. Wides. If not that specific --

11 Mr. Hedgman. It was my understanding it was the

12 President, yes.

13 Mr. Wides. And did he also, apart from what you would

14 have inferred would be implied by that, did he also say in any

15 way something that referred to it being approved by the Director

16 of the Agency?

17 Mr. Hedgman. I have tried to go back in my mind on that,

18 and I think, I believe-- but again now, this one, it's pretty

19 loose in my mind -- it was something to the effect that the

20 President had instructed the Director.

21 Mr. Wides. Your understanding then was that these

22 instructions were instructions coming to you from the office

23 of the President?

24 Mr. Hedgman. That's correct.

25 Mr. Wides. Or that he had instructed the Agency, and they

1 were passed on to you?

2 Mr. Hedgman. That's right.

3 Mr. Dawson. You are not the least unclear whether or

4 not you came aware with a very clear impression that the Presi-

5 dent's name had been invoked in some fashion?

6 Mr. Hedgman. Yes. I came -- certainly that is my

7 recollection.

8 Mr. Dawson. You have no doubt about that?

9 Mr. Wides. At the time?

10 Mr. Hedgman. At the time I certainly felt that I was

11 under instructions from the President, yes.

12 Mr. Wides. All right.

13 Mr. Dawson. You were less certain as to whether or not

14 the Director of Central Intelligence's name was invoked as

15 authority?

16 Mr. Hedgman. Because the other one seemed higher, and --

17 Mr. Dawson. Okay.

18 Mr. Hedgman. And I think in my own mind I could not

19 imagine the Agency taking such action without clearing it with

20 the President.

21 Mr. Wides. Do you recall asking something to the effect

22 of where did this brilliant idea come from, or who had such a

23 brilliant idea?

24 Mr. Hedgman. I think I made a comment like that

25 yesterday, but I am not sure those were my words at all. I think

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I was -- I was being a bit facetious in that sense yesterday when I said that, but, I mean, I think I asked why, who.

Mr. Wides. And your best recollection then is he said in effect, the President, that is, he said either the President or President Eisenhower has instructed or told the Director that this is what is wanted?

Mr. Hedgman. I think he said told the Director. This is -- I mean, after all, the President would not pick up the phone and dial [redacted] and say, hey, I've got a little job for you.

Mr. Dawson. Though it may be an assumption on your part --

Mr. Hedgman. That's right. I am -- yes.

Mr. Dawson. But you are clear as far as the President has told you to do this?

Mr. Hedgman. Gentlemen, after fifteen years I cannot be 100 percent certain, but I have always, since that date, had the impression in my mind that these orders had come foom the President.

Mr. Wides. And your impression, your recollection is at that time, after your discussion with [redacted] that you then, at that time, had the very clear impression that these were instructions from the President?

Mr. Hedgman. Yes, sir.

Mr. Baron. In your mind, is it more likely that [redacted]

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1 used the words "the President" or "President Eisenhower" than
2 it is that he used some euphemism?
3 Is that correct?
4 Mr. Hedgman. I believe that is so.
5 Mr. Wides. That is your best recollection?
6 Mr. Hedgman. That is my best recollection.
7 Mr. Wides. With regard to what you understood your
8 instructions to be, is it a fair summary to say that your
9 instructions were to determine in what way you could use these
10 agents, with the possibility that you might think of a better
11 way in your mind, but that if you could use these agents to
12 assassinate Lumumba in a way which would not implicate the
13 United States, that you were under instructions to do so?
14 Mr. Hedgman. I would qualify that slightly. I would
15 qualify it in that in operations normally you never use greater
16 force or greater effort than is necessary to accomplish the
17 purpose. I would think, and I think I thought at the time, that
18 if there were some way that he could be removed from a position
19 of power and threat which we, most of us thought was a threat
20 to the United States by him, that that would have been satis-
21 factory.
22 However, it was clear that people were thinking in terms
23 of his physical removal by the equipment I was given, the
24 agents, the lethal agents which were given to me.
25 Mr. Wides. Well, were you not impressed with the fact

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that someone in the Agency had literally arrived at your doorstep with lethal means and indicated that the President had instructed the Agency to direct Lumumba's removal, and that it was in that connection that he was arriving with these lethal means?

Mr. Hedgman. Oh, yes.

Mr. Wides. Well, I take it --

Mr. Hedgman. This was not a common occurrence.

Mr. Wides. I take it you thought you had authority to use them, and that had you done so the next day, or very shortly thereafterwards, that that was clearly within the authority that -- well, off the record.

(Discussion off the record.)

Mr. Wides. Subsequent to your discussion with [redacted] [redacted] did you seek confirmation of the instructions that he had given you by further communications with the Agency?

Mr. Hedgman. In my recollection that I sent a message, whether I identified [redacted] by name or not, I do not recall, but that I asked for some form of confirmation that he was the proper messenger and that his instructions were --

Mr. Wides. Correct?

Mr. Hedgman. Were correct.

Mr. Wides. Did you receive a response to that message?

Mr. Hedgman. I -- before I continue, I would say that this is the best of my recollection that I sent such a message.

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Mr. Wides. Yes. Well, excuse me, did you --

Mr. Hedgman. I cannot, I cannot affirm absolutely and positively, but I have a recollection that I sent such a message.

Mr. Wides. Do you have a fairly strong recollection that after speaking to [redacted] because it involved such a momentous issue, that you felt in need of some further guidance or confirmation?

Mr. Hedgman. Yes. I was worried about it.

Mr. Wides. And the most likely course for you to have taken would have been to seek confirmation by cable? I take it you don't recall any request in a face to face exchange with any Agency person for confirmation?

Mr. Hedgman. That's correct. There was no face to face, other than my discussions with [redacted]

Mr. Wides. And your recollection, although you are not certain, is you sent a cable seeking confirmation?

Mr. Hedgman. That's correct.

Mr. Wides. Do you have a recollection of receiving a response to that?

Mr. Hedgman. Again, a recollection, but I believe I received a reply which I interpretted to mean yes, that he was the messenger and his instructions were, were legal instructions in the sense of being -- legal, of course, would not be a correct --

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Mr. Wides. Duly authorized?

Mr. Hedgman. Duly authorized.

Mr. Wides. Now, after you received them, at least after you received that confirmation, is it correct that you felt you had the authority thenceforth to use these lethal agents to assassinate Lumumba and that had you done so any time thereafter it would have been within the authority of your instructions?

Mr. Hedgman. I think so, but it is possible, and I cannot -- I have thought about this a good deal last night. It is possible that the instructions may have been that I was to explore these where available, but I was to get final confirmation before -- I cannot be 100 percent sure.

Mr. Wides. Are you raising that as a possibility without any recollection of that at all? Is that what you are doing in regard to this last statement?

Mr. Hedgman. Yes, I suppose that's it. I don't have a firm recollection.

Mr. Wides. You don't have any?

Mr. Hedgman. I have tried to determine in my own mind whether I had an absolute free hand at that time.

Mr. Wides. Well, let's take it one step at a time.

Do you have any recollection of any message during [redacted] discussion with you or thereafter in effect putting a hold, having a sort of a go, no-go, hold on your use of the poisons? Do you have any recollection of that?

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Mr. Hedgman. I do not, but may I add there, I know that I sent several messages about potential access.

Mr. Wides. Yes.

Mr. Hedgman. Which makes me think --

Mr. Baron. Potential access to Lumumba?

Mr. Hedgman. Yes, which makes me think I was perhaps supposed to clear it.

Mr. Wides. Could those also simply have been progress reports, even if there was no hold?

Mr. Hedgman. That's possible, yes.

Mr. Wides. And do you have a recollection, although not a clear one, that in fact you thought it was up to you at that point and that you could go, if you thought the situation was correct?

Mr. Hedgman. If I had to decide between those two things, I think I probably thought I had it, but I cannot absolutely confirm that, sir.

Mr. Wides. I understand that, but you have some recollection that you thought you had it, and you have no recollection of thinking there was a hold? You simply cannot be, you are not absolutely certain that you thought you had a go ahead, is that a fair summary of your testimony?

Mr. Hedgman. Yes, I think that would be correct.

Mr. Wides. Now, do you recall, and I am coming back to the messages in a moment, do you recall sometime in the

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1 beginning of October, when a Mr. Justin O'Donnell arrived at
2 the Station?
3 Mr. Hedgman. I don't recall the time, but it was perhaps,
4 it would have been about that time.
5 Mr. Wides. Was it several weeks after [redacted]
6 arrival?
7 Mr. Hedgman. I cannot put a timeframe within weeks on it.
8 I would have guessed yes.
9 Mr. Wides. Was it clearly after [redacted]
10 Mr. Hedgman. Yes.
11 Mr. Wides. I believe you indicated to us in preliminary
12 discussions that you had some intimation or anticipation that
13 his arrival -- strike that.
14 Am I correct that you had some knowledge he was going to
15 arrive before he appeared; that is, by name you knew that he
16 was coming to the Station before he actually physically got
17 there?
18 Mr. Hedgman. I believe that is correct.
19 Mr. Wides. And I believe you indicated yesterday in
20 preliminary discussions with us that in anticipating his
21 arrival, you had some impression that he was to aid in the
22 removal or the elimination of Lumumba, is that correct?
23 Mr. Hedgman. I don't believe -- I may have misstated
24 myself if I said that yesterday. I think it was more when he
25 arrived that I was advised of that.

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Mr. Wides. I see.

Mr. Hedgman. There may have been a message in that channel indicating that he was arriving, which would have made me think that he was related with it. I cannot be certain.

Mr. Wides. Do you recall indicating to us yesterday that when he arrived initially one thought you had was that perhaps you were going to be replaced as Station Chief, in your first job as Station Chief, because you had been dragging your feet, or not acting expeditiously enough on Lumumba?

Mr. Hedgman. I recall saying that yesterday.

Mr. Wides. What is your recollection today?

Mr. Hedgman. Put it -- may I go off the record a moment?

Mr. Wides. Yes.

(Discussion off the record.)

Mr. Wides. Let's go back on the record.

Let me phrase the question this way, Mr. Hedgman: when Mr. O'Donnell arrived, I take it as a somewhat junior Station Chief, and in your first job as a Station Chief, that you considered whether there was dissatisfaction with your handling of the job, or the need for more experienced personnel there, is that correct?

Mr. Hedgman. I think that is possibly true.

Mr. Wides. Now, do you recall whether one of the thoughts that went through your mind was that perhaps the Headquarters was, the Agency was dissatisfied with foot-dragging

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1 or the lack of action on your part in implementing [redacted]
2 instructions? Was that one of the thoughts that went through
3 your mind as far as you can recall?
4 Mr. Hedgman. I cannot say that with certainty now. It
5 is very possible.
6 Mr. Wides. Do you have any recollection that that went
7 through your mind even if you can't be certain?
8 Mr. Hedgman. To repeat, that he --
9 Mr. Wides. That you thought --
10 Mr. Hedgman. That I thought that they were dissatisfied
11 with my handling of that?
12 Mr. Wides. Because you had not yet eliminated Lumumba
13 or taken further steps to do so?
14 Mr. Hedgman. I just can't, I just would like to back off
15 that one because I cannot be certain. I knew that obviously
16 they had sent a man who had much more experience than I, and
17 yet it was clear that he was working for me, because I was
18 not relieved as Chief of Station. They would never have sent
19 him there under me and then switched the positions.
20 Mr. Wides. Prior to his coming -- to return now to the
21 period when you sent the confirmation, request for confirmation --
22 do you recall slugging it back through a particular channel?
23 Mr. Hedgman. There was some special channel, and I --
24 because it was handled differently than any other normal
25 message. For example, it was not put on a regular cable form,

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1 which, you know, you have several copies for your various
2 files. And it was my recollection that I personally carried
3 the message to the communicator to encrypt, and that was worded
4 in a double-talk way that even the communicator would not
5 necessarily know what it was about.
6 Mr. Wides. If your communication to the Headquarters and
7 their communication back were in somewhat ambiguous terms,
8 particularly your question, such as is the person, is this
9 person the messenger, and are his instructions accurate, and
10 if the reply was essentially yes to both questions, how would
11 that have assured you that his invocation of Presidential
12 authority was accurate, or even his invocation of the authority
13 of the Director was accurate without your indicating in your
14 cable in some way what the instructions were?
15 Mr. Hedgman. I suppose that -- I doubt that I would have
16 indicated in the cable the authority cited because of the
17 nature of the instructions. Perhaps I was much more naive then
18 than many of us are now, but I assumed when I received instruc-
19 tions that they came, they were duly authorized instructions.
20 It was clear that the man -- I had received the message
21 that someone was going to contact me with instructions, which
22 was most unusual. I mean, why weren't they sent in writing,
23 in other words, by cable or by dispatch. And it arrived, and
24 it arrived, a man whom I recognized as an AGency officer, and
25 he gave me instructions. I went back through this very special

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1 channle and said, you know, I don't remember how I worded it
2 it was a doubletalk thing, but I came away, I was convinced that
3 yes, it was right.
4 Now, there is no way I could know or be absolutely certain
5 if those instructions emanated from the President, but I, I took
6 this perhaps as an act of faith.
7 Mr. Wides. I understand.
8 When you were discussing with [redacted] during his stay
9 of a day, perhaps one or two days, what else can you recall was
10 discussed by the two of you?
11 Mr. Hedgman. I don't have a recollection. I probably
12 wanted to know about where my various friends were and what was
13 happening and the sort of gossip that goes around.
14 Mr. Wides. Do you recall any discussion as to whether
15 Mr. Bissell was witting of this particular mission or instruc-
16 tion?
17 Mr. Hedgman. I cannot be certain of that. I think I
18 would have assumed.
19 Mr. Wides. Not being certain, what is your best recollec-
20 tion as to whether his name came up in regard to the instructions?
21 Mr. Hedgman. I have no recollection whether his name
22 came up. Certainly I would have assumed that he would have
23 been involved, and it is entirely possible that his name didn't
24 come up.
25 Mr. Wides. Do you recall any other names coming up besides

1 the reference to the White House and possibly the express
2 reference to the Director, possibly?
3 Mr. Hedgman. I don't believe so.
4 Mr. Wides. Do you recall Mr. Tweedy's name coming up?
5 Mr. Hedgman. No, I do not. But it is entirely possible
6 that it did, in that he was my direct chief.
7 Mr. Wides. Do you recall any other aspects of the
8 discussion, whether related to the mission or not, in regard to
9 what his job was, what he was doing at that time, your problems
10 in the Congo, or Mr. Lumumba's particular threat?
11 Mr. Hedgman. I probably discussed with him what I saw to
12 be a very severe threat, serious threat, I should say, to
13 U.S. position in Africa. It was my belief that the Soviets were
14 making a major effort to secure a bridgehead, to take over one
15 of the two or three largest, and potentially richest countries
16 in Africa.
17 Mr. Wides. Do you recall anything regarding any discussion
18 regarding access that you then had? Now, I am referring to your
19 discussions with [redacted] in the way of agents you might
20 use who might be able to prevent attribution to American and
21 so forth?
22 Mr. Hedgman. I have a recollection, I have a recollection
23 that I cited one agent's name, or perhaps not name, but
24 described him as a person who would have access.
25 Mr. Wides. To Lumumba directly?

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1 Mr. Hedgman. To probably have access to -- certainly
2 would have access to Lumumba, and might be able to use such
3 agents.
4 Mr. Wides. Was there any discussion of instructing this
5 agent how one would go about instructing the agent to use the
6 lethal agents between yourself and [redacted]
7 Mr. Hedgman. Probably, but I cannot be sure of that,
8 because I would -- I know I did not know how to use them, so
9 I must have asked how to use them.
10 Mr. Wides. Do you recall subsequent to your -- let me
11 go back.
12 How would you characterize, or if you can remember the
13 substance of what you said, what was your response to [redacted]
14 [redacted] having been given these instructions, having been taken
15 somewhat aback, according to your testimony, having asked about
16 authority and having been assured that it came from the White
17 House, what was the essence of the response that you gave [redacted]
18 [redacted] that he would have brought back to Headquarters himself?
19 Mr. Hedgman. I think that it was that I would explore,
20 and again I am saying I think, that I would explore this.
21 Mr. Wides. Did you give him any indication that you would
22 not carry out the instructions?
23 Mr. Hedgman. No, I don't believe I said that. But I
24 believe I pointed out that it was -- it would be extremely
25 difficult to carry out these instructions, meeting the criteria

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that we could no way be traced back to the United States.

Mr. Wides. Would it be a fair summary that he left the meeting -- well, you can't testify for him -- that it would have been reasonable for him to leave the meeting with the impression that you would, if possible, carry out those instructions?

Mr. Hedgman. I couldn't speculate as to whether he thought I would or not.

Mr. Wides. But would that have been a fair impression for him to take away from your comments?

Mr. Hedgman. I think it would be a fair impression that he would take away the thought that I was going to look into it and try and figure if there was a way, but I do remember -- I shouldn't say remember -- I believe I stressed the difficulty of trying to carry out such an operation.

Mr. Wides. But since he had given you instructions that the President wanted this, would it have been fair for him to carry away from your conversation the understanding that if you thought it could be done, if you found a way, that it would then go forward, you would then go forward?

Mr. Hedgman. Yes.

As I said earlier, I cannot be certain that I -- that he would have gone away with the idea that I would immediately do it, or that I would seek further authorization.

Mr. Wides. Now, subsequent to the sending of the request

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1 for confirmation, and the receipt of the cable which you have
2 a recollection of, both confirming the instructions, what
3 further steps did you take in the Congo, and what further
4 communications did you have with Headquarters regarding the
5 mission?
6 Let's take that one step at a time.
7 What further steps did you take prior to Mr. O'Donnell
8 coming?
9 Mr. Hedgman. I believe that I queried the agent who had
10 access to Lumumba, and his entourage, in detail about just what
11 that access, what access he actually had, as opposed to speaking
12 to people. In other words, did he have access to the bathroom,
13 did he have access to the kitchen, things of that sort.
14 I have a recollection of having queried him on that without
15 specifying why I wanted to know this.
16 Mr. Wides. Did you take any other steps to find out the
17 pattern of Patrice Lumumba's activities as they might relate
18 to attempting to put these lethal agents into food or toothpaste?
19 Mr. Hedgman. That's what I, in essence, I think what I
20 was doing there was -- but without specifying why.
21 Mr. Wides. Did you recall any other steps? What did you
22 do with the materials themselves?
23 Mr. Hedgman. As I recall, I placed them in the bottom
24 drawer of my safe, to which I had access.
25 Mr. Wides. No one else had the combination, or did anyone

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else have the combination to the safe?

Mr. Hedgman. Yes, I believe my secretary had the combination.

Mr. Baron. Did you discuss this with your secretary?

Mr. Hedgman. I most certainly did not.

Mr. Wides. Was she in the habit of occasionally opening the safe rather than yourself?

Mr. Hedgman. Yes.

Mr. Wides. What would have happened, or what did you anticipate would happen, if she had opened the safe and seen these packages?

Mr. Hedgman. Well, I believe they were probably wrapped or sealed in an envelope or paper marked probably -- I put that, and this is again probably -- Eyes Only, so for myself --

Mr. Wides. You didn't feel it necessary to indicate to her that there were some packages here and I don't want you to open them or to look at them?

Mr. Hedgman. If I sealed it and put Eyes Only on it, she would not have.

Mr. Wides. Did you send subsequent cables back or have further communication with Headquarters after the request for confirmation?

Mr. Hedgman. Yes. It is my recollection I sent several, two or three, something like that.

Mr. Wides. What was the substance of each of those?

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Mr. Hedgman. I cannot give you the substance, I believe they were in the nature of progress reports.

Mr. Wides. With regard to your finding an access?

Mr. Hedgman. Yes.

Mr. Wides. Do you recall any cables back from Headquarters after the first one indicating the affirmation?

Mr. Hedgman. I believe there was. If I had to bet money on this one, I would say, I would bet on the fact that there was at least one or two more back to me.

Mr. Wides. What is your best recollection as to the nature of those?

Mr. Hedgman. I don't really have a recollection. I recall that there was one more, than one cable, more than two cables, the one saying that there is the man coming, and there was the one which I recall saying yes, that's right, and you are to follow out his instructions or his instructions are duly issued or something to the effect. And I believe there was one, one or two other cables, but I don't have a recollection of their contents. Probably querying for further explanation, but I cannot confirm that.

Mr. Wides. Let me ask you the following question: you have indicated that, I believe you have testified, and correct me if I am wrong, but I have a recollection that you at the time thought you had the authority to go ahead with the use of the lethal agents if you thought it could be done within the guidelines

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1 given you. You have raised the possibility, although you have
2 no recollection, that there might have been a hold and a need
3 for further approval.
4 Is it fair to say that you understood that this was well
5 beyond the exploratory stage as a conceivable option that the U.S.
6 might take, and that you understood that from the highest
7 authority, that is the President, there were instructions
8 to carry out the assassination of Lumumba if it could be done
9 without attribution, but that Headquarters might have expected
10 some indication from you of how you were going to do it prior
11 to the actual implementation? Is that a fair summary of what
12 you are telling us?
13 Mr. Hedgman. Will you repeat that? Could she --
14 Mr. Wides. That you had received instructions from the
15 highest authority, that is the President, down through the Agency,
16 if that is possible, because of their concern about Mr. Lumumba
17 to use lethal agents to assassinate him, but that you might have
18 you had received the authority to do that, and there was a
19 direction to do it if possible, but that you might have sent back
20 to Headquarters, in guarded language, an indication of how you
21 were going to go about it, or that you had decided that it could
22 be done in a feasible way before going ahead with it.
23 Is that a fair summary?
24 Mr. Hedgman. I think probably that I would have gone back
25 and advised that I intended to carry out and sought final

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approval before carrying it out had I been going to do it, had there been a way to do it. I did not see it as a practical, as a matter which could be accomplished practically, certainly.

Mr. Baron. As far as you were concerned, the policy decision had been made at Headquarters and in the White House to assassinate Lumumba, and the questions that remained were operational questions, is that correct?

Mr. Hedgman. It is now my recollection, some fifteen years later -- and again I stress fifteen years -- that I thought the policy decision had been made in the White House, not in the Agency, and that the Agency had been selected as the Executive Agent, if you will, to carry out a political decision.

Mr. Baron. And any further communication --

Mr. Wides. Excuse me, please.

And the political decision was if possible he should be eliminated?

Mr. Hedgman. As a threat.

Mr. Wides. As a threat.

Mr. Hedgman. Assassination being one means.

Mr. Wides. That had been approved?

Mr. Hedgman. Of achieving -- I felt at the time --

Mr. Wides. As a policy matter?

Mr. Hedgman. Yes. I thought at the time, yes, that it had been approved. That is my recollection, yes.

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Mr. Baron. So any further communications that you would have had, as you mentioned a moment ago, to seek approval from Headquarters would have been approval for the specific operational modes that you would use to carry out the program?

Mr. Hedgman. I think that's probably the case, sir.

Mr. Wides. And is it correct you are indicating in that regard your estimation now of what your likely course of action would have been in terms of how you would have proceeded, given your situation there, is that correct?

Mr. Hedgman. I don't understand, sir.

Mr. Wides. In terms of checking -- well, you indicated you think now you probably would have checked back before going ahead?

Mr. Hedgman. Yes.

Mr. Wides. Is it correct to say that that is your estimation now of how you would have decided to proceed, but that is not necessarily your instruction that you had to check that, because I think you indicated before you had no recollection that you felt your instructions were to check back before going ahead?

Mr. Hedgman. I am not sure that I said that. I don't know for sure that I had an absolute freedom.

Mr. Wides. I understand. But you said before, if I am correct, that you had no recollection of a requirement to go back?

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1 Mr. Hedgman. There is a difference between not having a
2 recollection and being sure.
3 Mr. Wides. I understand. And you said that you did have
4 a recollection, although you aren't certain, that you felt
5 free to go ahead, whatever you might have done in terms of
6 your personal decision of how to proceed?
7 Mr. Hedgman. I think I said that I thought the policy
8 decision had been made at the political level and that the Agency
9 had been instructed to neutralize, to remove from position of
10 power or whatever position of threat, Lumumba -- I am not
11 fencing with you.
12 Mr. Wides. No, I understand.
13 With regard to Mr. O'Donnell's arrival, what did he
14 indicate to you was his mission when he arrived?
15 Mr. Hedgman. I understood it to be that -- similar to
16 mine, that is the removal or neutralization of Lumumba. I am
17 not sure what wording he would have used.
18 Mr. Wides. Did he discuss with you the possibility of
19 assassinating Lumumba?
20 Mr. Hedgman. I can -- I have no clear recollection of
21 his discussing the assassination. I know that -- I have a
22 fairly good recollection that he was there for the removal of
23 Lumumba. Whether the word assassination, whether the word --
24 Mr. Wides. Do you have any recollection of discussing
25 with Justin O'Donnell the practicaility and the morality generally

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1 of assassination as an Agency activity?

2 Mr. Hedgman. As an Agency activity, I am not sure.

3 Certainly, and in that specific case I believe that I did

4 discuss with him the practical problems involved in carrying

5 out such an operation.

6 Mr. Wides. Such an operation being the assassination of

7 a political figure?

8 Mr. Hedgman. Yes, assassination or any other removal

9 from power, because we did not have the --

10 Mr. Wides. I am not sure if your testimony is you do

11 recall discussing, among other things, assassination with

12 Justin O'Donnell or that you don't recall discussing it with

13 him?

14 Mr. Hedgman. I cannot affirm that I discussed this, but

15 I assume I must have discussed it. I discussed, for example,

16 the question of access.

17 Mr. Wides. I take it then that you have no recollection

18 of his indicating to you one way or the other whether assassina-

19 tion was an option that he was considering?

20 Mr. Hedgman. No, I don't.

21 Mr. Wides. As a way of eliminating Lumumba?

22 Mr. Hedgman. I think I, since, in view of my instructions

23 I may have assumed that he was doing this.

24 Mr. Wides. Did he indicate to you anything about a

25 conversation that he had had with Mr. Bissell regarding

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1 assassination of Mr. Lumumba?

2 Mr. Hedgman. I do not recall his discussing that with

3 me.

4 Mr. Wides. And do you recall ever indicating to him that

5 there was a virus or other deadly biological agent in the

6 safe?

7 Mr. Hedgman. I do not recall that, no, but I gather that

8 I must have from what you told me yesterday.

9 Mr. Dawson. You stated yesterday, I believe --

10 Mr. Wides. Excuse me.

11 Let me just on the record clarify that.

12 Do you mean by that if Mr. O'Donnell testified you did

13 tell him you would not dispute that, you just have no recollec-

14 tion?

15 Mr. Hedgman. I have no recollection.

16 Mr. Dawson. You said yesterday you not only were

17 unenthusiastic about it, I believe were the terms you used,

18 about the prospect of seeking to assassinate Lumumba, but I

19 thought you also said that O'Donnell was not particularly

20 enthusiastic about his work there either?

21 Mr. Hedgman. Yes.

22 I would put it yes, his work there. I cannot pin it

23 down to assassination as such, although certainly in my own

24 mind I think I must have thought that at the time. I didn't,

25 was not enthusiastic about these instructions, and I had

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no -- had the impression he was not that happy even to be there.

Mr. Wides. You said yesterday, I believe you said you felt under no pressure to carry out the assignment, is that a correct statement?

Mr. Hedgman. Yeah. I don't recall getting messages to the effect, which quite often one gets when you have been given instructions to carry out a specific operation, you know, let's have the information, what are you doing, why aren't you doing more? I do not recall pressure on me to get moving on this thing and do it and carry it out.

Mr. Wides. You indicated a moment ago, I think, in connection with Mr. O'Donnell coming and your general wondering at the time of his approval, whether there was dissatisfaction with your performance that the Congo had become a central area of focus for the government and their concern over its future and Soviet intervention and so forth, is that right?

Mr. Hedgman. Yes. I knew -- well, of course by the time that Mr. O'Donnell arrived, the Soviet intervention was, shall we say, limited, if I recall correctly, only to the north and northeastern part of the country, because the Soviets had been expelled.

Mr. Wides. I meant in the larger sense of Soviet influence or Communist influence eventually in the country?

Mr. Hedgman. Yes.

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Now, let's see. Would you repat that?

Mr. Wides. Well, the essence of the question is simply that at this time, by late September, early October, the Congo was an area of great concern to the United States government?

Mr. Hedgman. Correct.

Mr. Wides. There was a general sense of urgency about the problems?

Mr. Hedgman. That's correct.

Mr. Wides. The potential problems, and you had gotten the unusual communication, a direct personal messenger, that the President of the United States had instructed the Agency to eliminate Lumumba?

Mr. Hedgman. Right.

Mr. Wides. Now, I find it a little hard to understand in that context how you would have regarded, how you could have regarded it as not a high-priority item with some urgency involved.

Mr. Hedgman. Well, certainly it was a priority, but there were many priorities, and that was one of my problems at the time, that I was swamped with work, a little bit like you with four people calling you here.

Mr. Wides. Well, would you have rated this on a comparable level with various intelligence requirements that you would have got in the normal course?

Mr. Hedgman. No, I would have -- but there were a number

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of other requirements which were levied on me which we are not discussing and is not in the purview of this discussion today. I think there was one major thing probably which took some of the heat off, that is, that Lumumba had been essentially neutralized within his office complex, home and office complex where he was under guard by the United Nations.

He was able to send messages out, but the -- there had been a coup d'etat, at least there was a coup d'eta on the night of the 14th of September, 1960. A government which was, although nationalistically oriented seemed relatively friendly toward the United States, was in power. There was a great deal of discussion as to its legality at the time, but that was resolved by the United States and most of the Western powers who decided that it was legal since the government, since once President Kasavubu appointed the members of that government, his government, he was the legal Chief of State.

So I would -- do you follow what I am trying to say?

Mr. Wides. Yes, I do.

Mr. Hadgman. I think there was a lessening in my own feeling, of urgency.

Mr. Wides. Each time that you sent a cable back -- you said you thought you had sent several after the request for confirmation --

Mr. Hadgman. I think I did.

Mr. Wides. Was that simply something you made up, or did

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1 that reflect additional action that you had taken?

2 Mr. Hedgman. No, it was not a fabricated message. In

3 other words, I didn't fabricate things.

4 Mr. Wides. Did it just reflect further thoughts, or

5 did it reflect a report on some further steps you had taken?

6 Mr. Hedgman. I think probably, and I cannot be sure of

7 this, sir, I think it probably reflected further steps which

8 I had taken; that is, exploratory steps.

9 Mr. Wides. How many times did you speak to the agent about

10 what kinds of access he had, and what Lumumba's patterns were?

11 Was it on more than one occasion?

12 Mr. Hedgman. I believe so. I believe it would have been

13 on two, possibly three.

14 Mr. Wides. What other steps or activities had you

15 undertaken which were reported in your cable?

16 Mr. Hedgman. I think that was it. Querying him, and

17 then personal observations of the area.

18 Mr. Wides. Did you indicate to Mr. O'Donnell what you

19 had done in that regard when he came?

20 Mr. Hedgman. I assume I did, but I cannot be sure.

21 Mr. Wides. And do you recall --

22 Mr. Hedgman. I mean, it would have been normal for me

23 to have done so.

24 Mr. Wides. Do you recall discussing with him [redacted] 7

25 trip?

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Mr. Hedgman. I don't recall it, but I assume I must have.

Mr. Wides. Why do you assume you must have?

Mr. Hedgman. Because you told me yesterday that he testified that I had told him I had biological agents in my safe.

Mr. Wides. And you think you would have told him the additional background of receipt of those? Is that it?

Mr. Hedgman. I believe so.

Mr. Wides. Did you take any steps in the way of discussions with the agent you mentioned, or any other steps, to further explore the possibility of implementing these instructions once Mr. O'Donnell arrived?

Mr. Hedgman. I do not recall. I tend to doubt it, because I believe he left, left town and went to Stanleyville, the agent I am speaking about, sometime in October. But that's --

Mr. Wides. Did you feel some sense of relief of not having to pursue the question of eliminating Lumumba after Mr. O'Donnell arrived because you sort of felt that this was his special assignment?

Mr. Hedgman. Probably. But on the other hand, I was the senior -- I was not the senior officer, but I was the commanding officer, if you will, and anything that took place was also my responsibility.

Mr. Wides. What did you know of what he tried to do with

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1 regard to eliminating, he being O'Donnell, in regard to
2 eliminating Lumumba?
3 Mr. Hedgman. It is hard to recall now. I know we met.
4 He probably reported verbally to me what steps he was taking,
5 and that may have been those, his reports may have been those
6 messages also which I sent. I said I thought I sent several
7 messenges via that special channel, and in retrospect, I may
8 have been reporting one of those messages, they may have been
side 2b 9 reports which he gave me to send back to Washington.
10 Mr. Wides. Well, let me ask you this: I have reviewed,
11 and I can represent to you that I have reviewed several files
12 regarding his activities in the Congo, and they include in the
13 normal message traffic, between Leopoldville and the Congolese
14 desk at the Agency, references to him in his crypt, and his
15 activities there. Did that suggest that --
16 Mr. Hedgman. He's --
17 Mr. Wides. There might be other, there might be, are
18 you saying there might also be messages regarding his activities
19 in the special channel, or would that suggest to you that his
20 activities were not communicated in the special channel?
21 Mr. Hedgman. It doesn't suggest either one, really. I
22 am again not trying to fence with you or anything. I don't
23 know. I would guess that I would have sent in a special
24 channel anything dealing with Lumumba, at least that would
25 touch upon his removal in one way or another.

1 Mr. Wides. Does the crypt JMOGRE mean anything to you?

2 Mr. Hedgman. No, sir.

3 Mr. Wides. Do you recall a time when Mr. O'Donnell had

4 an agent come into the Congo to assist him in his efforts?

5 Mr. Hedgman. I had not remembered that until yesterday

6 when you raised it.

7 Mr. Wides. Do you now have a recollection, refreshed, of

8 his having someone come in?

9 Mr. Hedgman. A vague recollection, very vague.

10 Mr. Wides. Do you recall where the person came from, or

11 whether he was a CIA officer, or just a contract agent?

12 Mr. Hedgman. From the name you used for him yesterday,

13 I would know that he would be an agent as opposed to an

14 intelligence officer.

15 Mr. Wides. But you have no independent recollection of

16 who he was or where he was from or his background?

17 Mr. Hedgman. No. I had forgotten that entirely.

18 Mr. Wides. Do you recall a time when you learned that

19 Patrice Lumumba had escaped from his house detention or arrest

20 in the Presidential Palace?

21 Mr. Hedgman. Yes. It was not the Palace, the Prime

22 Minister's residence.

23 Mr. Wides. The Prime Minister's residence.

24 And do you recall whether you had any foreknowledge that

25 that was imminent, or a likely possibility?

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Mr. Hedgman. No, I did not recall that. He did not -- it did not seem likely, since the entire area was surrounded by Congolese troops.

Mr. Wides. Do you know of any assistance or involvement of Mr. O'Donnell or his agent or anyone else connected with the Station in Mr. Lumumba's escape from the detention?

Mr. Hedgman. I am quite certain that there was no Agency involvement in any way, because I think I would -- I am convinced I would have known it as Chief of Station.

O'Donnell could not have taken such action under normal Agency procedures without consulting me.

Mr. Wides. Now, is it correct that when he escaped, Mr. Lumumba tried to journey to the Stanleyville region where his following was the strongest, and that along the way, en route, he was apprehended by the Central Congolese government authorities and brought back under arrest, first to Leopoldville, is that correct?

Mr. Hedgman. That's correct.

Mr. Wides. And this happened some time in the period of November?

Mr. Hedgman. Late November.

Mr. Wides. And to your knowledge or information that you might have, was there any CIA assistance provided in any significant way for tracking him down and the efforts to recapture him?

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Mr. Hedgman. No.

I believe as we said yesterday, you asked me if I had a plane and did spotting or anything of that sort. No, we did not.

Mr. Wides. Or providing any other resources or intelligence information or guidance of any sort?

Mr. Hedgman. We had no intelligence information. Guidance, as I said, I recall being with, I believe, Congolese officers to the effect that they were trying to figure out how to head him off, a discussion about there were only a certain number of ferries and river crossings where the roads -- you know, there were a limited number of roads, and he had to go through deep rain forests and major rivers were crossed.

I may have commented. I don't know for sure.

Mr. Wides. But you would not characterize your activities as providing any assistance to the Congolese to locate him, or would you?

Mr. Hedgman. I honestly, I don't think it -- if it was any assistance, certainly not a major assistance.

Mr. Wides. Do you recall any communication with the Agency while Mr. Lumumba was at large prior to your trip to Rome, which I will get to in a moment, about his escape or, I'm sorry, about your provision of any assistance or cooperating with --

Mr. Hedgman. I don't recall.

Mr. Wides. -- the Congolese government?

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Mr. Hedgman. I am certain I sent cables about what I knew about it, about what I would gather from things. I may have commented about what might have been done to head him off.

Mr. Wides. Would those have been in the normal channels, those communications?

Mr. Hedgman. Yes. I would assume they would have been. Remember, we are at that time -- I should stress this, this makes quite a difference -- our communications facilities were marginal, to say the least, and we did not have the modern equipment which is now used in most Stations, embassies, where you just sit down and poke it out. And I won't go into the technical aspects, but it took much longer to code, encode and decode messages.

As a result, I kept my messages much shorter than what I would nowadays. So, I presume and assume that I sent whatever intelligence I could gather on what was happening.

Mr. Wides. Was there a time in November when you went to Rome for a meeting with Mr. Bissell and Mr. Tweedy?

Mr. Hedgman. That's correct.

Mr. Wides. And Bronson Tweedy and Richard Bissell?

Mr. Hedgman. That's correct.

Mr. Wides. And this took place at the Station

Mr. Hedgman. That's correct.

Mr. Wides. The meeting?

Mr. Hedgman. Yes.

Mr. Wides. And Mr. Karamessines, Thomas Karamessines, was

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TOP SECRET

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1 then the Station Chief in [redacted]

2 Mr. Hedgman. He was.

3 Mr. Wides. Was he present for some of the discussions, or

4 only for the general, the social --

5 Mr. Hedgman. I believe he was present at the general

6 discussions that we had.

7 Mr. Wides. Do you recall --

8 Mr. Hedgman. I know he was there part of the evening.

9 This took place at his home as opposed to the office.

10 Mr. Wides. And part of the discussion and the main focus

11 was with regard to the Congo, was on the fact that Lumumba was

12 on the loose, and it wasn't clear whether he would incite an

13 uprising?

14 Mr. Hedgman. I would say it was more clearly a complete

15 overview of what was going on, including the threat of the

16 Tshombe secession. Of certainty, Lumumba's escape would have

17 been a major point of discussion, as was the fact that Gizenga

18 had set up a government which he claimed to be the only true and

19 legitimate government in Stanleyville.

20 Mr. Wides. Was Mr. Lumumba one of the topics that you

21 recall discussing?

22 Mr. Hedgman. I'm quite certain that we did, but I mean --

23 Mr. Wides. This would have been because he was on the

24 loose at that point?

25 Mr. Hedgman. Yes.

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1 Mr. Wides. And had not been captured and was a potential
2 threat?
3 Mr. Hedgman. Yes.
4 I had asked not to leave to attend the meeting. My
5 recollection is I sent a message saying that in my opinion I
6 should not leave the Congo at that time.
7 Mr. Wides. I know that we have had a little more chance
8 to think about it. Can you recall now any discussion at that
9 meeting regarding Lumumba's possible assassination, either
10 prospectively or with reference back to your earlier cables to
11 Headquarters and your meeting with [redacted]
12 Mr. Hedgman. No, I cannot.
13 Mr. Dawson. This meeting was a meeting of the African
14 Station Chiefs, was it not?
15 Mr. Hedgman. Yes. I don't know whether all were there,
16 or the majority, but certainly a number of them were there.
17 But, they were not present at the evening meeting.
18 Mr. Dawson. No. I understand that.
19 Mr. Hedgman. I was given sort of a special treatment,
20 into see him, and then I could leave.
21 Mr. Wides. Did you ever have any discussions with
22 Bronson Tweedy regarding the assassination of Lumumba where both
23 the assassination, the question of assassination, the question
24 of assassination in relation to Lumumba came up, either in the
25 fall of '60 or later 1960 or later on?

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1 Mr. Hedgman. I must assume that we did, but I cannot be
2 certain of that.
3 Mr. Wides. I think you indicated to us yesterday you
4 recalled talking with Bronson Tweedy in regard to Lumumba and
5 saying in effect that, thank God nothing was ever done. And I
6 thought the implication was --
7 Mr. Hedgman. I think I probably, I said I probably said
8 that sort of thing, but to recall a specific meeting and
9 conversation on this subject, I am not sure that I said that.
10 Mr Wides. Would you say you have no recollection of
11 discussing assassination of Lumumba with Bronson Tweedy?
12 Mr. Hedgman. I have a vague recollection of saying, you
13 know, something to the effect that it was a good thing we
14 didn't, but I can't be --
15 Mr. Wides. You can't place it, but you have some recol-
16 lection that you had such a discussion?
17 Mr. Hedgman. I think so, sir. But this is a pretty
18 vague thing in my mind.
19 Mr. Wides. And can you recall when you think that
20 happened? I don't mean by specific date, but that is the period
21 in question or much later on?
22 Mr. Hedgman. Probably later on, but I don't know. That's
23 a guess.
24 Mr. Wides. Do you recall ever having a discussion with
25 Mr. Bissell regarding it?

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Mr. Hedgman. To what?

Mr. Wides. With regard to the assassination of Lumumba? Did that particular question ever come up in discussions that you had with Mr. Bissell either during the events which we have been discussing or after the events?

Mr. Hedgman. Of course, I didn't see Mr. Bissell very often. I saw him [redacted] and I next saw him when I returned in late January of 1961, when I returned to the States. I cannot recall such a conversation, but I think it is possible, perhaps even likely.

Mr. Wides. But you have no recollection?

Mr. Hedgman. No, sir.

Mr. Wides. Would the same be true with regards to Mr. Dulles, that you have no recollection, although it is possible?

Mr. Hedgman. Yes.

Mr. Wides. Do you recall --

Mr. Hedgman. I saw Mr. Dulles even less often.

Mr. Wides. Do you recall discussing the fact that you had received instructions to try to assassinate Lumumba with Director Schlesinger in 1973?

Mr. Hedgman. I believe it was at that time that I spoke to him, because when he took over, either he or Mr. Colby issued a request for any information which would, activities conducted or considered, what have you, by the Agency, which would appear illegal.

1 Mr. Wides. Do you think that was the time, but you have
2 a definite recollection that in any event you did at some point
3 relate this, relate the fact of these instructions to Director
4 Schlesinger?
5 Mr. Hedgman. I think it was Schlesinger. It could have
6 been Colby, but I believe it was Schlesinger, or I may have
7 told both of them.
8 Mr. Wides. Other than those two gentlemen and the people
9 we have discussed already --
10 Mr. Baron. What exactly did you tell Schlesinger as far
11 as you can recall that now?
12 Mr. Hedgman. That, to the effect that I felt that I had
13 received instructions to assassinate Lumumba.
14 Mr. Baron. You didn't mention the means by which this
15 was to be carried out?
16 Mr. Hedgman. I doubt it, but I don't know.
17 Mr. Wides. Do you recall mentioning the Presidential
18 authority?
19 Mr. Hedgman. I think that I did.
20 Mr. Baron. YOu say you may have discussed it with both
21 Schlesinger and Colby, that would have been a discussion that
22 would have taken place subsequently with Colby when he became
23 DCI?
24 Mr. Hedgman. Well, of course Colby was Executive Director
25 under Mr. Schlesinger. Colby could have been in the room when

1 I reported to Schlesinger. It is silly that I don't remember
2 specifically this, but I did make, I did report this verbally.
3 I preferred not to --
4 Mr. Wides. And your best recollec ion is you reported it
5 to Schlesinger, and you may have also reported it to Mr. Colby,
6 is that your best recollection?
7 Mr. Hedgman. Yes. Yes.
8 Mr. Baron. And you were going to say that you preferred
9 not to put it in writing?
10 Mr. Hedgman. It was the sort of thing I did not wish to
11 dictate to a secretary, and being one, if not one of the world's
12 best typists, and thirdly it seemed to me it was a matter not
13 to circulate on paper, frankly. It was a mistake that it --
14 Mr. Wides. Can you recall ever discussing this with
15 Richard Helms?
16 Mr. Hedgman. No, I don't recall.
17 Mr. Wides. -- the instruction to assassinate?
18 Mr. Hedgman. I don't recall.
19 Mr. Wides. Is there anyone else in the Agency you can
20 ever recall discussing this assigned mission with?
21 Mr. Hedgman. No. It's possible that I talked with some-
22 one like Tom Karamessines when he was DDP. But --
23 Mr. Dawson. Did you talk to [redacted] subsequent to
24 his arrival in the Congo?
25 Mr. Wides. You mean after his departure, after that trip?

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1 Mr. Dawson. Yes, subsequent to.

2 Mr. Hedgman. I saw him numerous times.

3 Mr. Dawson. And your reaction to him was thank God we

4 didn't have to carry that mission out, or thank God it didn't

5 happen?

6 Mr. Hedgman. Well, I talked to him about so many things,

7 and I probably said that.

8 Mr. Wides. Do you have a recollection of discussing with

9 him at a subsequent time to his trip to Leopoldville, ever

10 raising the instructions he gave you for his trip?

11 Mr. Hedgman. Not specifically as such.

12 Mr. Wides. You don't have a recollection, or you don't

13 recall discussing it specifically, but you recall some general

14 illusion to it?

15 Mr. Hedgman. Yes, I recall general illusion to it.

16 Mr. Dawson. Do you recall talking to anybody within the

17 last six months about this, or more recently?

18 Mr. Wides. Since the first of the year?

19 Mr. Hedgman. Yeah. I am just trying to go through in my

20 own mind.

21 (Pause)

22 Yes, Mr. Colby. I saw him the other day when I returned.

23 Mr. Wides. What was your discussion with him in that

24 regard?

25 Mr. Hedgman. I told him I assumed this subject would come

1 up.

2 Mr. Dawson. This subject? Did you expect him to be

3 fully cognizant with all the particulars?

4 Mr. Hedgman. I am not sure that I did.

5 Mr. Dawson. At least the Presidential authorization and

6 the passage of the vials of poison, the person that was used

7 to pass these?

8 Mr. Hedgman. I mentioned [redacted] name. I am not

9 sure that I mentioned vials of poison or --

10 Mr. Wides. Did you indicate to him [redacted] had come

11 to the Congo?

12 Mr. Hedgman. I believe I did.

13 Mr Dawson. Well, let me just follow that.

14 And the Presidential authorization, was that also

15 mentioned?

16 Mr. Hedgman. Yes, I am quite sure I mentioned that.

17 Mr. Dawson. What was his reaction?

18 Mr. Hedgman. His reaction was that it was a great shame

19 that this ever happened. I'm putting words in his mouth.

20 Mr. Dawson. Go right ahead.

21 Mr. Hedgman. And certainly that I must obviously report

22 fully and honestly to the Committee.

23 Mr Wides. Did he discuss, say anything about his prior

24 knowledge of what you had just told him?

25 Did he seemed surprised by any of what you told him?

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Mr. Hedgman. No, I don't think so. I think that I had given him this, or as I said earlier, probably at the same time or parallel with when I did Dr. Schlesinger.

Mr. Wides. When you saw him recently and mentioned this, did you refer to your telling this to Director Schlesinger, or did you say, as you recall?

Mr. Hedgman. Something like that.

Mr. Wides. And did he acknowledge that he had learned of it earlier?

Mr. Hedgman. Acknowledge? I think he indicated -- I would have, would have assumed from his conversation that he recalled something about it, yes.

Mr. Wides. Did the fact that [redacted] had made a trip to the Congo seem to surprise him, or did he acknowledge that he was aware of that as well?

Mr. Hedgman. I don't know. I don't know that I said at this time that I referred to [redacted] travel to the Congo when I saw him.

Mr. Wides. Recently?

Mr. Hedgman. Just the other day when I came back I paid a courtesy call on him.

Mr. Dawson. This was like this week then?

Mr. Hedgman. Yes. It was Monday, I believe.

Mr. Dawson. Do you recall anybody else that was a party to that conversation, or whom you had similar conversations with

1 recently, similar and separate?

2 Mr. Wides. Was there anyone there when you spoke to Mr.
3 Colby?

4 Mr. Hedgman. For part of it, part of the meeting, and
5 then we were alone for part of the meeting.

6 Mr. Wides. Was there anyone there when you mentioned what
7 you thought he wanted to talk to you about?

8 Mr. Hedgman. No, there was no one else present.

9 Mr. Wides. And have you spoken to anyone else?

10 Mr. Hedgman. I didn't wish to raise this in front of
11 other Agency employees, because it seemed to me that I didn't
12 know who was aware of this. I had no desire to discuss it in
13 front of others.

14 Mr. Wides. Did he indicate anything as to what he thought
15 anyone else had told the Committee or would tell the Committee,
16 including Mr. Bissell, Mr. O'Connell or [redacted]
17 [redacted]

18 Mr. Hedgman. No. He just indicated that it was very
19 difficult -- I am really putting words in his mouth and I
20 shouldn't do this. I had the impression that he regretted this
21 very much, that this had ever happened, and the truth had to
22 come out, and that was the only way for the Agency to ever
23 regain its status and usefulness. But I am putting -- I am
24 elaborating probably. He may not have thought all of those
25 things.

Mr. Wides. Have you had any conversations directly or through intermediary communications with either Mr. Bissell or Mr. Tweedy since you returned?

Mr. Hedgman. No. I tried to call Mr. Tweedy as an old personal friend on his phone twice and there was no answer. So I assume he is away on vacation or something, either that or maybe he's in town and I just missed him.

Mr. Dawson. So to summarize, the only person you really recall having all of the facts of the Presidential authorization, passing of the virus, with whom you really have a firm recollection, I should say, is [redacted]

Mr. Hedgman. Yes. I would have guessed that.

Mr. Wides. Excuse me.

You mean he ever discussed it with?

Mr. Dawson. The whole picture, or the panorama of things that might have taken place.

Mr. Hedgman. I don't think that I -- I mean, he discussed it with me.

Mr. Dawson. I agree, sir.

Mr. Wides. Let me ask you two more questions if I can, and then I will have to leave.

Mr. Baron. Just to follow this up, have you spoken to [redacted] about coming to the Committee?

Mr. Hedgman. I have not. I have not seen him.

Mr. Wides. With regard to the events subsequent to

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1 Mr. Lumumba's recapture and his detention in Thaysville --

2 Mr. Hedgman. Thaysville.

3 Mr. Wides. Thaysville.

4 And his subsequent, Mr. Lumumba's subsequent transportation

5 to Katanga, what discussions did you have with the Congolese

6 officials and what kind of guidance or input did you or anyone

7 from the U.S. Embassy or Station make into those decisions to

8 transport him to Katanga?

9 Mr. Hedgman. To the best of my knowledge, neither the

10 Station or the Embassy had any input in the decision to send

11 him to Katanga.

12 Mr. Wides. What discussions were there with the Congolese

13 officials as to whether he might be executed either by the

14 Central Government while he was under their control or by

15 Mr. Tshombe when he was sent to Katanga?

16 Mr. Hedgman. I don't recall any such conversations. I

17 think there was a general assumption, once we learned he had

18 been sent to Katanga, that his goose was cooked, because Tshombe

19 hated him and looked on him as a danger and a rival.

20 Mr. Wides. But you had no discussions with anyone in the

21 Central Congolese government regarding whether he should or

22 should not be sent there?

23 Mr. Hedgman. I had absolutely none, no sir.

24 Mr. Wides. And once he was there, what information did

25 you have as to whether they were considering his death prior to

1 learning of his death?

2 Mr. Hedgman. I had no, no information because it was not

3 the sort of thing I suppose that the Congolese officials really

4 wanted to discuss with a representative of a foreign government.

5 Mr. Wides. Was there any contact between our acting

6 Base Chief in the Katanga Province and the officials in Katanga?

7 Was there any discussion between them or communication that you

8 know of regarding what would be done with Patrice Lumumba?

9 Mr. Hedgman. No. The only thing that I would imagine

10 would have happened is they would have tried to advise both

11 Washington and Leopoldville of any information they had on what

12 happened to him.

13 Mr. Wides. Excuse me. Off the record.

14 (Discussion off the record.)

15 Mr. Baron. I would like to move very quickly through a

16 few loose ends that pop up as we went along relating to your

17 conversation with [redacted] and then O'Donnell and then

18 Schlesinger, and it is really just about one question on every

19 loose end, and I want to then turn to WIROGUE, and I don't

20 think that will take very long, and then the possibility of

21 conversations with the Embassy. And I would like your help

22 on that part since I was not there yesterday. But I will

23 leave that for the last, and you can pick up with any loose

24 ends.

25 Is that all right with you?

Mr. Dawson. Fine.

Mr. Baron. Mr. Hedgman, I would like to pick up here for a moment with a series of short, loose ends from the examination that we have done so far.

Mr. Hedgman. I will try to do my best.

Mr. Baron. That is, first of all, when you discussed your conversation with the then-DCI, Schlesinger, you said that you indicated to him verbally that you had been asked to participate in an assassination of Patrice Lumumba. Did he respond when you made that indication to him?

Mr. Hedgman. May I go back? I think I made it to him. It is conceivable that I could have made it to Bill Colby as his Executive Director, or that the two could have been present together. It is ridiculous, but I cant pin this one down in detail.

Mr. Baron. Did you receive a response from Schlesinger? You mentioned yesterday that he was able to be quite Sphinxlike when he wanted to, and you thought that this might have been one of those situations.

Mr. Hedgman. I had the impression he took it all on board and did not necessarily wish to advise me of what action he planned to take.

Mr. Baron. Was there any follow-up?

Mr. Hedgman. Either he or Colby, which ever it was.

Mr. Baron. Was there any follow-up from either Schlesinger

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1 or Colby after you had given them this information?

2 Mr. Hedgman. I do not recall.

3 Mr. Baron. Did you ever discuss the assassination mission

4 with anyone in the Inspector General's Office at the CIA?

5 Mr. Hedgman. Not to my recollection. But it is conceiv-

6 able they could have sent -- during that period, there were a

7 number of discussions with Inspector Generals on various aspects

8 of work and so on. Whether there was a discussion of this

9 subject, I don't recall it. So I doubt it, but I don't know.

10 Mr. Baron. On a number of discussions that you had with

11 the Inspector General's Office?

12 Mr. Hedgman. On many other subjects, totally unrelated

13 to this, personnel matters.

14 As you recall, Dr. Schlesinger committed a very sharp

15 reduction in force, which resulted in personnel problems and

16 Inspector Generals' investigations, and so forth.

17 Mr. Baron. Were you interviewed by anyone from the

18 Inspector General's office in the preparation of their Report

19 in 1967 on assassination efforts within the CIA?

tape 3a 20 Mr. Hedgman. 1967?

21 Mr. Baron. Yes.

22 Let me represent to you that at the request of the DCI,

23 the Inspector General's Office prepared a Report in 1967 on

24 any involvement that CIA had or could be conceived to have had

25 with assassination efforts. Were you interviewed in connection

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with that Report?

Mr. Hedgman. When -- you don't remember the date of the Report?

Mr. Baron. I believe the date was in May of 1967, and it was prepared by Scott Breckinridge and Mr. Earman and Mr. Greer.

Mr. Hedgman. Yes, I know them all. I don't believe so, but I was abroad at that time.

Mr. Dawson. Was the significance of the date in 1967 of any great moment?

Mr. Hedgman. I was abroad at the time. I didn't return to the States until July, I believe, of 1967.

Mr. Baron. Returning now to your discussions with [redacted] when he came to the Congo, to give you lethal biological agents for the assassination of Lumumba, was it clear at that time that the means for administering those biological agents was to inject them into a substance that was to be ingested by Lumumba, whether it be food, or drink, or toothpaste, or any other substance that was to be ingested?

Mr. Hedgman. That's my recollection, yes.

Mr. Baron. You mentioned that it was your best recollection that [redacted] brought the lethal biological agents with him. Is that correct?

Mr. Hedgman. Yes.

Mr. Baron. And you mentioned yesterday that you believe he

brought them with him in his bag.

Is that right?

Mr. Hedgman. I have a recollection that they were in a, what do you call these small carry-on bags like your Pan Am bag or Sabina bag or something like that.

Mr. Baron. It would not have been difficult for [redacted] to have gotten such equipment into the Congo at that time, would it?

Mr. Hedgman. No.

Mr. Baron. Were there extensive Customs checks in the Congo at that time?

Mr. Hedgman. There were not.

Mr. Baron. Were there any Customs checks at that point?

Mr. Hedgman. I can't recall, but if so, they were very limited.

Mr. Baron. When you spoke with [redacted] did you ask him how long the lethal biological agents would retain their potency?

Mr. Hedgman. I believe there was a conversation to that effect.

Mr. Baron. Do you recall what he said?

Mr. Hedgman. I think it was fairly short, some months.

Mr. Baron. They would be lethal only for a fairly short period of time?

Mr. Hedgman. Yes.

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Mr. Baron. A period of some months?

Mr. Hedgman. I think it was less than that, but I cannot be certain. That is, I remember being surprised, thinking that limits certain possibilities right there.

Mr. Baron. And you said earlier that you took the poisons into a safe at the Station. When did you take the poisons out of the safe?

Mr. Hedgman. I cannot really recall that.

Mr. Baron. Did you take them out on more than one occasion?

Mr. Hedgman. No.

Mr. Baron. And that occasion was --

Mr. Hedgman. No. I say no. Not to the best of my recollection. I want to stress that because it is so long ago that I am almost certain I did not.

Mr. Baron. And the occasion when you did take the poisons out of the safe was when you disposed of them?

Mr. Hedgman. Yes.

Mr. Baron. And can you describe the circumstances?

Mr. Hedgman. I think that I took them out probably in a briefcase or an air bag of some sort, and I believe that the things like the rubber gloves and the mask were thrown away in a bushy area or something where, you know, if they were found it didn't matter that much. I believe I buried the other matters.

Mr. Baron. The biological agents?

Mr. Hedgman. Yes, although they, by that time they would, the potency would have expired. But, they didn't seem the sort of thing -- I didn't know enough about it, and I will be damned if I wanted to leave them lying around.

Mr. Baron. Was this out by the Congo River that you buried these things?

Mr. Hedgman. Yes, yes, I think. You know, it is my recollection.

Mr. Baron. Was this after the arrest of Lumumba, after Lumumba had already been placed in protective custody so to speak?

Mr. Hedgman. By the Congolese, you mean?

Mr. Baron. Yes.

Mr. Hedgman. Yes, I would think so.

Mr. Baron. And was it possible that you waited until after Lumumba's death to dispose of those poisons?

Mr. Hedgman. That's possible. I don't remember.

Mr. Baron. But you --

Mr. Hedgman. They were long overdue, whatever it was, I think, because I believe --

Mr. Baron. Yesterday you stated that it was your recollection that you had not disposed of the poisons until Lumumba was successfully neutralized, either by arrest or by death, and you cou[illegible] all which. Is that [illegible] your recollection?

Mr. Hedgman. I think that probably would be a fair statement.

Mr. Baron. Did you discuss the assassination mission with Dr. Lester Houk?

Mr. Hedgman. Never. I am quite sure now.

Mr. Baron. He was your Branch Chief at that point?

Mr. Hedgman. He was.

Mr. Baron. Did you discuss it with Glenn Fields?

Mr. Hedgman. I don't recall. He was Acting Chief and Deputy Chief.

Mr. Baron. Do you recall discussing the assassination mission with anyone else at the Station or in the Congo other than the one asset?

Mr. Hedgman. No. I remember hearing Mr. O'Donnell commenting on this to --

Mr. Baron. Mr. Driscoll

Mr. Hedgman. I believe it was [redacted] and I was shocked and surprised, because I thought this was not the sort of thing that he should discuss with officers who were not involved in this.

Mr. Baron. What was [redacted]'s job at that time?

Mr. Hedgman. He was under non-official cover and an agent handler, or not necessarily just the agents, but developing contacts.

Mr. Baron. And what's his full name?

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Mr. Hedgman. [redacted]

Mr. Baron. What did you hear O'Donnell say to [redacted]

Mr. Hedgman. I don't remember exactly, but in any case it referred to something about removing Lumumba from -- I'm not sure whether it was assassination or neutralization, but whatever it was, it seemed to me he had gone too far.

Mr. Baron. And had gone too far because it conveyed the idea of assassination?

Mr. Hedgman. Probably, but I cannot be sure.

Mr. Baron. You indicated earlier that in mid-September there was a coup which effectively limited Lumumba's powers in the Congo?

Mr. Hedgman. That is correct.

Mr. Baron. And this would have been very shortly after [redacted] visited you in the Congo and gave you the instruction about assassinating Lumumba?

Mr. Hedgman. I can't be sure whether it was before or after. That was the 14th of September, that coup took place, but as you will recall, I cannot be absolutely certain of when I saw [redacted] I think it was before that, but I cannot be sure.

Mr. Baron. But it is quite possible, isn't it, that the coup could have been a major reason why there wasn't any more vigourous action on the assassination front?

Mr. Hedgman. That's possible, yes.

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1 Mr. Baron. Is that --

2 Mr. Hedgman. And I have speculated on that earlier.

3 Mr. Baron. Is that a strong possibility to you?

4 Mr. Hedgman. I just couldn't put it, because I don't

5 know what the policy makers, the political leaders, the

6 President, the Director, what the Director's policy, the senior

7 executive, anyway, were thinking at that time.

8 Mr. Baron. And you mentioned that Justin O'Donnell was

9 not particularly active during his period of service in the

10 Congo?

11 Mr. Hedgman. He did not seem as active as many of the

12 other people that I had working for me at that time.

13 Mr. Baron. You didn't rely upon him for major operations

14 or activities at that point, did you?

15 Mr. Hedgman. No. Well, this -- he was sent out more or

16 less on a special mission, as I understood it, and I left him

17 free for that.

18 Mr. Baron. You indicated yesterday, and I would like to

19 know if this is still your impression, that the fact that Justin

20 O'Donnell might not have been active on the assassination

21 mission may not have been due to any lack of priority for that

22 mission, but due more to his personal habits of inactivity?

23 Mr. Hedgman. Perhaps I don't want to malign Justin. I

24 don't mean that -- shouldn't have commented on his character or

25 his personal habits, really. I just have the impression he was

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not putting his whole heart and soul into the effort. He was an officer with a reputation for being gung ho and a very hard worker when I had known him previously, some years previously, and he seemd quite, certainly did not seem that way to me out there.

Mr. Dawson. Did you comment on that to the Agency?

Mr. Hedgman. I doubt it, but I cannot be sure.

Mr. Dawson. Were you writing his efficiency report at the time?

Mr. Hedgman. He didn't stay long enough for me to write an efficiency report. I could have written one if he stayed the 90 days or more, and as the COS I could have written one if I'd wished.

Mr. Dawson. But you chose not to do so?

Mr. Hedgman. I chose not to, to the best of my recollection, I did not.

Mr. Baron. Did much of the cable traffic which you received from Headquarters in relation to the assassination mission subsequently become destroyed?

Mr. Hedgman. It is my recollection that before leaving the Station and turning over to my successor that I destroyed that. Perhaps well before. I just can't put a timeframe on it, but it seemed to me it was not the type of correspondence to leave lying about a Station.

Mr. Baron. You indicated yesterday that you had received

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1 some kind of instructions to destroy that cable traffic.

2 Mr. Hedgman. I think I -- I cannot recall exactly what

3 I said yesterday. Now, when I am trying to be as precise as I

4 can on the record here --

5 Mr. Baron. Please do.

6 Mr. Hedgman. I think I did, but I cannot be certain. I

7 cannot be absolutely. I don't know whether I did.

8 Mr. Baron. Would you have received those instructions

9 verbally from [redacted] or as part of one of the cables?

10 Mr. Hedgman. I don't know.

11 Mr. Baron. Would it be standard procedure for a Chief of

12 Station to destroy cable traffic relating to an extremely

13 sensitive operation like that one?

14 Mr. Hedgman. Well, it is standard procedure to keep your

15 cable files and all other files as small as possible, because

16 copies of those are retained, of all messages are normally

17 retained in Washington. You try and keep as small a number as

18 possible on hand so as to permit you to continue working so that

19 you have ready reference, because you may have to, in an

20 emergency you may have to burn all of your communications.

21 And believe me, when you have to go through a burn

22 session, it is very difficult, and it takes time.

23 Mr. Baron. Had you ever in your experience as Chief of

24 Station in the Congo destroyed other cable traffic because of

25 its extremely sensitive nature?

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Mr. Hedgman. No, I don't think so. I don't recall doing so. But I destroyed a great deal of traffic, because the Congo was a highly sensitive area in which -- at one period I recall we had all of our files in the burn barrels. I mean, when you wanted a file, you went over and dug it out of the burn barrel.

Mr. Baron. But the cable traffic relating to the assassination mission wasn't destroyed as a routine matter because it was excess traffic, but because of its extremely sensitive nature?

Mr. Hedgman. No, that's correct.

Mr. Baron. Did you have any discussions of the assassination mission with anyone at the U.S. Embassy?

Mr. Hedgman. No, I did not.

Mr. Baron. Did you ever discuss the prospects of assassinating Patrice Lumumba with the Ambassador in the Congo?

Mr. Hedgman. I am quite sure I did not.

Mr. Baron. Off the record for a moment.

(Discussion off the record.)

Mr. Hedgman. May I say for the record that relationships with the Embassy were exceptionally good. There was almost, or no friction, or sense of competition between the CIA Station and the Embassy. The Ambassador was extremely cooperative, friendly and understanding.

Mr. Baron. Who was the Ambassador at that time?

Mr. Hedgman. Clare H. T imberlake.

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Mr. Baron. Did you ever discuss the Lumumba assassination plan with [redacted]

Mr. Hedgman. Not to the best of my recollection.

Mr. Baron. [redacted] is a CIA officer, is that correct?

Mr. Hedgman. Yeah. I know him.

Mr. Baron. Did you have any official business with [redacted] while you were in the Congo?

Mr. Hedgman. Yes. He came through on a counterintelligence mission, and I don't recall the details at this time.

Mr. Baron. Do you recall whether he had mentioned that his mission related to Project ZRRIFLE or the development of an Executive Action capability?

Mr. Hedgman. No, I do not recall that.

Mr. Baron. Would his project have related to obtaining codes by surreptitious means?

Mr. Hedgman. I think it would have been more nearly that, but I, I cannot affirm this as the case. That was what I think was probably the case.

Mr. Baron. Would his project have involved an asset who was already in the Congo named QJWIN?

Mr. Hedgman. I gather from what was said yesterday that this was the case. I do not recall it.

Mr. Baron. Have you ever heard of --

Mr. Hedgman. And [redacted] came from where he indicated,

1 you indicated yesterday QJWIN came from, and [redacted] had been
2 there with --
3 Mr. Baron. This is a country in Europe?
4 Mr. Hedgman. Yes, therefore it's logical.
5 Mr. Baron. Have you ever heard of Project ZRRIFLE?
6 Mr. Hedgman. Yesterday.
7 Mr. Baron. Yesterday was the first time you heard that
8 name?
9 Mr. Hedgman. I think so. And yesterday, I might
10 specify, was here.
11 Mr. Baron. Being informed by the Committee staff?
12 Mr. Hedgman. Yes.
13 Mr. Baron. Have you ever heard of Executive Action?
14 Mr. Hedgman. I have heard those, that term used, and I
15 don't quite -- I think more in newspapers or more recently than
16 in the past, but it is possible that I heard it.
17 Mr. Baron. Is Executive Action used at the CIA as a
18 euphemism for assassination of foreign leaders?
19 Mr. Hedgman. It has been so alleged. I never heard anyone
20 to my knowledge use it.
21 Mr. Baron. Were you aware of a Project at the CIA to
22 develop means -- strike that.
23 To develop the capability of carrying out assassinations
24 of foreign leaders?
25 Mr. Hedgman. Not until I talked with the Committee staff

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