

13-14-02

interview

RETURN TO CIA
Background Use Only
Do Not Reproduce

Name William Crawford
 DOB 19 Sept 24
 SSN 429-26-4954
 address - 4944 Cass St, Apt 806
 San Diego, Ca 92109
 Telephone - 714-272-2770

at 9:30 A.M. on 5-14-78 ^{SCT} Staff

investigator Harold Deas interviewed
 William Crawford, former executive officer
 of the CIA station at Atsugi, Japan
 concerning his knowledge of LHO and
 the military intelligence that LHO may
 have possessed from his military assignment
 as Radio-radar operator at the Atsugi
 Naval Airbase.

Crawford advised that he did not
 know LHO and never heard the name
 until after the assassination of J.F.K.
 The U-2 program administered by
 the CIA at Atsugi did not have
 their own radio-radar facilities. The
 U-2 planes utilized the naval base
 communications ~~for~~ only for take-off
 and landing clearance.

The ~~at~~ CIA employees at Atsugi
 had no clandestine activity other than
 the U-2 program. All human

intelligence ~~reports~~ ^{resources} were handled by ~~the~~ case officers stationed elsewhere [in Japan].

The cover story for the U-2 plane at Atsugi was that it was used to monitor radio activity in the atmosphere. In fact the plane actually ~~had~~ ^{had} equipment installed to measure radio activity to facilitate the cover story. ~~When the~~

Oswald would have seen the U-2 take-off and land at the base however he would have ~~had~~ ^{had} no other information.

Radar operators would not be able to trace the U-2 ~~over~~ ^{over} the flights. The plane would take off in the opposite direction. The U-2 would ~~not~~ fly to a staging area (Peshawar, Pakistan) before going into the flight plan for the over flight. However the Russians were aware of the over flights from the beginning of the program 1955.

The Russian did not have the ability to shoot the U-2 down at the altitude of the U-2 flight.

CIA recruited personnel for the program from the military service. The pilots would resign from their respective service units with the understanding that at the completion

(VNC)

of the program they would go back without losing service time and at a rank comparable to their contemporaries. All program employees were paid by CIA. General maintenance on the U-2 was provided at ATsugi however major overhaul was made only in U.S.

Although the program was directed and administered by the CIA, the commander of the ATsugi program was Col. Marion "Hack" Nixon from the Air Force.

The program was terminated in 1960.

Harold:

Can you add the following statement? :

Crawford said that had LHO been associated with the Atsugi ^{CIA} station, he, as executive officer, would've known about it.

~~However he would not have known of his assistance~~

contact report

Pursuant to critic ^{publications} ~~allegations~~ and specific ~~statements~~ ^{allegations} by former CIA employee James Wilcott that LHO was a CIA agent, Staff Investigator Harold D Reap, interviewed the following ~~persons~~ ^{persons} personnel to determine if there ~~was~~ ^{is} ~~any~~ ^{any} collaboration for ~~the~~ Wilcott statements ~~which~~ ^{which} ~~had~~ ^{had} ~~been~~ ^{been} ~~made~~ ^{made} ~~known~~ ^{known} relating to the Oswald agent issue.

1. Robert P Wheeler, DOB 4 Oct 15, SSN 258-17-0844, 6600 Melwood Rd, Bethesda, Maryland, telephone no. 229-6368. Position with CIA, was Deputy Chief of Station, [Tokyo¹³ Japan], June 59 to ~~Oct~~ ^{Oct} 64. Interviewed at CIA Hqs 4-13-78. Subject is retired.

2. Leo Kerenbaum, DOB 2 Dec 23, SSN 122-14-2221, 1815 Opalocka Dr., Manassas, VA, telephone no 356-5283. Position with CIA for the period ~~July 1964~~ ^{July 1964} was Chief of Counter Intelligence, SR Branch, [Tokyo¹³ Japan]. Interviewed CIA Hqs 4-10-78. Subject is retired.

Jun 60
Jun 61
to
Jun 63

3. [Redacted]

[Redacted] ³ position with the CIA in 1963 at [Tokyo¹³ Japan] was Intelligence assistant for the SE Section. Interviewed at CIA Hqs on 4-7-78.

was
shown

4. Frederick C. Randall, DOB 28 Oct 26, SSN 508-20-4068, Presently employed at CIA Hqs and has covers. Randall position with the CIA in ~~Sept 61~~ ^{Sept 61} to Aug 65 was Chief of Prospecting at the [Tokyo¹³ Japan] Station. Interviewed at CIA Hqs on _____.

6/MC

notes ~~scribble~~

5. James S Wood,

[Redacted]
[Redacted] [Tokyo]
Station [Redacted]
[Redacted]

James

6. George von Brulzel, DOB 12 Dec 21

SSN 074-18-5912, 14801 Springfield Rd

Greenmontown Md, telephone 945-6908. Former

[Redacted] [Tokyo Japan]
[Redacted]

7. Howard M. Orr, DOB 22 Jul 22,

SSN 275 12 4377, address 8405 Weller Ave,

McLean Va, telephone 843-3325, presently

retired.

[Redacted] [Tokyo]
[Redacted]

8. George A Fil, DOB 29 May 21 SSN

address 27 Bay Tree, North Myrtle

Beach, South Carolina 29582, telephone

903-249-3193. Presently retired.

[Redacted]
the Tokyo Station! [Redacted]
[Redacted]

4/mc

9. Robert N. Keith, [redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted] ¹³ [Tokyo] Station [redacted]
[redacted]

10. Jerome E. Fox, [redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted] former CIA
intelligence analysis at ¹³ [Tokyo] station from
Jul 1959 to Dec 1962, worked in program involving
military intelligence. interviewed 5-1-78

11. William V. Broe, DOB 24 Aug 18, SSN 032 01 8164
address 111 Indian Trails, Scituate, Mass
telephone 617-545-6113. former ~~CIA~~ CIA
COS ¹³ [Tokyo, Japan] from 1961 to 1965
interviewed 5-15-78

12. William Crawford, DOB 19 Sept 24, SSN
429-26-4954 address 4944 Cass St, Apt 906
San Diego, Ca. 92109 telephone 714-272-2770
former CIA executive officer at Atsugi air base
in charge of the U-2 program. (Details of interview
conducted 5-14-78 submitted in separate report)

3/mc

Subject Jerome E. Fox was ~~specifically~~ one person who Wilentz could remember ~~that~~ ^{with} who he had conversation ~~with~~ concerning the speculation that LHO was an agent for the CIA. The conversation supposedly took place in [Japan]¹⁰ after the information ^{was received} that LHO was the assassin of JFK. Fox advised investigator Leap that he was in the U.S. at the time of assassination on 23 Nov 63. Fox's CIA personnel reflects he was transferred from the [Tokyo]¹³ station to the U.S. in 1962.

Subjects 2, 7, 8, 9 and 11 all thought they would have known if LHO had been ~~re~~ recruited as a CIA agent while he was in Japan. All the subjects worked within the SR Branch of the [Tokyo]¹³ station and theoretically ~~would have~~ one of them would have handled or had knowledge of the recruitment. All thought if Oswald had been recruited without their knowledge it would have been a rare exception to the working policy and guidelines of the station.

3/17/68

CIA employees

The above ~~individuals~~ were selected for interview because of the position they held ^{at the time} with the CIA at the [Tokyo] station ~~during the time period~~ frame of 1959 to 1964.

James Wilcott ~~made~~ gave testimony in a closed hearing before the SCA that a CIA case officer ~~told him~~ stationed in Tokyo, Japan told him that LHO was a CIA agent and ~~also~~ also mentioned LHO's crypto ~~work~~. The ~~conversation~~ conversation took place in the Tokyo station shortly after the word of the JFK assassination was received on 23 Nov 63. Wilcott ~~stated~~ stated that he could not recall the name of the case officer or the cryptos ~~work~~. Wilcott also advised that considerable conversation took place among CIA employees ^{concerning the Oswald-CIA agent issue.}

The basic questions asked of the CIA employees selected were as follows

- (a) Have you ever seen written documents which ^{indicate} that LHO was a ^{intelligence} CIA agent or a source of information?
- (b) ^{Were} you ever heard advised orally that LHO was an agent?
- (c) Have you ever heard conversation or heard ^{conversational} speculation that LHO was a CIA agent or intelligence source for any government ^{service?}
- (d) Were you in a position to know if LHO was recruited as an ^{CIA} agent during his tour of duty with the military in Japan.

1/2 MC

(e) When was the first time you ever heard the allegation that LHO ~~was~~ ^{may have been} a CIA agent.

(f) Did you know James & Elsie Wilcott in [Japan]?

~~None of the~~ ^{all} individuals interviewed stated they never saw any documents nor heard any information that LHO was a CIA agent while stationed in [Tokyo]. Only after ~~their departure~~ the public publication and the Garrison investigation in the late 60s were they ~~so~~ aware of the ~~public~~ allegation.

Subjects 2, 7 & 8 expressed belief that LHO ~~was~~ ^{may} have been recruited by the KGB during his tour of duty in Japan. They based their belief on the fact that during the period of time that LHO was in Japan, the CIA station in [Tokyo] had identified a KGB program specifically ~~designed~~ ^{designed} designed to recruit U.S. military personnel in Tokyo. However they had no information that the recruitment of LHO by the KGB did in fact take place.

3/11/68