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NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY CENTRAL SECURITY SERVICE

FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND 23755

Serial: N0078 26 January 1976

TOP SECRET

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRINCIPAL DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (INTELLIGENCE)

SUBJECT: Senate Select Committee Queries to NSA Concerning the Wessen Commission

Reference your letter dated 14 January 1976 transmitting a request from Mr. Alton Quanbeck of the Senate Select Committee Staff. The following information is provided in response to Mr. Sanbeck's letter, keyed by paragraph to his letter (inclosed - see underlined portions). Most of the information was made available to the SSC Staff, Mr. Jim Johnson, during an interview with Dr. Louis Tordella on 20 January 1975.

Para. 1 - NSA requested permission to retain photocopies of trase reports on which we had worked merely as record copies < f our efforts on behalf of the Commission. It was felt that _f a question should arise at that time , concerning what scalytic efforts had been involved and the number of manhou: expended, a record copy would prove useful. No operational was made of these documents except to hold them on file for a period of time which cannot now be determined. To -/- best of our present knowledge, the photocopies have now seem destroyed. Absolutely no results relevant to the eccassination were obtained through NSA's analytic look at are exhibits. The Commission, in the person of Mr. Allan Dulles, had asked Dr. Tordella, informally, to review the exhib: == for any secret writing or codes which might have been contained in the documents. Dr. Tordella, after causing a careful review of the documents by NSA cryptanalysts, reported verbally to Mr. Dulles and other Commission members that noth ing whatsoever had been achieved by the analytic effort. In written reply was submitted.

> Classified by DIRNSA/CHOIS (MSS/CSSM 123-2) Exempt from CDS, 30 24000, 2-4 _@____ Declassify Upon Nethbolish to the Solginator



APPENDED DOCUMENTS CONTAIN



Serial: N0078

Para. 2. - NSA is uncertain as to what is precisely meant by these comments, but we assume that the comments on names refer to our biographic files which are maintained on foreign personalities of potential intelligence significance. As the Committee knows, these biographic files are maintained (now at CIA incidentally) as analytic support. It is also possible that the Commission was referring to the fact that names are frequently seen in traffic collected for foreign intelligence purposes and therefore NSA might have access to foreign names not otherwise available to the Intelligence Community.

Para. 3. - It may well be that CIA did obtain such transmissions and pass them to NSA for analysis, but no one presently working that analytic area recalls such a request. Discussions with Dr. Tordella also failed to shed any light on this subject. There are no files or records which we have been able to locate from that time frame which would substantiate such a claim. In fact, the only file the responsible analytic group has been able to locate concerning a request from the Warren Commission deals with a file compiled from open sources citing major dates in the last months of Oswald's life. Presumably the date file was to be compared with NSA product on/about the key dates in the hope that something could be deduced. The file does not contain any "hits."

Para. 4. - The informal request from Mr. Dulles is the known total extent of NSA's role in assisting in the investigation. The file discussed in Paragraph 3 is the only file thus far recovered. There is no information which can now be identified which was developed from Cuban or Soviet transmissions relating to the assassination.

Para. 5. - We have no information on this subject at all. However, pursuant to the subject raised during the Tordella interview, we have searched our files manually, and as Mr. Lowman agreed during the Tordella interview, we have recovered three product reports (Inclosures 2 through 4) which show that Cuban military forces did go on alert immediately after the assassination. There is no SIGINT evidence, however, that the Cuban forces were alerted prior to the assassination, thereby suggesting that they had prior knowledge of the event.



Serial: N0078

 $\,$ Para. 6. - No hard copy material of any kind was provided to the Commission (see Para. 1).

DAVID D. LOWMAN
Special Assistant
to the Director
for Congressional Reviews

4 Incls: a/s



Serial: N0078

cc: DIR (Less Incls)

D/DIR ESS ESS/R

ESS, Mr. Lowman

NCRDEF

A, Miss Caracristi (Less Incls)

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M/R: Inclosures 2 through 4 are product reports numbered 2/0/R66-63, 2/0/R196-63 and 2/0/R58-63.