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EVALUATION
SOURCE Debriefing of NS-2167 by CIA

SUMMARY (UNCLASSIFIED) The following information was obtained from NS-2167.
(UNCLASSIFIED)

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1. (S) Source was given the following requirement: "Are U. S. military personnel who are sent to Eastern [Country] permitted to return to their military units if they subsequently feel they have made a mistake and wish to return; or, are they prevented from returning? Are those returned to U. S. control given [Type] assignments, long-range tasks, or ever placed in 'sleeper status' by SIS?"

2. (S) Source said that in totalitarian countries, such as the USSR, they usually do not allow such things (return) but instead try to use the defectors for political and economic exploitation. Unless the defector escapes from Soviet custody, Source is of the opinion that the Soviets would have recruited the defector prior to his release. However, Source did say that he considered it possible that the Soviets might release, without recruitment, some defectors in whom they had only a marginal interest or less; in his opinion there are "not many such cases." Source also mentioned the possibility that the documentation of these defectors might be used by Soviet intelligence for "illegal" or that in some cases the Soviets could recruit a defector as an "illegal" agent, after his reliability had been established and he had been given some training. In the case of defectors returned to U. S. control after recruitment, Source is of the opinion that they could have either career assignments or both. In the case of current assignment, source suggested that the defector might be sent back for the purpose of inducing the defector to contact his acquaintances.

3. (S) Source was asked if he knew of any cases specifically to fit the above descriptions. He said that in the period 1950-1953 he knew of "some cases" and that there was a special prison in Germany for the time for American military

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defectors. Source could not recall if there was a decision made by the government to change this practice in handling the defectors, in order to improve and to get more political effect. Source said that he does not know any details of any changes made as a result of this decision, but that apparently changes were made in principle in the handling of defectors.

4. (S) Source was asked again if he could recall any specific case. He said that he recalled vaguely one or two cases involving recruitment of American military personnel or former military personnel, one being in America when the war was in 1952-1953 for recruitments in Berlin. Source said that he does not recall the branch of service in which these two men served.

COMMENTS: (of Preparing Officer)

REFERENCES:

Source in contact
Chief, Exploitation Branch
Collection Division, ARCSI

