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MEMORANDUM FOR C/INS

23 April 1980

FROM: []

SUBJECT: Operational Possibility Seen in Processing of FOIA Request
by Sven Stromberg (F 78-1113)

1. As you are aware, I have watched for opportunities to make some operational "mileage" out of my direct contact with FOIA and Privacy Act requesters. This memorandum briefly describes one nascent possibility.

2. Sven Stromberg is a journalist, presumably of Swedish nationality, who seems normally to reside in Sweden. In this country, he can be reached through the Swedish Broadcasting Corporation's office in the National Press Building, Washington, D.C. A STAR check of 18 April 1980 produced no immediately identifiable information. His name is not listed in the Journalist Biographies Master Index (1979). There is a record of contacts with the PA office in September 1974 and March 1975. Dale Petersen of PA told me in April 1980 that there is nothing unfavorable known to him about Stromberg.

3. My subsequent telephone conversation of 23 April 1980 for FOIA purposes is described in the attached memorandum for the record. Not included there are these points:

- a. Stromberg seemed most responsive to the FOIA initiative;
- b. He welcomed the possibility of person-to-person contact, knowing that I am an employee of the DO;
- c. He came across as a singularly non-reticent Scandinavian (with excellent English);
- d. He has contact with the U.S. Embassy's press section/Stockholm.

4. My impression is that assessment of Stromberg for intelligence purposes can be done under the "cover" of responding to the information interests that he has. If I can show him that he can at least derive something of benefit, at the small price of formally withdrawing or otherwise disposing of his FOIA request, I think that he will buy that arrangement.

5. Therefore, what I propose is to discuss with him, after the requisite approval for contact for assessment has been obtained, the information included in Attachment B. I think that it would be preferable to let him make notes from the information rather than giving him a copy. As will be evident to you, much of this information is really of negligible substantive value.

6. The advantages to the Agency that I see in this procedure are the following:

- a. We get an assessment of an apparently unknown (to the DO) foreign journalist;
- b. We stand to dispose of an FOIA request the complete processing of which would lead only to a waste of resources and the disclosure of nothing of substance;
- c. We open up a potential for subsequent "friend of Bob" contact possibly in Sweden (He reacted in a most friendly manner to

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2008

23 April 1980

SUBJECT: FOIA BACKLOG REDUCTION: Sven Stromberg Request (F 78-1113)

1. Having ascertained by checks in IPD, FPLG and PA that there was no reason to preclude contact with requester Sven Stromberg, I left a message in mid-April with the Washington, D.C. office of the Swedish Broadcasting Corporation. On 23 April, Stromberg, who was in Washington for a few days, contacted me by telephone at 351-4863. I made the customary preliminary explanation of the reason for my telephone call.

2. Mr. Stromberg reacted in an apparently friendly manner to the initiative and to my explanation that, following my review of all of the documents in the file, it seemed to me that the best available summaries, including such information as to the whereabouts of Raoul Wallenberg that the United States Government had, consisted of Department of State material. I noted that those documents would have to be referred to the Department of State, if the customary procedures are followed.

3. I explained that CIA's own documents would, in my opinion, be so emasculated by the time that processing is completed that they will be utterly meaningless. In this context, I confirmed that what Mr. Stromberg is after is information as to the current or last-known whereabouts of Wallenberg. He said that he had simply hoped that CIA might have more valuable information than that which he had thus far located in various other repositories, including the National Archives, in this country. (To judge from the comments which he made, requester Stromberg is probably much more conversant with the extant, open literature and archival holdings than is anyone in this Directorate.) I said that I was convinced that our holdings, if processed in the customary FOIA manner, would be without value to any serious researcher.

4. I then explored the outline of an idea which I said that I would have to submit for approval to my superiors. If the reaction is favorable, I would leave word at the Swedish Broadcasting Corporation that I wanted to meet with him. As part of the idea, Mr. Stromberg would withdraw his FOIA request or inform the Agency that his needs had been met to his satisfaction.

5. Consequently, I recommend that the Stromberg request be kept in an "open for negotiation" status pending completion of whatever arrangements the Directorate of Operations can make.

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ATT. A

PERSONS ALLEGED TO HAVE HAD INFORMATION ON THE WHEREABOUTS OF

RAUL WALLENBERG

<u>Name</u>		<u>Date of Report</u>
1) BALCAR, Jaremir	b. 7 May 1920, Prague	! 1963-64
2) BRUGGER, Emil	author of "Ein Schweizer erlebt die Sovjetunion", Veritas-Verlag, Solothurn, Switzerland, 1960, 40 pages	1960
3) COEN, A.K.	possibly b. 18 Sep 1910, Warsaw	! 1951
4) DE MOHR, Dr. Caludio	article in Vecko-Journalen December, 1951	1951
5) ENGELMANN, Stefan	b. 8 Feb 1899, Potaí, Hungary; worked with RM in Hungary	1960
6) ERIKSSON, Ossian	b. 17 Aug 1916, Hofors, Sweden; informed RM's mother in 1947	1947
7) GEISER, Kalman	Hungarian resident of Sweden	? 1954
8) KASSAI, Geza	University professor in Budapest who received from his son (later deceased), Soviet 1st Lt. Vladimir OLDNER, manuscripts of the latter's World War II experiences which included accompanying RM to Gen. Voroshilov's headquarters in Debrecen.	1956
9) KINDENMANN, Dr. Karl	of Wolfach/Schwarzwald, Switzerland	! 1953
10) KREBBE, (male)	Chief of Jewish Section, German Legation, Budapest, 1944-45	1944-45
11) LANBLET, Waldemar	Chief of Swedish Red Cross delegation to Budapest	1945
12) LEVAI, Jonö	author of "Raoul Wallenberg hjälten i Budapest," Saxon & Lindström, Stockholm, 1948	1945
13) LORENTZON (?)	Dagens Nyheter correspondent who searched in Germany and Austria for information from Soviet camp returnees	1965
14) MAASBURG, Nikolaus	possibly Baron von Maasburg, who may have been in prison with RM	1951

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Att. B

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|---------------------------------------|---|--------------|
| 15) PHILIPP, Rudolph | articles for Yocco-Journalen, issues #29 and #30 of 1966, and for Verbaerts of Bonn, 26 June 1963 | 1966
1963 |
| 16) SHIFRIN, Avrahan | witness before U.S. Senate Internal Subcommittee, 1 February 1973 | 1968-1961 |
| 17) SOLZHENITSYN, Alexander | "Gulag," Russian language edition, pp. 546-548 where refers to "Eric Arvid Andersen." | |
| 18) VAS, George | b. 13 Nov. 1911, probably in Rumania | 1961 |
| 19) MALLERSTEIN, Ernst G. | Late returnee from the USSR who had served in German Embassy, Bucharest, in World War II. Allegedly claimed that he saw RM in Vorkuta, USSR camp in 1955 or 1966. | 1967 |
| 20) von METSCHL, Rudolf | prisoner at Butyrskaya, Moscow who claimed in 1945 to have been transported to the USSR with RM in 1945 | 1966 |
| 21) Degens Nyheter
14 October 1966 | citing Boris Bjerkelund as source reported that Mallenberg died on 19 or 20 August 1966 near Piama, Siberia, USSR | 1966 |

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SOURCE DOCUMENT ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ IDENTIFICATIONS

- 1) OSSM-2195
- 2) overt CD-691
- 3) WSSA-2727
- 4) WSSA-3399
- 5) WSSA-1889
- 6) XARZ-26032
- 7) OSSM-2325
- 8) OSSM-4155, ERFA 10494
- 9) (In 30788)
- 10) OSS/684284
- 11) OSS/684284
- 12) WSSA-3223
- 13) OSSA-4371
- 14) EAVW -8415
- 15) overt
- 16) overt congressional committee print
- 17) overt
- 18) WSSA-2542
- 19) ESM-26009, ERFA-15817
- 20) ERFA-6975

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ADDITIONAL POINTS TO BE MADE ORALLY

- There is no evidence that the USG ever had significant, confirmed information on the whereabouts of Raoul Wallenberg after he was taken into custody by the Soviets in 1945;
- Any item of information, however tenuous, that was obtained by CIA was made available by the USG to Swedish authorities;
- An increase in alleged sightings of Wallenberg occurred in the mid-1950's with the return of former prisoners in the Soviet Union to western Europe.
Many of these sightings appear now to have been of doubtful validity but they seem to have been dutifully recorded.
- The three volume report of the War Refugee Board on activities in Sweden, which may still be classified, should have substantial background on Wallenberg's work.
- The Strategic Services Unit informed the Department of State in writing in 21 December 1955 in response to an inquiry by the Department of State that a thorough review of files and consultation with knowledgeable persons had "resulted in the firm conclusion that Wallenberg was ... never employed by U.S. intelligence in any capacity."
- Potentially knowledgeable Soviet defectors were queried about Wallenberg but with negative results.
- Department of State reporting, which does include the Swedish "white paper" of 1965, really adds nothing substantive about Wallenberg's whereabouts.

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