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(202) 223-4524

Select Committee on Assassinations

U.S. House of Representatives

3331 HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, ANNEX 2

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

September 19, 1978

Mr. Scott Breckinridge
 Principal Coordinator/HSCA
 Office of the Legislative Counsel
 Central Intelligence Agency
 Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Breckinridge:

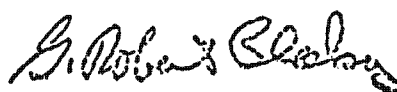
In connection with its investigation into the circumstances surrounding the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, the Select Committee on Assassinations requests that the enclosed two pages of John McCone's testimony before this Committee and the enclosed eleven pages of Barney Hidalgo's executive session testimony before this Committee both be declassified. Subject to the Agency's declassification of this material, it will be entered into the Committee's public hearings record on Tuesday, September 26, 1978.

Regarding public disclosure of Mr. Hidalgo's name, please note that the Committee does not intend to refer to or disclose in any way Mr. Hidalgo's identity.

Since some of the information cited in this letter is derived from classified information, consideration should be given to assigning this letter an appropriate classification indicator.

Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Sincerely,



G. Robert Blakey
 Chief Counsel and Director

Enclosures

GRB: cmb

Classified by 13190
 Exempt from general
 declassification schedule of E.O. 11652
 exemption category (b) (7) (D)
 Authority 50 USC 3024
 Date Ineligible for automatic
 declassification

CIA HAS NO OBJECTION TO
 DECLASSIFICATION AND/OR
 RELEASE OF THIS DOCUMENT
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2 A Yes.

3 Q Was he an agency employee?

4 A Yes.

5 Q Do you know where he worked in 1963?

6 A No.

7 Q Did you know Ann Egerter?

8 A No, not that I recall. I may have known here but I
9 do not recall her.

10 Q Do you know whether she was an Agency employee?

11 A I do not know.

12 Q Did you know Charlotte Bustos?

13 A Not that I recall.

14 Q Do you know whether she was an Agency employee?

15 A No.

16 Q Do you know or did you know Maurice Bishop?

17 A Yes.

18 Q Was he an agency employee?

19 A I believe so.

20 Q Do you know what his duties were in 1963?

21 A No.

22 Q Do you know whether any of these people worked at
23 headquarters in 1963 or worked in the field in 1963?

24 A Well, they move back and forth and it is pretty hard
25 to tell just where they were in 1963, but the records will show
and you can get it from the Office of the present Director.

2 He will have records where they were, or the personnel depart-
3 ment.

4 Q Do you know what positions were held by these
5 people?

6 A No.

7 Q What positions they held--let me rephrase that
8 questions. Do you know the highest position that each of
9 these individuals held in the CIA?

10 A No, I do not.

11 Q For instance, do you know whether Maurice Bishop
12 worked in the Western Hemisphere Division or whether he worked
13 in some other division of the CIA?

14 A I do not know. I do not recall. I knew at that time
15 but I do not recall.

16 Q Do you know whether Maurice Bishop used any pseudo-
17 nyms.

18 A No, I would not know that.

19 Q Do you know whether the name, Maurice Bishop, was in
20 fact a pseudonym?

21 A No, I do not know that.

22 ~~Q Okay. Did you know Ann Goodpasture?~~

23 ~~A No.~~

24 ~~Q Mr. McCone, I have no further questions at this point~~
25 ~~It is the policy of the Committee to grant to the witness at~~
~~the end of a deposition five minutes of free time to either~~

Not recorded by

1 Mr. Goldsmith. How often have you had personal contact
2 with Mr. Phillips?

3 Mr. Hidalgo. Then?

4 Mr. Goldsmith. Through the years.

5 Mr. Hidalgo. Through the years after he retired I called
6 him. We belonged to the same association. We are both retired
7 and I talk to him frequently.

8 Mr. Goldsmith. Was your relationship with him both a
9 business relationship as well as a personal friendship rela-
10 tionship?

11 Mr. Hidalgo. Yes. More or actually friendship than
12 operational.

13 Mr. Goldsmith. Did you know an individual named Maurice
14 Bishop?

15 Mr. [Hidalgo] Again Mr. Bishop was in the organization but
16 I had no personal day-to-day open relationship with him. As
17 Phillips, yes; Bishop, no. I knew them both and Phillips I
18 knew. I know Mr. Berk is over there and I know Mr. Hardway is
19 over there but I have no relationships with them. Do you
20 follow me?

21 ~~Mr. Goldsmith. Yes. I believe you indicated that with~~

22 ~~Mr. Phillips your relationship was both business and personal~~

23 ~~Mr. Hidalgo. Yes.~~

24 Mr. Goldsmith. Now with Mr. Bishop -- was this Mr. Maurice
25 Bishop?

~~THE~~ ORANT *reclassified by*

1 Mr. [Redacted]. I believe that was the name, yes.
2 strictly a business knowledge.

3 Mr. Goldsmith. How long has it been since you have seen
4 Maurice Bishop?

5 Mr. [Redacted]. Less than twice or three times in the last
6 way somewhere.

7 Mr. Goldsmith. When was the last time that you saw him?

8 Mr. [Redacted]. It would have to be before 1970 somewhere.

9 Mr. Goldsmith. Do you know what position, if any, he held
10 with the agency?

11 Mr. [Redacted]. He held a position higher than mine but I
12 did not know, you know.

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14 with Mr. Bishop?

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16 that important that it would impress itself upon me.

17 Mr. Goldsmith. Did he work in the Western Hemisphere
18 Division?

19 Mr. [Redacted]. I think so but again I am not sure of all
20 the details.

21 Mr. Goldsmith. Do you know any other individuals who
22 were familiar with Mr. Bishop who have known him?

23 Mr. [Redacted]. I don't know. Perhaps Mr. [Swenson], perhaps
24 Dave Phillips.

25 Mr. Goldsmith. Was Mr. Bishop's office located at CIA?

1 headquarters in Bagley?

2 Mr. ~~[Hidalgo]~~ I believe so.

3 Mr. Goldsmith. Do you recall which floor his office was
4 located on?

5 Mr. ~~[Hidalgo]~~ No, sir.

6 Mr. Goldsmith. Do you know whether Mr. Bishop ever went
7 by any other name?

8 Mr. ~~[Hidalgo]~~ No, sir, I have no knowledge of any of his
9 other names.

10 Mr. Goldsmith. Would you make your best effort, please,
11 to describe Mr. Bishop's fiscal description? What did he look
12 like?

13 Mr. ~~[Hidalgo]~~ I could not even make a mental image of
14 Mr. Bishop right now.

15 Mr. Goldsmith. Approximately how old is he today?

16 Mr. ~~[Hidalgo]~~ I don't know. This must seem strange to
17 you, it really must, I know but, you see -- How can I say it?
18 The relationship of one agent to another is a thing that you
19 try your best not to -- not to know.

20 Mr. Goldsmith. Was Mr. Bishop an administrator or a case
21 officer?

22 Mr. ~~[Hidalgo]~~ I would say his position was higher than
23 mine. A little honcho against a chief.

24 Mr. Goldsmith. Where did you generally see him on those
25 occasions when you did see him?

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1 Mr. [Hidalgo] I imagine in the agency perhaps.

2 Mr. Goldsmith. For example, in the hallway, in the
3 cafeteria?

4 Mr. [Hidalgo] In the hallways or cafeteria. Never cer-
5 tainly at my desk.

6 Mr. Goldsmith. What is your best recollection as to the
7 number of times that you saw him?

8 Mr. [Hidalgo] A couple of times, two or three.

9 Mr. Goldsmith. When you saw this individual and you knew
10 that he was Maurice Bishop, how did you know that the gentlem-
11 an that you had in mind was not that Maurice Bishop?

12 Mr. [Hidalgo] Someone might have said, "That is Maurice
13 Bishop," and it was different from Dave Phillips or [Hal Swenso-
14 nson] guys that I know.

15 Mr. Goldsmith. Did you know a man named Firgault?

16 Mr. [Hidalgo] I don't think so.

17 Mr. Goldsmith. At this time I would like to show you an
18 exhibit, I believe it is JFK Exhibit No. 104, and I would like
19 to ask you to examine that and to tell the committee whether you
20 recognize that individual.

21 Mr. [Hidalgo] I don't believe so, sir.

22 Mr. Goldsmith. Thank you. You can put that aside now.
23 Did you know an individual named Antonio Veciana Blanc?

24 Mr. [Hidalgo] Now this name sounds familiar to me in my
25 Cuban operation, I don't know where. It may have been with

1 the brigade or he may have been an agent of an agent. I knew
2 literally hundreds -- hundreds -- of the Cubans.

3 Mr. Goldsmith. Did Mr. Bishop have any involvement in the
4 affairs of the brigade? By brigade I am not referring to the
5 Bay of Pigs operation.

6 Mr. [Hidalgo] I don't know if he did. I was not aware of
7 everyone. He might very well have been involved in this thing.

8 Mr. Goldsmith. Getting back to Mr. Bishop, when was the
9 first time you saw him to the best of your memory?

10 Mr. [Hidalgo] I would think about the early Sixties.

11 Mr. Goldsmith. Were you ever formally introduced to him?

12 Mr. [Hidalgo] No.

13 Mr. Goldsmith. And from the time that you first saw him
14 in the early Sixties until the last time that you saw him,
15 which I believe you said would have been about 1969 or 1970,
16 approximately how many times did you actually see this man?

17 Mr. [Hidalgo] It would not have been that late because in
18 late 1964 or early 1965 I left the Cuban operations and went to
19 another country of interest, so in those times, say 1960 to
20 1964, it might have been two or three times.

21 Mr. Goldsmith. Is it fair to say in light of your last
22 comment that once you stopped working in Cuban operations, you
23 left that particular area, you no longer saw Mr. Bishop?

24 Mr. [Hidalgo] If I did, it would be just in the hallway
25 and I don't think so. I was now in another part of the agency

 *submitted the*

1 making TDY trips for that part of the agency.

2 Mr. Goldsmith. So by that, in other words that would
3 infer that Mr. Bishop worked in the area of Cuban operations?

4 Mr. [Widatgo] No, not necessarily. He might have worked
5 in -- you know, there are so many operations. He might have
6 been transferred to somewhere else, I don't know. You see,
7 where in the case of [Hal Swenson] and Dave Phillips I continued
8 to seek them out and say, "How are you, Dave? How are you
9 doing?" Go to lunch, play some poker. In the case of Bishop
10 this is not so.

11 Mr. Goldsmith. Did you ever see Mr. Bishop at the [JM
12 wave] station?

13 Mr. [Widatgo] No. In the [JM wave] station you have to
14 understand that I was assigned to the [JM wave] station but I
15 stayed away from the [JM wave] station. It sounds peculiar. I
16 was assigned there and yet I was not there. I was assigned
17 there shortly after I went there and met my own cover and did
18 my own operations. So when I did go to the [JM wave] station,
19 it was just a matter of just quickly in and get it over with.

20 Mr. Goldsmith. Did you ever see Mr. Bishop's picture in
21 the newspaper?

22 Mr. [Widatgo] I may have, I don't recall. There was a
23 time there after early 1964 where you could have asked me to
24 identify my children and I could not have done it. That is
25 when I had my second stroke and that was when I left [JM wave]

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I was evacuated actually one.

Mr. Goldsmith. But you are certain nevertheless that during your stay at the agency on at least two or three occasions you saw an individual whom you knew to be Maurice Bishop?

Mr. [Hidalgo] Whom someone told me, "That is Maurice Bishop."

Mr. Goldsmith. Mr. Chairman, I have no further questions at this time. I may have a few follow-up questions. If the committee has questions, I will yield at this time.

Mr. Preyer. All right.

Mr. Fithian.

Mr. Fithian. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Do you get any feel for whether other people that you get to see just casually at the CIA are -- I don't know how to put this -- higher or lower on the pecking order?

Mr. [Hidalgo] Pardon?

Mr. Fithian. Do you have a feel for an individual that you see casually over at the agency as to whether or not they are higher up in the structure?

Mr. [Hidalgo] A feeling?

Mr. Fithian. Yes.

Mr. [Hidalgo] You mean when I was working at the agency if I saw someone --

Mr. Fithian. You didn't see them, you were not working with them every day, you just see them from time to time, do

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1 you get a feel, whether by eating lunch or what they are doing
2 as to whether they are above you in rank or equal or whatever?

3 Mr. [Hidalgo] Yes, I think I know what you are trying to
4 say. Essentially, yes, sir.

5 Mr. Fithian. Do you have an impression that Bishop was
6 higher?

7 Mr. [Hidalgo] I would say he was a higher grade than I was

8 Mr. Fithian. Higher grade than you were?

9 Mr. [Hidalgo] Of course I was not a very high grade.

10 Mr. Fithian. That is the only question I had, Mr. Chair-
11 man.

12 Mr. Preyer. Was your office in Langley in the CIA head-
13 quarters?

14 Mr. [Hidalgo] Yes. At the time I was in headquarters.
15 That is where I went.

16 Mr. Preyer. And Dave Phillips' office was also there?

17 Mr. [Hidalgo] Yes, sir.

18 ~~Mr. Preyer. And you would go out occasionally on mission~~
19 ~~such as going down to Mexico?~~

20 Mr. Hidalgo. Yes, sir.

21 Mr. Preyer. But you would be working for the CIA in
22 Washington and not for Win Scott, the chief of the Mexican
23 station?

24 Mr. Hidalgo. [REDACTED]
25 [REDACTED]

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5 Mr. Preyer. You say you knew Dave Phillips well but you
6 didn't have an operation relationship with him, you didn't work
7 with him on operations.

8 Mr. ~~Hidalgo~~. That is correct, sir. It is just, you know
9 two guys that met and happened to like each other.

10 Mr. Preyer. Was his office near yours?

11 Mr. ~~Hidalgo~~. It was on the same floor.

12 Mr. Preyer. Was he higher in rank or lower in rank than
13 you?

14 Mr. ~~Hidalgo~~. Higher, sir.

15 Mr. Preyer. And Maurice Bishop's office was not on
16 the same floor as yours in Langley?

17 Mr. ~~Hidalgo~~ I don't know. It was a very large floor
18 and there were many people on the floor that had nothing to
19 do with what I had to do.

20 Mr. Preyer. Did Bishop have some relationship in his
21 appearance and age to Phillips?

22 Mr. ~~Hidalgo~~. Again I cannot recall Bishop's appearance
23 at all.

24 Mr. Preyer. Do you recall more on the name when people
25 said, "That is Maurice Bishop"?

4

1 Mr. [Hidalgo] Maurice Bishop, right. might have been
2 a secretary or a fellow case officer or someone.

3 Mr. Preyer. All right. Thank you.

4 ~~Well, let me just ask one other question. Staff might~~
5 ~~answer this. Who is AMMUG? Do we know him by any other name?~~

6 ~~Mr. Hidalgo. Yes, sir. At one time I could give you his~~
7 ~~name, etc. Right now I can only give you his first name. His~~
8 ~~first name I believe was Vladimer and the name I used confi-~~
9 ~~dentially was Laddie.~~

10 Mr. Preyer. He was a Cuban defector?

11 Mr. Hidalgo. Yes, sir.

12 Mr. Preyer. Who was connected with Cuban intelligence?

13 Mr. Hidalgo. Yes, sir.

14 Mr. Goldsmith. Mr. Chairman, I state for the record the
15 committee does have this individual's true name but just for
16 sake of security we are not referring to it.

17 Mr. Preyer. All right.

18 Mr. Hidalgo. I appreciate that.

19 Mr. Goldsmith. Thank you.

20 Mr. Preyer. Thank you. I have no further questions.

21 Mr. Goldsmith. Mr. Chairman, I have just a few more
22 questions if I may proceed. How much time do I have?

23 Mr. Preyer. Mr. Fithian and I will have to leave you in
24 a couple of minutes here. Will it take you more than a few
25 minutes or so? We have got to go and vote.

Mr. Goldsmith. Yes.
Mr. Preyer. The committee will stand in recess for about ten minutes.

(Whereupon, at 4:11 p.m., the committee recessed until 4:24 p.m.)

Mr. Preyer. The committee will resume its session.

Mr. Goldsmith.

Mr. Goldsmith. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will try to be brief.

Mr. Goldsmith.

I have a few more questions for you, Mr. [Hidalgo]

Do you know whether David Phillips knew Maurice Bishop?

Mr. [Hidalgo] I don't know that. He may have known him but I don't know that.

Mr. Goldsmith. Is it possible that the name Maurice Bishop may have been an alias?

Mr. [Hidalgo] Very possible.

Mr. Goldsmith. Why do you say that?

Mr. [Hidalgo] Because others in the agency thought that they knew me by X name and they called me by that name when in fact it was not.

Mr. Goldsmith. So the use of aliases even at agency headquarters was not at all uncommon, is that true, to your knowledge?

Mr. [Hidalgo.] That is true.

~~Mr. Goldsmith. Do you know whether Maurice Bishop was~~

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15 Q Do you know or did you know Maurice Bishop?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Was he an agency employee?

18 A I believe so.

19 Q Do you know what his duties were in 1963?

20 A No.

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22 headquarters in 1963 or worked in the field in 1963?

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25 and you can get it from the Office of the present Director.

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2 He will have records where they were, or the personnel depart-
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4 Q Do you know what positions were held by these
5 people?

6 A No.

7 Q What positions they held--let me rephrase that
8 questions. Do you know the highest position that each of
9 these individuals held in the CIA?

10 A No, I do not.

11 Q For instance, do you know whether Maurice Bishop
12 worked in the Western Hemisphere Division or whether he worked
13 in some other division of the CIA?

14 A I do not know. I do not recall. I knew at that time
15 but I do not recall.

16 Q Do you know whether Maurice Bishop used any pseudo-
17 nyms.

18 A No, I would not know that.

19 Q Do you know whether the name, Maurice Bishop, was in
20 fact a pseudonym?

21 A No, I do not know that.
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13 Mr. Goldsmith. Did you know an individual named Maurice
14 Bishop?

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18 knew. I know Mr. Berk is over there and I know Mr. Hardway is
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20 follow me?
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24 Mr. Goldsmith. Now with Mr. Bishop -- was this Mr. Maurice
25 Bishop?

1 Mr. . . . I believe that was the name, yes. His was
2 strictly a business knowledge.

3 Mr. Goldsmith. How long has it been since you have seen
4 Maurice Bishop?

5 Mr. Less than twice or three times in the hall
6 way somewhere.

7 Mr. Goldsmith. When was the last time that you saw him?

8 Mr. It would have to be before 1970 somewhere.

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22 were familiar with Mr. Bishop who have known him?

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25 Mr. Goldsmith. Was Mr. Bishop's office located at CIA

1 headquarters in Langley?

2 Mr. I believe so.

3 Mr. Goldsmith. Do you recall which floor his office was
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6 Mr. Goldsmith. Do you know whether Mr. Bishop ever went
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14 guys that I know.

15 Mr. Goldsmith. Did you know a man named Firgault?

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9 first time you saw him to the best of your memory?

10 Mr. I would think about the early Sixties.

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13 Mr. Goldsmith. And from the time that you first saw him
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15 which I believe you said would have been about 1969 or 1970,
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23 time there after early 1964 where you could have asked me to
24 identify my children and I could not have done it. That is
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1 I was evacuated actually out.

2 Mr. Goldsmith. But you are certain nevertheless that
3 during your stay at the agency on at least two or three occa-
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8 at this time. I may have a few follow-up questions. If the
9 committee has questions, I will yield at this time.

10 Mr. Preyer. All right.

11 Mr. Fithian.

12 Mr. Fithian. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

13 Do you get any feel for whether other people that you get
14 to see just casually at the CIA are -- I don't know how to put
15 this -- higher or lower on the pecking order?

16 Mr. . . . Pardon?

17 Mr. Fithian. Do you have a feel for an individual that
18 you see casually over at the agency as to whether or not they
19 are higher up in the structure?

20 Mr. . . . A feeling?

21 Mr. Fithian. Yes.

22 Mr. . . . You mean when I was working at the agency
23 if I saw someone --

24 Mr. Fithian. You didn't see them, you were not working
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3 Mr. Yes, I think I know what you are trying to
4 say. Essentially, yes, sir.

5 Mr. Fithian. Do you have an impression that Bishop was
6 higher?

7 Mr. I would say he was a higher grade than I was.

8 Mr. Fithian. Higher grade than you were?

9 Mr. Of course I was not a very high grade.

10 Mr. Fithian. That is the only question I had, Mr. Chair-
11 man.

12 Mr. Preyer. Was your office in Langley in the CIA head-
13 quarters?

14 Mr. Yes. At the time I was in headquarters.
15 That is where I went.

16 Mr. Preyer. And Dave Phillips' office was also there?

17 Mr. Yes, sir.
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15 Mr. Preyer. And Maurice Bishop's office was not on
16 the same floor as yours in Langley?

17 Mr. I don't know. It was a very large floor
18 and there were many people on the floor that had nothing to
19 do with what I had to do.

20 Mr. Preyer. Did Bishop have some relationship in his
21 appearance and age to Phillips?

22 Mr. Again I cannot recall Bishop's appearance
23 at all.

24 Mr. Preyer. Do you recall more on the name when people
25 said, "That is Maurice Bishop"?

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Mr. Maurice Bishop, right. It might have been
a secretary or a fellow case officer or someone.

Mr. Preyer. All right. Thank you.

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10 *MR. Goldsmith.*

I have a few more questions for you, Mr.

11 Do you know whether David Phillips knew Maurice Bisho

12 Mr. --- I don't know that. He may have known h
13 but I don't know that.

14 Mr. Goldsmith. Is it possible that the name Maurice
15 Biship may have been an alias?

16 Mr. --- Very possible.

17 Mr. Goldsmith. Why do you say that?

18 Mr. --- Because others in the agency thought th
19 they knew me by X name and they called me by that name whe
20 fact it was not.

21 Mr. Goldsmith. So the use of aliases even at agency
22 headquarters was not at all uncommon, is that true, to you
23 knowledge?

24 Mr. --- That is true.
25