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Interview with Walter P. Heltigas
Date: June 13, 1978

Interviewed by: Mickey Goldsmith and Betsy Wolf

A copy of the interview will be given to Mr. Heltigas
who read it and indicated that he understood the contents.
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Mr. Heltigas was given a copy of LTA # 435-173-A
which consists of a cover letter dated 12/12/63 from Robert E.
Kempfle to the Chief of SP and WE and to the Chief of Station
[redacted] forwarding a memo dated 11/25/63 which was
written by Thomas B. Lassar to Walter P. Heltigas concerning
Lassar's prior interest in Lee Harvey Oswald. This document
served as the basis for our questioning.

Heltigas stated that in 1963 he served as chief of [redacted]
[redacted] of [redacted] station, under [redacted]. He explained
that Lassar was also an officer in [redacted] station but he
served under [redacted] and worked out of the same
[redacted] to make contact with others in [redacted] station.

Due to the nature of the assignment, Lassar 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 Heltigas. In
this particular instance Kempfle, who served under Heltigas,
forwarded the letter to Headquarters because Heltigas was in
the hospital at the time. **REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED**

Heltigas explained the following portions of Lassar's memo:

- "REDWOOD" represents the Soviet Division.

- The [redacted] was the [redacted] branch.

for the Soviet Division. Its main function was the collection of

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information. Lasasina was chief of the [] until his transfer to []

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- KULTUM was the cryptonym for the Office of Operations which is currently known as the DDCI. If the CIA wished to contact a [] it would have made contact through this office.

However, Haltigan stated that it probably was not standard operating procedure to interview [] due to a variety of factors such as a lack of proper follow-up measures or the fact that these cases would have fallen into the jurisdiction of the FBI.

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

- Lasasina's recollection of having discussed the Oswald case in Summer 1960 as stated in the memo, must have been a mistake. Instead, it probably ~~should have been~~ ^{meant the summer} of 1962.

- BI refers to biographic information.

- KUDOVE was a cryptonym for a cover which was probably []. KUDOVE was the cryptonym for the DDP.

Haltigan explained that in paragraph 3, Lasasina ~~did not mean~~ ^{did not mean} that he was phasing out of the DDP altogether. Instead, his reference to phasing out of the DDP referred only to the Headquarters assignment within DDP.

The ~~OCEAN~~/3 case was picked up in Europe for

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[redacted] to the USSR where he fell in love with an American guide whom he married. He came out of the USSR in the summer of 1962 and his wife was permitted to join him some months later. Haltigin did not believe this to be a case where the couple were eventually divorced as this memo infers. Haltigin stated that it was unusual for Marina 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 Larasina about this point.

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Haltigin recalled that he arrived [redacted] for his assignment in June, 1962 and that Larasina 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 [redacted] from 1951-1955 and that Larasina [redacted] there from

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1955 to 1958 or 1959.

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Since 1/58 until [redacted] Haltigae worked in SR/9 which was ~~operated by the FBI~~. SR/9 was composed of 6 persons at this time. He explained that SR/10 was responsible for [redacted]

SR/2, 3, 4 & 5 were responsible for [redacted]

Since Haltigae was generally apprised, [redacted]

[redacted], 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.

Haltigae advised that SR/9 was responsible for maintaining its own records which they kept in the same manner as DAB files.

If someone needed to know if a particular person was being used, they would be able to check it through the files. However, Agency association would not be directly reflected in a 201 file. Instead,

there would be a paper in the file referring to another file in which operational information would be stored. Haltigae 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. A case file, on the other hand, reflects the operational information. A case file would have a filing part number, such as [redacted]

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In regard to the accessibility of case files, Haltigae stated that the area of primary interest is reflected on a 201 file opening sheet and that ~~the~~ ^{agents} go to that branch to seek operational information.

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

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file, Haltigan ~~REPRODUCTION~~ ^{SECURITY} would say as we do
not know what CI/56 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 reference cards in
the 201 file and then removing the pertinent information from the
case file. Haltigan stated that he does not know of this type of thing
occurring in his division. He stated that file maintenance was
essential for the protection of the operator and stressed that SR/9 in
particular was meticulous in its file maintenance.

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