

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

KRONTHAL, James Speyer

FROM:

[Redacted]

EXTENSION

NO.

OS/PS/SI&SG/SAD/SIB

DATE

15 June 1989

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

		DATE		
		RECEIVED	FORWARDED	
1.	C/SIB	6/15/89		
2.	DC/SAD	6/20/89		
3.	C/SAD	6/15		
4.				
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15.	Warning Notice Intelligence Sources or Methods Involved			

(b)(3)

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SUBJECT: KRONTHAL, James Speyer

[REDACTED]

(b)(3)

S E C R E T

14 June 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Special Activities Division (b)(3)

FROM: [REDACTED]

Special Investigations Branch (b)(3)  
Special Activities DivisionSUBJECT: KRONTHAL, James Speyer [REDACTED] (b)(3)  
[REDACTED]

1. On 13 June 1989, the undersigned and [REDACTED] SAD/LIB interviewed [REDACTED] [REDACTED] who was one of the first two Agency employees to discover Subject after his suicide. Attached are verbatim excerpts of the interview. This memo will briefly review the interview, noting the several discrepancies between Widows and the facts as [REDACTED] recalls them. (b)(3)  
(b)(3)  
(b)(3)

2. On 31 March 1953 Gould Cassal [REDACTED] was telephoned by [REDACTED] noted that Subject had not arrived for work and was late for a meeting. She was worried about Subject, as he had bouts with depression. Cassal telephoned [REDACTED] and asked him to drive, as Cassal's car was being serviced. [REDACTED] had recently been reassigned to the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] from the Office of Training, where Cassal and [REDACTED] worked. (b)(3)  
(b)(3)  
(b)(3)

3. [REDACTED] and Cassal arrived at Subject's Georgetown home and were met by the housekeeper. They were showed the note Subject had left, asking not to be disturbed. The housekeeper made coffee and both [REDACTED] and Cassal had a cup while waiting to see if Subject would wake up. As Subject had not awoke, [REDACTED] went to his bedroom to attempt to wake him. (b)(3)  
(b)(3)  
(b)(3)

4. As [REDACTED] opened the door, he saw Subject in his bed, in his bed clothes. As [REDACTED] approached, he noticed Subject had laid a linen towel lengthwise across his chest and folded his hands over it. Subject appeared waxy, with some sweat on his forehead, and relaxed facial features. [REDACTED] said; "he was obviously dead." [REDACTED] also noted a small tube, with military markings, on the bedside table and a note, propped up, facing outward, addressed to Richard Helms (then Chief, Operations/DD/P). [REDACTED] left the room without touching anything. He informed Cassal of the apparent suicide, noting Subject had used the OSS suicide capsule, the "L-pill." (b)(3)  
(b)(3)  
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(b)(3)

WARNING NOTICE  
INTELLIGENCE SOURCES  
OR METHODS INVOLVED

[REDACTED] (b)(3)

S E C R E T

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(b)(3)

5. Cassal telephoned Richard Helms and handed the phone to [redacted]. [redacted] related the story to Helms and was told to call the police. Helms stated that he would have Sheffield Edwards (then D/OS) respond to the scene. [redacted] was told by Helms to "Tell the truth. Don't try to avoid anything."

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6. The DC Police arrived in the form of Lawrence Hartnett. He was told by [redacted] that Subject had worked for CIA. The detective did not know what CIA was and confused it with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). [redacted] admits the detective didn't have a clue as to what was going on and came near arresting him and Cassal. He frankly remarked that he thought the detective wasn't "a very bright bulb."

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7. Edwards and Paul Gaynor, after a certain amount confusion, convinced the police that Cassal and [redacted] were no longer needed on the scene. [redacted] recalls that the police brought the suicide note down from the bedroom and Edwards took custody of the note for Helms. [redacted] believes Cassal told him that Helms had said the note said "They're after me."

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8. [redacted] and Cassal returned to the Office of Training and told [redacted] about the suicide. [redacted] said: I don't really understand it. We had a date tonight. He had talked to me last night about our getting together again. I just don't understand it.

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9. Later that day, [redacted] Cassal, [redacted], and Cordelia Hood [redacted] got together at Hood's apartment to discuss the suicide. There was no talk about any Soviet involvement. Mention was made of Subject's depression. Hood, who worked in CI/CE, did not mention any suspicions about Subject. [redacted] mentioned that the "they're after me" statement was believed to be related to reinvestigation and polygraph.

((b)(3)

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10. [redacted] seriously doubted that Kronthal was involved in "fencing" artworks for the Nazis. In fact, [redacted] was involved in Military Intelligence during the war recovering art treasures from Germany and felt he would have known Subject. He doubted this would be the cause of his suicide.

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11. [redacted] said neither Corson nor Trento had attempted to contact him concerning the Kronthal case.

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[REDACTED]

(b)(3)

He also felt that several other files should be examined: Gordon Stewart [REDACTED] Hugh Cunningham [REDACTED], John Bross [REDACTED] and Peter Sichel [REDACTED]. SAD has examined these files and gained no further information. [REDACTED] also suggested we speak with Richard Helms and Cordelia Hood, who now lives in [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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