

# File #:

62-HQ-116395

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# Serial Scope:

EBF 1071

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Released under the John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992 (44 USC 2107 Note). Case#:NW 55080 Date: 11-20-2017

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**HEKLAR  
ESPIONAGE - RUSSIA**

Heklar is code name for a Soviet illegal agent using the identity of Helmuth Felix Klawuhn.

Through the Socap Program (screening of new Social Security applicants in Baltimore) the Social Security application of Klawuhn dated May 2, 1960, was located. He gave his birth date as January 29, 1925, in Detroit, Michigan, and residence as 315 West 94th Street, New York City. A preliminary check verified Klawuhn's birth in Detroit to German alien parents and there were no traces of this family after 1933 which suggested they had returned to Germany. It was determined that Klawuhn was born a cripple with a hip disease and would probably have the appearance as walking like a "duck" all his life. State Department records revealed the Klawuhn brothers were taken to Germany by their mother in May, 1932. Specimens of the handwriting of Helmuth and Horst Klawuhn appearing in State Department files were compared with subject's handwriting by the FBI Laboratory and found not to be identical.

It was determined subject's first known presence in New York was July 8, 1959, when he rented a room on the West side of New York. He was employed as a salesman by Service Guidance Corporation and was observed not to walk like a cripple.

Information developed through an anonymous source revealed that the subject was in the possession of a Hallicrafter short-wave radio receiver with ear-phones and a long coil antenna concealed in a foot locker. He also had a black portable typewriter, various types of pills, pads of writing paper and several books on grammar.

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Exempt from GDS, Category 2+3  
Date of Declassification Indefinite

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FBI Laboratory determined one of the pills was a "phony" and closely resembled other tablets which have been used as developers for secret ink messages in Soviet espionage operations.

It was concluded that the subject was an impostor and based on the information developed through the anonymous source and the knowledge gained in the Karot case, it was believed reasonable to conclude that the subject was a Soviet illegal. Karot was a Soviet illegal interviewed in March, 1959, who cooperated with us as a double agent.

Subject was interviewed from October 18, 1960, through October 31, 1960, under secure conditions and was permitted to return to his residence in New York City on October 31, 1960. Subject furnished information as to his true status as a Soviet illegal and furnished complete details regarding his selection, training and dispatch to the U. S. and agreed to cooperate fully to the extent of disclosing all available information concerning his knowledge of Soviet espionage activities. In January, 1961, subject disappeared after being in contact with Special Agents of the FBI since October 31, 1960.

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

*Memorandum*

TO : D. J. PARSONS

DATE: October 11, 1960

FROM : A. H. BELMONT

SUBJECT: HEKLAR  
ESPIONAGE - R

Above caption is the code name for this case which an individual using the name of Helmuth Felix Klawuhn who, we are reasonably certain, is a Soviet illegal agent. This memorandum is to consider our future course of action.

Origin of Case

Through our Socap Program (screening of new social security applications in Baltimore) the social security application of Klawuhn dated 5/2/60 was located. He gave his birth as 1/29/25, Detroit, Michigan, and his residence as 315 West 94th Street, NYC. His handwriting contained foreign characteristics. A preliminary check verified Klawuhn's birth in Detroit to German alien parents. There was no trace of this family after 1933, suggesting the possibility they had returned to their native Germany.

Information Developed on the True Helmuth Felix Klawuhn

The Detroit Office determined that Klawuhn was born a cripple with a hip disease and would probably have the deformity of walking "like a duck" all his life. He had a younger brother, Horst Albert, born 5/23/30, Detroit.

State Department records reveal that the Klawuhn brothers were taken to Germany by their mother in May, 1932. Their father followed them the following year. In March, 1947, the American Military Government in Berlin received a letter in the German language from a Helmuth Klawuhn residing at Parchim, Mecklenburg, Germany, advising of the birth of himself and his brother, Horst, in Detroit in 1925 and 1930, respectively, and their trip to Germany in 1932. The writer wanted to know whether he and his brother were still considered as U. S. citizens and whether they would be permitted to immigrate to the U. S. The letter was referred to the American Consulate General who advised that his request should be presented to that office.

State Department records also reveal that in 1951 Horst Klawuhn filed application for registration as an American citizen before the American Vice-Consul in Berlin indicating his intention to return to the U. S. for permanent residence, as soon as his

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Memorandum Belmont to Parsons  
Re: HEKLAR  
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citizenship was established. His application listed his brother, Helmuth, as then residing in Germany. State Department records fail to reveal that Helmuth or Horst ever took subsequent steps to validate their claim to U. S. citizenship or repatriate themselves to the U. S.

Specimens of the handwriting of Helmuth and Horst Klawuhn appearing in State Department files have been compared with subject's handwriting by the FBI Laboratory. Subject's handwriting is not identical with these specimens.

#### Information Developed on the Subject

The New York Office (NYO) determined that subject's first known presence in New York was 7/8/59 when he rented a room on New York's west side. He has been at his present address since 7/8/60. He is employed as a salesman by Service Guidance Corp., jobbers of household services. He does not walk like a cripple.

Information developed through an anonymous source reveals that subject is in possession of a Hallicrafter short-wave radio receiver with earphones and a long coil antenna concealed in a locked foot locker. He also has a black portable typewriter, various types of pills, pads of writing paper, several books on grammar.

The FBI Laboratory determined that one of the pills made to resemble "Creamalin" tablet, a common antacid preparation sold in drugstores, is a "phony" and closely resembles other tablets which have been used as developers for secret ink messages in Soviet espionage operations.

At the present time NYO is maintaining most discreet coverage of subject through an observation post, spot check surveillances and mail coverage. His only activity, other than his employment, is dating an Irish immigrant waitress, Rose McKinley, who appears to have been a "pickup." She spends many nights and weekends with him.

#### Analysis

It is believed we can safely conclude that from the information known concerning the Klawuhn family, subject is an impostor. Further, from information developed through the anonymous source and from our knowledge gained in the Karot case, it is believed reasonable to conclude that subject is in the U. S. as a Soviet illegal agent. Karot is the Soviet illegal agent we broke in Wisconsin in March, 1959, and who is now cooperating with us as a double agent.

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Course of Action

We have carefully analyzed all aspects of this case and considered various possible courses of action. As can be seen, we do not have sufficient legal evidence for a prosecutive case. Whether admissible legal evidence can be developed in the future in light of the clandestine nature of Soviet illegal operations appears unlikely. From what we have learned in the Karot case, we consider it extremely doubtful that surveillances and other investigative techniques would produce anything of value even if continued for an extended period of time. There is always the possibility that an extended investigation would alert the subject and he would disappear, and we will have gained nothing.

We, therefore, feel that the best course of action is a most thorough interview, similar to that conducted in March, 1959, in Wisconsin during which we developed the Karot subject as a double agent. It is recognized that subject may be difficult to break since he has been in the U. S. at least 14 months and probably longer. Karot was in the U. S. for about two months when we approached him. Despite the uncertainty as to success, we believe the ultimate possible gain is worth the attempt. If we are unsuccessful, we will have at least neutralized him.

We also feel that if we are to interview the subject, it should be done very soon. If delayed, his relations with the Irish waitress may develop to the point that would cause us additional problems in our efforts to handle our approach to him in a most discreet and unobtrusive manner.

NYO has advised that it has a suitable location for use in a most thorough interview of subject.

ACTION:

If you approve, we will plan to make our approach to the subject during the week of October 17, 1960. Also, if you approve, Inspector D. E. Moore will go to New York and with New York Agents conduct the interview of the subject.

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F B I

Date: 11/4/60

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_

(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (65-66132)

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (65-18217)

SUBJECT: HEKLAR  
ESP. - R  
(OO:NY)

The subject was interviewed from 10/18/60 through 10/31/60, by Inspector DONALD E. MOORE, SAS JAMES E. FREANEY, LAWRENCE MC WILLIAMS, JOHN J. O'TOOLE, and JAMES P. KEHOE. During this period the subject was also interviewed on occasions by SAS RICHARD F. MC CARTHY and DONALD F. WISEMAN.

LEGEND ORIGINALLY RELATED BY SUBJECT

The subject stated that he was HELMUTH FELIX KLAUHN and that he was born 1/29/25, at Detroit, Michigan. He stated his parents were ALBERT and CLARA nee SONNENBERG. He stated both parents were born in Germany and that they originally met in Germany. He did not know the exact location of his father's birth, but believed that his mother was born in Bavaria. His father came to the US first and was followed later by his mother. The exact dates of their departure from Germany or arrival into the US were not recalled. He stated, however, that when his mother left Germany, she was already

- 5 - Bureau (65-66132) (RM) **REC-34**
- 1 - Washington Field (65-8103) (RM)
- 4 - New York (65-18217)

*JPL 11/30/73*

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Date of Declassification Indefinite

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

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pregnant, and on her arrival in the US his parents were married here. He had no brothers or sisters. While in the US his father was employed as a cabinet maker, salesman and clerk. They resided in Detroit, Michigan, at an unrecalled address and returned to Germany together at an unrecalled date, but he believed that at this time he was about two or three years of age. After returning to Germany at some unknown time his parents separated for personal reasons. His father then returned to the US but he did not know how or when. He remained in Germany with his mother.

At this time his mother was a singer and musician and utilized these occupations as a means of support for both herself and him. At this time they travelled quite a bit all over Germany and they also travelled in France and Belgium. He stated that he definitely remembered being in France because he noticed that they spoke a different language when they crossed the border. He also recalled staying in a hotel in Paris and remembered living in Berlin, Hamburg, and Munich, Germany, in that order. He could not recall the dates or residences in any of the above-mentioned places.

He stated that he remembered going to school in Munich, Germany, and at this time he was in the fifth or sixth grades, and this was the first time that he actually remembered experiencing anti-Semitism in Germany. He remembered that Aryan appearing boys i.e. blond haired, sat up in the front of the classroom and they were allowed to join the "junior brownshirts". He stated that at this time he never participated in this type of activity due to his Semitic background. He could not recall the name or the location of this school which he attended in Munich, but he remembered that it was about four to five blocks away from two night clubs where his mother entertained. He stated that at this time of his life his mother did not accompany him to school as was normal in the parent-child relationship because she was Semitic looking. Instead of his mother she would have various friends of hers accompany him to school to remove any possible stigma from him.

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With regard to his mother's occupation he stated that she was mainly a singer, but she was also a musician. When he got older he used to accompany her on the piano when she was appearing in night clubs. At this time, she used her maiden name for professional reasons. The subject later changed this statement to the fact that she used a "nickname" like "VON SONNENBERG", but stated that she always used CLARA as her first name.

He advised that he had no formal education and he only went as high as the sixth grade and never remained for any length of time at any one school due to his mother's travelling. He stated that the school in Munich which he attended for about two years was the longest time that he was ever at one school. He advised that he had no schooling whatsoever in English and that he has learned English since he arrived in the US.

While in Germany, he never belonged to the Nazi Party and constantly stated that he could recall very easily how hard and difficult everything was in life for him. He advised that he remembered his mother and Jewish friends speaking in Yiddish in hushed tones in a manner so that he could not overhear the terrible things that were happening to the Jewish people at this time. He advised that he understood Yiddish from being brought up in this atmosphere but was not fluent in it.

Sometime prior to the beginning of World War II or in 1940, he and his mother left Germany and fled to Switzerland. They travelled to Switzerland by train but he did not recall anything concerning dates or places connected with this travel. He stated that he did recall, however, that they proceeded directly from Munich, Germany to Basel, Switzerland, and later, from Basel to Zurich, Switzerland. After he left Germany he never heard from his school friends again, but his mother heard from her friends.

He recalled staying in a small hotel in Zurich named Engemathof. He also recalled going to a private music school in Zurich. Until they left Zurich to come to the US,

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both he and his mother moved around quite a bit in Switzerland. He advised that during his period of residence in Switzerland, he never served in the Swiss Army.

Prior to leaving Switzerland, his mother heard from his father who was again in the US, in Detroit, Michigan; that he had remarried and had a new wife who was fifteen to twenty years younger than he. The subject stated that he could not recall definitely, but presumed that he and his mother were travelling on an American passport from Germany to Switzerland.

His mother applied at the US Embassy in Zurich (later said Geneva) for papers to come to the US. He was a US citizen by birth and while he accompanied his mother, his mother did all the explaining necessary at the Embassy to get papers as he could not speak English and nobody at the Embassy could speak German. His mother brought his birth certificate and other papers to the Embassy and she was the one handling these documents. She obtained from the US Embassy "documents" which allowed them to come to the US. He did not say passport, and when asked how he could come to the US without a passport he advised that if you needed a passport to enter the US, then he did not understand how he got in, but his mother arranged to get "papers" at the US Embassy and he did not recall anything concerning this matter. He was unable to describe these papers in any respect stating that his mother handled all of this. He stated that even though he was certainly at an advanced age in life at this time, he did not handle his own papers when coming into the US because of his lack of knowledge of the English language.

With regard to the date that he came to the US, he advised at various times that this date was 1944 through 1947, and at no time could he be specific regarding this date. He believed that it was after World War II ceased in Europe.

He advised that they travelled from Switzerland to a port in France by train. He could not recall the name of

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the port in France from which they departed. They then travelled by ship from this unrecalled port in France to NYC. He stated that he could not recall the name of the ship, but believed it was an American ship because the crew spoke English.

He stated he recalled nothing of showing his papers when he entered the US and could not recall exactly how he entered the US in regard to debarking from the ship, but did recall that when they first arrived in NYC he and his mother stayed in Manhattan for several months in a midtown hotel. They then moved to Brooklyn where his mother lived under her maiden name. At this time his mother worked as a beautician and he occasionally *PLAYED* the piano. He remembered practicing the piano with one ROBERTO (LNU) for several months and recalled that ROBERTO was a good singer as well as a pianist.

When his mother came to the US she then became very sorry regarding this move since she could not get together with his father who was now married to a younger woman. She found this out while living in Brooklyn.

The subject could not reconcile this statement with the previous statement that his mother knew his father had remarried prior to coming into the US.

When they moved to Brooklyn, he recalled that they were living with a Jewish woman who resided four or five blocks from Prospect Park. They remained here about two to three months while living in Brooklyn. His mother also worked in a luncheonette as a "saleswoman". They remained all together for about six or seven months while residing in Brooklyn. They departed from Brooklyn about 1947.

While living in Brooklyn, he recalled that the Jewish woman wanted him to marry her fat niece who was 200 lbs. and wore red shoes. He thought this girl was older than him, but could have possibly been about the same age. He refused

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to marry this girl and recalled that this Jewish woman's first name was REBECCA.

About this time he and his mother started to move and his mother began to sing again. They travelled to Boston where his mother sang and also they stayed in four or five towns between NY and Boston, but he could not recall the names of these towns. At this time he wanted to be his mother's accompanist, but she refused. He remembered that while in Boston they lived in a furnished room off a big street which ran from a railroad station to the center of town.

It was in Boston about 1949 or 1950, that his mother decided to return to Germany. She parted from him in Boston and he does not know where she went to in Germany and never heard from her again. He assumed that she died some time after departing in 1949 or 1950.

Upon leaving Boston, his mother left him four or five hundred dollars when she departed. He only worked occasionally in Boston as a pianist accompanying singers. He could not recall where he lived, the names of any of the singers he accompanied, or the names of any of the clubs or bars in which he played.

About 1951, he moved back to NY and stayed on the east side of town around 34th St. at Second or Third Avenues, but did not recall exactly where or how long. He advised that he believed that he stayed here about six months and then moved about the US to various cities.

He stated that in these tours he stayed at the following places for approximately the lengths of time indicated:

<u>City</u>	<u>Length of Stay</u>
Boston	5 to 6 months with mother
New York	Since 1957 and previously both on arrival and in 1951
Miami	3 weeks

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<u>City</u>	<u>Length of Stay</u>
Washington, D.C.	2 weeks
San Francisco	1½ to 2 years
Dallas	2 months
Ft. Worth	2 months
Chicago	2½ to 3 years
Philadelphia	2 months
Houston	3 weeks
Detroit	2 years
Kansas City, Kansas	2 months
New Orleans	Several months

He did most of his travelling around the country by bus or hitchhiking. While travelling around the country he worked as a pianist, at odd jobs, and as a salesman. He recalled working in the Hotel Sherry Frontenac in Miami, Florida, both as a bellboy and a pianist. He recalled being in San Francisco in the summer time and shortly thereafter going to Chicago. He could not remember the names of any employers or of any hotels at which he stayed during his travels around the US.

He remembered one job in either Chicago or Detroit where he bought boxes of nylon stockings for 35 cents and sold these boxes for \$1.00. He stated that at this time he bought about 200 or 300 boxes, but recalls that the stockings that he was selling were no good. He advised that around this time he remembered staying in Chicago for quite a long time because it was easy to make money there.

He recalled that when he was in Detroit he went to Dearborn, Michigan, and applied for a job as a common laborer with a construction company called Weber and Bankirk. He applied with about 20 others but he failed to get this job. He stated that he was not a member of a Union but that on this construction job there were no unions involved and his lack of Union membership was not the reason for his inability to obtain this position.

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He advised that he recalled meeting a Negress called Miss (FNU) POWELL. He could recall very little about this Miss POWELL except that she squinted and lived about ten blocks from Michigan Ave. He was taking piano lessons from her and she charged about fifty cents per lesson and he took 20 or 30 lessons at the rate of two lessons per week. Upon leaving Chicago he went directly to Detroit, Michigan. He then stated that now he recalls that it was in Detroit, not in Chicago, where he met Miss POWELL.

He stated that he stayed for several months in Detroit and that his main purpose for being in Detroit was an attempt on his part to locate his father. He stated that he did not know his father's residence, but went to an area in Detroit called Hamtramck. He stated that he went to this particular area because it contained a lot of foreigner and he felt that he would stand the best chance of locating his father in this particular section. He advised that the way he went about locating his father, since he did not know his address, was to stop people in the street and ask them if they knew of his father, mentioning his name. He also went in to many bars and queried both the patrons and the bartenders in this same fashion. He recalled that while in Detroit he stayed at a residential hotel which cost about a dollar a day.

He left Detroit and went directly to Niagara Falls, NY, where he stayed for one day. This was about 1955 or 1956.

He then came to NYC where he stayed for a couple of months. He stated that he stayed at a hotel in NYC, the name unrecalled. He worked as a salesman selling jewelry, earrings, etc. He advised that he believed that at this time he lived on the west side about 27th or 28th St., between Ninth and Tenth Avenues, because he remembered going up town to around 31st, 32nd or 33rd Sts. to buy the jewelry wholesale which he then in turn went around selling at retail.

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At this point, the subject experienced great difficulty in remembering any additional factors and he decided to start with the present time and work backwards in an attempt to resolve his actions for the ensuing period.

He stated that he is presently employed for Service Guidance as a salesman. He described this organization as one which sells a service to people, like plumbers, whereby they (Service Guidance) recommend them at a rate of \$25.00 per postal zone. He stated that a person wishing to join this service could as many postal zones as were yet untaken in the specific trade, i.e. plumbers. He stated that he worked for this company for only a couple of months and that his immediate employer's name was a Mr. (FNU) LEVY and that the address of this organization was 66 Court St., Brooklyn.

He also worked for a Charles Chester Shoe Company. He described the address of this organization as also on Court St. in Brooklyn. He stated that he sold shoes for this company and worked for them for about five or six months.

He advised that another employer was one MIKE MUNVES and that this employment involved selling a machine that sold or dispensed four types of drinks. The location of this employment was near Tenth Ave. and 42nd St., the exact address unrecalled and he advised that he did not work here too long.

He advised that another simultaneous employment was Professional Detail Service, 107-27 Hillside Ave., Forest Hills, Queens. He stated that he only sold this service in Manhattan and that the service was one which promoted better relations between druggists and doctors. This service sent gifts and letters from abroad to doctors from the druggists who subscribed to the service. He worked here for a period of about six months.

He advised that he also sells Wonder Books which are childrens books. He was employed in this capacity for about one year. He stated that this organization was located in the Bronx at an address unrecalled but that it later moved to another location in the Bronx, and that the way to get there was to take <sup>the</sup> Jerome Ave. Express, get off at 176th St., and it is the fourth building down on Jerome Ave.

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