

11110703

SECRET

interview

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

RETURN TO CIA  
 Background Use Only  
 Do Not Reproduce

at 9:30 A.M. on 5-14-78 <sup>SCA</sup> 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 ~~staff~~ CIA employees at Atsugi  
 had no clandestine activity other than  
 the U-2 program. All human

AM on 5/9  
 1  
 Oct 60

FOUO

intelligence ~~assets~~ <sup>resources</sup> were handled by ~~the~~ case officers stationed elsewhere in [Japan<sup>13</sup>].

The cover story for the U-2 plane at Ahrugi was that it was used to monitor radio activity in the atmosphere. In fact the plane actually ~~had~~ <sup>had</sup> 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~~ <sup>had</sup> no other information.

Radar operators would not be able to trace the U-2 ~~over~~ <sup>over</sup> the flights. The plane would take off in the opposite direction. The U-2 would ~~start~~ 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

(RS)

11110705

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.

SECRET

Harold:

Can you add the following statement? :

Crawford said that had LHO been associated with the Atsugi <sup>CIA</sup> station, he, as executive officer, would've known about it.

~~However he would not have been aware of his existence~~

11110705