

The Rostow Story Sanitized - Approved For Release : CIA-RDP75-00149R000600040001-4
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The Otepka briefs relate an intriguing story in connection with the Rostow case. According to the briefs, Bobby Kennedy and Dean Rusk approached Otepka in 1960 about Rostow, well aware that earlier efforts to get him named to a highly sensitive national security project had been thwarted by the Eisenhower Administration's strict security standards.



RUSK

Desiring to appoint Rostow to a key position in the State Department, Rusk opened the discussion by asking: "What kind of security problem would be encountered regarding the appointment of Mr. Rostow to the department?"

Otepka replied that he was acquainted with the Rostow file, and that this familiarity dated back to 1955 when the department was giving consideration to hiring Rostow as a key person in a psychological warfare project to be undertaken by the Operations Co-ordinating Board.

"Persons employed by the project were required to have a security clearance under the strict standards prescribed by the United States Intelligence Board," the briefs state. "As a part of his evaluation, Otepka at this time reviewed the State Department file on Mr. Rostow, the CIA file and the results of reviews given to the case by both the CIA and the Department of the Air Force. The Air Force had previously made a security finding adverse to Mr. Rostow.

"As a result of Otepka's findings, Under Secretary of State Herbert Hoover Jr., the chairman of the Operations Co-ordinating Board, decided that Mr. Rostow would not be utilized as an employe or consultant by the State Department in connection with the board's project.

"In other words, Mr. Rostow could not get the necessary clearance under the strict standards applicable to the Operations Co-ordinating Board."

When Rostow was again recommended for State Department employment, Roderic O'Connor, administrator of the Bureau of Security and Consular Affairs, made the determination on the basis of the previous record that "Mr. Rostow was not desirable for employment."

According to Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter Clark Mollenhoff, who unearthed the contents of the brief, when Otepka related the background on Rostow, Rusk remained silent but Bobby "spoke disparagingly of the adverse finding that had been made by the Air Force" and referred to the Air Force as "a bunch of jerks."

When it became clear that Otepka would continue to evaluate the Rostow case in the same manner as it had been evaluated previously, Rostow was hired by the White House, where the President can set his own security standards.

After being given this job, Rostow was moved into the State Department for a time as someone who had already been given a clearance.

Angry with Otepka, Kennedy later assigned John F. Reilly, formerly a Justice Department lawyer, to the State Department as deputy assistant secretary of state in charge of administration. Reilly's role in the anti-Otepka cabal is well documented. This cabal at length plotted and engaged in eavesdropping, wiretapping, searches of Otepka's wastebasket and general spying on his activities in an effort to find grounds on which to dismiss him.

A former professor of international politics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Rostow is a graduate of Yale and served in the Office of Strategic Services in World War II. Identified as the author of a State Department policy paper promoting unilateral disarmament, trading with the Communists and a generally "soft-line" toward Soviet Russia and Communist China, Rostow has come under considerable attack and was even the subject of a special congressional hearing. In recent years he has been identified with a comparatively hard line on Viet Nam. The Otepka brief reportedly does not disclose why Rostow was denied a security clearance by the Eisenhower Administration.

Fourteen Breaches in Security

The sensational Otepka briefs, whose contents have been revealed to only one or two reporters in Washington, outline numerous cases of alleged security violations. Clark Mollenhoff of the Des Moines Register has detailed 14 of the cases which appear below:

1. A foreign service officer who sexually violated his own daughter but was never disciplined, and in fact later was designated a part-time security officer at a post that did not have a full-time security man.
2. A foreign service officer who borrowed money from the State Department Credit Union and forged the endorsement of a fellow employe on his application for the loan. The individual later was given an important assignment in the White House.
3. A foreign service officer who admitted he furnished 18 documents, some of them classified "secret," to Philip Jaffe, the publisher of *Amerasia* magazine and on whom there was a considerable record of Communist activities and affiliation. The officer was permitted to take an honorable retirement with pension.
4. A security division technician who went on drunken rampages at several embassies in foreign countries and whose misconduct was condoned and covered up by Reilly. Reports of the misconduct actually were kept out of the personnel file.
5. A security officer stationed in Athens, Greece, who failed to report a large number of security violations, yet was appointed deputy chief of the Division of Security Evaluations at the State Department.