

POOR QUALITY DOCUMENT
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SECRET
Office Memorandum • SENSITIVE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Chief, Contact Division
FOR : Support Branch ([])
DATE : 10 Feb 60
FROM : []
BY : [] Resident Agent ;
REF : [] telememo of 2 February, this case.
SUBJECT: Case 30973
REF : []

1. Your decision to close this case on the grounds that SR Division has no further interest in it astonishes us in view of the fact that it still constitutes unfinished business as far as OC/C is concerned. We can only attribute the closure to our inability to explain the situation, which we will now try to do once again.

2. According to Headquarters memo of 6 January, the Marlaks signed a statement saying they "have nothing against the U.S. Government or any other person" in regard to their trip. They added that they "feel that transportation expenses should be reimbursed," which would certainly indicate that their opinion about who owes them money remains what it was in the very beginning.

3. According to Headquarters memo of 2 February, Cousin Connie signed a statement assuming "full responsibility" about the trip. At the same time we hear of this, we are told we must not inform the Marlaks that we know Connie has assumed the responsibility. In the light of what Connie has both told and written the Marlaks about who DID promote the trip, you can bet your boots that he isn't going to tell them otherwise now, at least not voluntarily. That being the case, the Marlaks have no reason to think anything different from what they have thought right along, and we are no better off than before.

4. Now, whether or not the CIA or Connie coughs up \$1,000 to the Marlaks is a problem that does not concern this office. What very much does concern this office is the situation we will face if and when the Marlaks get so fed up paying interest on money they borrowed in good faith to take their trip that they start talking about being cheated and name the alleged crook. These are nice people, and we don't for a moment believe they would knowingly hurt the United States. They are, however, human, they are in financial trouble, they feel hurt, and something is very apt indeed to come out about it sooner or later.

5. Do not mistake our attitude about this matter. We are not in the least blaming SR Division for the plight of the Marlaks in view of Connie having taken full responsibility. What we are insisting on is that the Marlaks be somehow convinced that Connie WAS operating on his own, and that HE owes them the money. If we can't tell them, and if for the same reasons Connie

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can't (or won't for some other reason of his own), we continue in just as serious jeopardy as though we were responsible, and that can make trouble for the whole Agency, not just SR Division.

6. We hope this recapitulation will suffice to dig the case up from the closed files, because there is a fuse smoldering in it that better be dealt with before that fire marshal in 231 Admin gets a whiff of it.

C [] d:nc

FILE: The Mark s