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26 December 1973

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Discussion with Elizabeth McIntosh

1. [redacted] and I met with Betty McIntosh in our offices for about an hour, between 1120 and 1230 on 24 December. She had set this time and date as the most convenient for her purposes.

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2. By way of background, she said that when she returned from [redacted] Tracy Barnes was starting DO Division, and Howard Hunt was his "[redacted] man." There were a couple of [redacted] projects, and they did not know just what they would keep. There was the

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[redacted] was closed out at the time of the Katzenbach Committee hearings, but [redacted] continued as a [redacted] and she understands that he still works for [redacted] years ago, and as a result had sound credentials in the press world. His press service handled overseas work only, with no domestic involvement. In the [redacted] in picking up press releases from Goldwater headquarters, [redacted] would not go along with the proposal to pick them up although he had access.

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3. Mrs. McIntosh doesn't recall who originated the idea to pick up the press releases, but commented that it was typical of Tracy. Since [redacted] refused to participate, Mrs. McIntosh went in and arranged to make the pick-up--as a representative of [redacted]

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[redacted] but without [redacted] agreement or knowledge. Then [redacted] went in regularly and picked up the material.

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4. Mrs. McIntosh said that it "was an order, and Howard had to do something about it, and we did." At the time Mrs. McIntosh did not think much about it. It was overt. She thought it went to headquarters, and didn't know differently until "this publicity."

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We asked her about [redacted] and what her role was. Mrs. McIntosh said that [redacted] may well have known about it, and may remember, but she was not involved. She only did the typing, but didn't want to do anything else. That is why they "had [redacted]. She would go out and run around."

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5. We talked about other things that Hunt and his group were involved in, to the extent they related to "domestic operations." She said that they helped with a Chinese defector, Tung Chi Ping (she recalls), who had defected from Africa (Bujumbura, as she recalls). They arranged a Saturday Evening Post feature story. They also arranged for a publisher in New Jersey (Harcourt-Brace) to do a book on a Russian defector from India by the name of Tarasov; Mrs. McIntosh [redacted] They worked with [redacted] on it, and he may have some recollections of it. They also helped with a project in New York-- [redacted] with Hunt and Mrs. McIntosh suggesting books to send. In every instance, the basic activity was related to overseas purposes. The defector books were for republication and distribution overseas. [redacted] served an internal purpose only once, when it gave press accreditation to [redacted] to attend a youth meeting [redacted]

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6. Mrs. McIntosh, in response to a question, said that she knew of no relations with Tom Parrott in the White House. For that fact, however, she did not know that Chet Cooper was involved in any way. [redacted] brought the material back to Hunt, who gave it to Tracy. She assumes that he arranged for the delivery. (this probably accounts for the press report that [redacted] did not recall making the deliveries). Mrs. McIntosh said that [redacted] phoned her after the Post reporter had phoned her [redacted] When she phoned Mrs. McIntosh she said she didn't recall even going to Goldwater headquarters.

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7. Mrs. McIntosh, trying to recall others who might be able to recall details, named [redacted] who had worked for Howard Hunt on Cuba. She may have been there (DO Division) early, and have some knowledge about it. She now lives in Crystal City.

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8. Mrs. McIntosh had a letter from Howard Hunt (xerox copy attached), dated 19 December, warning her that he had told Senator Baker and his people about the activity, and had given them her name. She got the letter the day she was called, so was forewarned. The call to her was at 6:30 P.M. It was a bad connection, and she could not hear, but the reporter said he could hear her perfectly. Three things were clear to her: (1) the reporter wanted to "denigrate Howard," and obviously did not like him, (2) he wanted to know everything about DO Division, and pushed on this, (3) the reporter felt the Democrats did the same thing, in the dirty tricks area. The reporter emphasized the domestic operations question and asked her how she felt about them; she referred them to Langley. He wanted to know the size of Hunt's organization, and she said it was small, with one secretary. Then the reporter wanted to know how many were in DO Division, and she said ten (which apparently led to this statement in the press, she says, to report that Hunt supervised that many).

9. The reporter asked if Hunt took the material to the White House, and if he bragged about it. She said she didn't know how it got to the White House but that Hunt had not bragged about it. She said she did tell the reporter that if there was a service to give the White House it would have been considered important, and it would have been mentioned. The story came out that she said Hunt bragged about it.

10. She said the reporter wanted to know why she would want the material. She said it was overt material that would "give a picture" of what was happening. Given the way the government worked she assumed that it went to Langley, which she told the reporter. She said that he had [ ] name.

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11. As Mrs. McIntosh talked, she recalled that there had been a connection with Phil Geyelen, now one of the editors of the Washington Post. Back in those days he was with the Wall Street Journal, and Hunt had arranged a meeting with Geyelen and a Chinese defector from Damascus, Miao Chan Pai, and he did a story on the man.

12. Mrs. McIntosh said that Hunt reported directly to Tracy Barnes, and not to [ ] who she recalled as more of an executive officer. [ ] was closest to their operation, although they did not report to him either.

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13. Mrs. McIntosh asked what she should do if approached by the press again. We said that we could not give her official advice, as her willingness to cooperate was personal, so long as she did not reveal classified information, but that she did not have to cooperate. She said that she did not want to cooperate, and we advised her to simply say that she had been misquoted once and did not wish to have any further exchange with the press. We suggested that she not divulge how she had been misquoted, as that would only give the press another story to write. Simply decline to give them anything. She then asked about possible approaches from the Watergate Committee. We told her that she could be subpoenaed, and it was best to cooperate. However, she could explain that she wished to have guidance from the Agency on giving classified material, and since Hunt's letter made it pretty clear that his information had been leaked to the press, she could ask (whether it would be honored or not) that information from her be held in confidence.

14. We agreed that if we had further questions to ask we could contact Mrs. McIntosh, and she said that if she recalled anything further she would contact

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S. D. Breckinridge

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Attachment:  
As Stated Above

SDB:js  
Orig. - File  
1 -  Chrono

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Bee Line 3

1973

Dear Betty -

Yesterday I told Sen. Baker & his staff about that 1969 episode when D/KA was acquiring info from Caldwell's files for Chet Cooper in the White House. You may be asked about it - and

as well, for I couldn't remember all details. Hope you don't mind.

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I'll be here thru New Year's! Thanks to Sen. Baker, and much to my pleasure, Alhambra being so undesirable.

Amyer tells me the couple who were to have stayed in my home backed out when my name as owner was revealed.

Hope you and yours have the best possible holidays.

With affection

David