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23 November 1963

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Disposition - This document was denied. The document is a memo which recites the speculative thinking of an Agency officer on the assassination of President Kennedy. The paper deals with a possible explanation of the assassination. He treats the problem experimentally with a thesis which is not born out by facts available then or later developed. The thinking expressed was imaginative but not definitive. No decision was based on this paper. It appears clearly to be the type of documents contemplated for exemption under subsection (b)(5). The document also relates information received from a [redacted] service. It contains information from and about a sensitive source. The document also identifies Agency officers and components and contains internal Agency filing instructions. This denial was made under the authority of exemptions (b)(1), (b)(2), (b)(3) and (b)(5).

To: Assistant Deputy Director, Plans

(SX-25598)

From: Chief, (SR/CI)

Subject: ^{Report on} Cable from Chief, SR Division, re Possible KGB role in Kennedy Slaying

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1. The following is the text of a cable from Chief, SR Division, sent via closed channel from Frankfurt at 2316Z on 23 November, for the attention of Mr. Angleton:

"1. I desire that you consider these reactions to the Kennedy assassination:

a. Within minutes of the first news, Moscow radio statements (as heard in London) attributed the assassination to "right-wing elements." Only as the true identity of the believed assassin became known did Moscow begin to complain that U.S. reactionaries were using Oswald as a pawn.

b. (Should not the assignment of 13th Dept. officers to the KGB residency in the United Nations in New York be considered in a new light?)

c. (I discovered from Arthur Martha (of [redacted]) during our long and exceptionally valuable discussions, that one of Harold Wilson's principal scientific advisors is Captain Ian Maxwell, who has a long Soviet intelligence background. This may shed new light on AELADLE's report [i.e., that Harold Wilson may be a Soviet agent].)

2. (Putting it baldly, was Oswald, unwittingly or wittingly, part of a plot to murder President Kennedy in Dallas as an attempt to further exacerbate sectional strife and render the U.S. Government less capable of dealing with Soviet initiatives over the next year?) (If AELADLE's views on Wilson and the information noted in paragraph 1c above have any substance (and they cannot be ignored), this suggests that we can expect major Soviet pressures over the next several months, for which the Soviets have made careful, long-range preparations.)

2. (The above reference to 13th Dept. officers in New York refers to the presence, reported by an FBI penetration of the KGB locally, in New York or Washington of one or two known officers of the 13th Department of the 1st Chief Directorate (Foreign Intelligence) of the KGB. This department is charged with "liquid affairs," sabotage and assassination. One of the 13th Dept. officers,

Document Number 33-537

for FOIA Review on APR 1976

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CLASSIFICATION REVIEW
 CONDUCTED ON 16 APR 1976
 E/S IMPDET CL BY 012208

23 Nov 63
(201-289248)

by the way, met clandestinely with a Soviet "exchange student" from a Pennsylvania university during the school year 1962-63, which suggests that the Soviet student is also a 13th Dept. officer or agent. Perhaps significantly, his course of studies was in food chemistry!

3. You will note that Mr. Murphy's comments come without benefit of the traces we passed to you earlier today, showing that Oswald had contact with a 13th Dept. representative in Mexico City.)

4. (Another recently-arrived cable, being sent to the Director tonight, suggests that Oswald's business with the Soviet Consul was connected with his own visa to the USSR and Cuba (in transit) and may, therefore, have been really rather than ostensibly innocent.)

(T. H. BAGLEY)