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25 July 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD:

SUBJECT: Conversations with Mr. Helms by CSR, SR/COP and ACSR/9

1. At noon on 25 July [redacted] were discussed with Mr. Helms. In the ensuing conversation it was pointed out that [redacted] could not be considered for the proposed action task because of his unreliable performance to date and the fact that his judgment and actions appear to be seriously affected by a fear complex. Accordingly it was recommended that [redacted] be utilized for the proposed action task because of his past training, motivation, awareness of surveillance and sound judgment. It was further pointed out that contrary to Mr. Harry's Houston's assumption that [redacted] was under heavy surveillance because he occupied a blown slot, that in fact [redacted] has been reporting very spotty surveillance on only rare occasions. The use of the Doctor for the proposed action task was given secondary preference to the use of [redacted] because the Doctor experiences more surveillance activity, would require extensive training and briefing, might be out of the city on official travel requirements at a crucial moment, and, if utilized, the proposal would require coordination with the Department of Air Force and the Senior Air Attache at the Post.

1.3(a)(4)

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2. Against this background Mr. Helms directed Mr. Maury to see the appropriate Department of State personnel and show them [redacted] and present reasons for our preference for utilizing [redacted] services.

1.3(a)(4)

3. In connection with [redacted] Mr. Helms voiced his considerable displeasure over the fact that [redacted] had been over-sold to him and that henceforth no Agency personnel could be assigned to the Post until a very thorough psychological assessment of them had been made and personally reviewed by Mr. Helms. SR/COP pointed out that just such a program was currently in effect and ACSR/9 commented that wives were to participate in the same assessment program wherever so far possible. CSR asked how far Mr. Helms thought the Agency could go in

1.3(a)(4)

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[REDACTED]

this regard. Mr. Helms replied, "We could not force a wife to undergo psychological assessment." He would certainly want to know of any compelling reasons why this could not be done and would evaluate the entire assignment situation should this situation occur. He re-emphasized that every officer regardless of grade or position was to be required to pass a psychological assessment as one of the prerequisites of a Moscow assignment.

4. Mr. Helms directed that [REDACTED] be recalled from Moscow at the earliest practicable time and stated that he should be separated from the Agency.

1.3(a)(4)

[REDACTED]

ACSR/9

1.3(a)(4)

Addendum:

Mr. Helms' recommendation concerning [REDACTED] was subsequently discussed with SR/COP who stated that he had already discussed the matter with CSR and that he agreed that termination of [REDACTED] was indeed too harsh but that he did not feel the matter could be profitably discussed with Mr. Helms during the meeting and that appropriate recommendations and action would be taken subsequently to retain [REDACTED]

1.3(a)(4)

[REDACTED]