

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~

29 September 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: KRONTHAL, James Speyer

[redacted]

(b)(3)

1. On 26 September 1989, the undersigned interviewed Samuel Papich at his home at [redacted]. Papich was the FBI liaison to the Agency at the time Subject committed suicide. Papich was interviewed in connection with this case. (C)

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(b)(6)

2. Papich was shown several unclassified FBI documents dealing with the Subject and asked about his part in the case. He explained that the memoranda were reports from the FBI Internal Security Division to the Assistant Director of the FBI. Papich remembered that he was told about the Kronthal suicide by then D/OS Sheffield Edwards. Papich then reported it to his office by phone as part of his normal liaison function. He stated categorically that there was no information at the time and no investigation into Kronthal being a "mole" or any other Soviet link. Papich stated; "If there were even an inkling of a Soviet connection, that information would have been a bombshell in both the Agency and the FBI," and an investigation would have been launched. (C)

3. Papich said that, unlike today, when he was the FBI liaison officer, he was liaison to the entire Agency. He had meetings with every office in the Agency, all the deputy directors, and even the DCI. He met almost weekly with Allen Dulles and believes that the meeting on Dulles' calendar for 30 March 1953 was just such a meeting. He remembers no items of consequence discussed at that meeting and certainly nothing concerning "moles" or Kronthal. (C)

4. When queried on the subject of William Corson [redacted] [redacted] Papich stated that he did not know Corson, and had never spoken to Corson concerning the Kronthal incident. He never saw nor knew Corson as an aide to DCI Dulles, even though Papich had weekly contact with Dulles. Papich also said he never met Corson during the Shadrin debriefings. (C)

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WARNING NOTICE
INTELLIGENCE SOURCES
OR METHODS INVOLVED

[redacted]

(b)(1)

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[REDACTED]

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5. Papich did, however, state that he had been telephoned by Joseph Trento [REDACTED] on 21 May 1988, vice the interview date of 19 February 1988 as noted in "Widows." (Papich produced a notebook containing details of the Trento call, as well as other calls he has received.) He stated that Trento did not get the quote concerning the rift between the Bureau and the Agency from him and believes Trento obtained it from other FBI sources and attributed it to him. Papich did mention that there were differences between the two agencies, but he has never publicly voiced this opinion. He does believe that he may have made the quote on counterintelligence that appeared on page xi of the preface to "Widows." (C)

(b)(3)

6. During the 21 May 1988 phone conversation with Papich, Trento disclosed that he believed Shadrin went back to the USSR willingly and that he (Trento) received this information from "Israeli sources," that he did not further identify. (Papich considers Shadrin of low-level stature and believes that KITTYHAWK was a plant.) Trento was very critical of Leonard McCoy [REDACTED] and considers him incompetent. He was to send Papich information on his interview with McCoy, but never did so. Trento also agreed that if he were going to quote Papich in any publication, he would seek Papich's approval first, but did not do this either. Papich believes that something happened between Trento and McCoy between May 1988 and the publication of "Widows" that changed Trento's opinion of McCoy. (C)

(b)(3)

7. Papich learned through a third party that Robert T. Crowley [REDACTED] Corson's co-author in "The New KGB," a former Agency employee, and subject of the dedication page of "Widows," was very critical of the book when it came out. Papich believes that a lot of the information for "Widows" may have come from [REDACTED] as he had large differences of opinion with with Angleton. Trento was very complimentary of CI chief James J. Angleton. (C)

(b)(3)

(b)(3)

8. The interview with Papich lasted some three and one-half hours and covered a wide variety of topics. Throughout the interview, Papich was cordial and helpful. He noted at the interview's conclusion that he would be willing to further assist in this investigation in any way possible. (C)

(b)(6)

C O N F I D E N T I A L

[REDACTED]