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OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D. C.

X-2 BRANCH

G. J. [unclear]

L2-1268

August 11, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. C. Darwin Marron

SUBJECT: Prince Nicholas Wladimirovitch Orloff

Attached is an eleven page autobiographical sketch by Prince Nicholas Wladimirovitch Orloff. You requested information on the subject on July 31, 1944.

Horace W. Peters
Horace W. Peters
X-2 Branch

APPROVED FOR RELEASE - CIA INFO DATE:
24-Feb-2011

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Name: NICHOLAS W. ORLOFFAddress: 27 East 62nd Street, New York 21, N.Y. Tel: REgent 4-1242Nationality: American citizen, naturalized March 9, 1944, District Court of New York, Naturalization Certificate # 5907568.Date of birth: February 28, 1895, in St. Petersburg (now Leningrad), RussiaParents: Wladimir N. Orloff (prince), Lieut.-General, Chief of the Tsar's Military Field Chancellery, later Aide to the Viceroy of the Caucasus for Civilian Affairs. Deceased.

Olga K. Belosselsky (princess). Deceased.

Marital status: Married.First marriage, in 1917, to Princess Nadejda Petrovna of Russia, daughter of Grand Duke Peter Nikolaievitch of Russia, and Grand Duchess Militza (born Princess of Montenegro, sister to Queen Helena of Italy); terminated by divorce in 1940.Second marriage, in 1940, to Miss Mary R. Shuck, of Shenandoah, Penna., American born citizen.Children: From first marriage, two daughters: Irina, born in Russia 1918, married to Austrian Baron Herbert von Waldstätten, according to last information received just before Pearl Harbor, was residing at Munkacs, Hungary, where husband was manager of a brewery. Xenia Orloff, born in Paris 1921, according to last information residing in France, probably at Fontainebleau with mother.

No children from present marriage.

Family background: Orloffs were traditionally soldiers and diplomats for many generations back, Orloff brothers of Catherine the Great's time brought the family into the limelight. Great-grandfather, Alexis Feodorovitch Orloff, fought in all battles of Napoleonic wars, then accomplished many diplomatic missions and terminated career as President of Council of Ministers under Tsar Alexander II. Soviet "History of Diplomacy" speaks highly of his diplomatic ability. Gained reputation by clever handling of Paris Peace Conference in 1856, after Crimean war, at which represented Russian interests as plenipotentiary. Grandfather, Nicholas Alexeievitch, heavily wounded as Colonel in Crimean war, turned to diplomacy, was successively Russian Minister to Brussels, Ambassador to Paris, Berlin. (Vide Encyclopedia Britannica, "Orloff").ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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Education: Graduated from Imperial Alexander Lyceum, St. Petersburg, in spring of 1915. Lyceum was "privileged" Russian school, preparing chiefly for diplomatic and state civil service. Tuition consisted of 5 years Junior Classes (corresponding to American High School) followed by 3 years of Senior Classes (corresponding to American University). Subjects (obligatory) in university classes of Lyceum covered: Law (Encyclopedia of, History of, Philosophy of; Roman, Russian State, Russian Civil, Church, Criminal, Financial, Police, Maritime, International etc); Philosophy, Political Economy, Statistics; History (Russian, Universal); Literature (Russian, Universal, French, German, English); Languages (Latin, French, German, English).

Special Military Education: Graduated in December 1915 from Mikhailofsky Artillery School, St. Petersburg, # 8 out of over 400 candidates. (School was war-time OCS for artillery officers). Joined M.A.S. in spring of 1915, promoted corporal summer 1915, first sergeant autumn 1915. Graduated with rank of Ensign December 1915.

Service: At outbreak of war in 1914, was nearly caught in Germany but managed to reach Paris on one of last trains. Was immediately employed by Imperial Russian Embassy, Paris, with rank of "Attache A Titre Honoraire", and assigned to coding and decoding messages between French and Russian High Commands (Office of Military Attache).

In December 1914 returned to Russia via Italy, Greece, Serbia, Bulgaria & Roumania, carrying diplomatic valise.

After passing graduation exams at Lyceum, volunteered for military service and was assigned to Artillery School. Graduated from latter in December 1915 and joined First Battery, Imperial Russian Guard Horse Artillery, with rank of Ensign. Active service with Battery during summer and autumn of 1916, Brousiloff advance (Stokhod River Sector). In autumn of 1916, was promoted Second Lieutenant and awarded "Sword of St. Anne", with inscription "For Bravery". In late autumn of same year, when Battery was withdrawn to rear for winter with the entire Guard Cavalry Corps, got transferred to Caucasus and was appointed Orderly Officer to Grand Duke Nicholas (Commander in Chief of Russian Armies, 1914-1915 and Viceroy of Caucasus, 1915-1917), Commander in Chief of Caucasian Armies. Carried out two missions: one in Persia, to report on motor transport and one to Turkish Front (Black Sea

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sector, region of Tireboli) to report on artillery supplies. Awarded St. Stanislas 3rd Class with swords, persian order of Lion and Rising Sun 3rd Class.

At outbreak of Revolution in spring of 1917, accompanied Grand Duke Nicholas to General Headquarters, After Grand Duke's dismissal by Kerensky Government, returned to First Battery, Guard Horse Artillery, at Front. Summer & Autumn 1917, active service at front, Stokhod & Tarnopol sectors. Promoted First Lieutenant autumn 1917. Remained with Battery until end of December 1917, staying on after Bolshevist Revolution as had been elected by soldiers C.O. of the Artillery Division. All other officers left soon after "October coup d'etat". Being popular with the soldiers, accepted to stay and help bring batteries back from front, organize supplies for men etc. Last days of December 1917, seeing full disintegration of army, went to Crimea to rejoin family.

Remained in Crimea first under Bolshevist Regime, then under German, In spite of offers made by representatives of German Command, refused to have anything to do with them. When Germans evacuated Crimea after Armistice, took over arms of local German detachment and organized "officers patrols" to maintain law and order. On occupation of Crimea by Volunteer Army of General Denikin, joined that Army; no active service, was soon appointed Liaison Officer and Interpreter to British Fleet in Black Sea (command of Admiral Calthorpe).

Seeing the hopelessness of the White Russian cause, and disgusted with several wanton murders organized by white officers, sought to get sent to Paris, where family had considerable property. Appointment to Staff of "Representative of White Russian Armies", in Paris, was received at moment when collapse of Denikin's Army in Crimea was imminent. Helped British organize evacuation of several thousand refugees from Crimea to Malta; amongst these were Dowager Empress Marie (sister of British Queen Alexandra), Grand Duke Nicholas and other members of Russian Imperial Family. Went to Malta on H.M.S. "Maiborough", remained there for a couple of weeks, attached to Viceroy's (Lord Methuen's) Staff to help organize refugee camps, then went on to Paris.

From May 1919 served as Liaison Officer between Representative of White Russian Armies (Gen. Tcherbatcheff) and British Military Mission (Brigadier-General Spears), latter attached to High Allied Command (Staff of General, later Marshal, Foch). Re-

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mained there till final desintegration of White Russian movement in 1921. Promoted to Lieutenant Captain autumn 1920, Captain on retirement in 1921. Awarded Interallied Victory Medal. From then on, retired to private life.

Present military status: Enlisted as Private, "F" Comapny, 7th Regiment New York State Guard.

Private Life, 1921-1940: Family had considerable money and property in France, uncle (father's brother, Alexis Orloff) having lived all his life in France and died there in 1916. Uncle's house on the Rue Saint Dominique was sold to "Credit National" in 1920 - at one time U.S. Government were interested in it, considering it for U.S. Embassy. With capital received, acquired large country estate in Sologne district, south of Orleans, with small "chateau", where lived continously with wife and family till 1932.

Experiences in Russia and insight of Versailles Peace Conference through work with British Military Mission convincingly proved futility of Russian "emigre" political intrigues, hopeless failure of "white" Russian ideology. Placing all faith in future evolution in Russia itself, not in various emigrant political parties, refused to have anything to do with any of them, inspite of numerous solicitations.

Led life of "gentleman farmer", being able to live on income from capital and adding considerably to latter by various investments in the then booming stock-market. Spent lot of time travelling in various parts of France & Europe by car, chiefly for hunting and fishing purposes. Took great interest in Russian History, formed very good Russian library on basis formed by grandfather's library, that had been preserved in Paris and Fontainebleau Chateau belonging to family (Chateau de Bellefontaine, par Avon, Seine & Marne). Numerous trips to Germany, Austria, combined hunting with research in Russian History, visiting sites, battlefields, archives. With wife collected material for book on Empress Elizabeth Alexeievna, spouse of Alexander I. (Book was never published).

Wife being niece of Queen Helena of Italy, journeyed at least twice a year to Italy, staying there as guests of Royal Family, at Rome in winter and summer residence (St. Anna-di Valdieri, San Rossore). For convenience of travel, King had diplomatic Italian passports given out to Orloffs. This allowed free travel, without visas and all trouble connected with previously held Nansen passports.

During these years had numerous private political conversations with King Victor-Emanuel: latter was convinced of coming evolution in Soviet Russia and foretold it was coming Great Power in Europe.

Another connection was that with Crown Prince Albrecht of Bavaria (son of Rupprecht). Close friendship commenced with hunting expeditions in Bavaria, ended by frequent visits to out-of-the-way Bavarian districts. Albrecht was exceedingly popular among Bavarian peasantry, spoke only in Bavarian dialect. Through friendship with him, got insight into life of lower Bavarian classes and many connections among Tyrolean and Bavarian Forest foresters, hunters, farmers, poachers.

General state of Europe after Versailles brought conviction that 1914-1918 was only beginning of conflict. Peace Treaty was inadequate and there would be a new upheaval. Began considering going to U.S.A., having always been interested in that country (probably through reading of "St. Nicholas" magazine in childhood, conversations with american-born aunts - Suzy Belosselsky, born Iselin and Julia Cantacuzene, born Grant - also reading of American scientific and engineering books). Visit to U.S. was undertaken with wife in fall of 1924: several weeks were spent at Detroit and Dearborn as guests of Mr. Henry Ford. Latter thought projected Ford plants in Russia would offer possibilities, as fall of Soviet Government was expected soon. Ford offered job in U.S. till Russia "opened up". Unfortunately, wife's determined opposition to leaving France and Europe forced refusal of this offer.

Situation in Germany attracted considerable interest. Beginning Hitler movement, first met with in Munich during stay there, seemed to be the most likely to succeed in Germany and therefore was followed very closely from period even before Munich Bierhalle Putsch. Interest was chiefly with possible developments as regards German-Russian relations and possible repercussions on Russia.

General state of decay in France, unreliability of French politicians and Press made clear that solution of European problems, particularly Russian, would not come from France. Life in French provincial regions also brought conviction that French are deeply chauvinistic and hostile to all foreigners in general. Hopes were that evolution of Russia towards more democratic and nationalistic form of Government might

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bring about possibility of Russo-German Alliance.

Krueger crash and deflation in America caused great financial loss, over 3/4 of capital. This forced sale of estate in 1932, lived in rented house, at Chantilly near Paris. At about this period, estrangement with wife began.

Visits to Germany became more frequent, chiefly to Munich; rate of exchange was very favorable, also worked in Freiburg, Berlin, Frankfurt on Main and Munich archives, collecting data on Bismarck book, based on unpublished letters found amongst grandfather's papers. (Book was finally published 1936, by C.H. Beck, Munich, under title: Furst Nikolai Orloff - "Bismarck und Catharina Orloff, "in Idyll in der Hohen Politik").

Previous friendship in Paris with American correspondent of "Le Figaro", Morton Fullerton, brought idea of taking to writing and looking for job as newspaper correspondent. Job was now necessary as capital was dwindling. Various more or less successful attempts at free-lancing were made, but chief impulse came after publication of Bismarck book, which met with success in Germany. Finally, managed to get job as column writer with "Le Jour", Paris daily (Bailby, Director and proprietor). Writing was chiefly on Russian questions.

First scoop was Anschluss: previous information allowed going to Munich two weeks before it, and going in to Austria with first German columns. French editors would not believe Anschluss was coming, refused pay expenses trip to Munich. Trip was undertaken at own risk and expense, with understanding that if events did break would be treated as star correspondent. First telegrams were front-page sensation, but on return to Paris editors refused pay expense list or pay any bonus.

This gave rise to considerable ill-feeling towards French in general. At moment of crisis before Munich, seeing that if it came to war France would be destroyed, decided to go to Germany. Reasons: Several thousand marks were in Munich bank for royalties of Bismarck book, could not be spent by non-resident. Already, for two years previous, had maintained small flat in Munich, to which transported part of library, collections etc., to utilise some of this money.

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On becoming resident in Germany, sought to find job there. Had always sought this on basis of Russian knowledge and experience. Found, however, that apparently as soon as began exposing ideas of Russo-German collaboration, met with stalemate. Changed tactics this time, and went to Berlin, not Munich, playing up knowledge of languages - English, French. Other solution considered was to go to U.S.A., but this seemed exceedingly difficult, due to financial conditions and impending divorce, which was then under way.

In Berlin, shortly after Munich Conference, got work as translator (English) for periodicals, also commercial work (catalogs of scientific instruments, optical instruments). Soon was offered job of reading news items on German Rundfunk in English on Köln, Hamburg and short-wave hook-up (Commentating on sports events, auto-races, shows, new inventions etc). Job was highly paid.

Meanwhile, in Berlin met Miss Mary R. Shuck, then playing as leading lady with the "English Theater" in Berlin - a troupe subsidised by the British Government for propaganda of latest British plays, etc. Miss Shuck played under stage name of "Marina Marshall". It was a case of love at first sight, and we very soon decided to marry: I tried to hurry my divorce as quickly as possible.

While working for the Rundfunk (full report on this will be found in my depositions before Immigration Authorities on arrival in this country), and being only in contact with the English Language set-up of that organization, was all the time trying to find out what German plans were as regards Russia. Inside information I had did not at all correspond to the Russo-German pact of 1939. At first I thought that Hitler had been clever enough to really change his entire attitude towards Russia and search a working collaboration between the two countries: But offers that were then made to me to join the Russian section of the Propaganda Ministry and several inside stories I got hold of convinced me that the whole thing was a bluff and mere stalling for time, that Hitler really had not changed his ideology on Russia (as expressed in "Mein Kampf").

At the outbreak of War, therefor immediately resigned my job with the Rundfunk and declared my intention of leaving the country. Although I had never been a supporter of Communism or Bolshevism, yet if it came to war between Germany and Russia my sympathies would

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be with the latter: I could not do anything against my native land in war, it was rather a case of "right or wrong, my country"; I could never approve of emigrants helping foreign countries against their own People.

My passport situation at the time was very unsatisfactory. Owing to the pending divorce, I could not decently use the Italian Diplomatic passport her Royal uncle had delivered me, and the Nansen passport delivered in France on which I had come to Germany was no longer valid. Indeed, having become a resident of Germany, the only document I could get was a German "Fremdenpass", a most unsatisfactory passport for anyone to have under the circumstances.

However, there being nothing else to do, I managed to obtain a Fremdenpass from the Berlin police and then went to Vienna, to try and get a visa to one of the Balkan countries from there. After considerable trouble I finally got a visa to Yugoslavia, through the former Russian Minister there and Prince Paul, the Regent. Visa to Bulgaria was turned down by King Boris, as I was divorcing his wife's cousin.

I arrived in Belgrade in November 1939. Miss Shuck joined me there shortly afterwards, to await my divorce. I brought with me a journalistic "scoop" - the story of attempted suicide by Miss Unity Mitford, Hitler's "perfect Nordic beauty". I sold this story to the London "Daily Mail" through the Belgrade correspondent of the paper, Mr. Atherton. I sold a few stories through Atherton, splitting 50-50 with him.

Finally, my divorce came through after considerable delay: it had to be brought through the Russian Orthodox Church in Belgrade, instead of the Berlin courts, as my wife was in France.

As soon as it came through, in February 1942, Miss Shuck and I were married at the Russian Church in Belgrade. Shortly after we left for the U.S.A., via Piraeus, Naples, Genoa, Marseilles, Gibraltar, on the S.S. "Excalibur", the U.S. Export Lines. We arrived in New York on March 25, 1940.

I was travelling on a visitor's visa, with a Yugoslav Nansen passport I had managed to get in exchange for my German "Fremdenpass".

A few months later I went to Canada to get a "preference quota, and returned to this country as resident.

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On March 9th of this year I got my certificate of naturalization.

Activities in U.S.A. After unsuccessful attempts to get into the journalistic world, I started out as photographer, specializing in color work and running (not very successfully) a small laboratory for turning out Carbro prints. I also for several months got a job as private secretary to a wealthy Yugoslav lady, Madame de Lipovatz.

My first steady job was with the firm of "A la Vieille Russie, Inc" of 785 Fifth Avenue. This was an antique and jewelry concern of very high class, the owners of which were known to me since old days in Russia, and had subsequently for many years had a shop in Paris. I was known to them as connoisseur of Russian Art and specialist in Russian History. I worked with them for over a year as sales manager.

After this, I was offered a job by Miss Elizabeth Arden, who had got to know me while I was with "A la Vieille Russie". She wanted me to be her "Executive Secretary", and I accepted the job, working in the offices of the "Elizabeth Arden Sales Corporation", 681 Fifth Avenue.

I left this job a few weeks ago, the reason being that I could not (confidentially) get on with Miss Arden, who is extremely difficult to work with. We parted, however, as friends, by mutual understanding and with a very satisfactory financial arrangement for myself.

Reasons for wanting a Government job: I have always been interested in international politics, military matters. I believe my nature, training and experience lay more in that direction, than in purely commercial activities.

I have a good command of languages, and decidedly a facility for them. Besides Russian, I believe I may claim to speak and write English and French perfectly; German - nearly perfectly (English and French were learnt in childhood). Besides these, I can make myself understood in Spanish, Serbian, Italian; know Bavarian dialect.

Having become an American Citizen, I consider that I could be of considerable usefulness in some branch, as I have more than an average knowledge of European conditions and life. Unlike many immigrants, I have no intention of returning to live in Europe after the War: I would with considerable interest go there on visits or service, but as an American citizen, as

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* America is now my country and I intend to remain American.

I believe that I could be of service to our Country, in a suitable job.

I am, of course, particularly interested in Russia and Russian-American relations. As already stated, my attitude always has been that the future of Russia will be decided by internal evolution. I have also always been convinced of the importance of Russian-American relations, that must necessarily play a leading role in the post-war period.

My attitude towards the Soviets, ever since the Russo-German war broke out, has been one of deep sympathy with the heroic efforts of the Russian Army and People. I am completely opposed to the pro-German (or rather anti*Soviet) train of thought of many White Russian emigrants, who in their hatred for Bolshevism would prefer to see Germany win in Russia, childishly closing their eyes to the fatal results this would bring to the United Nations Cause.

However, I have also strenuously avoided such emigre circles as the Russian War Relief and the "Victory Club". I cannot, but think that these organizations are not "the real thing" for me.

But as an American Citizen, I would gladly work in some Government office, where I would be of help in the relations between our Country and the USSR, from an American point of view. In such office, I would not refuse to work in contact with representatives of the Soviet Government, or even to go to Russia on a mission if necessary. Indeed, this would deeply interest me.

I fully realize that much depends on whether the Soviet authorities would consent to accept me. I have had no contact with Soviet officials anywhere, either in this country or abroad; of course, their attitude towards me is quite open to question.

However, if my interpretation of the workings of the Soviet mind is correct, it may be that they would consider me acceptable; I have noticed that they are playing up very strongly to historical Russian names.

Whether I interpret their attitude towards emigres with historical names correctly remains to be seen: but

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I think they would have less against me, than against, say, a socialist of the Kerensky type.

Further detailed information can be supplied on any particular point of this very sketchy outline.

Documents of Identity that can be produced:

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- 1/ Naturalization Certificate.
- 2/ Photostatic copy of Birth Certificate (original filed with Immigration Authorities).
- 3/ Several former European passports.
- 4/ Certified copy of father's service record (in Russian)
- 5/ Photostat copies of Yugoslav Divorce Certificate and Marriage Certificate (original filed with Immigration authorities)
- 6/ Photostatic copy of American Marriage Certificate (as above).
- 7/ Original copies of parent's death certificates.
- 8/ Various French and Yugoslav Press Cards.

References:

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On Russian antecedents, family background etc.

- 1/ Serge Obolensky, at present Major U.S. Army overseas.
- 2/ Mrs. Julia Cantacuzene Grant, Columbus Road, Washington, D.C. (relative of family).
- 3/ Mr. Norman Armour, U.S. Ambassador to Argentine (knew family well in Russia, wife is childhood friend).
- 4/ Mr. Jukowsky Volinsky, Senior Partner, American International Underwriters Corp., 110 John Street, New York, N.Y.

General:

- 5/ Lieut.-Commander George H. Earl, former Governor of Pennsylvania, at present O.N.I., Istanbul.
- 6/ Mr. Henry Ruhl, Patent Attorney, 274 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. Tel. ASland 4-4728
- 7/ Mr. Andre Visson, 2715 36th Place, Washington, D.C.
- 8/ Mr. Leon Grinberg, "A la Vieille Russie, Inc", 785 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y.
- 9/ Miss Elizabeth Arden (Mrs. Elizabeth M. Graham), 834 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y., Tel REgent 4-4047.
- 10/ Mr. Harry Carstens, Chief Accountant, "Elizabeth Arden Sales Corporation", 681 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y.

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