

NR_key_name: 6C477511580EA7BA85256419003E0BE5
SendTo: CN=Christopher Barger/O=ARRB @ ARRB
CN=Tim Wray/O=ARRB @ ARRB;CN=Joseph Masih/O=ARRB @ ARRB;CN=Eric Scheinkopf/O=ARRB @ ARRB;CN=Michelle Combs/O=ARRB @ ARRB
CopyTo:
DisplayBlindCopyTo:
BlindCopyTo: CN=R ecord/O=ARRB
From: CN=Jeremy Gunn/O=ARRB
DisplayFromDomain:
DisplayDate: 01/08/1997
DisplayDate_Time: 6:28:58 AM
ComposedDate: 01/08/1997
ComposedDate_Time: 6:17:43 AM
Subject: Re: The John Hurt situation

Chris--Thanks for the memo. Please draft a request for information and records to the State Department (in conjunctions with Michelle) in care of Nina Noring for Otepka-defector documents. Please use as a model the first request we made to the Secret Service. . I would like to provide Nina with a better source than Hurt, if possible. See if you can find any other documentation that would be of assistance to Nina in locating records. Eric may have an idea for further documentation. When pursuing documentation, don't forget to check CIA correspondence with State on this issue. M.D. Stevens was a CIA contact with State on this issue. Newman's book may provide some documentary support.

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 was allegedly incomplete when Otepka left State in June 1963, it is conceivable that State completed its survey. We should try to obtain it, if it still exists, as well as speak to Otepka, if he is still alive.

Body:
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DeliveryReport: B
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