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18 January 1971

James Goodrich MCCARGAR

C-36381

1. Following is a summary of information from the files of Subject which may be of use to you in your forthcoming interview with Subject in February 1971:

a. Mr. McCARGAR was born 20 April 1920 in San Francisco, California. He received his A.B. from Stanford University in 1941. He was employed by the Department of State as of 7 January 1942 and served in Vladivostok, Moscow and Ciudad Trujillo during the War until September 1944. He was on furlough from the Department of State for military service until February 1946. Postwar posts included Budapest, Genoa, Paris and Washington during the period 1946-1950. He resigned from the Department of State sometime in 1952.

b. Mr. McCARGAR was detailed by the Department of State to the Agency for six months on 10 December 1948. He worked in the Office of Policy Coordination (OPC) on Eastern European Exiles Matters. Eventually, his duty was extended to eighteen months until 29 May 1950 at which time he returned to the Foreign Service. Part of his Agency duty was performed in Paris where he collected operational information for OPC concerning the various national committees under the auspices of the National Committee for Free Europe.

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c. In 1955, Mr. McCARGAR was granted a Covert Security Clearance and was hired by the Agency on a contract basis as a Special Political Analyst in the Division of Exile Relations, Free Europe Committee, and was posted to Paris where he remained until his termination on 29 July 1958.

d. Subject wrote a book in 1963 critical of this Agency titled A Short Course in the Secret War under the pen name of Christopher FELIX. The Agency declined to assist Mr. McCARGAR in August 1965 in the writing of an authoritative study of the Hungarian Revolution which was to have been published in 1966.

2. Mr. McCARGAR made a bid for financial help through a former CA Staff contract agent of the Agency as late as September 1969. The former agent stated that McCARGAR had told him that he was in extremely bad financial straits and that he was literally starving. Mr. McCARGAR was apparently writing a new book (Subject matter unknown) and was in dire need of financial assistance until the book was published. Mr. McCARGAR said that a sum in the neighborhood of \$7,500 would see him through. He appealed to the former agent to intercede with the Agency on his behalf. The files do not reflect if any action was taken.

3. While in Washington during his forthcoming visit Mr. McCARGAR will be staying with [redacted], C/SOD.

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