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~~Security Information~~

31 March 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: James Kronthal.

1. Shortly before noon 31 March 1953 the Personnel Director received a call from Colonel Edwards, Security Officer, CIA, advising that subject individual had been found dead at his residence at about 10:30 AM the same day. Colonel Edwards advised that an empty vial had been found by the body and the presumption was that subject had taken poison.

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2. Shortly after twelve noon the Personnel Director called Doctor

[redacted] is subject's brother-in-law and he was called in preference to subject's next of kin, his Mother, since it was understood the Mother is in poor health. [redacted] was told that subject had committed suicide. The Personnel Director said he did not know the method used, but was sure he had not shot himself. The Personnel Director also indicated that he did not know the details at that time. [redacted] was asked to break the news to the subject's Mother. [redacted] agreed to do this, but wanted his wife, subject's sister, to be present at that time.

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3. At 2:15 PM [redacted] called back and talked to Mr. Claxon. He said he had not talked with the Mother as yet and asked if there were any other details. Mr. Claxon promised to call him back and after talking with Colonel Edwards he was called back at 2:30 PM. [redacted] was advised that the presumption was that subject had committed suicide by taking poison, since an empty vial had been found by his bed. The coroner must examine to determine cause. The body is in the morgue and after autopsy will be turned over to the undertaker of the family's choice.

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4. [redacted] was further advised that Agency officials were working closely with the Metropolitan Police and that as soon as the autopsy was performed and the body released that someone from CIA would again be in touch with him.

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5. While Colonel Edwards had indicated that there had been a personal note left for an acquaintance of subject, no mention was made of this to [redacted] since it presumably has no bearing on his family relationships.

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