DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

17 July 1984

Alleged KKK Death Threats to Third World Olympic Athletes: A Soviet Active Measure

Summary

We believe the Soviets are involved in producing and disseminating forgeries of Ku Klux Klan letters threatening the lives of Olympic athletes from numerous Third World countries.

The National Olympic Committees of eleven Asian and African countries have recently received letters threatening the lives of their Olympic athletes. The letters, allegedly sent from the United States by the Ku Klux Klan, are extremely racist and violent in tone. They describe lynchings and shootings which would take place if Asian athletes or black athletes from Africa attend the games in Los Angeles. The countries which have received the letters are

This memorandum was prepared by the Office of Soviet Analysis. It was written by the Policy Analysis Division. Comments and queries may be addressed to Chief, Policy Analysis Division,

SOVA M 84-10116
Copy No. 

25X1
Malaysia, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe, Senegal, Cameroon, Zambia, China, Singapore, Japan, and Hong Kong.  

We believe the letters are forgeries produced and disseminated by the Soviet Union or Soviet agents in order to bolster Moscow's claim that athletes' security cannot be guaranteed at the Olympics, to reduce Third World participation at the L.A. Games, and to discredit the United States. This conclusion is supported by the following facts:

- The letters do not appear to have been written by a native English speaker. They contain errors in grammar and syntax that a native speaker would not commit.

- The letters spell "Ku Klux Klan" with a hyphen between the first two words, a construction not used in English. Moreover, according to the State Department, material published by Klan groups usually contains the full name of the organization and not simply "Ku Klux Klan" alone.

- The multiple surfacing of the letters is typical of a large Soviet active measures effort. In a similar mailing operation of late June, the Soviets are believed to be involved in circulating a 1976 CIA document to newspapers in Austria, Denmark, Sweden, and Great Britain.

- The mailing of the letters appears to have been timed to coincide with Secretary of State George Shultz's appearance in Malaysia this week. The sender could count on extensive coverage by the international press corps accompanying the Secretary--coverage which the Soviet Union would certainly desire.

- The story of the letters was very quickly picked up by Soviet media. The typical Soviet active measures modus operandi is to disseminate disinformation abroad and subsequently replay it in the Soviet press. According to Soviet calculations, this replaying enhances the credibility of both the original disinformation and any later versions.

- The letters were mailed to the correct addresses of National Olympic Committees, which included post office box numbers in some cases. The Klan would probably experience some difficulty in obtaining such information.
• The FBI has no information that the Klan is involved in the mailings.

• According to the FBI, the Klan has never targeted Asians and has never addressed the issue of Third World participation in the Los Angeles Olympics.

• None of the pro-Soviet African or Asian nations boycotting the Olympics—North Korea, Ethiopia, Angola, Vietnam, Laos—has received a threatening letter. The Soviets probably excluded these states as a result of receiving their firm commitment to boycott the Games.
Distribution: Alleged KKK Death Threats to Third World Olympic
Athletes: A Soviet Active Measure

Copy #:
1 - DCI  7 D 60 HO
2 - DDCI  7 D 60 HO
3 - ED/DDCI  7 D 6015 HO
4 - Exec Registry  7 E 12 HO
5 - DDI  7 E 44 HO
6 - DDI Registry  7 E 47 HO
7-11 - OCPAS/IDCD/CB  7 G 07 HO
12 - Vice Chairman/NIC  7 E 62 HO
13 - NIO/USSR  7 E 62 HO
14 - NIO/Deception  7 E 47 HO
15 - D/ALA  3 F 45 HO
16 - D/OEA  4 F 18 HO
17 - Chief DDO/SE  4 D 0119 HO
18 -
19 - D/SOVA
20 - DD/SOVA
21 - Chief, SOVA/TWA
22 - Chief, SOVA/DI
23 - Chief, SOVA/EA
24 - Chief, SOVA/SE
25 - Chief, SOVA/SF
26 - Chief, SOVA/TF
27 - Chief, SOVA/PA
28 - Chief, PA/D
29 - Chief, PA/F
30 - Chief, PA/S

SOVA/PA/S  17JUL84
Distribution: Alleged KKK Death Threats to third World Olympic Athletes: A Soviet Active Measure

1 - Mr. Jeremy Azrael
Policy Planning Member, S/P
Office of Director of Political and
Military Affairs
Department of State
Room 7317 NS

1 - Mr. Robert Baraz
Director, Office of Analysis for the Soviet Union
and Eastern Europe, INR/SEE
Department of State
Room 4758

1 - Mr. Richard Combs
Director, Office of East European Affairs
Bureau of European Affairs
Department of State
Room 4217 NS

1 - Mr. John Danylyk
Chief, INR/EC/USSR
Department of State
Room 8662 NS

1 - Mr. Robert Dean
Deputy Director, Bureau of Political and
Military Affairs
Department of State
Room 7428

1 - Mr. Darryl N. Johnson
Special Assistant, Office of Under Secretary for Political Affairs
Department of State
Room 7240

1 - Mr. Philip Kaplan
Chief of Staff of Policy Planning
Department of State
Room 7316

1 - Mr. Hugh Montgomery
Director/INR
Department of State
Room 6531 NS

1 - Mr. Mark Palmer
Deputy Assistant Secretary for European Affairs
Department of State
Room 6219 NS
1 - Mr. Thomas W. Simons, Jr.
   Director, Office of Soviet Union Affairs
   Bureau of European Affairs
   Department of State
   Room 4217 NS

1 - Mr. Raymond Firehock
   Chief, Intelligence Division
   Arms Control and Disarmament Agency
   Room 6510A, NS Annex

1 - General Richard G. Stilwell, USA (Ret.)
   Deputy Under Secretary for Policy
   Department of Defense
   Room 2-E-812, The Pentagon

1 - Dr. Wynfred Joshua
   DIO European and Soviet Political Affairs
   Defense Intelligence Agency
   Room 2C238, Pentagon

1 - Major General William Odom
   HODA (DAMI-ZA)
   Department of the Army
   Room 2E464, Pentagon

1 - Mr. Byron Jackson
   Director, Office of Intelligence Liaison
   Department of Commerce
   Room 6854, Main Commerce

1 - Ms. Paula J. Dobriansky
   Staff Member NSC
   Room 368 EOB

1 - Mr. John Lenczowski
   Staff Member, NSC
   Room 368, EOB

1 - Mr. William Knepper
   Deputy Assistant Secretary for Intelligence Coordination
   INR/INC
   Department of State

1 - John Ordway
   EUR/SOV/BI
   4219 Department of State

1 - Sheldon Rapaport
   INR/IC/CD
   Department of State