

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM: Jane Roman, CI/Liaison

EXTENSION

NO.

2635

6857

DATE

25 May 1967

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

1 CI/R&A - Mr. Rocca

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

SECRET

25 May 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : Gordon NOVEL

1. On 23 May Mr. Papich left with us a copy of attached FBI teletype. FBI will confirm this information by formal memorandum.

2. Mr. Papich requested information on two points with permission to make our reply available to the Attorney General:

- a) nature and extent of CIA interest in the Double-chek Corporation.
- b) our comments and observations on the draft letter purportedly prepared by Gordon NOVEL.

⁰³ 3. After consultation with Mr. Jacob Esterline, DC/WH, Mr. [redacted] SOD, and Mr. Lawrence Houston, OGC, the following reply was given Mr. Papich:

"Double-chek is a "shell" corporation used in the past by CIA to recruit pilots. It was also used as a front for the payment of the "Birmingham widows". No individual bearing the name of Gordon NOVEL had any connection with Double-chek nor with CIA.

Mr. Lawrence Houston is in constant touch with the Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Nathaniel Cossack, on this matter, and will tell him about present developments.

Mr. Houston comments that anyone could have prepared the letter but it really does sound like NOVEL's cock-eyed approach rather than Garrison. There is a fair chance that

Handwritten notes:
7
Mr. [unclear]
[unclear]
[unclear]
[unclear]
[unclear]
[unclear]

4/17

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

~~SECRET~~

-2-

NOVEL might have written it. This will probably make another headline for Garrison but we don't feel it could do the Agency much damage".

4. On the question of the alleged gunshot fired at NOVEL, Mr. Papich advised that the FBI is not investigating the matter. It has not been confirmed as yet that anyone did shoot at NOVEL.

J. Roman
DDP/CI/Liaison

cc: OGC - Mr. Houston-w/attachment
DC/WH - Mr. Esterline⁰³-(has seen)
SOD - Mr. []-attachment previously furnished
CI/R&A- Mr. Rocca-w/attachment
CI/LSN- FBI log-w/attachment

~~SECRET~~

4/74

AT APPROXIMATELY SIX ZERO FIVE PM THIS DATE A MESSENGER DELIVERED A LETTER ADDRESSED TO ROBERT E. RIGHTMYER, SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE, NEW ORLEANS OFFICE, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, SEVEN ZERO ONE LOYOLA AVENUE, NEW ORLEANS, ^{LOUISIANA} LA., TO THIS OFFICE. LETTER WAS MARKED " BY HAND" AND WAS FROM JIM GARRISON, DISTRICT ATTORNEY, PARISH OF ORLEANS.

THE LETTER WHICH IS DATED MAY TWENTYTWO SIXTYSEVEN STATES " DEAR MR. RIGHTMYER: SEVERAL DAYS AGO WE OBTAINED WHAT APPEARS TO BE THE INITIAL DRAFT OF A LETTER WRITTEN BY GORDON NOVEL SHORTLY BEFORE HIS RECENT DEPARTURE FROM NEW ORLEANS. THIS DRAFT WAS WRITTEN ON YELLOW PAPER IN PENCIL AND APPEARS TO BE AN INITIAL FORMULATION OF A LETTER WHICH HE SUSSEQUENTLY WROTE FOR MAILING. I NOTICE IN HIS LETTER A REFERENCE TO INQUIRIES BY THE BUREAU WITH REGARD TO THE DOUBLE-CHEK CORPORATION WHICH HE MENTIONS. CONSEQUENTLY, I AM ENCLOSING FOR YOUR INFORMATION A PHOTOSTAT OF THE HANDWRITTEN DRAFT AS WELL AS OUR TYPEWRITTEN TRANSCRIPT.

END PAGE ONE

PAGE TWO

I AM SURE THAT YOU ARE MUCH MORE FAMILIAR WITH DOUBLE-CHEK THAN WE ARE BUT WE HAVE NOTED THAT IN " THE INVISIBLE GOVERNMENT", THE RECENT BOOK BY WISE AND ROSS ABOUT THE C.I.A., DOUBLE-CHEK IS MENTIONED ON PAGES SEVENTYNINE, EIGHTY, EIGHTY SIX - EIGHTY NINE, NINETY THREE - NINETY FIVE, ONE FIVE SIX AND TWO SIX THREE. AS YOU WILL NOTE, THE PHOTOSTAT OF THE HANDWRITTEN DRAFT IS NOT VERY DISTINCT. IF YOU DESIRE, I WILL BE HAPPY TO MAKE THE ORIGINAL DRAFT AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION BY A REPRESENTATIVE OF YOUR OFFICE OR WE CAN PHOTOGRAPH COPIES AND SEND THEM TO YOU.

I WILL BE HAPPY TO MAKE AVAILABLE TO THE BUREAU ANY OTHER INFORMATION WHICH WE MAY HAVE WHICH MAY BE OF SERVICE IN THIS CONNECTION.

SINCERELY,

JIM GARRISON

DISTRICT ATTORNEY "

THE LETTER ENCLOSED A PHOTOSTAT OF THE HANDWRITTEN DRAFT REFERRED TO IN GARRISON'S LETTER, AS WELL AS THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S TYPEWRITEN TRANSCRIPT WHICH STATES AS FOLLOWS:

" TRANSCRIPT OF WRITTEN DRAFT OF LETTER FOUND IN APARTMENT OF GORDON NOVEL AFTER HIS DEPARTURE FROM THE CITY.

DEAR MR. WEISS:

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

THIS LETTER IS TO INFORM YOU THAT DISTRICT (SIC) JIM GARRISON HAS SUBPOENAED MYSELF AND AN ASSOCIATE TO TESTIFY BEFORE HIS GRAND JURY ON MATTERS WHICH MAY BE CLASSIFIED TOP SECRET.

ACTIONS OF INDIVIDUALS CONNECTED WITH DOUBLE-CHEK CORPORATION IN MIAMI IN FIRST QUARTER OF NINETEEN SIXTYONE.

WE HAVE NO CURRENT CONTACT AVAILABLE TO INFORM OF THIS SITUATION SO I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF WRITING YOU DIRECT AND APPRISING YOU OF CURRENT SITUATION. EXPECTING YOU TO FORWARD THIS THROUGH APPROPRIATE CHANNELS.

OUR CONNECTION AND ACTIVITY OF THAT PERIOD INVOLVES INDIVIDUALS PRESENTLY ... ABOUT TO BE INDICIED AS CONSPIRATORS IN MR. GARRISON'S INVESTIGATION.

WE HAVE TEMPORARILY AVOIDED ONE SUBPOENA NOT TO REVEAL DOUBLE-CHEK ACTIVITIES OR ASSOCIATE THEM WITH THIS MESS. WE WANT OUT OF THIS THING BEFORE THURSDAY THREE/ /SIXTYSEVEN. OUR ^ASTTORNEYS HAVE BEEN

TOLD TO EXPECT ANOTHER SUBPOENA TO APPEAR AND TESTIFY ON THIS MATTER. THE FIFTYH AMENDMENT AND/OR IMMUNITY (AND) LEGAL TACTICS WILL NOT SUFFICE.

MR. GARRISON IS IN POSSESSION OF UNSWORN PORTIONS OF THIS TESTIMONY. HE IS UNAWARE OF DOUBLE-CHEK'S INVOLVEMENT IN THIS MATTER BUT HAS STRONG SUSPICIONS. I HAVE BEEN QUESTIONED EXTENSIVELY BY LOCAL FBI RECENTLY AS TO WHETHER OR NOT I WAS INVOLVED WITH DOUBLE-CHEK'S PARENT-HOLDING CORPORATION DURING

END PAGE THREE

PAGE FOUR

THAT TIME. MY REPLY ON FIVE QUERIES WAS NEGATIVE. BUREAU UNWARE OF DOUBLE-CHEK ASSOCIATION IN THIS MATTER. OUR ATTORNEY'S AND OTHERS ARE IN POSSESSION OF COMPLETE SEALED FILES CONTAINING ALL INFORMATION CONCERNING MATTER. IN THE EVENT OF OUR SUDDEN DEPARTURE, EITHER ACCIDENTAL OR OTHERWISE, THEY ARE INSTRUCTED TO SIMULTANEOUSLY RELEASE SAME FOR PUBLIC SCRUTINY IN DIFFERENT AREAS SIMULTANEOUSLY.

APPROPRIATE COUNTERACTION RELATIVE TO GARRISON'S INQUISITION CONCERNING US MAY BEST BE HANDLED THROUGH MILITARY CHANNELS VIS (A) VIS D.I.A. MAN. GARRISON IS PRESENTLY COLONEL IN LOUISIANA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD AND HAS READY RESERVE STATUS. CONTACT MAY BE HAD THROUGH OUR ATTORNEYS OF CURRENT RECORD PLOTKIN, ALVAREZ, SAPIR.

MR. GARRISON'S LETTER IS NOT BEING ACKNOWLEDGED BY THIS OFFICE.