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SPEED LETTER

REPLY REQUESTED

DATE

21 August 1974

XX

YES

NO

LETTER NO.

TO : WH/COG, 3 D 54

FROM:

Chief, OSG/OC, 2B11, X1886

ATTN:

Please check your files for any indications that Subject has ever been employed or associated in any way with the Agency. Your reply is requested by COB 26 August 1974.

*DESK TRACES ONLY.*

*CP*

SIGNATURE

REPLY

DATE

*201-321802*

WH/COG Desk traces on Bobbie Joe Keesee were turned over to [ ] OSG/OC, on 23 August 74. Also given to [ ] were IP trace documents requested by the Cuba Desk, upon learning that the requirement levied on the Cuba Desk was for desk traces only. The desk trace refs are included in KEESEE's 201 file except for DCE-14550, 15 May 1962, located in file 100-590, held in IP Files.

We note that in two of the references, DCE-14550 and DBA 10152, KEESEE claimed CIA employment, which was proven untrue. We have no operational card on KEESEE or other references, other than those cited, indicating that KEESEE was ever employed by or associated with the Agency.

*Carded for Cuba Desk.*

*Chris Hopkins*  
Chris Hopkins  
WH/COG/CI  
23 Aug 74

SIGNATURE

RETURN TO ORIGINATOR

21 August 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: DD/Security for Policy and Management  
Executive Assistant to Director of Personnel  
Chief, OSG/OC

SUBJECT : Bobbie Joe Keesee -- Request for Name Check

REFERENCE : Ltr to DCI fm Asst. U.S. Atty, S.D. Cal., dtd  
9 Aug 74, re: United States v. Bobbie Joe Keesee

1. The subject individual has been indicted on serious federal criminal charges in California. He may attempt some defense based on alleged employment by the Agency, or in some other manner attempt to obscure the real issues in his case by alleging CIA involvement in his activities (see referent letter).

2. It is requested that you determine, from records or otherwise, whether Bobbie Joe Keesee has even been employed by or associated in any manner with the Agency. An early response will be appreciated.

*George W. Clarke*  
GEORGE W. CLARKE  
Office of General Counsel

Attachments

REPLY TO  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
AND REFER TO  
INITIALS AND NUMBER

SGN/11d

United States Department of Justice

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE  
325 WEST F STREET  
SAN DIEGO 92101

Executive Registry  
14-2611

TELEPHONE:  
(714) 293-5610

14-74-1453

August 9, 1974

Mr. William E. Colvy, Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D. C. 20505

Re: United States v. Bobbie Joe Keesee  
Criminal Case No. 74-1158

Dear Mr. Colvy:

The above-referenced individual is presently under indictment in the Southern District of California for the kidnapping of Vice Consul John S. Patterson who disappeared from his post on March 22, 1974, at the American Consulate in Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico, and whose decomposed body was discovered on July 7, 1974, in an arroyo approximately 8 miles from Hermosillo. Keesee is charged in count one with conspiring to kidnap Patterson. Counts two, three, and four charge him with travel across state lines and in foreign commerce to facilitate and perpetrate the kidnapping. Count five charges him with mailing a handwritten extortion note to the American Consulate in Hermosillo from San Diego. [A copy of the indictment, as well as a copy of Keesee's rap sheet are enclosed.] Keesee may, if certain presently unresolved jurisdictional requirements are met, shortly be charged with the actual murder in addition to the five counts adverted to above.

As you are no doubt aware, Keesee has a number of federal felony convictions, one of which involved an airplane which he stole and flew into Cuba in 1962. He was later indicted in the District of New Mexico and ultimately convicted. However, during the course of the trial in late 1963, he alleged that his escapade across the country and eventually into Cuba was carried out at the request and direction of the C.I.A.

Mr. William E. Colby


- 2 -

August 9, 1974

The jury fortunately recognized the absurdity of his story and convicted him. However, prior to trial, your agency was requested to supply, if necessary, a witness who could refute such a bizarre tale. Although no direct testimony on this issue was necessary, you agreed to supply such a person should the need arise. [I have also enclosed copies of your correspondence with the U. S. Attorney for your convenience.] I am afraid insofar as Bobbie Joe Keesee is concerned, history seems to repeat itself every 10 years. Keesee is now telling his attorney, has already told a number of agents, and may assert at trial, a similar type story, i.e., that his involvement in the above-referenced case arose out of his relationship with C.I.A. operatives and unidentified international conspirators. Although this obviously sounds a little ludicrous, Keesee has tried it before and is capable of trying it again. Considering that he spent 29 months as a civilian P.O.W. in North Vietnam and in the process had his teeth knocked out and all of his toenails ripped out, anything is possible.

It would be appreciated if you could state in letter or memo form whether Keesee has ever been employed by the C.I.A. I am hopeful that a categorical denial of any C.I.A. employment or sanction will satisfy his defense attorney and deter him from pursuing this line of defense. Please be assured that I will not call a C.I.A. employee as a witness unless it becomes actually necessary.

Very truly yours,

HARRY D. STEWARD  
United States Attorney  
STEPHEN G. NELSON  
Assistant U. S. Attorney  
Chief, Criminal Division

cc: Mr. John S. Warner  
Legal Counsel  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D. C. 20505

AIR MAIL

Enclosures

KEASEE, Bobby Joe

CUBA

DPOB; 18 Feb 34, Wheeler, Texas. Deserted US Army, Fort Huachuca, Arizona, on 30 Jan 62 & flew to Cuba 23 Mar 62 where he asked for political asylum. Was returned to Miami 10 May 62. Has been arraigned before fed. gov't officials in Miami. Claimed to have been contacted by one Buddy Carson in Dec 61 in New Mexico and recruited for work with CIA. Claim of CIA employment proven untrue. Subj then stated he had been employed by two "Spaniards" to fly them to Cuba.  
(DCE-14550, 15 May 62)

*located  
in file* 100-500

KEESE, Bobby Joe

Subj is a former U.S. Army Enlisted Man SN: RA 25984618. Subj deserted U.S. Army and flew a rented plane from Albuquerque, N.M. to Cuba. Subj claimed he was in contact with a CIA agent and employed by CIA to fly planes to Cuba. (SOURCE: DBA 10152, 23 May 62 file 100-500)

*in the 201 file  
KEESE's*

KEESEEE, BOBBY JOE

SEX M DOB 19 FEB 34  
USA, TEXAS, WHEELER  
CIT USA  
OCC ?

AKA KELLY, BOB  
RE FLIGHT TO CUBA AND ACTIVITIES WHILE IN  
CUBA.

100-500  
DBA -10671  
31 MAY 62  
P1

201 Keesee  
not desk

1019

0818554

KEESEEE, Bobby J.  
aka B. J. Kelly, Bob Kelly

CUBA

Subj, a US Army Sergeant, landed a light civilian plane at Habana Airport 23 Mar 62, described himself as a US Army deserter and asked political asylum. Army here said subject, 28, has been listed as a deserter since 25 Feb; left his post at Ft. Huachuca, Arizona, 15 Jan. His home is listed as Arvillo, Texas. Subj was assigned as an operator of a flight simulation training device and did not have access to any military secrets. Also under investigation for "passing bogus checks and for forgery." No indication whether any attempt would be made to have him returned to this country.  
(Washington Post, 25 Mar 62, filed 10-7-12)

Subj landed a single engine plane at Havana, Cuba, Libertad Airport on 23 March 1962. Subj appears to be identical with Bobby Joe Keesee, Army Serial No. 25961618, absent without leave from Fort Huachuca, Arizona, has been charged with interstate transportation of a stolen motor vehicle based on a Federal warrant issued 16 March 1962, believed responsible for passing a number of fraudulent checks at a number of military installations in Alaska, Washington, Oklahoma, Idaho and Florida, described as white, male, born 18 February 1934, in Texas, height 5' 6" to 5' 8", weight 160 to 170 lbs., medium build, light brown hair and gray eyes, reportedly has received training as a parachute jump instructor and is a licensed pilot. (SOURCE: DBA 06315 26 March 1962 file 19-500)

DCE-14550, 15 May 62, filed: 100-500, info as above.