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Memorandum for [Redacted] File 42
New file Copy 17 Date: June 26, 1963

(93)

8. Mr. McCone then turned to the Board's question on implications of the Penkovskiy case as they relate to British and U. S. security. He said that Penkovskiy provided us intelligence from August 1960 through August 1962, and gave us more than 8,000 pages of translated reporting, most of which constituted highly classified Soviet defense documents. He stated that the case did not have any implications for Britain or the U. S. as this was a controlled agent recruited by CIA and shared with MI-6, who we got into the circuit because the contact was outside the USSR and we used London on several occasions for meetings. Dr. Land asked about the motivation of Penkovskiy, and the DCI replied that it was primarily emotional--that the man resented his failure to advance higher in the regime and was motivated to work against the present leaders. He noted that the British had taken the principal rap of the case because of Wynn, who was a courier working for MI-6. We think that the case was blown because of a penetration in the British government who saw Wynn and Penkovskiy together. We also think that Penkovskiy got careless and when they searched his apartment they found all of the espionage equipment. Mr. McCone noted that they had picked up a couple of our officers and in one case implicated a clerk who had been sent to service a letter drop, but had let him go after brief questioning. These had all been purged. He noted that Penkovskiy had no access to either FBI or CIA personnel. Mr. Coyne asked if Penkovskiy had initiated the initial contact and was there any danger that he had been planted. Mr. McCone replied that this was something that we always feared, that we had checked his bona fides extremely carefully, and held up dissemination of reports in order to insure their validity. After most careful checks with all other types of intelligence, we had come to the conclusion that this was authentic.

*added by Mr. McCone.

*Please clear
all of this memo*

APPROVED FOR RELEASE

31 MAR 1992

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EXCERPT- [Redacted] 1.3(a)(4)