

SECRET

6 April 1983

*file Wallenberg file*

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

FROM: [ ]

SUBJECT: Response to NSC Staff request for information on Raoul Wallenberg.

1. In response to a request from Dennis Blair, National Security Council Staff member. [ ] (A/NIO/USSR), accompanied by [ ] (NIC/AG) and [ ] (DDO/IMS) provided a briefing on the Raoul Wallenberg case. The meeting took place on 4 April 1983. The NIC was asked for an overall evaluation of the status of the Wallenberg case, and to comment on the particulars contained in a letter to Blair from Sonja Sonnenfeld. (C)

2. [ ] opened the discussion by explaining that although the Agency has no analyst assigned to the Wallenberg case per se, [ ] reviewed the Agency files on the subject in response to the NSC request. The results of her review show that CIA has no information of any substance beyond that which can be found in the public domain, but that the CIA files cannot be released because of the sensitivity of liaison relationships with foreign intelligence services, and the necessity of protecting sensitive sources and methods. [ ] elaborated on these points. [ ] then went on to explain that contrary to the implications in Mrs. Sonnenfeld's letter, the Wallenberg case has not been treated as a matter of high priority for US intelligence collection, and properly so, given other pressing needs for intelligence on Soviet matters, and given the vigorous efforts of the Swedish government on Wallenberg's behalf. (S)

3. It was noted that there has been recent White House involvement, through Fred Fielding's office, in expediting an FOIA request to the Agency for information on Wallenberg. Also, the State Department is the principal US government actor in the Wallenberg case. Many of the documents in CIA files are actually State-originated, and the CIA role has largely been one of responding to State inquiries. Nothing of substance has been withheld from State in these exchanges. The State Department has served as the point of contact with the Swedish government. (C)

4. Other points covered in the discussion:

- a. There is no new information available on Wallenberg's whereabouts or whether he is alive.
- b. Agency files show some material on several key public sources which casts doubt on their credibility.
- c. "Stancia": There is no indication of a new kind of Soviet penal institution called by that name. One possible explanation is the use of the term "stancia" as an address for prisoners or exiles in remote locations.

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2008

SECRET

- d. There was no official OSS association with Wallenberg. He was working as a Swedish diplomat, with financial backing from the US War Refugee Board.
- e. Contrary to assertions in the Sonnenfeld letter, we do not believe it is Soviet practice to deliberately keep prisoners alive at all costs.
- f. We are not able to judge the authenticity of the 1957 Soviet reply about Wallenberg's death. (S)

SECRET

-2-