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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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3/26/57
PJP*

25 MAR 1957

INDEXED - 6
Enclatures

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

ATTENTION : Mr. Sam J. Papich

SUBJECT : Dr. Robert E. Soble, with aliases
Bufile 100-353709
ESPIONAGE - R

Turner

Good

Reference is made to your memorandum dated 13 March 1957 subject as above, in which you requested further information concerning this Agency's use of Johanna Beker.

Attached is a summary of this Agency's utilization of Johanna Beker in 1953. Also attached is a copy of a Quit-claim that Johanna Beker and her mother, Martha Koenen signed on 26 August 1953. In addition, there is a copy of a statement which Johanna Beker signed on 27 August 1953.

The above is furnished for your information and is not to be disseminated outside of your Bureau.

FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE:

RECORDED-6
INDEXED - 6

100-353709-474

Sheffield Edwards
Director of Security

MAR 29 1957

Harlan Westcott, Office of Security, CIA advised OK to furnish info to Dept Justice including Kennedy

Attachments: (3) ENCLOSURE

6

100-353709

*Airtel to NY
3-28-57
89T*

Put cc this memo and enclosures in 65-58796 re Beker

58796

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Per letter 10/30/67 6P48JA/ENP
ALL FBI INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3-11-99 BY SP4BJA-MLB
401373

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 65-58796-1

SECRET

SUBJECT: BEKER, Johanna

Per letter #130125P462A/RNP
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 DATE 11/99 BY SP4 BTB/MLB

The following is a summary of this Agency's use of Johanna Beker in 1953:

Johanna Beker's father, Wilhelm Koenen, has been active in the Communist Party in Germany since 1907. As of 1953 in East Germany he was a member of the Central Committee; Chairman, Secretariat of the National Front; and member of the Presidium of the National Council of the National Front, as well as other lesser positions. In the spring of 1953, Wilhelm Koenen fell into disrepute, was dismissed from his positions, and there were indications that he was possibly being purged by the East German Communist Party. Since Wilhelm Koenen's knowledge of Communist activities was extensive, it was felt that the time was ripe to attempt his defection.

Johanna Beker's mother, although separated from her husband, was living in Halle, East Germany. In 1950, Johanna Beker traveled to East Germany to induce her mother to move to West Germany, but her efforts were fruitless. It was thought that since Johanna Beker had previously attempted to bring her mother out of East Germany she would be the logical choice now to defect her father.

It was therefore planned to contact Johanna Beker to see if she would go to Germany to attempt to induce both her father and mother to flee to West Germany, where they could seek political asylum. In a memorandum dated 29 June 1953 this plan was outlined to the FBI, and on 1 July 1953 the FBI notified this Agency that they had no objection to our approaching Beker to see if she would assist in the plan.

On 10 July 1953 Beker was contacted in New York City by a representative of this Agency who used a pseudonym throughout the operation. After a series of meetings with Johanna Beker held on 10 through 12 July, she agreed to undertake the assignment. She further agreed to maintain complete secrecy about it even vis-a-vis her husband, who was then on a business trip to Turkey. Beker was to receive no remuneration but was assured that expenses incurred by her while assisting us would be defrayed. She was promised that if she was successful in defecting her father and mother, assistance would be given her in their resettlement and maintenance for a given period.

Johanna Beker departed for Germany on 20 July 1953. On 28 July, after all arrangements were completed, she went to West Berlin. Beker first contacted her mother, who soon came to West Berlin. Repeated attempts were made to contact her father, but it soon became apparent that either her father was under house arrest or else had personally decided to weather out the storm in an attempt to get back into good graces of the East German Communist Party. The last attempt to meet with Wilhelm Koenen was made on 12 August, and when this was unsuccessful it was agreed that Subject should return to the U.S. Beker's mother was resettled with an aunt of Subject at Kiel, West Germany. Subject accepted no financial assistance and refused a payment of 6,000 Deutch Marks West to defray the cost entailed in resettling her mother from Halle to Kiel. As of 26 August 1953, a Quitclaim was signed by Johanna Beker and her mother, Martha Koenen, indicating that the U.S. Government had fulfilled all its obligations and that the relationship was then discontinued.

Subject returned to the U.S. on 2 September 1953, and no further contact or use has been made of Subject by this Agency.

160-35709-414
 ENCLOSURE **SECRET** -1-

QUITCLAIM

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KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

WHEREAS a relationship has heretofore existed between the Government of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (hereinafter called "the Government") and Martha KOENEN of Halle, Germany, a

WHEREAS, the Government has fulfilled all of its obligations under and pursuant to its arrangements with Martha KOENEN and/or her agents, the parties are mutually desirous of terminating their relationship;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Martha KOENEN of Halle, Germany, for good and valuable consideration, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, do for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, hereby remise, release and forever discharge the Government, its officers, agents and employees from any and all debts, claims, compensation, benefits, demands, actions and causes of action arising out of or by reason of my resettlement from Halle, Germany, to Kiel, Germany.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal at Berlin, Germany, this 26th day of August 1953.

Martha Koenen
Martha KOENEN

On this 26th day of August 1953, the abovementioned person, personally came, signed the foregoing instrument, and duly acknowledged the same to be his act and deed. The person who executed the foregoing instrument is personally known to me.

Johnnie Baker
(Witness)

On this 26th day of August 1953, before me, an officer duly qualified to administer oaths, personally came Martha KOENEN, known by me to be the person who executed the foregoing instrument, and who acknowledged the same to be his act and deed.

[Signature]
(Signature)
Major U.S. Army
(Title)

See letter 1013002540012/P/11/20/62
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attach 'c'

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100-353709-474
ENCLOSURE

(b)(6)

S T A T E M E N T

SECRET

I, Major, U.S. Army, on this date offered the sum of DMW 6,000.-- (six thousand Deutsch Marks West) to Mrs. Johanna BEKER, to defray the costs entailed in the resettlement of her mother, Martha KOENEN, from Halle, Germany, to Kiel, Germany.

(b)(3)

Mrs. Johanna BEKER chose not to accept the abovementioned sum as she considered it an honor and a privilege to have served her country, the United States of America. She thankfully accepted the help of the Government in resettling her mother, Martha KOENEN, to Kiel, Germany, and gratefully declines any further recompense.

In acknowledgement of the above statement, we have herewith set our signatures in Berlin, Germany, on this 27th day of August, 1953.

Johanna Beker

Johanna BEKER

Major, US Army

(b)(3)
(b)(6)

See letter 10/30/52 SP4 BJA/ENP 11/20/52
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NR 801319

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