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Interview with Walter P. Haltigan 311157

Date: June 13, 1978

Interviewed by: Mickey Goldsmith and Betsy Noff

A copy of the omnibus letter was given to Mr. Haltigan who read it and indicated that he understood the context.

Mr. Haltigan was given a copy of LIA #435-173-A which consists of a cover letter dated 12/12/63 from Robert H. Campbell to the Chiefs of SR and WE and to the Chief of Station in Paris forwarding a memo dated 11/25/63 which was written by Thomas B. Lasasir to Walter P. Haltigan concerning Lasasir's prior interest in Lee Harvey Oswald. This document served as the basis for our questioning.

Haltigan stated that in 1963 he served as Chief of the Soviet Section of the [redacted] [redacted]. He explained that Lasasir was also an officer in the [redacted] but he served under [redacted]

[redacted]
Due to the nature of this arrangement, Lasasir frequently wrote informal memos such as the one in #435-173-A which were then passed along to the station. These memos would then be forwarded to Headquarters, generally by Haltigan. In this particular instance, Campbell, who served under Haltigan, forwarded the letter to Headquarters because Haltigan was in the hospital at the time.

Haltigan explained the following portions of Lasasir's memo:

- "REDWOOD" represents the Soviet Division.

- The "6 Branch" was the [redacted]

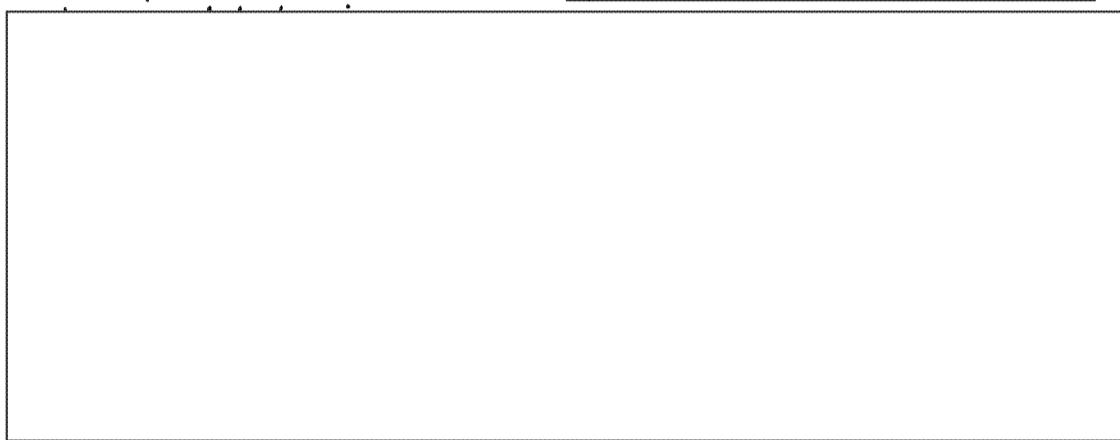
for the Soviet Division. Its main function will be collection of

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information. Casasen was chief of the 6 Board until his transfer
to [redacted]

- KULTUM was the cryptonym for the Office of Operations which
is currently known as the DCA. [redacted]



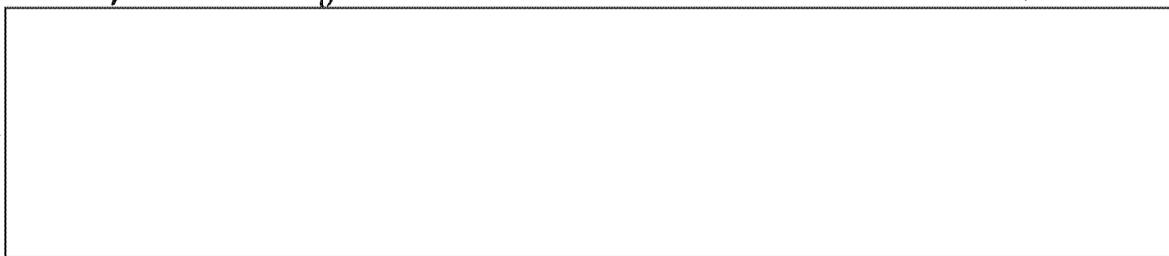
- ODACID was the cryptonym for the State Department. Haltigin
explained that it was not unusual that Casasen would have seen
a State Department dispatch to Oswald as it would have been
routine to receive most of State Department memos.

- Casasen's recollection of having discussed the Oswald case "in
Summer 1960" as stated in the memo, must have been a mis-
take. Instead, he probably ~~should have~~ meant the summer of 1962.

- BI refers to biographic information.

- IPOVER was a cryptonym for [redacted]

[redacted] KUDOVE was the cryptonym for the DAP.
Haltigin explained that in paragraph 3, Casasen ~~did not mean~~
that he was phasing out of the DAP altogether. Instead, his
reference to phasing out of the DAP referred only to the
Headquarters assignment within DAP.



Haltigin did not believe this to be a case where

the couple was eventually divorced as this memo infers. Haltigin stated that it was unusual for Yelena Oswald to be allowed to leave the Soviet Union as not many Soviet wives were permitted to leave during that time period.

- Haltigin was perplexed as to the reference to the "Harvey story" in the last line of the memo. He first stated that it must have been a typographical error which should have been the "Oswald story" instead. When it was pointed out that the sentence contains two other references to Oswald which makes it unlikely that this was merely a typographical error, he expressed confusion with respect to the reference. He could think of no explanation for this, nor did he remember ever speaking to Casasini about this point.

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Haltigin recalled that he arrived in [] for his assignment in June, 1962 and that Casasini probably arrived there in September of the same year. Haltigin stated that he had never heard any rumors to the effect that Oswald had been used by the CIA at any time. He felt that because of his assignments within the Agency, he would have been in a position to know if Oswald had been used in any capacity. He mentioned that he had been in [] from 1951-1955 and that passed SFCB [] there from.

1955 to 1958 or 1959.

Since 1/58 until 4/61, Haltigan worked in [] which was Special Operations within the Soviet Union. []

Since Haltigan was generally apprised of those persons who were travelling [] under the program, he expressed the belief that it was almost impossible for them not to have known if Oswald had had some involvement with the Agency in this capacity.

Haltigan advised that [] was responsible for maintaining its own records which they kept in the same manner as DAD files. If someone needed to know if a particular person was being used, they would be able to check it through the files. However, []

[] Haltigan explained that a 201 file documents the person but not what the person is doing. A 201 file ^{might} contain a PRQ, Part I which is entirely biographical information, a security check and newspaper clipping concerning the individual. []

[] In regard to the accessibility of case files, Haltigan stated that the area of primary interest is reflected on a 201 file opening sheet and that SAC [] go to that branch to seek operational information.

When asked about the significance of CI/SAC opening Oswald's 201

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file, Haltigan responded that he couldn't really say as he does not know what CI/SIG was doing at the time.

Haltigan was asked whether it was possible to purge an individual's file of any operational information by removing any ^{such} reference cards in the 201 file and then removing the patient information from the case file. Haltigan stated that he does not know of this type of thing occurring in his experience. He stated that file maintenance was essential for the protection of the operator and stressed that [redacted] in particular was meticulous in its file maintenance.

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