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# The Black Vault

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The image shows a close-up of a heavy, metallic vault door. The door is partially open, revealing a complex internal mechanism with multiple locking bolts and a central handle. A bright blue light emanates from the gap between the door and the frame, creating a strong glow and casting shadows on the surrounding metal. The overall aesthetic is industrial and mysterious.

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MAIL ROOM  
100-10250-10064

6 February 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, LEOB/SRS

SUBJECT: Ltr dtd 27 Jan 68 from Thomas De BAGGIO to Mr.  
Herman KIMSEYKIMSEY, Herman - #71129

The Director of Security must be cognizant of the contents of Herman KIMSEY's OS file as evidenced by memoranda over his signature of recent date, the most recent being a claim for retroactive medical compensation dated December 1967. File is attached.

GOLENIEWSKI, Michael - C #240003, Vols. I through X

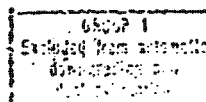
Review of Vols. IX and X of the OS file on Michael GOLENIEWSKI reveals that the Director of Security is cognizant of latest developments in Subject's claims against the Agency. The latest memorandum in the file dated 3 August 1967 recommended that a final stand be taken with GOLENIEWSKI; that no further efforts be made to placate him and observed that the news media is no longer listening to his pretension to be the Crown Prince Alexi ROMANOFF. Vols. IX and X attached.

RICHARDS, Guy - #488

Guy RICHARDS is the author of IMPERIAL AGENT: THE GOLENIEWSKI-ROMANOV CASE published in November 1966. Attached is a summary of information on Guy RICHARDS prepared on 15 December 1965 at the time the Agency became aware of his forthcoming book on GOLENIEWSKI. Attached also is a memo to the DCI dtd 10 November 1966 which is an analysis of the book.

WASHINGTON INDEPENDENT - #524424 (RICHARDS, Guy)

Reference file contains a transcript of the Barry FARBER Show over Station WOR-AM, New York, on 3 May 1967 entitled "Journalists Discuss CIA NAD Espionage". RICHARDS was queried regarding his book on GOLENIEWSKI and his views on the CIA. RICHARDS' replies were critical of the Agency. Quote RICHARDS: "Now, let's take a look, for example, at the Central Intelligence Agency in the year 1967. If history were ever to be made of the great American bureaucracy, I think it quite correct to say that they would pause and pay homage to a remarkable fact, namely, that in the form of the Central Intelligence Agency, there has suddenly been created and evolved a great idea, namely, the idea of



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combining the FBI with Santa Claus with the British East India Company with Barnum & Bailey and the Ringling Bros. Circus. And before we get lost in the derision that this implies, let's take pause on two very positive possibilities. One, that this may not be such a bad idea at that. It may take its form among the great diversions."

WASHINGTON INDEPENDENT - #524424 (De BAGGIO, Thomas)

Thomas De BAGGIO, editor of the WASHINGTON INDEPENDENT, a newspaper described as part of the Underground Press Syndicate, was brought to your attention in May 1967 by [redacted] CIA employee, who resides in the same apartment house as De BAGGIO and who was concerned about meeting De BAGGIO because of the nature of the paper published by De BAGGIO. OS conducted inquiries on De BAGGIO and furnished the results to Mr. GOODWIN's office who had had a request from De BAGGIO to verify GOLENIIEWSKI's CIA employment. At the time De BAGGIO called GOODWIN's office he mentioned he knew Herman KIMSEY but had not seen him recently. GOODWIN's office gave De BAGGIO a "No comment" reply. Of interest is Mr. SAYLE's memo for the record dtd 6 June 1967 in which he speculates that Capital Hill editor for the WASHINGTON INDEPENDENT, Charles BOISE, may be identical to Carl BLOISE, new Washington correspondent for the PEOPLE's WORLD and reputed stringer for SUNDAY RAMPARTS.

Also, of note is the fact that De BAGGIO appeared on the same Barry FARBER show as noted above for Guy RICHARDS.

SPECTRUM

OS indices are negative on SPECTRUM. (NOTE: Speculation would be that SPECTRUM may be a new name for the WASHINGTON INDEPENDENT. This could be verified.)

  
Sarah K. Hall

Atts. as Stated

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20 March 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR : Office of Security  
CI/DDP

SUBJECT : Thomas De Baggio  
"Washington Independent"

1. An individual identifying himself as Thomas De Baggio of "The Washington Independent" telephoned this office on 20 March in an effort to determine if we could confirm that:

a. Col. Goleniewski had worked for the Agency which now is holding some of his belongings without which he cannot prove that he is a Romanov.

b. Herman Kinsey "former Chief of Research and Analysis for CIA" is working with Goleniewski because Kinsey knows he is Romanov."

2. De Baggio said he knows Kinsey but has not seen him recently.

3. Our answer to above was the explanation that we neither confirm nor deny published statements concerning us, whether true or false, favorable or derogatory, because of our responsibilities under the National Security Act.

4. De Baggio gave his telephone number as 532-4499. An individual of the same name and with the same phone number is listed in the directory at 6100 - 26th N. Arlington, Virginia.

5. Neither this office nor the Library has any record of De Baggio or "The Washington Independent." Any information known to addressees would be appreciated.

Joseph C. Goodwin  
Assistant to the Director

# SPECTRUM

(202) 337-5287

1047 31st Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20007

JANUARY 27, 1968

Mr. Herman Kimsey  
Hotel Vivian  
1723 "G" Street NW  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Kimsey:

On a recent trip to Washington, | and I had the pleasure of discussing topics of mutual interest. One of them was the Romanoff case and of course your name was mentioned.

It was | feeling that an article should be written about Romanoff for Reader's Digest. But he cautioned that no material could be included which would put CIA in a bad light. He said this was what kept Guy Richards' book, IMPERIAL AGENT, from being condensed by the magazine. | said it was his belief that the Digest would not print articles which were anti-government in its view and any article which was critical of CIA was seen to be anti-government by Digest editor. He suggested that with your background and contacts you might be able to aid me in the preparation of such an article to the extent of guiding me through the CIA-rough waters of the case.

I have not yet begun the preparation of such an article. I do not believe that | had your permission in offering your advice. I would appreciate your comments on the idea.

As I have only talked with you briefly during the time that I edited and published the Washington INDEPENDENT-- and wrote several stories dealing with the Romanoff case-- perhaps it is not fair to ask any favors of you at all, or impinge on your valuable time with long letters requiring lengthy replies. But I wonder if you, with your intimate knowledge of CIA functions, would care to comment on recent disclosures made in RAMPARTS Magazine. These disclosures, which were much on my mind as well as |, deal with Mr. Jim Garrison's investigation into the assassination

-2-

of President Kennedy. In particular I wonder if you would comment on the disclosures dealing with CIA involvement in the assassination as well as specifically the following quote:

"It is fair to say that not much in the way of Caribbean intrigue went on in those days without the CIA, or at least CIA operatives having a finger in it. Thus the allegations of Gary Underhill, a weapons expert and sometimes CIA 'unperson' may be quite plausible....Immediately after the assassination, a distraught Underhill told friends that a semi-autonomous CIA clique which had been profiteering in narcotics and gun-running was implicated in the assassination. Several months later, Underhill was found dead of a bullet wound in the head; although police decided it was self-inflicted, the circumstances indicated otherwise."

The article, now on the newsstands, also retails a story concerning a man presently in the Springfield, Mo., psych ward to the effect that CIA was in on the assassination.

I realize that you are no longer connected with the agency and any comment which you might make to me would be in confidence. I am most interested in whether you have heard similar rumors or can verify these stories or others. I have heard and seen documented stories dealing with former CIA employees who retired in the field only to go into lucrative business relations within the countries of former assignment, similar to the way certain Generals and Admirals are absorbed into large defense industries...but nothing as wild as the RAMPARTS disclosures dealing with illegal activities of payroll employees.

I appreciate greatly any help you might be able to give me on the above. As I am seldom at the above phone number it is probably best to send any communications you would care to make by letter. That way I will be sure to get it and in all probability it will be most convenient for both of us.

With warm regards,

*Thomas De Baggio*

Thomas De Baggio