

S E C R E T

9 June 1989

Briefing Notes
Progress of Kronthal Case

Activities Since 5 June Briefing

FBI files searched, no new information.
 Dept of State, Diplomatic Security -- no record of 1951
 HA investigation; files believed destroyed
 Briefed SAC & A/SAC/WFO on case
 Harlan Westrell interview -- Information gained
 Paul Gaynor's case
 Soviet MO then to blackmail cooptees, Blackmail
 potential carefully examined in [redacted] (b)(1)
 Subject committed suicide because his HA would be (b)(3)
 seen as vulnerability, ruining his career
 Subject's name on McCarthy's list of subversive
 Agency employees also a contributing factor
 Subject's suicide was a "great shock" to Agency,
 Dulles and Helms
 Subject supposedly used an "L-pill," an OSS
 suicide pill to kill self
 Possible cases containing some information:

[redacted] (b)(3)

[redacted] interview; no info on case, referred to (b)(3)
 Ethel Mendoza, Paul Gaynor's secretary
 DC Metropolitan Police Archives -- Report destroyed
 administratively
 UDAC (Ed Sayle) unnamed informant claims defector Otto John,
 debriefed by Corson, Justin O'Donnell, gave information on
 Kronthal

O'Donnell file reviewed, no connection with
 Corson or Otto John indicated
 Corson's service record does not indicate any
 period of service with the Agency
 Otto John Security file reviewed, no connections

Otto John's 201 file was reviewed making an interesting
 connection with Wolfgang (Edward) Hoefer (Hoffer), a CI
 Command officer who committed suicide under remarkably similar
 circumstances to that of Kronthal. Theory: Over 35 years
 "institutional memory" may have faded, skewing the line
 between Hoefer and Kronthal.

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SUBJECT: Kronthal Briefing Notes

Memorandum forthcoming comparing Hoefer/Kronthal cases. No other connection found between John, Kronthal, Corson, and O'Connell.

SE Vault [redacted] consulted. No holdings under "suspected moles in the Agency" or "Otto John debriefings" or "Kronthal"

(b)(3)p(3)

Planned Activities

Interviews:

- [redacted] ex-Agency, found K's body -- 13 Jun 89
- Richard Helms -- C/Ops, friend of K, recipient of one of K's suicide notes, knowledge of Corson as aide to DCI Dulles -- planned
- Robert Gambino, ex-D/OS on knowledge of David S. Sullivan's list of suspected "mole" candidates, supposedly given to Gambino on Sullivan's separation from Agency -- planned
- Ethel Mendoza, ex-SRS, C/SRS Gaynor's secretary, re Kronthal investigation -- planned
- Lawrence Hartnette, ex-DC Police, investigated Kronthal death -- planned
- Bruce Solie, ex-SRS, re Kronthal case, info provided to Corson/Trento -- tentative
- Sam Papich, ex-FBI liaison w/Agency re Kronthal case -- tentative

(b)(3)

Information to be reviewed/gathered

OMS reports on Kronthal -- [redacted] has requested from [redacted] Hoefer 201 file, to be reviewed

(b)(3)

(b)(1) (b)(1)
(b)(3) (b)(3)

Security/201 Files Reviewed to Date

39 Security and 201 files reviewed on aspects of this case to date

Interim Final Report

SAD plans an interim report to be completed NLT 16 June 1989

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