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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2006

TO: []

FROM: ALEKS.

DATE of REPORTING: 29 Oct 1963.

SUBJECT: SECURITY, a safe found open.

Note: This report is being written upon Eli's order, in addition to my oral report made on 25 October.

On Friday, 25 October, I was five to ten minutes late in arrival to the office. Joe and Anatol were present when I arrived. I had a copy of the "Washington Post" with me, and I gave it to Anatol, for a quick look. We two also talked for a few minutes about the news while Joe was washing his cup in the restroom. During our talking arrived other co-workers, including Jerry.

Then I went to my room, to start working. When starting to open the safe and making the normal first turn of the knob before starting the combination, I noticed that the knob was locked. I immediately got the idea whether this was an occasional lockage which sometimes happen, or was the knob locked on the combination. So, without releasing the knob from this locking position, I turned it back and the safe opened, this means, it was not closed at all.

I remembered that Anatol was in the office the night before when Margaret was making the routine check of the office. So I called Anatol quietly over to my room and explained to him the situation: I and Margaret had signed for closing and checking the safe the night before, and now I found it open. I asked Anatol, who was the first to arrive in the office this morning? He said that Jerry was the first. This means, that Jerry did not arrive when I was talking with Anatol, he was reentering the room after probably having had a breakfast in the cafeteria, like he often does after the arrival in the office.

Anatol said that he was present when Margaret checked the safes the evening before. He even rechecked some of the safes, however, not this in Margaret's and mine common room.

I told Anatol, that I could not swear that I turned the knob after I closed the safe on Thursday evening, I simply did not remember this motion which is quite automatic part of the closing procedure. We agreed not to report the case before Margaret would arrive and we could have asked her about her memory of her actions of checking the safe. (Margaret came later because of an appointment with her dentist, as I understood.)

A quiet look into the contents of the safe did not discover any traces on unauthorised entry into it or of missing papers or effects.

After Margaret arrived, Anatol explained the situation to her, taking her quietly out for a cup of coffee. Later I discussed the case with Margaret. She, also, said not to be fully positive whether she turned the knob when checking the safe.

Thereupon Margaret and I decided to report the case. I suggested that we report it to Christa as Eli's representative in his absence, because I thought that nothing seemed to be missing and it was still possible that we two were not carefull enough when closing or checking the safe. In this case no harm

How last time: 11/20/63 result: if Eli would not be disturbed any more at this late time on

Friday

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Friday and after Eli had told Christa that he will not come to the office at this day. While Margaret did not like the idea of reporting the case to Christa, so we agreed that Margaret call Eli and ask for an appointment this same day. This Margaret did, so she told me. We were worrying because Eli had said that he would not come. We were very much relieved when a little later Eli called back and said that he, against his earlier plans, will come over soon.

This resulted in Margaret's report to Eli and the subsequent reports by me and by Anatol.

The time of opening of the safe, inserted by me on Friday, is not the exact time when I discovered the case. I wrote this time simply to conceal the case from the co-workers. Practically I did not open the safe this morning - I found it open.

Trying to reconstruct my actions when closing the safe on Thursday night, I still must say that I can not swear having released the knob and turned it around as I should have done. However, I feel that I did it, that I did it automatically, without registering it in my mind, because it is the main motion of closing the safe which I have been doing for more than ten years. I was not in hurry. I closed the safe, went then to the restroom to wash my coffee cup, and when returning, I had still time to have one more look around our room, whereby I noticed that one of the windows was still a little ajar and I closed it. Then I asked in general terms for advice whether to take my plastic raincoat with me or to leave it in the office. I decided to take it with me, and I left, Margaret and Anatoly still remaining there, finishing the checking of the room. On my way out I went once more to the restroom. There I got another thought about the raincoat and I went back to the office, to leave it there. Margaret and Anatol were just leaving the office. I hurried in, threw my raincoat in the typewriter's compartment of my desk, and rushed out again, to join Margaret and Anatol. I think, I even explained to them why I left the raincoat behind: I was going to have a meeting with a friend, and I could easily forget later the coat at my friend's place where-to we were aiming for the supper and a talk.

I met my friend at 1715 h on the corner of Penna and 18th Street, and I remained with him up to one o'clock A.M. (approximately), when he gave me a lift home.

I was late in the office on Friday morning because of this prolonged stay at my friend. Because of this I had to prepare my things for a trip to New York in the morning before going to work, and I missed my regular bus to the office.

I planned to leave the office on Friday after but a few hours of work, taking compensatory time off. Because of this case with the safe I postponed my departure until I had made my report to Eli, and Eli repeated the comment about my taking time off on Monday, 28th Oct.

A. C. W.