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10 May 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, SR Division
SUBJECT: Oleg V. Penkovskiy

1. This afternoon I handed you a draft plan designed not only to assure that word reaches many GRU and KGB ears that U.S. Intelligence is concerned about those who collaborate with us and who may be caught but also to grasp whatever slim opportunity there may be to save Penkovskiy's life.

2. On the first point, there is no doubt that many GRU and KGB officers realize that CIA was able to run a highly successful operation in a professional manner. Their respect for CIA must have gone up. They do not know what interest CIA has for the security and well-being of anyone who collaborates. If indeed word should be spread about that U.S. intelligence is trying to save Penkovskiy's life, this is bound to have a tremendous impact on many in the ranks. The need for other Oleg Penkovskiys, as the Director expressed to you, is greater now than ever. We must do all we can to achieve this.

3. On the second point, we all know of the tremendous contribution that Oleg Penkovskiy made to our Government and to our Agency. We were at one point prepared to give him an unusually large sum of money whenever it was feasible for him to defect. As a professional intelligence officer, he was well aware of the risks he was taking for himself and for us. I feel we owe him a tremendous debt. For us not to consider ways and means of saving his life is to me a reflection of low moral level. I do not suggest any reckless or ill-conceived means.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
31 MAR 1992

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4. As you know, last November 1962, I proposed this plan in written form to C/CI who turned it down with a reason I could not then, and cannot now understand or accept. I am addressing you formally on this point with the view of obtaining a formal reply which would include, should the proposal or any variation of it be turned down, the reason or reasons for the turndown.

Joseph J. Bulik

JOSEPH J. BULIK
Chief, SR Special Operations Branch

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