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NROC-104-98
12 June 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Information Review Group, OIM

FROM: [Redacted]

SUBJECT: (S) Proposed Declassification of Information on Anatoliy Golitsyn

1. (S) Action Requested: Request that the JFK Assassination Review Board (ARB) not declassify and release information officially confirming that Mr. [Redacted] was one of Anatoliy Golitsyn's former resettlement identities. Additionally, request the ARB not release the alien registration numbers issued to Mr. Golitsyn and his family members.

2. (S) Background: Mr. Golitsyn, a 71-year-old former high-level Soviet KGB officer who defected in 1961, entered the United States (U.S.) under PL-110, and became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1976. The Counterintelligence Center (CIC) handled Mr. Golitsyn from 1961 until 1991 when the [Redacted] assumed management of the case. In the years immediately following his defection, Mr. Golitsyn was allowed to have direct access to high-level U.S. Government (USG) officials and a substantial amount of classified material both of this Agency and other Western intelligence services. Since his defection, this Agency has attempted to keep Mr. Golitsyn favorably disposed toward the USG and the Agency to prevent any possible disclosure of his role with us and other intelligence services.

3. (S) In early May 1998 DO/IMS advised NROC that the ARB intends to declassify, and release to the public, information that Mr. Golitsyn initially used the "pseudonym", Mr. [Redacted] upon arrival in the U.S. DO/IMS further advised that Mr. Golitsyn's alien registration number, the previous full

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SECRET

SECRET

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Anatoliy Golitsyn

[] names and alien registration numbers of his two dependents would also be declassified. [] understands that the rationale for the ARB's release of this information is public availability of the name []

4. (S) [] strongly believes that the rationale for declassifying Mr. Golitsyn's use of [] is inadequate given that:

--The classified information scheduled for declassification and release to the public contains the resettlement "pseudonym" of not only Mr. Golitsyn, but also his two family members who resettled in the U.S. with him. Those family members' names were not repeat not exposed []

--In any case, [] erred in identifying the name, [] as a "pseudonym." The name [] was a resettlement identity assigned to the Golitsyn family which was used to establish their new lives. In contrast to pseudonyms (which have no basis in reality and have no backstopping) and even operational aliases (which may have minimal backstopping and could be used for a few operations and then discarded), resettlement identities are living identities. If the resettlement identity [] was once publicly affiliated with the Golitsyn family, the personal history of all three Golitsyn family members (not just Mr. Golitsyn) would be highly vulnerable to being researched since, as resettlers build their new lives, they establish public records. Many of these records are now readily available and exploitable on the Internet.

--Even if the Golitsyns have changed their resettlement identities through the years, one important piece of identifying data has remained constant, i.e. their alien registration numbers. If these numbers are declassified and made publicly available, then the Golitsyns' other resettlement identities, including their current names, can be made known. The release of the Golitsyns' full names, (note that [] did not expose Mr. Golitsyn's full name) or alien registration numbers will compromise their current resettlement identities and places of residence held throughout all their resettlement identities.

5. (S) Mr. Golitsyn, like other resettlement cases, places a unique trust in the Agency: That it will protect his identity, security and not publicly disclose his unique relationship with

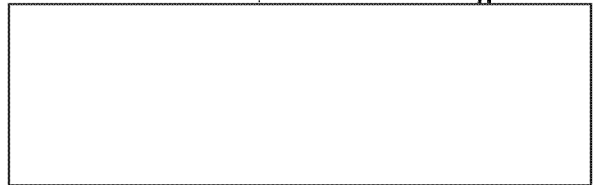
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SECRET

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Anatoliy Golitsyn

the USG. Mr. Golitsyn, as other resettles, lives life in fear of retribution from his former government. Official USG confirmation of his relationship with the Agency may undermine his and other's confidence in the Agency's commitment to be vigilant regarding their security. Mr. Golitsyn is in his senior years and in poor health. Should he perceive the release of this information as a lessening of the Agency's security commitment, it may exasperate his worsening medical condition. Should the USG action lead to his compromise, we are obliged to expend funds to resettle him once again. In the case of Mr. Golitsyn, this means resettling two entire households at high cost.

6. (S) Furthermore, the recruitment of sources of high intelligence value has always been this Agency's top priority. Public disclosure of this information could do irreparable damage to our ability to attract individuals who admire the U.S. and might be disposed to collaboration. Disclosure of cooperation with the USG would cause any potential source to think twice before placing his life in the hands of an organization who cannot protect his information. For those individuals such as Mr. Golitsyn, who placed their trust in this country in the past, entered our resettlement program, and are now U.S. citizens, the release of information with no real relevance to any national issue, seriously erodes this Agency's credibility and undermines our Resettlement Program.



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DO [redacted] /kwa:58635 (12 Jun 98)

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