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16 January 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: FBI/OSO Case-officer Conference re SPAISHVILI Case

A conference was held at 1000 this date in L building, with Mr. Joe E. Dunn and Mr. Charles W. Bates of the FBI meeting with [redacted] and [redacted] all of OSO/OSO. The purpose of the conference was to attempt to answer the informant's request for an evaluation of an informant. Since the FBI had requested an evaluation on a basis of information furnished relating to the Georgian group of WW II (Kedia - Kikodze, et al), it was necessary to discuss the problem, rather than to attempt to provide the FBI with the voluminous traces held in OSO.

The point was emphasized by OSO that merely turning over widely-known, unprovable information did not prove anything about their informant except that he was at one time a DP who picked up some of these general allegations.

It would, then, be necessary, rather than testing the material, to test the man himself in order to evaluate him. Mr. Dunn seemed reluctant to talk of polygraphs, and such. According to Mr. Dunn the informant is here legally, under a DP residence visa, and has his family with him. He is well educated, intelligent, has done research, and is elderly. His position vis-a-vis the FBI is this: he is insistent that he know with whom he is dealing; he insists on seeing credentials; he has furnished a sample of what he knows and what his files contain, but will furnish no more. He states he has files of documents in Hamburg, held by Dutov aka/Dulkeith, but that the only way he will agree to obtain them is by making a personal trip for them. Mr. Dunn mentioned that the FBI had not told the informant that the case had been referred to CIA.

OSO answered that these files might well be of great service in clearing up the vast complexity of Georgian I.S. activities, and that OSO was therefore interested in obtaining them. The informant appears confident that these files will be of value and has stated to the Bureau that he will "rest his case" on the basis of their content. Mr. Dunn interposed that this would be, properly, not an FBI but a CIA task. OSO continued by pointing out that pressures could be brought to bear on a DP, legal or otherwise; that an informant is run by and does not run the service to which he reports. OSO discussed the possibility of sending an OSO person with the informant in the event a trip to Hamburg was decided on. Mr. Dunn agreed to these tentative suggestions. The

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informant, according to Mr. Dunn, would not object to an escort in the event he is permitted to make the trip.

The FBI also agreed to ask such questions as OSO wished put to the informant. One such question which was suggested was to ask him whether the information in his files had come from Kikodze or Dulkeith. Mr. Dunn was told emphatically that the informant not be told of CIA interest, and it was suggested that in fact OSO would probably move into the picture by substituting a man for one of the two FBI agents at some future interview, with the informant never aware that any one other than the FBI was interested. The informant's insistence that he go to Hamburg, although Dulkeith has offered to ship the documents, was discussed.

Mr. Dunn was not able to supply the informant's name, since he had been turned over to the Bureau by another U.S. government agency [probably the Army]. However, he did not anticipate any difficulty in obtaining permission to release the informant's name to OSO. OSO pointed out that, if this had merely been a referral, the other agency could not claim any control. If however it had involved some sort of a case, then of course permission from the third agency would be necessary. Some discussion was engaged in concerning the need for British co-operation in the Hamburg area.

It was agreed that OSO would send brief traces on people involved in an SO DB to the FBI. The conclusion would state that evaluation can only be made of the individual and not of his information, and that therefore this Office request the informant's identity for checking in CIA files. It was further agreed that OSO would state its interest in obtaining the files.

The meeting was amicable and interesting. OSO/STC was well pleased with Mr. Dunn's obvious desire to co-operate, and Mr. Dunn was apparently (and he told Mr. Bates the same thing later) very well satisfied.

The meeting adjourned at 1155, with the agreement that another meeting would be desirable in the near future.

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