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Interview with Walter P. Halligan 3111157

Date: June 13, 1978

Interviewed by: Kinsey Goldsmith and Betsy Wolf

A copy of the omnibus letter was given to Mr. Halligan who read it and indicated that he understood the contents.

Mr. Halligan was given a copy of LIA # 435-173-A which consists of a cover letter dated 12/12/63 from Robert H. Yamprell to the Chiefs of SR and WE and to the Chief of Station in Paris forwarding a memo dated 11/25/63 which was written by Thomas B. Casasin to Walter P. Halligan concerning Casasin's prior interest in Lee Harvey Oswald. This document served as the basis for our questioning.

Halligan stated that in 1963 he served as Chief of the Soviet Section [redacted] He explained that Casasin was also an officer [redacted] but he served [redacted]

[redacted]

Due to the nature of this arrangement, Casasin frequently wrote informal memos such as the one in #435-173-A which

[redacted]

Halligan explained the following portions of Casasin's memo:

- "REDWOOD" represents the Soviet Division.

- The "6 Branch" was the [redacted] Branch

for the Soviet Division [redacted]

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[redacted] Casarin was chief of the 6 Branch until his transfer

- KULTUMP was the cryptonym for the Office of Operations which

- ODACTID was the cryptonym for the State Department. Haltigan explained that it was not unusual that Casarin would have seen a State Department despatch on Oswald as it would have been routine to receive most of State Department memos.

- Casarin's recollection of having discussed the Oswald case "in Summer 1960" as stated in the memo, must have been a mistake. Instead, he probably <sup>meant the summer</sup> ~~should have~~ of 1962.

- BI refers to biographic information.

- KPOVER was a cryptonym for [redacted]

[redacted] KUDOVE was the cryptonym for the DDP. Haltigan explained that in paragraph 3, Casarin's <sup>did not mean</sup> ~~reference~~ that he was phasing out of the DDP altogether. Instead, his reference to phasing out of the DDP referred only to his assignment within DDP.

[redacted]

Haltigan did not believe this to be a case where the couple was eventually divorced as this memo infers. Haltigan stated that it was unusual for Marina Oswald to be allowed to leave the Soviet Union as not many Soviet wives were permitted to leave during that time period.

- Haltigan was perplexed as to the reference to the "Harvey story" in the last line of the memo. He first stated that it must have been a typographical error which should have been the "Oswald story" instead. When it was pointed out that the sentence contains two other references to Oswald which makes it unlikely that this was merely a typographical error, he expressed confusion <sup>with</sup> ~~at~~ the respect to the reference. He could think of no explanation for this, nor did he remember ever speaking to Casasia about this point.

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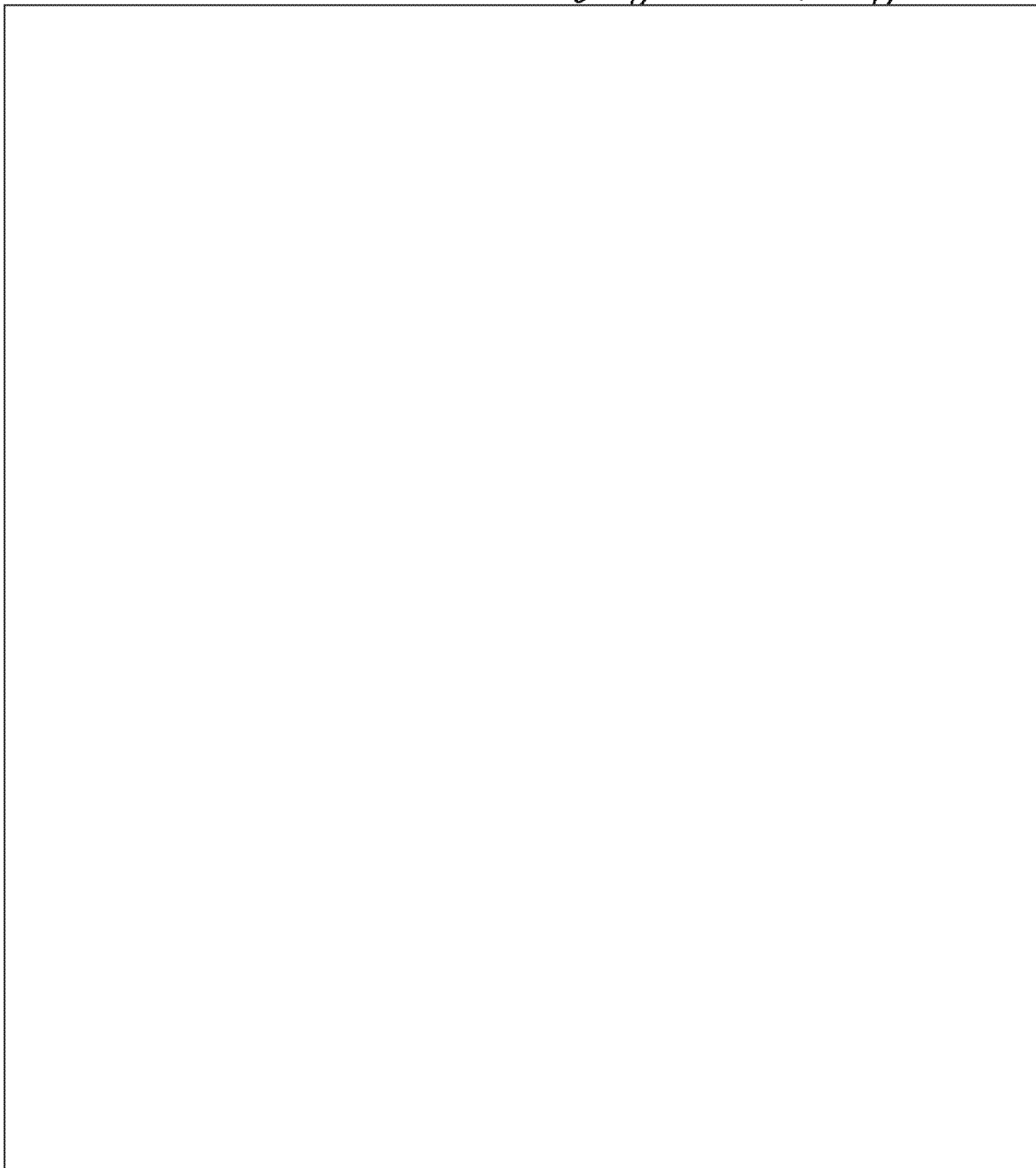
Haltigan recalled that he arrived [redacted] for his assignment in June, 1962 and that Casasia probably arrived there in September of the same year. Haltigan stated that he had never heard any rumors to the effect that Oswald had been used by the CIA at any time. He felt that because of his assignment within the Agency, he would have been in a position to know if Oswald had been used in any capacity. He mentioned that he had been [redacted] from 1951-1955 and that Casasia [redacted] there from [redacted]

1955 to 1958 or 1959.

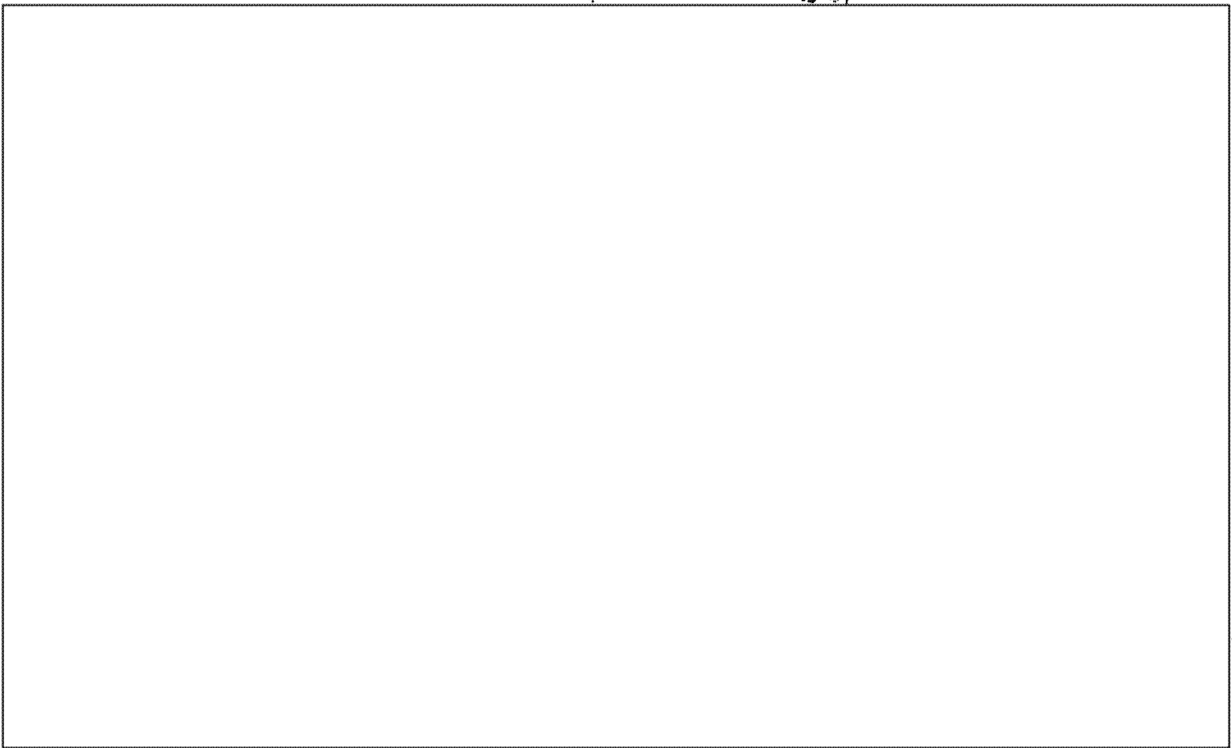
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he expressed the belief that it was almost impossible for them not to have known if Oswald had had some involvement with the Agency in this capacity.



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