

28 September 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD:

SUBJECT: Contact and Debriefing of Henry Lee COBB on his Meeting with [redacted] in the USSR

JOE BULIK

1. From 1100 to 1500 hours, Sunday, 11 September 1960, [redacted] and the undersigned met with Henry Lee COBB at the SR/9 safehouse for the purpose of debriefing COBB on his contact with [redacted] while in the USSR.

2. COBB stated that he and his friend, COX, left Kiev on Monday evening, 8 August, and arrived in Moscow the morning of 9 August 1960. On Saturday night, 13 August, COBB and COX, who were staying at the BALCHUG Hotel, went to a nearby movie and then walked from the theater to the MOSCOW Restaurant. After eating at the restaurant, the two friends walked through Red Square toward MOSKVORETSKIY MOST. As they were walking on the bridge, and in the dark of the evening, a man [redacted] approached COBB and COX and stated in Russian, "I was on the train with you three or four nights ago from Kiev. You were in a student group in the same car that I was in. There was an agent assigned to watch you. I did not approach you at that time because of the presence of the agent." Continuing along the bridge, accompanied by [redacted] COBB and COX listened intently as he further stated, "At one time I worked in Turkey with the Soviet Embassy. I had a very good friend in the American Embassy, and I have wondered many times what has become of him." COBB characterized [redacted] as being extremely cautious and guarded in his speech and actions. The three walked around the BALCHUG Hotel area and along the Moscow River. When Soviet citizens passed by or approached the group, [redacted] would initiate conversation on innocuous subjects. As they were walking along the Moscow River embankment, [redacted] stated, "I have tried to get in touch with other Americans but so few of them speak Russian. I recognize you as intelligent Americans. I have some information which I wish to give directly to the American Embassy. As a result of this information and our future cooperation, I hope some day to come to the West. I have been carrying this letter with me for about a month. It is only for Mr. FREERS or the Military Attache. Do not open it and don't keep it over-night in your hotel. Go immediately to the American Embassy with this letter. Your Government will be grateful for this information and I may be able to come to the West. I will not give you my name."

APPROVED FOR RELEASE

31 MAR 1992

[REDACTED]

3. With regard to the U-2, [REDACTED] stated that it was not shot down at the high altitude that the Soviets claimed. According to COBB, he further said, "Our Air Force was desperate to get the U-2. They tracked it all the way from the frontier, and there were many attempts to bring the U-2 down. We used ground-to-air and air-to-air missiles; even MIG planes were sent out to intercept the U-2. Finally the plane was shot down at a low altitude. In the process we destroyed one of our own MIG planes with ground-to-air missiles. ^{killing the pilot.} The man urged COX to take this information to the Embassy by word-of-mouth.

4. [REDACTED] also stated that the RB-47 was not over Soviet territory when shot down. He stated that the RB-47 was definitely over international waters when attacked and crippled. The RB-47 then drifted to "land" and crashed. The walk and conversation with [REDACTED] lasted from approximately 2300 until 0030. The group broke up two or three blocks from the BALCHUG Hotel and COBB asked COX to take the letter immediately to the Embassy because he did not want to be connected with the incident. According to COX there was but one letter in a plain white envelope. COBB did not then know and does not know now the contents of the letter.

1.3(a)(4)

5. COBB then returned to the BALCHUG Hotel and was asleep when COX returned from the Embassy. COBB believes that COX told him he gave the information and letter to the Military Attache.

6. In describing [REDACTED] COBB was very uncertain as to his precise physical appearance and felt that he would not be able to identify him if he saw his picture. COBB described the unknown man as being reasonably well dressed, approximately 5' 9", and depicted him as quite nervous. COBB thought that [REDACTED] said that he was at one time a Communist (or believer), but not now.

7. Even though COBB was most doubtful as to whether he would be able to identify [REDACTED], ^{COX BILIK} [REDACTED] exhibited a series of Soviet personalities and asked COBB if any of these people were identical with Subject. COBB quickly leafed through the fifteen or so pictures with no apparent success. He then began to study each personality. Upon seeing the 1955 photo of [REDACTED], he stated immediately that this was the man who had approached them. He was able to make a positive identification.

8. COBB stated that COX had occasion to visit the Embassy on three separate occasions. The first time COX went to have a document notarized. The second time he reported the [REDACTED] incident in Leningrad. The third time was early Sunday morning, 14 August, in order to deposit [REDACTED]'s letter at the Embassy as requested.

(7)

[REDACTED]

9. After this incident in Moscow neither COBB nor COX saw [REDACTED] again nor were they subjected to any unusual provocations or incidents.

1.3(a)(4)

JCK
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

.Distribution:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]