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2/23/62 [redacted] kh/1

MORNING SESSION

. . . . The board reconvened at 1010 hours, 23 February 1962 . . .

. . . . A motion picture entitled "The Powers Trial" by the  
Central Documentary Film Studio in Moscow was then shown . . . .

MR. HOUSTON: I would like to make the order appointing the Board  
of Inquiry a part of the record.

JUDGE PRETTYMAN: I think it should have a number on it. It  
is much too late to read it unless we want to read it into the record at  
this point and make it an integral part of the record itself.

MR. HOUSTON: I can do that if you wish. We could call it not an  
exhibit but Attachment A and place it physically at the beginning. The  
memorandum will be identified as Attachment A and placed at the opening of the  
official record.

JUDGE PRETTYMAN: Mark it Attachment A and put your initials on it.

. . . . Document entitled "Board of Inquiry" dated 19 February  
1960, signed by John A. McCone, Director was then marked as Attachment A and  
made a part of the record . . . .

MR. HOUSTON: I would like to call [redacted]

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. . . [redacted] was then sworn as a witness by Judge  
Prettyman . . . .

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MR. HOUSTON: [redacted] would you identify yourself for

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the record and your position?

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[redacted] I function as Special Assistant to the Chief of the Counter Intelligence Staff.

MR. HOUSTON: What are the responsibilities and functions of that Staff in connection with the Powers episode, generally.

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[redacted] Well, with the occurrence on May 1, 1960, I was assigned by the Chief of Counter Intelligence Staff to participate in the assessment of possible damage to the Agency and the operations resulting from the incident and to follow the Powers case from that point forward in terms of Soviet activity, possibility of defection, sabotage, and the like.

MR. HOUSTON: Can you take these areas and report on them separately? For instance on the question of possible defection, did you make studies in regard to the possibility of defection?

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[redacted] Well, with the happening -- with the event itself -- from a counter intelligence point of view it was immediately regarded as a point that had to be resolved -- was the incident the result of defection? In getting at the answers on a question like that you of necessity can't sit back and wait for charges and reports and allegations and rumors to come in. You have to go out and attempt to resolve this. Well, how to go about that? You consider the possibility of defection. It can only occur in two ways. One, it's spontaneous on the part of the individual, or it's been induced by some other activity. Well, with regard to the possibility of

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spontaneous defection on the part of Powers we went to work on gathering information on Powers himself. Not in terms of the type of information that was gathered when he was recruited for this job to see if he was suited to do it, but what kind of life he was living? What was his life in terms of events in his life that might cause him to defect spontaneously. We came up with very reasonable negative on that. [redacted] nothing that would lead us to believe that they were of such magnitude that he would just fly his plane over and land it in Russia, plus he had given no manifestation that we could dig up of any unsettled thinking that would lead people to believe that he was troubled. There was another factor in a matter of spontaneous defection, and that had to do with this: If he did fly over there and decide to defect he picked an awful hard way to do it. Getting shot down and coming down in the parachute is not the easiest way to defect in our opinion.

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MR. HOUSTON: You feel you explored all avenues of possibility for a defection and came to the conclusion that none were consistent with known or established facts.

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[redacted] That is right and we have continued to watch this thing throughout the behavior of the man, and our statement that he successfully withheld material information from the Soviets strengthens our position against defection.

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