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27 February 1950

MEMORANDUM FOR: OSE

SUBJECT:

Captain Eugene Karpe, USN, deceased

- 1. During 1948-1949 I served in Europe as an official of the Economic Cooperation Administration, ranking as Attaché of the American Embassy, Paris.
- 2. During various periods of temporary duty in Vienna (August-October, 1948) I came to know Captain Karpe socially. He came to Vienna frequently on week ends from his Bucharest post, staying, like myself, at the Bristol Hotel.
- 3. On at least two occasions he flew with me in Gen. Keyes' aircraft from Vienna to Paris, and I had the distinct impression that he wanted to spend as little time as possible in Bucharest because of the annoying and constant surveillance of secret police.
- 4. On one occasion, returning unexpectedly to Vienna, I encountered Capt. Karpe at the Bristol, and asked him why he was again in Vienna. He replied that there had been a series of incidents in Bucharest involving the domestic servants of Embassy personnel (shadowing, interrogations, etc.), and that I could not imagine how rigorous was the life there for Americans. He added jokingly that he could not even visit a urinal in Bucharest without being accompanied by secret police.
- 5. At no time did Captain Karpe appear despondent; rather he impressed me as a conscientious officer who was undergoing tremendous hardships, but sought relaxation from surveillance at every legitimate opportunity.
- 6. In October, 1949 I encountered Capt. Karpe in the Army & Navy Club in Washington, and asked him if his Bucharest assignment had terminated. His answer was rather vague, and my total impression was that he felt I was lucky to be out of Europe, and that he was not anxious to return to Rumania.

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- 7. Our association was more than casual, for we had mutual friends in the Navy; one of his classmates, in fact, having been a fellew officer of mine.
- 8. Although I knew Mr. and Mrs. Robert Vogeler socially in Vienna, I was not aware that Captain Karpe knew them, as later events indicate.

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HOWARD HUNT

PB II/HH/mee
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