

**TOP SECRET**

SC No. 02561/62  
DATE 17 February 1962  
Tape #13  
Copy No. 5

**NRO REVIEW COMPLETED**

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION PERTAINING TO  
PROJECT IDEALIST: HANDLE VIA  CONTROL SYSTEM.

NRO  
25X1

**THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS CODE WORD MATERIAL**

**WARNING**

This document contains classified information affecting the national security of the United States within the meaning of the espionage laws, US Code, Title 18, Sections 793, 794, and 798. The law prohibits its transmission or the revelation of its contents in any manner to an unauthorized person, as well as its use in any manner prejudicial to the safety or interest of the United States or for the benefit of any foreign government to the detriment of the United States.

**THIS DOCUMENT MUST BE KEPT IN COMMUNICATIONS  
INTELLIGENCE CHANNELS AT ALL TIMES**

It is to be seen only by US personnel especially indoctrinated and authorized to receive COMMUNICATIONS INTELLIGENCE information; its security must be maintained in accordance with COMMUNICATIONS INTELLIGENCE REGULATIONS.

No action is to be taken on any COMMUNICATIONS INTELLIGENCE which may be contained herein, regardless of the advantages to be gained, unless such action is first approved by the Director of Central Intelligence.

**TOP SECRET**

~~IDEALIST~~  
**TOP SECRET**

DEBRIEFING OF FRANCIS GARY POWERS

Tape: # 13  
Date: 17 February 1962  
Time: 118 Hours PM

Present: Powers

25X1A9A

25X1A9A

Gary, you remember when we talked yesterday you had completed your discussion of the trial situation and you were then, if I recall correctly, returned to the same place where you had been held previous to the trial.

Powers: Yes, that's right, before returning after the trial I spent one hour with my relatives who were visiting there in the same building where the trial was held. From there, directly back to prison, same cell, same place.

25X1A9A

Now, how long were you kept at this same prison which was in Moscow before you were transferred to Vladimir?

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

NR  
25X1

**TOP SECRET**

~~IDEALIST~~

~~IDEALIST~~  
**TOP SECRET**

Powers: Well, this was on the 19th of August and on the morning of the 9th of September went to Vladimir. Then, from the 19th of August to the 9th of September you were again held at the same prison which we believe to be Lubyanka?

25X1A9A

[REDACTED]

Powers: Yes.

25X1A9A

[REDACTED]

Now during this period from the 19th of August to the 9th of September was there anything unusual that occurred, anything that you want to comment on?

Powers: Well, I can just tell you about the period of time, I don't know what would be considered unusual. But, the 19th was on a Friday. On Monday, which would be the 22nd of September I was taken from this prison again to a court, someone called it the Supreme Court Building in Moscow. I spent one hour with my parents and sister. One hour with my wife and her Mother. Her Mother left us alone there for about thirty minutes. There was always an interpreter and I think one of the men present.

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT [REDACTED] CONTROL CHANNEL 2

NRO  
25X1

**TOP SECRET**

~~IDEALIST~~

**TOP SECRET**

And this other American you mentioned his name yesterday.

25X1A9A

Hallam<sup>inon</sup> the Attorney?

Powers:

Hallam<sup>inon</sup> -

25X1A9A

Hallam<sup>inon</sup>.

Powers:

Something like that, spent a few minutes, I don't know, maybe fifteen minutes. Did a lot of talking said very little. From there, I was taken back to the same prison, same cell. That was Monday. On Wednesday, I think approximately one o'clock in the afternoon, one-thirty, I was up in the court yard taking a walk when this interrogator, the chief interrogator whose name I thought of this morning, Kuzmine. As near as I can spell it would be K-u-z-m-i-n-e, I think. He and Rhotachev came up to the court yard where I was walking and asked me if I would like to see my wife again. Didn't mention parents or anything just wife. And I told them I certainly would and they said they thought that could be arranged and that we would be allowed

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT

CONTROL CHANNEL

3

NRO  
25X1

**TOP SECRET**

**IDEALIST**

**TOP SECRET**

to spend three hours together alone. They said to get ready and they took me down immediately, brought the suit in that I wore at the trial and I put that on and approximately two-thirty we left and went to what I am sure is another prison in Moscow. We got there just before three o'clock and about three o'clock, Kuzmine and Rhotochev brought my wife to this place. They left, left the guard outside and left us alone together and came back at six o'clock. That was on the 24th of August.

25X1A9A

[REDACTED]

Gary, just again you were trying to recall and had recalled several things you believed you had told Barbara. Would you repeat those again as best you can?

Powers: I can't be sure of this, I was talking to her about it and she said that some of the things I thought I had told her I hadn't. But, it seems to me, that she said I hadn't told her the names of Rhotochev and Kuzmine. But it seems to me I can remember distinctly telling her this, of course, maybe she didn't understand

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT [REDACTED] CONTROL CHANNEL

4

NRO  
25X1

**TOP SECRET**

**IDEALIST**

**TOP SECRET**

because I was trying to whisper right in her ear without making any sound whatsoever. Also to make letters in her hand so that she could see what they were. But, she said she doesn't remember me telling her those names but it seems that I did, I don't know. Seems like I told her about -- definitely that the pilots were not named and it seems like I told her the [ ] were not named. As far as the Soviets knew they were not involved. Now these might have been things that I wanted to tell her and didn't. I really can't say. But I know I did tell her a few things.

25X1X7

25X1A9A

[ ]

Did you also try to convey to her the fact that you had been shot down?

Powers: Yes, I did.

25X1A9A

[ ]

You mentioned that?

Powers: Yes, I told her as near as I could figure out I had been shot down.

25X1A9A

[ ]

But, owing to the peculiar circumstances of being

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT [ ] CONTROL CHANNEL

5

NRO  
25X1

**TOP SECRET**

**IDEALIST**

~~TOP SECRET~~  
**TOP SECRET**

in a prison and probably under observation and suspected technical listening post and so forth, You felt you couldn't go any further than that.

Powers: No, I couldn't talk, I had no desire to talk out loud there because I felt there might be microphones and no telling what else. I tried to -- very low whisper directly into the ear that couldn't be heard, I hope anywhere.

25X1A9A

Now after you saw Barbara for the three hours, you were taken back to the --

Powers: The same prison.

25X1A9A

Now what happens?

Powers: After this, just a second, after this interview Kusmine and Rhotochev came back and we talked there a little while. Barbara asked if she could buy me some clothing and make some sort of arrangements to help me out after she had left. They said yes, also it came up, they asked her when she was leaving. She had previously told me when we were alone together that it would be

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

6

NRO  
25X1

**TOP SECRET**

~~TOP SECRET~~

**TOP SECRET**

on Saturday -- on Friday but she told them on Saturday. I don't know why. I didn't say anything but on Friday, well - after that, they took her away and as soon as she was out of sight they took me back to the same prison, same cell. On Friday they came in and told me -- I think it was Friday morning sometime, my wife had left. And told me that we could have seen each other again if she had stayed. They wanted to know why she had left and I told them I didn't know, I thought she was leaving on Saturday as she had said. My parents had left on Wednesday, I think the morning of the day we saw each other alone, my wife and I. Lets see, that was the 26th when they came and told me she had left. From that time on I didn't leave the prison until the 9th of September when I was taken to Ladenia.

25X1A9A

Now during this period between the 26th and the 9th did anything occur or were you just in routine?

Powers: I'm pretty sure that during this time they - this was

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT

CONTROL CHANNEL

7

NRO  
25X1

**TOP SECRET**

**IDEALIST**



**TOP SECRET**

Vaselieb and this woman interpreter the first time I ever saw her, took me out to a room in this -- in the prison part of the building not the regular interrogating rooms that they use, and read an article from a Russian paper about the two Americans from the -- N - National - NSA

25X1A9A

Were you referring to Martin and Mitchell?

Powers: Yes.

25X1A9A

Were those names mentioned to you?

Powers: Yes, those names were mentioned. Had their photographs in the paper also.

25X1A9A

Why do you recall did they probe into this?

Powers: I think it was earlier than this they asked me if I was familiar with this organization. But, I don't remember the date this was asked I think it also came up during this time also.

25X1A9A

But you weren't able to give them any information on this?

Powers: No, I had never heard of the thing.

25X1A9A

Did they ask you did you know Martin and Mitchell?

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

NRO  
25X1

**TOP SECRET**

8

**IDEALIST**

**TOP SECRET**

Powers: I think they did ask me if I knew them and showed me the photographs in the paper and I had never seen them.

25X1A9A

That was the extent of that conversation?

Powers: Yes, I don't remember exactly when this was but it was between the period of the 26th of August and the 9th of September. Now, I believe it was on the 8th of September they came in showing me an article from New York Times Newspaper in which the article stated that my Father had told the correspondent, that I had told him that I had not been shot down. So, it made me a little angry, because I hadn't told him that because as near as I could figure it out I had been shot down. I could think of no other explanation that would explain what happened that day.

25X1A9A

Had you talked to him about it at all?

Powers: No, I don't remember saying a word to him about it. Except what he had heard in the trial itself, was the

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT

CONTROL CHANNEL

9

NRO  
25X1

**TOP SECRET**

**IDEALIST**

~~IDEALIST~~  
**TOP SECRET**

only thing he could have gotten directly from me. I wanted to get the - to refute that story, I don't know whether I suggested writing a letter or they did, it seems to me they suggested my writing a letter to the editor of the paper. But, it appealed to me because I wanted to refute that. I did write a letter and it was dated the 8th of September. They told me the same day that I would be leaving the next morning for Ladenia. This Major Vaselieb and woman interpreter accompanied me there with guards. There were two cars of us. The trip lasted approximately three hours.

25X1A9A  On the 9th you were taken?

Powers: On the 9th - yes.

25X1A9A  Did they let you take everything you had in your cell, clothing, books and so forth?

Powers: Well, I had very little in the cell but, the stuff my wife had bought they had in another room there and they put that all in bags and took it with me.

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

10

**TOP SECRET**

~~IDEALIST~~

NRO  
25X1

~~TOP SECRET~~  
**TOP SECRET**

25X1A9A

This trip was made under decent conditions? You weren't smuggled out or hand cuffed to anything like that?

Powers:

No hand cuffs, only four guards in this limousine type car with me. The Major was one person. I don't know whether you would consider him a guard or not, and three other regular guards. One on each side and two on the little folding seats in front of the back seat. The woman interpreter was riding in the front seat with the driver of the car. And then there was a smaller car of the Volvo type bringing up the rear with the supplies my wife had brought me. I don't remember how many people were in that, but I know there were at least two.

25X1A9A

On that trip down there, were the shades drawn in the car which you were travelling?

Powers:

No, I don't think so.

25X1A9A

You had full vision and so-forth?

Powers:

Yes, I could see around out through the country side.

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

11

NRO

25X1

**TOP SECRET**  
~~TOP SECRET~~  
**IDEALIST**

25X1A9A

[REDACTED]

Was there anything you think you might want to comment on that you saw on the way down.

Powers:

Well, I can't remember seeing anything that impressed me at the time of being of any importance. We passed some, what might have been some small factorys in the outskirts of Moscow there, but very little on the road. Most of it was through farming and forest country. They were doing some construction on the road, bridges especially, it seemed like. A few detours around these places. When we arrived in Vlatimir none of these people seemed to know exactly where the prison was because they went past it. They stopped and asked and inquired someone on the street once. Came back and finally turned into it. So I don't know whether they had been there or not. It seemed like one of the guards in the back had been there before because he seemed to be telling them some sort of instruction.

25X1A9A

[REDACTED]

Now what happened when you arrived in Vlatimir.

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT [REDACTED] CONTROL CHANNEL

NRO  
25X1

Powers: We arrived at the prison, they drove up to a gate that opens up into the prison but the guard would not let us drive in. They pulled back around to a door in a building and we went into what was the administration building. We got out of the car they brought the baggage in. They had let me make a list in this - at Moscow before going to Vladimir of the goods that my wife had bought there was overcoat, a couple pair of pants, several shirts and a lot of food: nuts, candy, a bunch of stuff, toothpaste, stuff like that. Also an electric razor. But there never was able to use the electric razor because of the current. Even though I had a transformer it just wouldn't turn fast enough. I don't know how long I spent in this administration building but I feel sure it was less than thirty minutes. There was no search there or anything else at this particular time. The money my wife left with me I never did have my hands on they gave it to the administration. The watch she had bought me was given, my wedding ring which they said would

be returned to me was given to the administration of the  
HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

NRO  
25X1

**TOP SECRET**

prison to be kept for me there. They took this list that I had made of the stuff that I had and I never saw it again. In fact, I asked them for it and never did get it, I had forgotten what I had in my supplies.

25X1A9A  Did they move you then directly into your cell?

Powers: They brought another Major, a short fellow, Demetria something like that, he was the officer in charge of the building I was taken to. Short, very jolly fellow, always smiling and laughing seemed like. And seemed very friendly. He --

25X1A9A  We will get a description of him later.

Powers: I don't know how good a description I can give of these people, I don't seem to be observant as I should be, but maybe I can help in some way.

25X1A9A  Memory will return.

Powers: He took me by myself, no guards with me or anything, through prison yards with walls all around so we couldn't get out, and accompanied me

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

14

**TOP SECRET**

**IDEALIST**

NRO  
25X1

**TOP SECRET**

to this building that became -- it housed the cell that I lived in all the time I was there. He took me into his office, called the guard in, waited for a few minutes. Called in what was to be my cell mate. His name was Kruminsh, K-r-u-m-i-n-s-h.

25X1A9A  Now this is the same individual whose pictures we have --

Powers: Yes, you have his photographs and his hand writing on the back. When he came in he was wearing a beret or well it looked like a type of beret. And, he wouldn't take it off. They asked him to and he wouldn't. And he explained to me when he said hello and introduced ourselves and shook hands he said he was to be my cell mate, we shook hands and I told him, had to ask him again to repeat his name because I couldn't understand Russian names very well. And he said "I'm not Russian", I mean he made a point to say he wasn't Russian. But he was Latvian. His head was -- he had no hair they had cut off like they do most of the

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

NRO  
25X1

15

**TOP SECRET**

**IDEALIST**



~~TOP SECRET~~  
**TOP SECRET**

prisoners but they never did cut mine off and after that never did cut his off again. As soon as his hair grew back out he stopped wearing his little beret, but he wouldn't take his beret off in the house with his head practically shaved.

25X1A9A

How long were you and Kruminsh and this Major Demetria or Demetria or what ever it is, together before you went to your cell?

Powers: Just a few minutes, fifteen or twenty minutes. The guard, I think it was the sergeant of the guards there in the building came in and had me strip off my clothes down to my underwear and performed a search. And, had nothing on me so they put shoes and clothing back on and the major escorted us upstairs on the 2nd floor to cell # 31.

25X1A9A

And was this cell your home for the next time --

Powers: All the time until, oh when was it I left there the 8th of February, the morning of the, oh no not the 5th, yes this is February isn't it. Same cell all the time.

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

NRO  
25X1

**TOP SECRET**

~~TOP SECRET~~

25X1A9A

[ ]

Do you mind just for the record, describing this cell? Just briefly.

Powers:

It was roughly, I would say eight feet wide and I would say between fourteen and sixteen feet long. The roof - the ceiling of the cell was arched.

25X1A9A

[ ]

So you had quite a bit of room above.

Powers:

Yes, but it was arched on the side like this. Well --

25X1A9A

[ ]

That's all right. How about windows?

Powers:

There was one window, with -- one window opening with double windows in this space.

25X1A9A

[ ]

Could you see out?

Powers:

There was opaque glass in the bottom part of the window. In order to see out you had to climb up on a bed or stool or something there. There was a small crack in one of the opaque glasses that you could get your eye close to and see out of. We used it quite often.

25X1A9A

[ ]

Certainly. How was the sleeping arrangement?

Powers:

Lets see, when I fi rst got -- we changed it around

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT [ ] CONTROL CHANNEL  
17

NRO  
25X1

**TOP SECRET**

after I got there shortly. I could show you better on a diagram than I could explain it. But there was a cot on each side of the cell.

25X1A9A

[ ]

This would be like an Army cot?

Powers: About the same size as an Army cot but it seemed to be a little better than the Army cots I had slept in here. This was a hospital we were in and these were hospital beds. It had wire --

25X1A9A

[ ]

Springs?

Powers: Well, wire bottom with springs attached to the rails of the bed to hold the wire in place. A fairly good mattress it was maybe two inches thick, something like that, much thicker than the ones in Moscow much more comfortable.

25X1A9A

[ ]

Sheets?

Powers: Double sheets, two sheets.

25X1A9A

[ ]

Blankets?

Powers: At that time there was only one blanket but later we got one more.

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT [ ] CONTROL CHANNEL

18

NRO

25X1

**TOP SECRET**  
**IDEALIST**

**TOP SECRET**

25X1A9A

Were there cabinets in the room where you could store your stuff?

Powers: There were two cabinets we wrote on, ate on, and did everything on, that had two doors in the bottom that you could open and store stuff inside. Later on when we started making these envelopes they brought another cabinet for us to work on and keep some stuff in there. And then they never did take that out after we quit work. So we had three of them.

25X1A9A

How about the lights? Night lights that is.

Powers: There was one light in about the center of the ceiling. One near the ceiling over the door. The one in the center of the ceiling was used during the daytime and at night until it was time to go to bed. When it was time to go to bed the other light would be turned on and this one off. The bulbs were about the same about 75 watt bulbs.

25X1A9A

So you had your top light in the center of the ceiling

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

NRO  
25X1

**TOP SECRET**  
**IDEALIST**

**TOP SECRET**

was turned off at night but the light over the door was kept on so there was a light at all times, twenty-four hours a day in that room.

Powers: And when something happened to the power at night, which it did a few times, they would bring a candle and have to keep it burning.

25X1A9A

And did the door have the customary peep-hole in it?

Powers: It had the peep-hole and a square place about a foot square or a little larger that they fed us through.

25X1A9A

Fed once?

Powers: No

25X1A9A

Fed what, three times a day?

Powers: Yes, approximately between seven and eight in the morning, usually between twelve and one at noon, and six or shortly after at night.

25X1A9A

You want to tell us a little bit about the food? Just roughly.

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

NRO  
25X1

**TOP SECRET**  
**IDEALIST**

~~IDEALIST~~  
**TOP SECRET**

Powers: Well, it was poor. There seemed to be plenty of it, more than I could have eaten I think. But, the way it was prepared and the type of food it was it just didn't appeal at all. It varied for breakfast, we would have, they would bring fish soup quite often and a very smelly fish soup that would almost make me sick, the smell of it, I never ate a bite of it, I couldn't. They would have different type of porridges. The two best they had was something like our creme of wheat. The other was oats, but much courser than oatmeal. The one that I didn't like at all was millet and barley also they had, I ate that but didn't particularly like it.

25X1A9A

Did you have any coffee at this time? Any hot drink or anything?

Powers: When I first got there they wouldn't let me have the coffee that my wife had bought me. Or the cigarettes.

25X1A9A

After about a week or so they did let me have them.  
How about lunch?

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

NRO  
25X1

21

Powers: At lunch there was always a bowl of soup. That was the best part of any meal I had there. The soup was usually fairly good, not very much meat in it at all. But, sometimes it was good. A lot of cabbage in the soup, sometimes noodles in it or something like noodles. Sometimes potatoes, but it varied a little bit from day to day the make up of the soup itself.

25X1A9A

[ ]

Did you have bread?

Powers: They brought bread for the day at breakfast time, I don't remember the weights of it but they supposedly gave it by weights. There was something they called white bread which looked to me like whole wheat bread, about the same color as our whole wheat bread. And, a piece of black bread as dark rye bread which I never did learn to like. The -- well it was more than I could eat. Usually one piece of the white bread was enough to do me all day because I never did eat much bread.

25X1A9A

[ ]

Anything else with the luncheon?

Powers: There was always something else besides soup, there

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT [ ] CONTROL CHANNEL

NRO  
25X1

was also at first I think it was, 250 to 300 grams of milk at lunch and then just two or three months ago they cut it down to 200 grams which isn't very much milk. And there was usually a plate of potatoes, just plain mashed potatoes, no seasoning, I mean butter or anything like that.

25X1A9A

Were these things hot?

Powers: Yes, they were usually hot, sometimes the soup was very hot. They brought it in and it looked like army or olive drab colored containers to keep food warm that you could transport on trucks say from a ~~pan~~<sup>field</sup> kitchen to the troops. They would empty it out of that into buckets and carry it around to the doors and feed the prisoners. The predominate thing they had lunch with the soup was either a plate of potatoes or a plate of boiled cabbage. I didn't like their boiled cabbage either, but I could eat their potatoes, I usually dumped it in with the soup. Occasionally there was noodles with a few pieces of meat in it, little strings of meat. Once a week with the plate of potatoes, they

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

NRO  
25X1



~~IDEALIST~~  
**TOP SECRET**

had three or four ounces of beef usually. Once a week at the most I know it wasn't more often than that and it might have been longer period of time between. Now for supper the worst meal of the day, I kept track of it in a little diary I had, for a month and a half or so and out of say 30 days, 25 days would be either just a plate of plain mashed potatoes or a plate of plain boiled cabbage. I think they had some tea that you could drink with it, it wasn't hot, I only tried it one time and it tasted very bad. Later, I would supplement this with the coffee I received from the American Embassy each month and coffee that I had brought with me that my wife had bought for me.

25X1A9A

[REDACTED]

They brought you hot water I take it then.

Powers:

Yes, at every meal they would bring a tea kettle of hot water, and we would keep it hot longer by putting a coat over the kettle to keep it from cooling off.

We used that to make coffee with or wash the dishes with

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT [REDACTED] CONTROL CHANNEL

NRO

25X1

**TOP SECRET**  
~~IDEALIST~~

~~IDEALIST~~  
**TOP SECRET**

25X1A9A

so forth.

Did you share your rations that you got from the outside with your cell mate?

**Powers:** Yes, he wouldn't drink much coffee, I don't know why, maybe he didn't like it too much or something but he would drink -- Well, I would drink for a while there about six cups a day two at each meal and he would only drink two or maybe three cups a day. He shared with me and I shared with him, everything we had was community property, I mean it was mine or his but we just shared it.

25X1A9A

Was the monotony of the meal ever broken by anything like fruit?

**Powers:** Never saw a piece of fruit the whole time I was there.

25X1A9A

Was there any breaks for festive occasions, you know, did you ever get a cookie?

**Powers:** No, every day was the same.

25X1A9A

This includes the weekends?

**Powers:** Their holidays were not celebrated by the prisoners.

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

25

NRO  
25X1

In fact I think on their holidays the meals might have been a little worse than -- because probably the cooks or the supervisors wanted to get home earlier. But it was strictly monotonous, same thing over, and over and over. Nothing to spice it up at all. For supper again at first it wasn't this often but I would say the past two or three months at approximately once a week. They would give us two hot cakes a week a piece of course these hot cakes were usually cold by the time they got to us and we would usually just put some sugar on them and eat them because we didn't have any syrup or anything.

25X1A9A  Did you get the sugar from the prison or from --

Powers: We could buy the sugar at the prison.

25X1A9A  Buy, they had a small commissary there then?

Powers: Yes,

25X1A9A  And with money that had been sent in to you by Barbara or who ever it might be you are entitled to make purchases.

Powers: Yes.

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

NRO  
25X1

25X1A9A

Did you make them physically or did the guards make them?

Powers: No, there were two women that would come around for a long time every ten days and just in the past two or three months it was, no, in January it started every fifteen days. They would bring a list of stuff in the afternoon of one day and a little order blank. We would fill out on the order blank what we wanted, it varied to what they had but most of the time we could get sugar. The first two months I was there we could even buy butter, that was October and November. I think the first of November was the last we could get butter and for a long time could get no margarine but later on margarine everytime. Sometimes, they would have white bread which was much better than they served us there at the meals but we couldn't keep it there ten days without it getting so hard so we would get enough for a few days. Get sugar, buy soap, which I didn't need because it was sent from the Embassy. They had socks, I think handkerchiefs, toothpaste,

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

NRO  
25X1

**TOP SECRET**

25X1A9A

Powers:

tooth brushes, tooth powder, some sort of tobacco,  
but some people were not allowed to smoke.  
How about anything to drink like extra milk?  
No, but my cell mate told me that earlier they  
could do that. They could buy this -- not milk  
but something like yogart I think, sort of a sour  
milk, but, when I got there this was not available  
and never was while I was there. In the past three  
months we could buy cheese, from right now, fairly  
good cheese but very expensive, it was two rubles  
I think sixty-four kopecs per kiligram that's two  
and two tenths pounds. So it is roughly a dollar  
twenty or thirty cents a pound.

25X1A9A

Powers:

How much did you know you had in the bank so to speak?  
Well, they left me a lot of money. They left me two  
twenty-four, or twenty-six hundred rubles before the  
currency reform. When I first got there they said I  
would be allowed to spend two-hundred rubles per month.  
I think the people on what they call the normal regime  
were allowed to spend one-hundred at the time. After

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

NRO  
25X1

**TOP SECRET**

the currency reform they said fifteen rubles a month. Never did spend this full amount. They kept the money and the administration gave a receipt and each time something was purchased for me they would subtract it from the total and kept account of it.

25X1A9A  So you had an idea what your balance was?

Powers: Yes, always knew what it was. Because I kept this receipt with me all the time except when they took it to the store to get these and to subtract the money from it and give it back to me.

25X1A9A  Now tell me about the toilet facilities.

Powers: Lets see, on my side of the building there was --

25X1A9A  There was none in your room?

Powers: Oh no.

25X1A9A  No wash basin or anything?

Powers: Nothing but a can sitting in the corner.

25X1A9A  You mean a slop jar.

Powers: It was just a tin can that would hold roughly four or five gallons I suppose, we used it to dump dishwater

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

NRO  
25X1

in that we washed dishes with, and if we had to go to the toilet except say after breakfast, after dinner or after supper we were supposed to use it. But, once or twice if you had an upset stomach, signal the guard and he would let us go. But, never after ten o'clock at night. No one could leave their cells until it was time to wake up the next morning.

But to urinate we always had to use the can there in the corner of the room.

25X1A9A

[ ]

Then where was the real toilet?

Powers: It was in the corner room on the same side of the building I was on, on this floor. Only one on this floor for , lets see eighteen, the first cell on this floor was eighteen, there was eleven cells on the other side of the building from me. There was eighteen to thirty-seven were the number of cells on the floor. What would have been number thirty-eight was the toilet. It was right in the corner.

25X1A9A

[ ]

And this serviced the whole --

Powers: This was the floor of - it serviced all these cells.

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT [ ] CONTROL CHANNEL

NRO  
25X1

**TOP SECRET**

**TOP SECRET**

25X1A9A  On the floor?

Powers: Yes, it had no commodes, it was a, I don't know what you call them.

25X1A9A  ~~Trofts?~~ *Troughs?*

Powers: No, it was a squat down type, a place to put the feet, a little hole and you squat. It had a wash basin with only cold water. There was a radiator in there there was usually a piece of an old broom to clean out these cans with and just outside the door of the toilet was some sort of disinfectant that they put in the can helped to clean it out with each time we went to the toilet.

25X1A9A  Any toilet paper?

Powers: Newspaper.

25X1A9A  Newspaper. Could you purchase toilet paper?

Powers: No, I was thinking maybe having kleenex sent from the Embassy but I thought that would take up too much space. I was getting use to newspapers anyway.

25X1A9A  Now, from a washing point of view, like a shower.

Powers: That was in another building. All the prisoners

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

NRO  
25X1



washed in another building, the same building.

As far as I know, no one washed in the building that they lived.

25X1A9A  How often were you allowed to go wash?

Powers: Every ten days.

25X1A9A  Take a shower, was it hot water?

Powers: Hot and cold water.

25X1A9A  Hot and cold water.

Powers: But we had no control over the temperature, they controlled --

25X1A9A  In other words, it was a continuous flow.

Powers: Yes

25X1A9A  The whole prison --

Powers: We could turn it on and off but we could not regulate the amount of hot and cold water.

25X1A9A  A whole group lined up to go through?

Powers: No, there were two places for showers. One place I was only at one time when there was some sort of malfunction, I guess at the other. It was a large room with several showers, but they only let my cell mate

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

NRO  
25X1

and myself go in together, no one else there.  
But, the other place which was used everytime except this one time had little dressing booths, very small about four feet square with a bench in it to get undressed, walk into individual shower rooms with doors with peep holes in the doors and never allowed to see any of the other prisoners although you knew there were others, in the other dressing booths. I would say six or seven dressing booths. There was another larger room that we used several times, just the two of us, for dressing. It was usually used for groups of people like they had some cells in some of the other buildings where five or more people lived together and they would use this together.

25X1A9A

Where did you do your shaving? In your room?

Powers:

In the cell.

25X1A9A

Water was brought in for that purpose?

Powers:

Well, the hot water we got for each meal.

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

NRO  
25X1

25X1A9A  You had to use what was left over for shaving or whatever you wanted to do?

Powers: And if we needed any other hot water at the time we could get it. But, anytime between the meals it was cold. We could not get hot water.

25X1A9A  You were allowed drinking water?

Powers: Well, that water, that same water.

25X1A9A  Hot water?

Powers: It wouldn't stay hot long, it would get cold. I very seldom just drank plain water because I drink two cups of coffee at each meal and that seemed to do.

25X1A9A  What about laundry facilities? Did you do it yourself or what?

Powers: Well, socks, handkerchiefs stuff like that you did your self.

25X1A9A  Underwear?

Powers: The underwear, when you took a shower turned it in, there was a woman there that took this, it was embarrassing but, you had to walk in front of her alot to go to the shower

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

NRO  
25X1

and come back. She paid no attention so I got to where I paid no attention either after awhile. Elderly woman, she took care of the laundry, the sheets, we had to take the sheets, change underwear every time we went. I had this -- some sort of a rash in my crotch where I was using a medicine that discolored the underwear and they gave me an extra change of underwear for that purpose. They kept doing this all the time.

25X1A9A

This was every ten days you picked up your sheets, your underwear?

**Powers:** No, we took our sheets and usually the day before she had already brought other sheets and towels, no, no, just sheets around to the cell. And, any personal item, we could get our shirts washed, pants washed, just turn them in.

25X1A9A

Did you have a pillow?

**Powers:** Yes.

25X1A9A

Did you ever get a chance to air these things out?

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

NRO  
25X1

**TOP SECRET**

Powers: Well, we would take the blankets out and shake them and the mattress covers and probably three times while I was there some other prisoners came and got the mattresses, we would have to take them outside the door, they would close the door, they would take the mattresses outside and beat them. I guess dust and air them. It didn't happen very many times I would say three, at the most four times while I was there.

25X1A9A  What sort of exercise were you allowed?

Powers: We were allowed to walk two hours a day in a court yard roughly eighteen by twenty feet square.

25X1A9A  Walled in?

Powers: Walled in, the walls were , I'd say twelve or better, about twelve feet high.

25X1A9A  Could you and your room mate walk together?

Powers: Yes.

25X1A9A  Were you allowed to talk?

Powers: Yes, we could talk but not loudly, because there were people on the other side. The people were talking

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

NRO  
25X1

but they would - the guards walking back and forth behind these court yards. Also people would be looking out of the window, sometimes throw notes. A little communication there. But the only thing they wanted to talk about was ask you if you had any tobacco and we had some and we usually filled a match box full if we had it and throw it over. We could buy matches at the store.

25X1A9A

I believe you told me they had women in the prison.

Powers:

Yes, in the particular building I was in, I would say there was at least one woman there all the time somewhere in the building. For a long time on the same floor. When I left, there were two women in a cell on the same floor. Now my building was building # 2, in building # 1 there were, it seemed to vary quite often the number of women but there was as many as twenty or more at one time. The only way we could see them they had to walk in front of our building to get to the bathroom.

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

NRO  
25X1

**IDEALIST**  
**TOP SECRET**

25X1A9A

This small court yard, I take it you went from your cell into the court yard and you could walk round and round, they never let you go out of the court yard to exercise?

Powers:

No, just in this cell, it was a pretty small circle to walk in to really get up a good fast walk, but we could jog around it some and there was a bench right in the center, cemented into the ground, metal pipes with a wooden top. Do a few push ups on that occasionally and a little exercise out there.

25X1A9A

This court yard wasn't roofed over, it was open?

Powers:

No, it was open. When it rained we didn't have to go walk, but, if we were out there when it was raining we sometimes didn't get in before we got wet because they had to take other people in.

25X1A9A

Only you and your cell mate used this court at one time?

Powers:

At the same time.

25X1A9A

How many hours a day was this?

Powers:

They allowed us two hours a day.

25X1A9A

That was morning and afternoon?

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

38

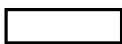
NRO

25X1

~~IDEALIST~~  
**TOP SECRET**

Powers: At first it was morning and afternoon and then they had to do it all at one time. In the summer time we took the full two hours to get the benefit of the sun shine. In the wintertime the sunshine never shines in those courts because the shadow of the building and the angle of the sun. We usually spent one hour in the wintertime.

25X1A9A



Tell me about the medical attention in the prison now Gary?

Powers: This was a hospital building I was in, and apparently it not only served the prison there but what my cell mate told me and maybe what some of these other people that came to talk to us occasionally mentioned. I don't know exactly where I got it from, but other prisoners were brought there for medical attention. It seemed there was tuberculosis in the prison. Occasionally, you could see where someone had spit, pinkish color, a little blood. My cell mate said that in one of the other buildings they had definately tuberculosis. In the building I was in on the same

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

NRO  
25X1



**IDEALIST**  
**TOP SECRET**

floor there was one man that wrote a note and said he was sick with tuberculosis. He wrote it in English and wrote it to me.

25X1A9A

But, you never saw this man.

Powers: I didn't see him, I might have seen him at some other time but when he threw the note I didn't see him throw it.

25X1A9A

You didn't see many other people. Or any other people?

Powers: I could see them only out the window as they would go to the bathroom and back.

25X1A9A

This was how far?

Powers: Oh

25X1A9A

A hundred feet?

Powers: No it was closer than that. I was on the second floor, from my point of vision that was 20 feet or so from the ground there was a wall in front of the prison, maybe here was the building, there was a wall outhere, I was on the second floor here, the gate was here, the gate was directly in front of the cell that I was in. These people would either walk out of our building in the center

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

NRO  
25X1

**IDEALIST**  
**TOP SECRET**

here through this gate over here to the bathroom  
or from this building back behind us, now this isn't  
getting on the tape.

25X1A9A

That doesn't make any difference.

Powers:

Come around in front of our building. From my building  
and building # 1 anyone who went to take a bath had  
to go through the gate in front of my cell. We observed  
quite a bit from there when we could. I got caught one  
time standing up and looking out the window, all they  
did was knock on the door and tell me to get down.

25X1A9A

Did you see anyone that you think might have been  
an American?

Powers:

No, I didn't. I was looking very closely.

25X1A9A

I knew you would.

Powers:

I saw two people that came there, I mean four people  
that came there just within, I don't know exactly when  
they got there, but, I know they hadn't been there  
a month and a half, two months before I left. They  
definitely were not Russians. My assumption and

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

41

NRO  
25X1

**TOP SECRET**  
**IDEALIST**

**IDEALIST**  
**TOP SECRET**

my cell mate's assumption also was that they were the two German tourists and the two Dutch tourists.

But we have no way of knowing. One was tall with glasses one was redheaded, well we will go into this later I suppose.

25X1A9A

[ ]

We will take up those people and best description possible. Tell me about reading materials, what were you along those lines?

Powers: They had a prison library there but very few books in English. They had some, but not alot.

25X1A9A

[ ]

Gary, let me back up a little bit, on your medical treatment while you were there, what occurred to you I remember you said you had diarrhea and so forth while you were in Moscow now you said it kind of cleared up down here.

Powers: Yes, it cleared up down here, I may have had it once or twice while I was there. Maybe even more than that in the eighteen months I was there. Now -

25X1A9A

[ ]

Now, did you have any sickness while you were there?

Powers: I had headaches several times, might have been caused

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT [ ] CONTROL CHANNEL

NRO  
25X1

**IDEALIST**  
**TOP SECRET**

by reading too much or something. I was sick and stayed in bed one day with a fever of some kind. I didn't ask for the doctor to come and it was better that afternoon and everything was alright. There was another time with a bad cold that they would have a nurse go around and administer the medicine usually nose drops primarily and something like aspirin. She was going to give me a shot of penicilin for a cold one time, but I am allergic to penicilin and wouldn't let her give it to me. She gave me some other, I figured sulphur or something like that in capsul form.

25X1A9A



How about this rash you said.

Powers: They never could cure that, they gave me some stuff that would keep it from bothering me but it never made it well. Each morning almost for the total time I was there or from say two or three weeks after I arrived there until the time I left a small piece of cotton with a little alcohol poured on it that I was to clean this with and some sort of salve to put on the rash. It would keep it from bothering me, keep it from itching but it wouldn't cure it.

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

NRO  
25X1

**TOP SECRET**  
**IDEALIST**

~~TOP SECRET~~  
**TOP SECRET**

25X1A9A  Other than what we have mentioned now, did you have any other ailments while there?

Powers: I had three teeth filled.

25X1A9A  Is that a modern medical facility and in the building.

Powers: It was in the building on the fourth floor, very primitive, very primitive by a good American dentists standards. The woman dentist. In fact all the doctors were women and the dentist was a woman. All the nurses were women --

25X1A9A  Did the dentist do a job sufficient so that you didn't have pains thereafter, you didn't have a tooth ache as a result of it?

Powers: No, I never had a toothache as a result, she seemed to be, I would say, a good dentist. But, she was working with very bad equipment. She put the fillings in, in one tooth I think it came out twice the third one stayed and another tooth it came out once and the second stayed and the other one I haven't had any trouble yet.

25X1A9A  What kind of fillings were they? I'm just curious.

Powers: It seems like a white powder with cement of;some kind.

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

NRO  
25X1

**TOP SECRET**

They aren't metallic like ours. They don't seem to  
as hard as permanent as ours.

25X1A9A  Our medical men will go over that.

Powers: But I am going to have these taken out.

25X1A9A  You have x-rays. You never had x-rays while there?

Powers: No

25X1A9A  No x-rays in connection with your teeth?

Powers: No, in fact now this might be important, when I was  
first apprehended taken to Moscow given a physical  
examination I can never <sup>remember</sup> them looking in my mouth.  
Or if they did look in my mouth they were not  
curious about the two partial plates that I have.  
They are metallic and I thought they might even be  
taken away from me. It was several weeks before,  
I think when I had a cold, someone was looking in  
my throat, the doctor, and asked me what this metal  
piece was that went across the roof of my mouth was.  
I told her it was a partial plate and she didn't ask to  
see it or anything. So, it might be someway to carry  
something with a person sometime.

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

NRO

25X1

45

**TOP SECRET**  
**IDEALIST**

25X1A9A

[REDACTED]

Did you have any other medical problems there?

Powers:

I asked them, I think this was last November, November of 61, I had this heart beat, this heart skip and it was worrying me quite a bit. Sometimes it was happening very often. Sometimes when I would lay down to try to go to sleep, several times a minute. I had been told for a long time, this had been with me before, that it was nothing dangerous but it had never happened this often before. I think it was pure nervousness and tension. I asked the doctor to come and examine me because it was worrying me very much at this time. She came and took my blood pressure, listened to my heart and the pulse rate and said that the pulse was a little irregular. The blood pressure was good but maybe, you know how the blood pressure is read, there is a high number and a low number, she said the low number was a little high but nothing to worry about, could be just nervous tension. She said that the EKG that they had there in the hospital was not in operation but when they got it in operation they would give me a test if I wanted it. I asked them about the

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT [REDACTED] CONTROL CHANNEL

NRO  
25X1

46

**TOP SECRET**

EKG and she said, well it never did get into operation and I never did get one.

25X1A9A

Any medicine for the heart?

Powers:

No, I think I had two colds, one while I was at Moscow and if I am not mistaken only one while I was there at Ladenia. I'm not sure, I might have had one in the winter of , well at the most three colds but two I can definately remember and the other I can't remember exactly. That was usually just nose drops and something like aspirin.

25X1A9A

They seemed willing to give you medical assistance if you asked for it?

Powers:

O yes.

25X1A9A

How about the ear problem you remember you mentioned that your ears rang and rang.

Powers:

This, is something I never noticed before May the 1st. I don't know, I thought at first I thought it was the result of the fast descent of the airplane and would disappear in a few days or weeks. But, I have had a constant ringing in my ears since that day and since you mentioned it I

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT

CONTROL CHANNEL

47

NRO  
25X1

**TOP SECRET**

**IDEALIST**



**TOP SECRET**

hear it right now, but normally just talking I don't pay any attention to it, but it's there and very loud, when I'm thinking about it.

25X1A9A

I was asking you then what sort of reading materials were you permitted?

**Powers:** Well they had a library there, a few English books - not many, I had made arrangements with my wife and she had left some pocketbooks with me - she had gotten <sup>me</sup> 20 or 30 of those and I had made arrangements for her to send some American books each month. I think I told her 10 to 15 - something like that, and I usually received somewhere around 8 to 10 and they - first time ~~top~~, they took and looked at them before they gave them to me, but after that when a package came in they just gave it to me.

25X1A9A

They didn't spend through the pages and search them or anything?

**Powers:** Sometimes they would do that and sometimes they wouldn't, and that seemed odd to me.

25X1A9A

Could you visit the library?

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL 48

NRO  
25X1

**TOP SECRET**

**IDEALIST**

~~IDEALIST~~  
**TOP SECRET**

Powers: No. They had a list that would go around but it was in Russian and my cellmate made a translation of the English part of the list, also after I'd read the books they had there - well I didn't read the political books, they had several of those in English, I checked one out by Lenin, I can't remember the name of, I kept it about six months, thought it would look pretty good and I tried to read some - I might have read 40 or 50 pages, but it was completely Greek to me, so I just kept it in the cell for approximately six months.

25X1A9A

[REDACTED]

You mentioned you got the London Daily Worker ...

Powers: Yes sir, after I got there I asked them about newspapers and they told me to make a list of the newspapers I would like to receive - newspapers and magazines. I put down New York Times, News Week, Time, I put down National Geographic magazine - this was the magazine I wanted and Popular Mechanics and Popular Science and it didn't take them very long at all to come back and tell me that they could'nt give me the New York

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT [REDACTED] CONTROL CHANNEL

49

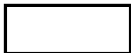
NRO  
25X1

**TOP SECRET**

~~IDEALIST~~

Times and News Week, the Time magazine, but they could give me National Geographic and that they had it there, that I didn't have to have my wife get it for me, also they gave me Nation - the Nation magazine which I think is a Liberal Party magazine here in the States, I'm not sure. The American Worker, the British Daily Worker and the Moscow News, with the exception of the Daily Worker, it was all weekly publications.

25X1A9A



You recognized the last three for what they were?

Powers:

Oh yes, I knew what they were, but the Daily Worker from England was my biggest news source, and it had many news items that never appeared over the Russian radio or Russian press. I guess because of where it is located they have to print some news in order to sell it but good news is always pointed - it's pointed to the left and the Worker, I never did like that, it just looked like a poor newspaper of editorials - that's what it seemed to me Moscow news was something - just propaganda -

50

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

NRO  
25X1

that's all, a few interesting things occasionally,  
but some sports news.

25X1A9A  Did you discuss these periodicals with your cell-  
mate?

Powers: Yes. I read them too and we read them ...

25X1A9A  Did he identify them as propaganda?

Powers: Oh yes.

25X1A9A  I'll talk about him a little later - again we've  
mentioned him in passing. Let me ask you  
about your system of writing letters here. You  
started earlier ...

Powers: Yes, at Moscow there was no system. They  
told me I could write my parents and my wife which  
I did. When I got an answer, I was able to answer  
that letter but I was watched while I was writing - I  
was given a certain amount of paper, etc. When I  
arrived at Vladimir, they told me I could write four  
letters a month. This was in September when I got  
there - September the 9th - on that day they told me  
this. I think it was in January of 1961 that they told

51

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

NRO  
25X1

me that since I had been receiving a lot of mail  
that I could answer all that was necessary -  
write all that was necessary.

25X1A9A

January of '61?

**Powers:** Yes, and I did increase my writing, in fact I think  
through '61, I averaged oh 8 or so letters a month,  
to my sisters, wife, mother and father.

25X1A9A

Did you write to anybody else?

**Powers:** Yes, I wrote - I received several letters from  
people in the States and one from one young boy, I  
think, 19 years old, in Holland, a letter from some  
lady in Canada, and one lady here in the United States  
wrote me almost once a week for quite a while. I  
wrote her twice.

25X1A9A

You remember her name?

**Powers:** It was a Mrs. Burk, but she's gotten a divorce in  
the meantime and I don't know what her name is,  
but my parents do know her, though.

25X1A9A

Oh, this is a ...

**Powers:** Well, they had met her - I think my father went  
somewhere into Indiana to make some sort of a

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

52

NRO  
25X1

speech - that's what one of my sister's told me,  
and they had met her while they were there and  
she wrote me and said that she had met them and  
all this, and she kept writing and kept writing  
and I felt that I ought to answer and ...

25X1A9A

Did you receive any crank letters?

Powers: I received one that I guess you ... well, it was  
just an odd letter, but I don't think it was the type  
letter you would refer to as a "crank" letter.

This was from -- mailed in Canada, contained a  
check for ten Canadian dollars for smokes, made  
payable to the US Air Force pilot - Francis Gary  
Powers, shot down in the Soviet Union. That was  
payable to that long line of names, sir.

25X1A9A

Were you able to cash the check?

Powers: Well, I never did try. I still have it. I think it is  
a certified check, I'm not sure. The return address,  
it gave a name, c/o M. V. D. Russian Embassy in  
Canada. Now this was the return address on this  
thing. It was written - well I'll show you the letter

I have it downstairs, I'm sure, I don't think they took it out - I'm pretty sure they didn't.-- stating that he was very sorry that I was in prison, that he could have gotten me out but the CIA would not pay no attention to him and he was enclosing \$10 for smokes.

25X1A9A

We'll look at the letter later and check out this name - there might be something of interest.

**Powers:** I received over 100 Christmas cards - I think in January or February of '61, most of them from California, apparently as a result of a small article appearing in some newspaperman's column - saying, "Remember Powers on Christmas" or something like that.

25X1A9A

Did they let you see them?

**Powers:** Yes, they did. They came to the Embassy and they sent them - part of them had been censored, part of them had'nt been. I would say more than half of them were opened, but they looked like someone had gotten tired of opening these Christmas cards and just sent them on in. They came to the Embassy and

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

54

NRO  
25X1

25X1A9A

[REDACTED]

the Embassy forwarded them on to me.

Tell me about the censorship problem, both in  
and out.

**Powers:** All letters that I received had been opened. That's  
all I know about that.

25X1A9A

[REDACTED]

Any obvious evidence of censorship coming in?

**Powers:** Not after I left Moscow. But before I left Moscow,  
yes. Well, yes, yes - there is some obvious there  
at Vladimir, but we'll start at Moscow, first.

I don't think I received a complete letter while I  
was at Moscow from my wife or my parents.

25X1A9A

[REDACTED]

Was it penciled out or blacked out or cut out?

**Powers:** A lot of it was cut out, a lot of it was inked out, and  
it was usually just a sentence - one time there from  
one of my wife's letters, almost a half of page, I  
guess, was gone. At Vladimir as far as I know from  
my wife, not a thing was - or nothing was ever  
blacked out and nothing ever cut out and I think I  
received all her letters. I tried to get her to  
number these letters, so that if one was missing it

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT [REDACTED] CONTROL CHANNEL

55

NRO  
25X1

**TOP SECRET**



would break the sequence but she filed-up a little on it late last year. So I don't think any were missing but it is possible and I can't be sure.

25X1A9A

Now, going out.

Powers:

Well, I had two letters written last October from one of my sisters at Falls Church that I didn't receive. There was one letter written in November from my parents that I did not receive. There was one letter written in December from my parents that had ... I received a part from my mother but did not receive the part from my father.

25X1A9A

As far as I know that is all that was missing.

An on these truly ~~missing~~<sup>missing</sup> letters you can't say they were censored, you simply didn't get them?

Powers:

I just did not receive them.

25X1A9A

Could be lost in the mail?

Powers:

Yes. Could be, I just don't know where they are.

25X1A9A

Tell me about going out. How was this set up?

Powers:

My going out letters, well ...

25X1A9A

Well tell me this, you were allowed to purchase

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

56

NRO  
25X1

**TOP SECRET**

stationary, is that it - paper?

**Powers:** Well the only kind of paper they furnished was --  
that they had there was what you called "copy books"  
which I used quite a bit of because I ran out of  
paper.

25X1A9A



This kind of stuff?

**Powers:** Some of it was a little rougher than this, some of  
it I think a little bit smoother, all about the same.  
I had some -- my wife and had left some stationary  
with me and sent some in a package for me and I  
had that for a while , my cellmate's parents sent  
him some stationary that he let me use when I ran  
out of mine for a while . When we both ran out, we  
used the copy book paper. I tried to get them to  
buy me some, they said they would try and they  
brought in some real slick - something like drawing  
paper of some kind, I don't know what you call it  
but you couldn't write letters on it, it was too  
heavy and actually for ball-point pens it was too  
slick, too smooth. Apparently they didn't have no

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

57

NRO  
25X1

**TOP SECRET**

stationary for sale in that city of over a hundred thousand people, I don't know. He said "yeh, we'll get it for you" and never did get it - "couldn't find any," he said. This was the officer in charge of the prison. This officer in charge - not in charge of the prison, but this building I was in. This officer changed in January of '61 to a Lieutenant - from a Major to a Lieutenant.

25X1A9A

What about - were you told you could write four pages or three pages or . . .

**Powers:** No, they didn't say anything about that. At first they said four letters and then later as many as necessary.

25X1A9A

In other words, you could have written and answered as many letters as you wanted.

**Powers:** I could have written more letters than I did write. The only thing was - about the writing - constantly with my cellmate - I think he was alright but yet I felt that I couldn't let him know that I knew any type of code that I could communicate with, so I tried it twice and almost got caught twice, so I quit and thinking that I would wait until I had something that

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

NRO  
25X1

would be of more importance. I didn't know what to say, I was only going to ask if there were any questions . I did have an opportunity to hurriedly go through my wife's letters once after I had made out these forms to go by while my cellmate was asleep. And I saw nothing in her letters...

25X1A9A

Did you try any of these super codes out?

**Powers:** Well, I guess I insinuated a few things and said a few things that maybe the people I was writing to could understand, but this usually I think, pertained to only personal matters. As far as getting a message out to you people ... no.

25X1A9A

Now, you wrote the letter, put it into the envelop, unsealed, ...

**Powers:** Unsealed, put the stamps on it - they got the stamps for me - my stamps had to be brought at the Post Office special - the rest of the people could get them there in prison. In fact the envelops were already stamped, but since this was international airmail they had to get them from the Post Office. Unsealed, turn it in to someone, and for

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

59

NRO  
25X1

a long time I could only give it to the officer in charge of the building.

25X1A9A

But not the guard?

**Powers:** Not the guard. The sergeant came around every morning at 8'oclock to look at the cells and that's when you usually turned them in but I had to wait to give it to the officer - sometimes he wasn't there, sometimes he was delayed ....

25X1A9A

Would he come to the cell and collect it?

**Powers:** Yes. All I had to do was tell the guard I wanted to see him and he would come up to the cell and I would give him the letter and ...

25X1A9A

How long before some of the <sup>CENSORED</sup> ~~census~~ stuff got back to you to re-write or what happened?

**Powers:** Oh, while I was there at the prison, there was only two or three times that something came back. I wrote a letter February of '61 to my wife - she had asked me about my cellmate and I was telling her about him without mentioning the name - wrote a letter just about the same to my sister previously

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

60 NRO  
25X1

~~TOP SECRET~~  
**TOP SECRET**

which went through and didn't come back, but this one came back, I couldn't write it. Couldn't say anything about my cellmate. There was something else in one or two that I put in that they brought back for me to mark out - I don't remember whose letter it was in, but I usually try to write the type of letter that I figure would go.

25X1A9A

[REDACTED]

You mentioned previously, I think, that you had put in some - what you knew to be pro-Communist material.

**Powers:** Oh, yes. This was only later. I got in my mind to .. sort of a plan or idea that it wouldn't hurt to let them think that perhaps I was believing some of the stuff they were saying and I also criticized them also, to make it appear that I was being completely objective and well it was in January I remember writing to a couple of my sisters some stuff that was written for the censor and I was hoping that my family would realize this. I didn't write too much of this to my wife because of the difficulty we were having and I

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT [REDACTED] CONTROL CHANNEL

61

NRO  
25X1

**TOP SECRET**  
~~TOP SECRET~~  
**IDEALIST**

~~IDEALIST~~  
**TOP SECRET**

25X1A9A

[ ]

didn't know how she would react to this.

You weren't instructed to write in any of your mail to write such-and-such a thing?

Powers:

Oh, no they never said to write this or don't write about this. Well they did say don't write about the cellmate, they did say this, that was one thing, but they didn't say you must write this or your letters won't go, or anything like this.

25X1A9A

[ ]

Now lets talk again, picking up your routine - you've got a pretty good picture going - now from your point of arrival at Vladimir to the point of notification that you were moving out, was there anything of particular interest or anything unusual that occurred at this time? You have a cellmate and I'll probably talk about him later.

Powers:

From the period of arrival until I left, anything unusual. One thing I noticed was that they were tightening down on their --- making it a little rougher (Such as) for their prisoners. It didn't seem to affect my cellmate and myself and probably other people who were on what they called the "light regime" I don't know.

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT [ ]

CONTROL CHANNEL

NRO

25X1

62

**TOP SECRET**  
~~IDEALIST~~

~~IDEALIST~~  
**TOP SECRET**

When we first got there, the rules were that everyone could write two letters a month and receive one package a month. Within the past three months that was ... they could write one letter a month, receive one package every six months, from home and in one of those prisons support from home is almost necessary. Without it, it would be very bad.

25X1A9A

From a mental point of view would you press it?

Powers:

Well not only that, from a food point of view.

25X1A9A

A food point of view.

Powers:

The food - if you get hungry enough you can eat it and I guess it's alright. There was enough of it, but the preparation ...

25X1A9A

And you noticed a somewhat tightening up, but it did not affect you? Did it affect your cellmate?

Powers:

No - didn't affect him.

25X1A9A

During the period that we are now talking about, were your cellmate unaccountably absent from the cell at any given times? Was he called out for anything?

Powers:

There was one time - oh, just a day or two after I

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

NRO  
25X1

**TOP SECRET**  
~~IDEALIST~~



**TOP SECRET**

got there. He told me he was expecting someone to come from Riga, that the capital of Latvia, to ask him some questions about something he had written. And within I'd say about a month after I was there, probably earlier than a month, he went one day, just for a short period of time, well about an hour I guess, not too short, he expected to go back, he said but never was called back or anything like that again. The only other time that I can remember that we were out of each other's sight was when we took showers, he would be in one booth, I'd be in another, we'd see each other on the way to and from the shower, so it looked as though he didn't contact anyone.

25X1A9A

So then after this - after this single call-out period when he was allegedly questioned about something at Riga, was there any perceptible change in his attitude, behavior?

Powers: No ...

25X1A9A

Did you notice any ... did he ask any acute questions

64

NRO

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

25X1

**TOP SECRET**

**TOP SECRET**

**TOP SECRET**

any ~~settle~~<sup>SPECIAL</sup> things?

**Powers:** No - I was trying to be very observant about this and try to see if he was real interested in anything - special. I noticed he would look or become interested if I mentioned anything that had happened to me on May the 1st or anything like that, but it could be normal curiosity or it could be something else. I don't think he was a "plant" but I was never sure.

65

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

NRO  
25X1

**TOP SECRET**  
**IDEALIST**

**TOP SECRET**

Interr-: Did he ask any questions that would indicate that he was a technical man? An engineer, let's say.

Powers: Well, he seemed to know quite a bit about radio. That was the training he got in England he said. As far as asking me about airplanes and so forth - no - he knew very little about that stuff. He said he'd always wanted to fly but had never learned. He'd known another Latvian ~~that~~ in the Army that was in the German Air Force.

Interr-: You said that as far as you could recall he had made no real slips or no obvious contradictions.

Powers: I could not recall a single contradiction in the story he told me and we talked about it several times.

Interr-: If this man was a phony, he was good, huh?

Powers: Yes.

Interr-: .....

Powers: Let's see, now, there was one thing -- Well, it slipped my mind right now but there was something along that line.

Interr-: Did you ever accuse him of being a plant?

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

66

NRO  
25X1

**TOP SECRET**  
**IDEALIST**

**IDEALIST**  
**TOP SECRET**

**Powers:** I told him that I thought that he might be.

**Interr-:** How'd he react?

**Powers:** He didn't particularly like it and he seemed to be worried. You see, when I first got there, he told me to cheer you - you won't be here a year from now. He didn't miss it much, about six months. This was in November. I remember. He said you won't be here next November. But the other prisoners in the building knew him. They would sometimes call him by name out the window when we were walking or in one of the notes asking for tobacco. They would either throw them across the wall or usually from the windows by name and none of them ever talked harsh to him or called him any names or anything like that which I believe they would do if he was <sup>A</sup> ~~an~~ known stooge of some kind.

**Interr-:** Did they ever harass you?

**Powers:** No, I thought when I first got there I might get some of that, but the only thing like that was just - I guess within the month before I left. I got a long note in

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL 67

NRO  
25X1

**IDEALIST**  
**TOP SECRET**

English wrapped up in a piece of bread just to give it weight which was thrown in there. It was apparently from the same man that ~~xxx~~ wrote another note in English about a year before and he harassed me a little bit. He said something about a love affair he was carrying on with a nun there in prison, communicating somehow and he wanted - he said I didn't know anything about prison and he could tell me a lot. He also said that I didn't acknowledge his greetings or something - but always when I saw someone looking out I'd nod and smile. I didn't want to make any of them angry.

Interr-: Were you able to keep the letter?

Powers: No. I didn't try to, because I was afraid I'd get someone in trouble.

Interr-: Yeh.

Powers: He said that - a -

Interr-: How'd you dispose of it?

Powers: I tore it up in very small pieces and put it in this can and then dumped it down the toilet. He said that if I

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

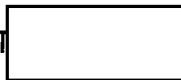
NRO  
25X1

68

**IDEALIST**  
**TOP SECRET**

didn't start acknowledging - he said now don't get angry when I say this - but if you do not start acknowledging my greetings I will tell all the other prisoners here that you are a coward and a communist, and he repeated again - don't get angry . He didn't mean to make me angry but - I think maybe, he might have been a little off. But it was written in good English - better than the previous letter, that probably the same man wrote. The previous one was something about - it was a little poem - that when I return to the great land across the sea that I would have many things to tell my grandmother and it said - I can if you are the man - and I got the impression that he would give me information if I would take it. This was at one end of the building and you had to be walking in Court No. 1 to see this window. And it was a long time before I ever got back to that place again and never did see this man or no communications ever again. You see they could communicate with me or with us through the windows at the back of the cell

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT



CONTROL CHANNEL

69

NR  
O 25X1

**TOP SECRET**  
**IDEALIST**

**TOP SECRET**

but we could never get anything to them.

Interr-: Sort of a one-way communication only?

Powers: Yes.

Interr-: Now, nothing unusual occurs then really during this period? There were no prison riots - there were no -

Powers: No - no riots, but several fights in the cells.

Interr-: Fights in the cells.

Powers: And part of this tightening up program that seemed to be going on was that - well, they announced it over the speaker system that somebody translated to me - that one of the prisoners had picked up the tea kettle and hit an officer over the head with it. He was sentenced to death for this - the officer was not killed. In fact, no skull fracture - ~~xx~~ just skin broken, but the sentence was death and the man who told this over the PA system said that he had talked to the man - that he was real nervous and real sorry for what he had done and they would try to do something about - maybe try to get this sentence off, but heard no more about it. There was one other - well,

70

NRO  
25X1

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

**TOP SECRET**

**TOP SECRET**

**IDEALIST**  
**TOP SECRET**

there was several facts. You could hear them some -  
occasionally you could hear a window break, hear  
someone groaning, but you'd go out for a ~~walk~~ walk  
and there would be someone screaming in a cell  
and you could see that there was no one around -  
the guard would be there looking in trying to get him  
to be quiet and it didn't - at first I thought someone  
was maybe torturing these people and it scared me.  
I'm sure that they were not - I think it was just the  
people themselves.

Interr-: Were you ever moved out of Vladimir to visit anything?

Powers: No, I never left the walls of the place until - a -

Interr-: Did you have any visitors?

Powers: There were two groups of people. One of them were  
the - seemed like aircraft experts that came.

Interr-: This is where you described the fat man - sixty years  
old ----

Powers: Yes.

Interr-: And the other group?

Powers: I don't know whether the other group was the same or

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

71

NRO  
25X1



~~IDEALIST~~  
**TOP SECRET**

something else. I've been trying to think. I might have made a notation of that in some of the books I have downstairs. But I'm not positive. Oh, there is one name I wanted to mention.

Interr-: Yes?

Powers: Brick. B-r-i-c-k, I suppose.

Interr-: What is brick?

Powers: It is a man's name.

Interr-: And who is this man?

Powers: He spoke English. He wasn't in the same building but my cellmate had lived with him - no - hadn't lived with him but went to .....with him and talked to him in English. His first name was Evchini (? ph) or something like that. I don't know how you spell it.

Interr-: ~~Yec~~ Y-e-v-c-h-i-n-i - That's phoenetic. Yevchini.

Powers: Seemed like a "G", but that's close enough.

Interr-: Brick - would that be a nickname?

Powers: That was ~~gus~~ his last name. So my cellmate told me and he supposedly worked for the Americans or contacted them in Germany after the war - went to

72

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

NRO  
25X1

**TOP SECRET**

~~IDEALIST~~

**TOP SECRET**

the States, I think, for some sort of training - that was what my cellmate was telling me about him - that he had gotten from him previous to my being there - had come back to the Soviet Union - walked off of the plane and they picked him up immediately. And apparently he'd been there quite while. I saw him a couple of times while I was walking out of the end of building #1. He was cleaning the windows or something.

Interr-: Any chance of describing him from that distance?

Powers: No, I couldn't give you a good description.

Interr-: Did he have a hat on?

Powers: Some sort of something on his head. I don't remember whether it was a hat or just a sort of skull cap type thing.

Interr-: Was he a white man?

Powers: Yes.

Interr-: But you couldn't determine his size?

Powers: No, I could just see his face. His face was fairly thin, X looked like he might be a little on the tallish side.

73

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

NRO  
25X1

**TOP SECRET**

**IDEALIST**

**TOP SECRET**

Interr-: How about any hair that showed - white or red or dark?

Powers: I don't think he was clean shaven and it seemed that it was dark.

Interr-: Looked like he might have had kind of a beard?

Powers: Yeh. Not a cultivated beard but just hadn't shaved for a day or two. As well as I can remember, it was dark.

Interr-: And this was the only time you saw this man?

Powers: I might have saw him about twice in this window. He seemed to have a job of maybe cleaning up over there in that building.

Interr-: And the information came from your cellmate?

Powers: Yes. He had been taken to the Little Theatre they have at the same time and they talked - he said three or four times. He tried - he said he tried to get the officers to transfer - to put them together and it apparently was a mistake that they were together at the theatre because they immediately stopped that when they found out they had been.

Interr-: Did you ever get a chance to go to this theatre?

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

74

NRO  
25X1

**TOP SECRET**  
**IDEALIST**

**TOP SECRET**

Powers: Yes, when I first got there for several weeks - almost once a week; but then it got down to once a month.

Interr-: You didn't see this Brick at the theatre? That's what I was getting at.

Powers: Oh - no. The theatre consisted of a projection room and a regular room - about the size of this room.

Interr-: Well, that's not a very large room.

Powers: I know it isn't very large but - it was sixteen millimeter type. My cellmate and myself had to set in the projection room and look through a glass over the heads of the other-oh-thirty-forty other people sitting very crowded in this other room to the screen and there was a couple of times that the prisoners put on some sort of a concert, the prisoners from this building #3 where what they called where the workers lived. They went out in troops of about fifty every day somewhere around the prison there to shops or something and worked and they all marched by about four times a day. And they would get together-I think twice they would put on some entertainment and we got to see that but we couldn't talk to these other prisoners.

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

75

NRO  
25X1

**TOP SECRET**  
**IDEALIST**

**TOP SECRET**

Interr-: You was kept segregated when you went to these things?

Powers: Yes. The only thing - we could talk to the projectionist. My cellmate talked to him some when the guards weren't paying too much attention. Sometimes they stepped out and left us there with him alone.

Interr-: Now you mentioned that you had two types of visitors or two sets of visitors - one was the group you identify with the fat man - the other might be the same or perhaps another group.

Powers: I can't be positive about those two sets. It seems to me there was two sets. The last ones who came, I believe were these aircraft men - that was in December of Sixty. The other set was before that and I don't know - I can't remember just what they wanted or why they were there.

Interr-: Well, the fat man definitely talked about the aircraft?

Powers: Yes. And one of the men who was a technician of some kind did the interpreting although Rodichev was there.

Interr-: We'll show you some pictures on that?

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

NRO  
25X1

**TOP SECRET**

**IDEALIST**

Interr-: But the other group. Do you remember if they were technicians too or did they ever talk ---

Powers: They were some sort of technicians.

Interr-: ---ever talk about the plane?

Powers: I don't know whether it was the plane or equipment.  
Oh - oh - no - I think it was ~~xxx~~ special equipment they was talking about.

Interr-: And how long did these interviews last?

Powers: One of them lasted - I think - two hours. The one about the aircraft, I think three hours - the other about two hours, I believe.

Interr-: Was it friendly?

Powers: Yes - no - they just asked questions and I told them I'd forgotten all this stuff.

Interr-: Did they ask you to draw pictures?

Powers: Yes. They wanted me to draw a <sup>diagram</sup> ~~picture~~ of the cockpit and I told them that I couldn't remember everything that I put a few T-33 instruments in a U-2 and so forth.

Interr-: Did they show you pictures?

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

NRO  
25X1

**TOP SECRET**

Powers: No.

Interr-: Or technical drawings?

Powers: No - no technical drawings.

Interr-: Did they bring any of the equipment down that allegedly came from your plane?

Powers: No. This was the time that they asked me - see - I hadn't been telling them before about the airplane - I hadn't mentioned anything about gust controls - at this particular time they asked me why the flaps went up as well as down so they had found out apparently through their studying - I told them during this time I couldn't remember everything it had been so long since I'd been in the airplane - I'd flown other types of airplanes and I might get them confused. I purposely told them that there was an electrical trim ~~(S)~~ tab on the rudder of the U-2 - which there wasn't. They immediately caught that and looked at each other and sort of grinned, but never said a word about it. Didn't say that's a lie or anything. And I just pretended I didn't notice them grinning. and then talked to them

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

NRO  
25X1

**TOP SECRET**

**TOP SECRET**

but I think that it might make them skeptical of anything I said to them there.

Interr-: But your impression was that they had studied the wreckage?

Powers: They had studied it - they had studied it.

Interr-: And they had some questions they wanted to see whether you would answer or could answer.

Powers: And they knew definitely that there wasn't a trem (??) tab because when I said that there was there was - a - this glance I caught - they knew that there was not such a thing.

Interr-: It was all friendly and - a -

Powers: Yeh - they didn't say a word -- didn't say you're lying or we don't think that is right or anything like that, just let it go.

Interr-: Any other visitors now?

Powers: This KGB Colonel from Vladimir who I think was the Deputy Director of KGB in the region of Vladimir. He came out several times.

Interr-: What'd he want to talk about?

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

NRO  
25X1



Powers: He came out two or three times in January of sixty-one and he gave me the impression that I might be released soon. Now I don't know - he never came out and said you would be but but left me with the impression that I might be; and he made about three trips. This was when the presidency was changing and Khrushchev had made a New Year's toast that he was going to forget about the U-2 incident. Now this might have just been his own opinion - I don't know or maybe it was planned.

Interr-: Frank, do you think these visits were - that he was acting under orders? Or do you think that it was just more of a sightseeing expedition by him?

Powers: Well, I think that it was planned because he had made several visits. He made two or three in January and then skipped a while - two or three months - about two months I guess - came again - skipped a couple of more months and somewhere in the last of May or first of June he came and I got the same impression again that - the Kennedy-Khrushchev meeting - I

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL 80

NRO  
25X1

**TOP SECRET**

would be released.

Interr-: Did he speak English?

Powers: No - he had another interpreter that he brought with him - I assumed that he was the same man . . . . .

Interr-: Did he utter this man's name?

Powers: Never heard his name.

Interr-: Never heard his name.

Powers: I hadn't heard this Colonel's name either - but - maybe I did hear his name - I don't know - yes, I did - my cellmate told me that his name was - something - and it was the same as one of the Russian writers - I think a short story writer - if I see a few of those names I might be able to pick this out.

Interr-: Uh-huh.

Powers: This man accompanied me all the way from Vladimir to the bridge between East and West Berlin. He picked up another man to interpret for him in Moscow and let the other interpreter either stay in Moscow or go back - I don't know what happened to him.

Interr-: Would you furnish a description of this man -----

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

NRO  
25X1

**TOP SECRET**

**IDEALIST**

~~IDEALIST~~  
**TOP SECRET**

Powers: There was a ----

Interr-: Oh, go ahead.

Powers: There was a major that came around quite often - KCB  
major - Yakovlov.

Interr-: Let's spell it.

Powers: Ya - Y-a ---

Interr-: kov

Powers: k-o-v-

Interr-: l-o-v-

Powers: l-o-v-

Interr-: Can you put a first name on this?

Powers: No. I just remember there was a Major Yakovlov.

Interr-: And he came often?

Powers: He used to come almost every week just to come in  
and ask how's everything going - any questions - my  
cellmate would do the interpreting.

Interr-: He didn't speak English?

Powers: No, but he seemed to be the permanent KGB - what is  
it? - KGB representative and he was around the prison  
almost all the time. He seemed to be KGB representative

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

NRO  
25X1

**TOP SECRET**

~~IDEALIST~~

at the prison.

Interr-: But, this other man - this senior man - this Colonel ---

Powers: Was his boss.

Interr-: ---was his boss. Do you mind giving us a quick description on the Colonel?

Powers: Well, he was heavy - about my height - saw him a couple - three times in uniform - always dressed fairly nice - much nicer than most any of the other people I saw.

Interr-: Well dressed in uniform?

Powers: In uniform and out of uniform. He wore an overcoat in the wintertime with a persian lamb collar and a persian lamb cap.

Interr-: How about his face?

Powers: His face was fairly white complexion.

Interr-: Dark hair or what kind of hair?

Powers: It was sort of - hair was getting sort of gray, but it was never dark hair - there was some light hair and gray hair mixed.

Interr-: Wear glasses?

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

NRO  
25X1

Powers: Not all the time, but he had glasses with him I think every time I saw him.

Interr-: Mustache? Beard?

Powers: No - no mustache - no beard.

Interr-: What was the shape of his face?

Powers: Round.

Interr-: You said he was a heavy man.

Powers: Yes. I'd say he weighed - I'd say about two hundred pounds.

Interr-: Quite chunky, then?

Powers: Yes, he was the heighth - about my height I suppose - something like that.

Interr-: Beard? Mustache?

Powers: No mustache - no beard

Interr-: Clean shaven then?

Powers: Clean shaven all the time.

Interr-: Now tell me about his hair. Did he wear it up in a pompadore, crew cut, long or what?

Powers: It seemed to me his hair was fairly thin - I don't mean that it - maybe receding a little in front - but thin and

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

NRO  
25X1

**TOP SECRET**

combed straight back and fairly long I guess, but it was thin enough so that it didn't stick up even when it was back. It layed down fairly close to the head.

Interr-: Anything unusual about this man? Any ticks or walk with a limp or anything that you noticed? You said he was a good dresser. Smoke incessantly?

Powers: No. He smoked very seldom, but did smoke occassionally. He's the man I asked his personal opinion on - I said, one of these times I saw him - I asked his personal opinion on some sort of subject - I can't remember what we were talking about at the time - What do you think of this - you personally think of this? - And he said, well, I don't know - I'd rather not say right now - I'd have to think about it a little more - and this was in my opinion because there had been no official release on this thing. But, the next time I saw him, he remembered and told me his personal opinion. I think he got word from the party or something, but I don't remember what particular subject it was we were talking about.

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

NRO  
25X1

85

**TOP SECRET**

**IDEALIST**

~~IDEALIST~~  
**TOP SECRET**

I asked him a few questions about the average wage in the Soviet Union and he said it was fifty new rubels per month, but some of those people working there at the prison didn't make that much. I mean he said that was the minimum wage, but these people some of them didn't make that much.

Interr-: This man brought his interpreter always?

Powers: Yes. Oh, there was a young girl, very nice looking interpreter that came about twice with him. About the first two times she came with him and from then on it was a man.

Interr-: You couldn't identify this girl or this man?

Powers: No names.

Interr-: Well, we'll work on the descriptions of these people later because they may turn up in some of our pictures.

Powers: If they do, I think I'll definitely recognize them if it is a good picture.

Interr-: Now, how about any other incidents - any other visitors?

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

NRO  
25X1

**TOP SECRET**

Powers: Well, occassionally there seemed to be an inspection team that would come through the prison. I remember one that consisted of some high ranking officers - I don't know how high - but there were definitely two or three colonels in the group - there were about four or five people altogether - all of them didn't come in the cell, but the main ones did. Just sort of looked around, asked questions, if there were any complaints or anything like that. My cellmate nor I asked any questions or complained. They turned around and walked out.

Interr-: These are short - perfunctry visits then?

Powers: Yes.

Interr-: Now that takes care of our visitors. Now let's move your ahead with ~~the~~ routine - I think we have a pretty good picture of it - up to the point where you first suspected to know that something was occuring.

Powers: You mean about my release?

Interr-: Yes. There is nothing else that transpires in between?

Powers: No.

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

NRO  
25X1

**TOP SECRET**  
**IDEALIST**



~~IDEALIST~~  
**TOP SECRET**

Interr-: You weren't informed of negotiations or anything?

Powers: No. Let's see. If I had a calendar I could give you the exact dates which would be better. I think it was the seventh - Wednesday, the seventh - was last Wednesday the seventh?

Interr-: Yes:

Powers: At about 7:30 at night, my cellmate and I had just gone to the toilet, we finished there - coming back I was in front carrying the can - we got back to the cell and the door to the stairway was between me and myself and Yakovlov, this Colonel and the interpreter, the man interpreter came into the floor that we were on there, they looked toward our door, saw that it was open because we were at the toilet at the time or coming back from the toilet, and looked around and saw us and sort of smiled - well, I got the impression they were looking for us and wanted to talk to us - especially because the interpreter was there - walked back to the cell - they came in - the Colonel said - he let my cellmate do the translating - I don't know

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

NRO  
25X1

**TOP SECRET**

what reason this was because usually the other man did.  
And he said - how would you like to go to Moscow with me  
tomorrow without any guards? And I told him  
immediately that I would like it very much because  
I immediately thought - well the first thing - see  
my cellmate was translating how would you like to  
go to Moscow - I thought maybe I had a visitor and I  
was going there to see him - but when he said without  
any guards I assumed something was going on. This  
was the night - Wednesday night - the seventh of  
February. They told me to get my stuff together and be  
ready to leave at six o'clock in the morning. I had  
just received a package from the embassy that day and  
the lieutenant that was in charge of the building that  
I was kept in there said he would give it to me on  
the eighth - but they told him apparently to come out -  
he came out later about nine o'clock at night - took  
me down to his office - we opened the package - got  
some other stuff that I had there - pair of shoes -  
tennis shoes that my wife had sent me - stuff like

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

89

NRO  
25X1

**TOP SECRET**

that - some food and brought it up to the cell. I left all the food and some of the clothing that my wife had bought me there for my cellmate - brought some of the stuff - and neither one of us - neither my cellmate or myself slept that night.

Interr-: Did your cellmate question you at all during that period?

Powers: He told me not to worry about it - I was going home.

Interr-: He said he was going home?

Powers: He said I was going home. And he seemed to be very happy about it. We'd become pretty good friends. I hated to leave him there. Living with him so long and so closely. One impression I got - well, I was thinking I was going home too and he said there was no reason to even think about it. You are going.

Interr-: No official word now though?

Powers: No - no official word - just go with me to Moscow. and he said without any guards - that's all. The next morning at six o'clock I'd gotten up - shaved - I got some hot water - had a cup of coffee and I guess about

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

NRO

25X1

**TOP SECRET**  
**IDEALIST**

~~IDEALIST~~  
**TOP SECRET**

ten minutes after six on the morning of the eighth of February a guard came in and said - come on. Picked up this box that I had packed the stuff in - left - followed the guard to the administration building - I was told the night before we would be going by train - followed the guard to the administration building and the people had been informed the night before - the suitcase I had there and clothing that was in some sort of storage that they had somewhere that that was to be gotten together and prepared and it was there when I got to the administration building. They gave me - well, they didn't give it to me - but they my watch that my wife had bought me, my ~~ring~~ ring, the money that I had left - I think that's about all - to this Colonel. . . . . Stayed there I guess maybe thirty minutes - went outside - got in a car - drove to the railroad station - there was a chauffeur ~~driving~~ driving the car - there was three of us who went. The Colonel, Major Yakovlov and the interpreter. They kept pretty close to me but I would probably would

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

NRO  
25X1

have had plenty of opportunity to run if I had wanted to at that time.

Interr-: They were friendly.?

Powers: They were ~~x~~ very friendly. More so than any other time - I mean - I'm sure they knew what was going on and I had a good idea what was going on. They were always smiling - I didn't want to talk to them - I was thinking a lot on this train.

Interr-: Did you get aboard a train.

Powers: Yes - I had to carry the suitcase and boxes at the time and they were very heavy. They wouldn't carry them at the time. They had a small shopping bag that one of them - the interpreter I think - carried. Got on board the train - they were the only people in this car. Later on I think two or three women came on and set down back behind me - I looked around and just could see the top of the heads of three of them and they got out somewhere else. The train made several stops - very slow train. Got into Moscow - they took me back to the same building -

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

NRO  
25X1

Interr-: Met by car and taken back to the same building?

Powers: Yes. People met them at the railroad station.

Everything was planned and timed pretty good. Out of the people that met them there was a lieutenant colonel in uniform - I never saw him before - who was very friendly - he reached over and squeezed my arm once in the car. Went back to the same prison where the interrogation took place , the same floor and cell - I think it was 81 - and it was about two cells from the cell I had been in before - I think it was 79. Talked to several people there - I don't remember just how it was -

Interr-: What time did you arrive in Moscow?

Powers: It was after lunch - I'd say about one o'clock - ~~was~~ something like that - let's see - what did they do - they brought me to this cell - there was several people I talked to - but they didn't say anything at all about anything that was going on at the time - they took me to the cell and ~~took me to the~~ and made up the bed - it wasn't made up - the blankets and sheets were all cleaned - we just put them on the bed.

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

NRO

25X1

There were already two mattresses on the bed when I got there this time. Someone came in and said that they could buy me - that I had money and they could buy me a good meal if I ~~xxx~~ would pay for it and I said, yes. They did that and brought back a very good meal - best I'd had in a long time. I think they gave me a shot of cognac with that meal also and a strawberry soda or something. And I laid down and took a nap that afternoon - I hadn't slept the night before. I guess it was a three hour nap - I don't know but it was getting fairly late when I woke up. Somewhere around seven o'clock at night they called me into an office - still in the prison part of the building - not where I was interrogated or anything - but it seemed like the officer in charge of the prison - told me that I would be going to Berlin in the morning by air - to be ready at - I don't remember the exact time now. They said that you have a hundred and a - let's see - did they tell me that I was going to be released - I don't think

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

94

NRO  
25X1

so, but they may have done it at that time, but I don't think they did. They might have told me on Thursday night the eighth that I was going to be released but I don't think they did. They said that I would be going to Berlin in the morning - that I had 124 rubels left of money - they would take this and turn it over to the - oh no - they asked me what I wanted to do with it and I said well, can I get it changed into other money in Berlin - they must have told me that I was going to be released - they said no you can't get it changed in any of the western countries - they had to tell me that I was going to be released. And they said what do you want to do with it and I told - and they asked me if there was anything I wanted to buy and I told him there was one phonograph record of one of their famous singers. He said all of the shops are probably closed and couldn't get any phonograph records. I said - well, I don't know - maybe we could buy some wine or something like that he said. And I said no I couldn't take any wine with me - it would

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

NRO  
25X1



weigh too much, be too much and all that stuff.  
He said - well, we can turn this into the American Embassy and they could send you money for it, but he said - how about gifts for your relatives or something. Would you like to have some of those? And, I said, yes, I would. He said, well, - he looked at his watch - it was just about seven or a little after seven - and got in a big hurry and said that he would go out and buy them - and I told him to buy something typically Russian that I could give to my family as gifts.

Interr-: This was the officer of the prison?

Powers: No - it was a colonel. He seemed to be in charge of this whole thing there - so they did tell me in Moscow that I would be released - the same night because this came up about the gifts for the family and so forth. I'd forgotten that - I thought it was later.

Interr-: You don't have to hurry - we've got lots of tape.

Powers: They told me what time to be ready in the morning for the trip. They gave me my watch and my ring

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

NRO  
25X1

~~IDEALIST~~  
**TOP SECRET**

that night, took me back to the cell and got me something to eat which they had bought outside the prison which tasted a little better than usual - no cognac this time though. I had one of these paper back books with me that had come in the last package that I read for awhile that night or tried to read - I wasn't concentrating too good. Finally got to sleep very late - after twelve o'clock - woke up about five o'clock in the morning - they gave me three pieces of sausage for breakfast with bread and coffee - tea. Left the prison and back to the same office - bought oh - one of the guards brought me my suitcase the night before with the money too - to transfer the stuff in the box I had to the suitcase. I did that - got everything ready - they came and we went downstairs - got in a car - went to a military airfield - quite a distance from Moscow - it took about an hour, I guess, to get there. I definitely saw military airplanes in the distance but predominantly aircraft type transport there. At about nine o'clock they put me on a twin-

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

NRO  
25X1

engine - ~~percipocating~~ engine - twin aircraft - there  
~~was~~ was only three of us now - the interpreter, the  
Colonel, there was some sort of flight attendant - I  
don't know what - but he stayed in the cabin part of  
the airplane with us .

Interr-: The colonel and the interpreter.

Powers: And this interpreter was the one that was picked up  
in Moscow and not one that accompanied me from  
Vladimir. It was the first time - I think - that I  
had seen this man.

Interr-: Still with the same colonel though?

Powers: Yes, same one.

Interr-: .....

Powers: Myself and then the crew of the aircraft.

Interr-: What about the steward?

Powers: Well, he was part of the crew of the aircraft - I don't  
know whether he was part of the crew, but he set  
back in the aircraft .

Interr-: At any point had he indicated that anyone else was  
involved.

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

NRO  
25X1

Powers: Oh, no - I asked him why - why they were doing this after I had found out and he said - well, it was the same story they released in the paper - that they wanted to better relations and that my relatives had applied to - for .....

Interr-: I want to take a look at my .....

Interr-: I think it's safer that we quit now - we'll go down and have a beer and then come back and wind up on this. We'll take our important one off first. This will be Tape #13 of 17 February concluding at 3:17 P. M.

25X1A9A

Mr. Powers,

HANDLE VIA JOINT COMINT  CONTROL CHANNEL

NRO  
25X1

**TOP SECRET**

**TOP SECRET**