

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : GPL

FROM : JB *9*

SUBJECT: CONEIN, Lucien E. - #5025

DATE: February 17, 1948

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE IN FULL 1998

The writer has discussed the attached case with Mr. Helms, Chief, FBM, on February 11, 1947.

Mr. Helms advised the writer that they had recently received notice that the Subject has divorced his French wife and that it should not raise a 10-2 question. The information concerning this divorce is attached to the file.

As for the discussion concerning Conein's duties in Germany, Helms elaborated on the subject of "handling burned-out German agents" and handling defection cases. It was pointed out to the writer that there is no security involved in disposing of burned out German agents since these agents have blown themselves and only question remaining is to dispose of them by removing to another portion of the American Zone or out of the country. As regards the defection cases, Helms stated that they would not present any security problem but more may be considered sensitive. As an example, Helms pointed to an individual who had recently defected to the Americans in Stockholm and had subsequently been brought to Berlin through this organization for complete debriefing. After the debriefing had been accomplished, it became necessary to arrange necessary visas and passports to move the subject from Berlin to South American. This latter job becomes Conein's. There is therefore no security problem involved, and the degree of sensitivity lessens as regards Conein and increases as regards the defected individual. Helms stated that Conein had proved himself a valuable asset in these two types of assignment. It was also agreed that Conein was not in the strict sense a mess and club officer and that he performed other functions for the mission. However, none of them involved handling classified material nor being aware of the actual operations of the mission.

In view of the writer's discussion with Mr. Helms concerning Conein together with the latest developments regarding the divorce, it is felt that we should proceed to a full investigation and determine security wise whether Conein should be continued in the organization employment. In this connection, it is believed we should request the Chief of the FBM to verify the circumstances surrounding Conein's recent divorce.

Helms has agreed and will dispatch an "eyes alone" request to the Chief of Mission FBM for an appraisal of Conein which he will forward to Security upon receipt.

This dispatched 2-16-48

