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*AWO*  
Howard J. Osborn  
Director of Security

00404  
23 May 1973  
(DATE)

FORM NO. 101 REPLACES FORM 10-101  
1 AUG 54 WHICH MAY BE USED.

AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF VIRGINIA

COUNTY OF FAIRFAX, to-wit:

HOWARD J. OSBORN who, being first duly sworn,  
deposes and says as follows:

1. I am the Director of Security of the Central Intelligence Agency.

2. The purpose of this statement is to record, to the best of my knowledge and recollection, circumstances involved in the receipt of a series of unsigned correspondence received by the Agency during the period from 1 August 1972 to 7 January 1973. The significance of these letters is that by their content and by the handwriting on two of them, they are believed to have been written by James W. McCord, Jr., one of the defendants in the Watergate trial.

3. My first involvement in this matter occurred on the 2nd or 3rd of August 1972 when an envelope addressed to Mr. Helms, then Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, with no return address, and postmarked 30 July 1972 was routed to my desk from the Director's office as a routine piece of "crank mail". The envelope contained a carbon copy of a typewritten letter signed "Jim" with the name in the salutary address excised - "Dear \_\_\_\_\_". After dismissing the letter as a piece of crank mail, I had second thoughts and recognized the handwriting on the envelope and the signature "Jim" on the letter as being similar to that of Mr. McCord, who formerly worked for me as a security officer before his retirement from the Agency.

00405

4. On that same day, I showed the letter to Mr. Helms and told him that although I was not positive, I felt very strongly that the letter had been sent by Mr. McCord. Mr. Helms agreed that it was a strong probability that the envelope had been sent to him by Mr. McCord. I told him that I felt very strongly that the letter should be turned over to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Mr. Helms, after some reflection, decided that he would like to have a legal opinion on the matter and summoned Mr. Lawrence Houston, General Counsel of the Agency, to his office and had him read the letter. After he had finished reading the letter the ensuing discussion, to the best of my recollection, centered about whether the Agency had any legal obligation to forward the letter to the Justice Department or the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Both Mr. Helms and Mr. Houston decided that there was no such obligation and I was told to hold the letter in a secure file in my office and take no further action on it. Mr. Helms instructed me to restrict knowledge of the existence of the letter to an absolute minimum number of people.

5. The next envelope received was addressed to Mr. Paul Gaynor, a staff chief in my office and a former close friend of Mr. McCord's, on or about the 23rd of December 1972. The next envelope received was addressed to Mr. Gaynor's residence and was undated but postmarked 27 December 1972. The two envelopes contained one or more unsigned typewritten pieces of correspondence which appeared to relate to Mr. McCord's involvement in the Watergate "affair". Both of these letters were handcarried by me to Mrs. Elizabeth

... to Mr. Helms, and after a brief period of time, they were returned to me personally by Mrs. Dunlevy for inclusion in the secure file with the other letters.

6. Subsequently, on 29 December 1972 and on 4 January 1973 and 6 January 1973, three additional envelopes containing unsigned typewritten correspondence were received by Mr. Gaynor at his residence and promptly delivered to me for review and subsequent inclusion in the secure file. I did not bring these to the immediate attention of Mr. Helms but a week or so later delivered to him a folder with all copies of the letters we had received. As I recall, my request to him was for guidance as to what action should be taken with regard to them in the light of his departure from the Agency incident to his nomination as United States Ambassador-designate to Iran. After reviewing them, he informed me that he did not see any reason to take any action at that time, but asked that I show them to Mr. Houston and if Mr. Houston had no objection, I was to retain them in a secure file and take no action with regard to them. As I recall, Mr. Houston was out of town at the time and it was several days before I had an opportunity to give him the folder with the copies of the letters in it for review. After reviewing them, he informed me that he had no objection to the instructions Mr. Helms had given me and I so informed Mrs. Elizabeth Dunlevy, secretary to Mr. Helms.

7. On 14 May 1973, Mr. William Broe, Inspector General of the Agency, and his Deputy, Mr. Kenneth Greer, met with me in my office in connection with an investigation they were undertaking at the direction of Mr. Schlesinger to determine if anyone in the Agency had any contact with

00407

Mr. McCord since the Watergate incident. I had heard from Mr. McCord, to the best of my knowledge, no one in the Agency had been in contact with Mr. McCord since the Watergate incident. I brought to the attention of my office. I told them that Mr. Paul Gaynor had been a close friend of Mr. McCord's but that I was satisfied, after interviewing him, that he had not seen or talked to Mr. McCord since the Watergate incident. (I subsequently determined from Mr. Gaynor that he has not seen or talked to Mr. McCord since his retirement from the Agency on 31 August 1970.) I also told them that a Mr. Leo Rosenbaum, an employee of the Agency, had requested an appointment with me to discuss the feasibility of contributing to Mr. McCord's defense fund and that I thought I had convinced him that this would be inimical to the best interests of himself, the Agency and Mr. McCord. I also stated that Mr. Rosenbaum had called me several weeks ago to say that he was well known as a close friend of Mr. McCord's and might be called to testify at the current Senate Hearings. I advised him to seek guidance in this regard from the Office of General Counsel. I do not know that he did so. I then remembered the envelopes and correspondence purportedly originated by Mr. McCord. I briefed Mr. Broe and Mr. Greer on the circumstances involved in the receipt and subsequent handling of them and made a copy of each of them and delivered them to Mr. Broe the next day. I also gave a copy, at the same time, to my immediate supervisor, Mr. Harold Brownman.

8. A few days after this, I was contacted by Mr. John Greaney, Office of the General Counsel of the Agency, who asked me about any official or unofficial contacts anyone in the Agency had had with Mr. McCord. I mentioned

... Mr. Houston in this regard. Subsequently, ...  
 ... and reviewed the original file containing the letters.  
 Mr. Greeney indicated that he would recommend to Mr. Houston  
 that they be made available to the Justice Department and  
 on 22 May 1973 Mr. Houston asked for a copy of the letters.  
 On this same date, I was instructed by Mr. James R. Schlesinger,  
 Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, to participate  
 in certain Congressional briefings on this matter and to  
 prepare this affidavit.

9. Up to the 14th of May 1973 when I informed  
 Mr. Broe and Mr. Greer of the envelopes and their contents,  
 the only persons knowledgeable of the existence of them,  
 in addition to me, were: Mr. Helms, Mrs. Elizabeth Dunlevy,  
 his secretary, Mr. Houston, Mr. Paul Gaynor of my staff,  
 Miss Kathryn Aldridge, my secretary who prepared the file,  
 Mr. Leo J. Dunn, my Executive Officer, knew of the first  
 envelope and correspondence but not of subsequent envelopes.

10. The only other matter pertinent to this  
 particular matter was the fact that an intermittent source  
 of this Office, who was a close personal friend of Mr. McCord's  
 has relayed to Mr. Gaynor and his staff certain information  
 concerning the personal situation of Mr. and Mrs. McCord during  
 and after the time he was in jail and since he has been  
 released on bond. This source has been utilized by this office  
 for many years and by my direction, no effort was made to solicit  
 information from him about Mr. McCord and the information provided  
 was done so purely gratuitously.

*Howard G. Osborn*  
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 Howard G. Osborn

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a Notary Public, in and for the  
 County of Fairfax, State of Virginia, this 23 day of May.  
 My commission expires September 29, 1976.

00409

*151 Shirley G. ...*