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Reference: F-2010-0084

Dear Sir or Madam:

On 23 March, your office of the Information and Privacy Coordinator received an inquiry from me about a number of people I knew as a child. I am in the process of writing [redacted] and would like to know some information about people I knew who were CIA officers, or so I believe.

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Your letter made me think deeply about what anecdotes I should include, and I have decided to shorten the list of people I am inquiring about as a result. And all of the people I am inquiring about are deceased as far as I know, with the possible exception of Valentina Ringland.

So, here is as much information as I can obtain for you at this time, about the individuals I would like to know more about:

Hamilton Williver Kenner, [redacted] born 4 December 1918 in Florence, Alabama, third son of Ethel Williver Kenner and Ernest Rodham Kenner, and a proud American citizen.

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Rodham Wilson Kenner, [redacted] born 28th February 1914 in Cleveland, Ohio, eldest son of Ethel Williver Kenner and Ernest Rodham Kenner, and a proud American citizen.

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Winifred Sturdevant Compton, [redacted] I know she was a Leo (born between 20 July and 22 August) but I do not know her birth date or birthplace. She was somewhat older than [redacted] [redacted] which would put her birthdate around 1910/12. [redacted] died on 10 March 1985, in Sibley Hospital, Washington, DC, of Hepatitis C, which she got while doing intelligence work while stationed in Vientiane, Laos, during the Vietnam War. Other places she lived while working for the Agency include Japan and France.

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[redacted] was bilingual French/English. [redacted] dates of employment at the Agency were 1950 to 1969, according to her CIA medal, [redacted] Also, [redacted] was involved with military intelligence during World War II, and I seem to remember that she was decorated by the Belgian government for her role in the war. She attended Vassar College and was a proud American citizen. Her parents were Eloise Sturdevant and Robin Dale Compton; she had a sister Clarissa who attended Bryn Mawr College and married a geology professor there named Lincoln Dryden, and a brother, John, who died in childhood.

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Pedro Benda, one of [redacted] contacts while working for Panamerican Investments (which I believe was actually one of your operations.) Mr. Benda was a Spanish citizen officially domiciled in Monaco (3 Place de Moulins, Montecarlo, Monaco) during the early 1960s. But he also had a villa outside Rome with a swimming pool. Mr. Benda had three children when I met them in 1964, a daughter older than I am and two sons. I believe one of the sons was developmentally delayed.

John Benda, the brother of Pedro Benda. I am presuming he was also a Spanish citizen. I met him in Rome in 1964, and he was also working for Panamerican Investments.

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G. Stewart Mason, who was [redacted] boss in Panamerican Investments. Mr. Mason was the escort of Helen McCain Smith, former social secretary for Patricia Nixon during the Nixon presidency, when he was in Washington. Mr. Mason lived to be more than 90 years old. I attended his 90th birthday party in London at the Oriental Club during June of 1997 or possibly 1998. Mr. Mason lived on Montagu Square in Belgravia when I knew him, in an apartment once owned by John Lennon, and where Julian Lennon had been conceived. Later, Mr. Mason moved around the corner to a smaller upstairs apartment on Bryanston Square during his last years. He was a British citizen and a closeted Gay man. His longtime lover lived in Spain, in a villa owned by Mr. Mason near Malaga.

Myra Johnson, [redacted] Her birthdate was 20 May, but I do not know the year, although she was a bit older than [redacted] so it was in the 19-teens earlier than 1918. [redacted]

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[redacted] She owned a townhouse on Capitol Hill at 409 A Street NE, Washington, DC. I want to tell a story about Myra that involves her postings in Katmandu, Nepal and Brasilia, Brazil. Myra was a proud American citizen. She died in the early years of the new century, and I attended her memorial service in the house on A Street NE.

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The Ringlands: Peter Ringland was brought up in Somerset, Chevy Chase, Maryland. He was definitely an American citizen. Valentina Ringland was born in Russia before the Revolution, and traveled East as a young woman to escape the Soviets. I believe she was a naturalized American citizen after her marriage to Peter. [redacted] told me a story about how Valya and her mother and her sister were in some war-torn place in the Soviet Union, and there was a stampede to get away from the advancing Red Army. Valya made it across a bridge to safety, but she never saw her mother and sister again. Shortly after that, she met Peter in an Army intelligence facility. Valya was able to learn languages amazingly quickly. The story I want to tell about them involves their posting in Rome: it is something I can write about using false names without difficulty. Peter is now deceased. I attended his funeral at Arlington, where his cremated remains were placed in the columbarium there. I have not seen Valya in many years, [redacted] and I do not know if she is still alive.

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I withdraw the requests for information about Phyllis Edwards (not important enough to be part of the story, I was just trying to be comprehensive) and Marjorie Steffen and her husband.

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This is all the information about these people that I can find immediately. I swear on penalty of perjury that this information is as true as I can make it, although the mists of time may have affected my memory and some small details may be incorrect. Thank you for your time and effort on these request

Best wishes, from [redacted]

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