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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

62-116395

October 7, 1975

U. S. SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE TO  
STUDY GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS WITH  
RESPECT TO INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES (SSC)

RE: DEPOSITION OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
W. RAYMOND WANNALL

On October 3, 1975, in response to a request of Mr. John T. Elliff, Staff Member of the SSC, Mr. W. Raymond Wannall, Assistant Director, Intelligence Division, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), was deposed in Room 457 of the Russell Senate Office Building by Messrs. James Dick, John T. Elliff, and Eric Richard, Staff Members of the captioned Committee. The deposition concerned matters relating to the so-called Watch List maintained by the National Security Agency (NSA) to record the list of names of individuals and organizations furnished to that Agency by the FBI for the purpose of receiving information coming to NSA's attention during the course of its regular activities relating to communications matters.

The Staff Members began taking the deposition at approximately 3:15 p.m. and it was completed at 5:40 p.m. The questions and answers were recorded by Mrs. Susan Hamback. Five minutes before the beginning of the deposition Senator Richard S. Schweiker of Pennsylvania appeared and placed Mr. Wannall under oath. He then departed. Mr. Wannall was advised of his rights. He was told that since a senator would not be present he could decline to answer questions and he could request a discontinuance at any time. He was further advised that the results would be recorded and he would be given an opportunity to review the transcription and sign it at a later time.

Mr. Wannall, just prior to leaving his office to appear for the deposition, was furnished the attached letter dated October 3, 1975, signed by Mr. David D. Lowman, Special Assistant to the Director for Congressional Reviews, NSA, and approved by Lieutenant General Lew Allen, Jr., Director of NSA. Messrs. Dick, Elliff, and Richard were

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RE: DEPOSITION OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR W. RAYMOND WANNALL

advised of the contents of the letter which authorized Mr. Wannall to discuss and provide deposition, as requested, in executive (closed) session matters concerning the Watch List formally maintained by NSA at the request of the FBI. The letter stated further that concerning open sessions of the Senate Select Committee, Mr. Wannall was advised that NSA and Senate Select Committee representatives would commence negotiations on October 4, 1975, to define limits within which Special Intelligence information may be disclosed in open session and pending establishment of such limits, FBI personnel were requested not to discuss Special Intelligence matters in such open sessions.

Mr. James Dick of the Committee Staff was the principal interviewer. The following represents to the best of Mr. Wannall's recollection the information furnished by him responsive to specific questions. Material is not necessarily set forth in the order in which the questions were asked and the responses given.

Mr. Wannall was first exposed to NSA-type material when he arrived at Headquarters for assignment in 1947. This material had been produced by a predecessor agency to the National Security Agency. He became aware of some of the overall capabilities of the NSA probably sometime during the late 1950's.

He was shown copies of three FBI internal memoranda addressed from W. R. Wannall to W. C. Sullivan (at that time Assistant Director of the Domestic Intelligence Division of the FBI) captioned "Communications Intelligence - Cuba," and dated respectively May 18, 1962, January 16, 1963, and April 6, 1965.

Mr. Wannall explained that since Communications Intelligence matters relating to Cuba were handled in the Section of which he was Chief during this period, he had some personal knowledge in this area. With respect to Watch List matters in other areas of interest to the FBI, his knowledge for the most part was based on a review of material and information provided to him orally by current personnel of the Intelligence Division—principally during the preceding 24 hours. In this connection, he explained

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that he had learned at about 5:30 p.m. the preceding day, October 2, 1975, that his deposition testimony would be expected to relate either mainly or exclusively to Watch List matters.

The memoranda described above related to meetings held in Wannall's office in May, 1962, and January, 1963, at which representatives of NSA and representatives of Wannall's former Section were present. The discussions centered about the means whereby NSA could be most helpful to the FBI in processing some 20,000 messages received each month in NSA's coverage of Cuban matters. The messages were said to relate to both commercial and personal communications between Cuba and the United States.

The three memoranda showed that a procedure was worked out whereby the FBI could submit approximately 300 names and addresses to NSA for the purpose of securing information relating to FBI responsibilities.

Mr. Wannall was asked whether any criteria were established for the purpose of compiling the list of some 300 names. He responded in the affirmative and described the criteria prior to being shown the memorandum of April 6, 1965, wherein the criteria were set forth. The procedures for submitting the names were described. They consisted basically of attaching on a regular basis to a cover memorandum lists of names of individuals appearing in the Cuban Special Section of the Security Index and names of individuals listed in the regular section of the Security Index tabbed "pro-Cuban," together with identifying data on mail drops utilized by Cuban Intelligence Agents operating in the United States and Puerto Rico. The memoranda with attachments were sent through regular reviewing channels for approval to deliver to NSA the attachments themselves.

Mr. Dick referring to two other programs involving the Watch List (mentioned hereinafter) stated that similar procedures were not followed in submission of names to NSA and asked why this was so. He was advised that matters relating to the Watch List were handled on a need-to-know and strictly compartmented basis and the procedures utilized in other Sections would not necessarily be the same as those utilized in the Section formerly headed by Mr. Wannall.

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