

8 JUNE 1954

HGG-A-1150

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

RYBAT/PBSUCCESS/SECRET

2003

Chief, Lincoln

Chief of Station, Guatemala

Info: Washington

Graham L. PAGE Dispatch Submitted Under Cover of HGG-A-1217

1. It came as a considerable shock to me to learn upon reading PAGE's dispatch referred to above that he mentioned Cyrus E. BURNETTE's name to SWALLOW without clearing with this station whether or not it was desired that BURNETTE enter contact with SWALLOW.
2. I consider this a clear and definite violation of the agreement made during the meeting held by PAGE, NUTTING and BANNISTER during NUTTING's visit to Guatemala. In the aforementioned meeting it was agreed the Station Guatemala would be in no way responsible for the K-Program which would be PAGE's responsibility but, on the other hand, the station would backstop PAGE to the limit of its ability. This we have done. However, I am very alarmed by the fact that PAGE, without authorization of or consultation with this station, did the following:
 - a. Clearly indicated to SWALLOW that he has close contact with BURNETTE, who obviously must be engaged in similar work to that of PAGE or, to the contrary, would be in no position to discuss such matters;
 - b. Indicated that he has such close contact that he is able to utilize the diplomatic pouch and thus clearly indicated that he is closely associated with BURNETTE and this station, if not with the Embassy itself;
3. By these steps PAGE closely bound this station with his K-Program, concerning which it was agreed we had no responsibility beyond that of service support or backstopping. Moreover, I consider this a violation of station security, since he directly implicated the station in an operation over which we had no control and with which this station certainly did not wish to be identified at least to an unauthorized person.
4. By mention of BURNETTE's name and with the clear implication thereof given that BURNETTE is engaged in intelligence work, this station has willy nilly been placed in a position [This is another direct violation of fundamental instructions regulating KUBARK station procedure. True it is that the

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may exist a possibility that SWALLOW may not have understood BURNETTE's name. [

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5. Attached is BURNETTE's memorandum reply to my question as to whether or not he had authorized PAGE to mention him to SWALLOW or to bring him into a directive rather than a servicing role in the K-Program.

[]

Earle N. Bannister

Encl: as noted

8 June 1954

Distribution:

- 2 - Lincoln w/encl
- 2- Washington w/encl
- 1 - Files w/encl

~~SECRET~~

7 June 1954

Memorandum to: Earle H. Bannister

From : Cyrus E. Burnette

Subject : Swallow/Page Conversation on 6 June 1954

In compliance with your request, the undersigned is setting forth below his comments with regard to Graham L. Page's mention of writer's name to Swallow during Page's conversation with Swallow on Sunday, June 6, 1954.

On one or two occasions prior to Page's conversation with Swallow on that date, he had mentioned to writer it was his belief he, Page, was more or less wasting time in WSBURNT due to the recent raid on Semantic's home and the subsequent confiscation by WSBURNT authorities of incriminating papers. Page stated due to the resulting arrests and due to the flight from the country of Semantic it was his belief high ranking Army officers here would not consider defecting at the present time. For that reason he believed he was practically idle and was considering returning to PBPRIME but would return if and when it was deemed appropriate by PBSUCCESS officials in PBPRIME. Page stated he believed Swallow would prove to be a good source of information for our station here and asked if writer would or could take Swallow over if and when he, Page, left the country. Writer stated he personally saw advantages to be gained in retaining Swallow.

The next time Page brought up this question was at writer's home late in the afternoon of Sunday, 6 June 1954, immediately subsequent to Page's conversation with Swallow. Page stated he had mentioned writer's name to Swallow as a friend in the local ODYOKE Embassy. Esquire, who had acted as Page's interpreter during the conversation with Swallow, volunteered the statement that when he had mentioned writer's name to Swallow he was quite convinced Swallow did not understand the name and very probably would not recognize it again. For that reason both Page and Esquire suggested that writer call on Swallow as soon as possible and remind the latter of his conversation with Page, mentioning at the same time he, writer, is the friend mentioned by Page. Writer made no comment due to Esquire's presence. It was deemed wise to make as little comment regarding our operations in the presence of non-staff individuals as possible. Esquire was with Page on two occasions the following day as a result of which writer did not bring the subject up

At no time did writer give Page permission to mention his name to Swallow. Writer was of the impression Page planned to eventually submit his idea to Lincoln for approval before he actually made any mention of writer's name to Swallow. In the event Page gained the impression he was authorized to mention writer's name to Swallow it is because Page misunderstood writer's answer to the original question as to whether or not writer could take over Swallow if and when Page left. It is writer's understanding that such a decision should be decided by Lincoln.