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Executive Registry  
74-96011

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5 MAR 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence  
THROUGH : Deputy Director for Management and Services /SI HZ  
SUBJECT : Mr. E. Howard Hunt

1. This memorandum is for information only.

2. The Office of Security has been engaged in an effort, undertaken in coordination with the Office of the Inspector General, to attempt to define the possibility that this Agency sponsored or officially subsidized the fiction writing activity of Mr. E. Howard Hunt. The possible existence of such a covert program could suggest that Mr. Hunt had a relationship with this Agency which may have extended beyond the effective date of his retirement on 30 April 1970. During the course of investigation, attention became focused on the conversion of Mr. Hunt from Staff employee to Contract Type A status

[Redacted]

The purpose of this memorandum is to summarize the investigative efforts of this Office in regard to this matter.

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3. Information contained in Office of Security files reflects the belief held within the no longer existent Security Research Staff, that Mr. Hunt was engaged in writing "image" material on behalf of this Agency under the direction of Counter Intelligence Staff. Information alluding to activity by Mr. Hunt under the control of the Counter Intelligence Staff was contained in material provided the Congressional Oversight Committees. During subsequent Congressional testimony, Mr. James Angelton, Chief, Counter Intelligence Operations, responded to inquiry that he had neither met nor did he know Mr. Hunt. This apparent disparity prompted effort within the Office of Security to determine the basis for the information connecting Mr. Hunt with Mr. Angelton's office.

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4. On 1 February 1974, at the direction of [redacted]

[redacted] Office of Security, [redacted] telephonically contacted [redacted], retired Chief, Security Research Staff, concerning his recollections. [redacted] prepared a memorandum of this conversation on the same date. [redacted] reported [redacted] reiterating his belief that Mr. Hunt was writing "spy books" as an official duty within the Counter Intelligence Staff. [redacted] is quoted as stating that he was "never told outright that this was the case," but that responses to his inquiries lead him to believe that, "... Mr. Helms desired to improve the image of the intelligence profession and the Agency and that Mr. Hunt's books were part of the program to do so." [redacted] suggested that [redacted] of Counter Intelligence Operations and Mr. Walter Pforzheimer, Curator, Historical Intelligence Collection, would be worthwhile sources of information on the matter.

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5. On 4 February 1974, [redacted] of this Office, interviewed Mr. Walter Pforzheimer, Mr. Pforzheimer stated that he had never been officially briefed on the existence of a relationship, if any, between this Agency and Mr. Hunt, subsidizing the writing of fiction. Mr. Pforzheimer did relate from his personal knowledge that the books written by Mr. Hunt under the pen name David St. John were of interest to Mr. Thomas Karamessines, then Assistant Deputy Director for Plans, and Mr. Richard Helms. Mr. Pforzheimer related that after notifying Mr. Karamessines that he had identified the writer David St. John as Mr. Hunt through tracing an address on file with the Copyright Office, Mr. Pforzheimer was called by Mr. Helms and asked why he was interested in the St. John books. Mr. Pforzheimer also recalled that once while in the Foreign Affairs bookstore on Connecticut Avenue he was approached by the owner, who is a mutual acquaintance of both himself and Mr. Helms. Mr. Pforzheimer quoted the owner as having inquired, "Why does Dick (Mr. Helms) keep asking me to put the St. John novels on the rack up next to the cash register where they can be seen?" To Mr. Pforzheimer this incident further established Mr. Helms' interest in Mr. Hunt's fiction writing activity. Mr. Pforzheimer also recalled later receiving a request to research Indian funeral rites for Mr. Hunt. Mr. Hunt used information on Indian funeral rites in his fiction book under the St. John name, entitled

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Towers of Silence. This book was published in 1966 along with two other St. John books and possibly two other novels under another pen name. This output of fictional works represents the highest level of writing production by Mr. Hunt during a ten year period, and followed Mr. Hunt's

[redacted] It was then determined that information concerning this assignment should also figure in the investigation.

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6. Following conferences with the Office of the Inspector General, an interview was held on 14 February 1974, with [redacted] Deputy Chief, Counter Intelligence Operations. [redacted] stated as a matter of record that Mr. Hunt had never worked in any capacity for the Counter Intelligence Staff. [redacted] said he had no knowledge of any arrangement between this Agency and Mr. Hunt to prepare "image" materials and that neither he nor the Staff had been asked to supply Mr. Hunt with any support.

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7. Mr. Hunt's Contract Personnel folder was obtained through [redacted] Deputy Director of the Office of Personnel for Recruitment and Placement. Examination of this file indicated two modifications to the contract effective on 4 July 1965. The normal offset clause in the contract was set aside in a ruling requested of the Office of General Counsel and made 12 August 1965. Specifically, this ruling provided that, "Royalties from fictional works that he writes as profitable hobby will not be emoluments received from or through his 'cover activities.'" It was further stated, "We believe he is entitled to retain such royalties without an offset against his Agency salary." Mr. Hunt was also provided with an exception to his standard quarters allowance to provide a 75-25 percent sharing of the additional costs. A review of the personnel file also reflects a waiver of the Duty Status Report (Form 764) with the notation that the verbal approval of Mr. Thomas Karamessines was sufficient for the continuance of pay. No information citing a project or specifying the nature of Mr. Hunt's assignment could be developed from these records. A memorandum in the personnel file dated 1 June 1967 and signed by Mr. Karamessines states, "(Mr. Hunt), on instructions of the Deputy Director for Plans, and with approvals from the DCI and DDCI, was converted to contract employment and assigned to [redacted] a special undertaking in behalf of the DD/P." Further, "If an evaluative comment is needed to cover his work during this period of time he should be rated as "strong."

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8. On 15 February 1974, [redacted] of this Office, interviewed [redacted] Chief, Contract Personnel Division, and [redacted] of the Staff of the Deputy Director for Management and Services, concerning their recollections of Mr. Hunt's [redacted] assignment. Both [redacted] names had appeared as signa-  
tors to administrative memoranda in Mr. Hunt's file. Neither [redacted] could add any information to the material derived from the file. [redacted] added as a parenthetical remark that Mr. Hunt let it be known that he would deal only with senior officials. [redacted] stated that this was borne out when instructions regarding Mr. Hunt were received from senior officials. [redacted] confirmed this view in his recollection that the instructions to prepare the contract were received from the Office of Mr. Karamessines directly, without reference to project or the nature of the proposed operational activity. (b)(3)

9. On 20 February 1974, [redacted] met with Mr. Thomas Yale, Director of the Office of Finance, and members of his staff including [redacted] currently Chief, Certification and Liaison Division. [redacted] had briefed Mr. Hunt concerning benefits and emoluments prior to departure for [redacted] assignment. During this interview Mr. Yale summarized the findings of his office in attempting to define the nature of Mr. Hunt's operational activity from his financial transactions. It is understood that Mr. Yale will be reporting his findings separately. (b)(3)

10. On 22 February 1974, [redacted] Chief, Staff D, Deputy Director for Operations, was interviewed. During 1965, [redacted] had been Deputy Chief of the Western Europe Division, Deputy Directorate for Plans. The substance of this interview was that [redacted] was not advised at the time nor has he become aware since, of the nature of Mr. Hunt's activities while on assignment to [redacted]. [redacted] stated further that Mr. Hunt had been assigned to the Western Europe Division [redacted] on the direct authority of Mr. Karamessines without consultation with senior officers within the division. When asked about possible operational objectives, [redacted] replied, "If Mr. Hunt produced any positive intelligence on [redacted] during this period, senior officials responsible for this effort within the Western Europe Division were totally unaware of it." [redacted] added that a mutual acquaintance of both himself and Mr. Hunt had reported that Mr. Hunt explained his then forthcoming [redacted] assignment activities by stating that he planned to "play golf and write books." (b)(3)

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11. This Office has been unsuccessful, to date, in determining if this Agency formalized a relationship with Mr. Hunt to sponsor his writing of novels. It is apparent that Mr. Hunt's official duties during the period of the [redacted] [during which many of the David St. John books were written] were coordinated by Mr. Karamessines. No attempt has been made by this Office to interview Mr. Karamessines on this matter.

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12. Our findings are that the evidence in this matter, while insufficient to prove Agency sponsorship of Mr. Hunt's writings, does permit speculation that such sponsorship may have existed. Due largely to the highly compartmented nature of much of Mr. Hunt's activities, there is not now sufficient information available to discredit such speculation. It would appear that senior Agency officials acquiesced in permitting Mr. Hunt to write while on Agency duty, and in permitting him to use Agency resources for research. The likelihood of this acquiescence makes total disassociation of this Agency from Mr. Hunt's writing efforts difficult if not impossible.

/s/ John F. Blake<sup>S</sup>

John F. Blake  
Acting Director of Security

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