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SendTo: CN=Michelle Combs/O=ARRB @ ARRB

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DisplayBlindCopyTo:

BlindCopyTo: CN=R ecord/O=ARRB

From: CN=Christopher Barger/O=ARRB

DisplayFromDomain:

DisplayDate: 01/10/1997

DisplayDate_Time: 9:34:20 AM

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Subject: The John Hurt situation
Here is the e-mail I sent out regarding this issue. The allegation which is the basis for this allegation is as follows: Oswald is alleged to have made a phone call to the 919 area code (NC) at about 10:45 on the night of Nov 22 from the jailhouse. One of the operators (Troon) says that there were feds listening in, and that the other operator (Swinney) just told Oswald that the call didn't go through, even though she didn't really try to place it. The "sinister" aspect is that there are allegations that there were bases in NC where intel types were trained, possibly even false defectors. The man listed at the number was a "John D. Hurt," whom the HSCA discovered had served in militray intelligence during WWII. Hurt was contacted and denied all knowledge of a call or of Oswald. The theory goes that Oswald might have been trying to reach someone in military intel that could have vouched for him. I don't particularly ascribe to this theory, but that is the nature of this allegation. We are trying to find out everything we can relating to alleged "plant" defectors, and hence our interest in this issue. Here goes....To: Jeremy Gunn/ARRBcc: Tim Wray/ARRB, Joseph Masih/ARRB, Eric Scheinkopf/ARRB From: Christopher Barger/ARRBDate: 01/07/97 03:32:34 PMSubject: The John Hurt situationI have checked through most of the HSCA numbered files on Alveeta Troon or Troen, L Swinney, and John Hurt, as well as the pertinent section of "Reasonable Doubt." There is conflicting testimony on whether the phone number was retrieved from the trash or not, but there seems to be no dispute that Oswald did attempt to phone that number. Swinney recalls it being the DPD that monitored the call; Troen thought the men were federal agents. The HSCA investigator reported that Swinney was very nervous and reluctant to discuss the matter, but that she did cooperate. By all accounts, John Hurt died in 1981. He denied to the HSCA knowing why Oswald would call him or having any contact with LHO prior to the assassination. He did apparently have some experience or contact with militray intelligence at some point in his career, especially around World War II, but there is othing in the HSCA files which indicates a connection with Oswald or other contemporary intelligence. On p. 244-245 of Reasonable Doubt, Henry Hurt quotes John Hurt's widow as saying that J. Hurt had admitted to her that he had been upset at the news of the assassination, got drunk, and tried to phone Oswald. He was denied access. That could explain how the number got to the Dallas jail. Perhaps Oswald was trying to return the call, or perhaps the number was written down, but as an incoming call rather than an outgoing call. At any rate, there appears to be little of value in the HSCA files on this matter, and since Hurt is dead, it is unlikely that we will be able to determine anything further. Reasonable Doubt does, however, cite an alleged State Department study, headed by Otto Otepka, of US defectors to the Soviet Union which was ostensibly to find out which "defectors" were genuine and which were US intelligence operatives on espionage missions. While the study

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