

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

13 October 2021

John Clarke, Esq.
1629 K Street, NW
Suite 300
Washington, DC, 20008

Reference: *Lois Moore, et al v. CIA*, U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, Civil Action No: 1:20-cv-01027; F-2020-00473

Dear Mr. Clarke:

This is a final response to your 25 November 2019 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request submitted by your client, Lois Moore, for the following:

1. **From the period of March 16, 1954, through 1961, all records of the CIA's efforts in undertaking "clandestine and covert action to locate, identify, and recover those U.S. Prisoners of War still in Communist custody"**
2. **An unredacted copy of this report [January 5, 1952, *CIA Information Reports*] together with all intelligence material upon which it was based, including reports, analysis, correspondence, signals intelligence, imagery, and live sighting reports.**
3. **Please produce the [following] referenced [in July 15, 1952, *CIA Cross Reference Sheet*]:**
 - a. **July 15, 1952 "Basic Communication"**
 - b. **June 24, 1953 "Basic Document"**
 - c. **Information described as "etcetera"**
 - d. **POW Information in, or otherwise "Router to, C.I. File"**
 - e. **POW information related to or bearing the "Cross Reference Number 040"**
 - f. **POW Information related to or bearing the "Classification Number 383.6 Korea."**
4. **All records regarding the June 1, 1951 shoot down and capture over North Korea of the American F-51 piloted by U.S. Air Force Captain Harry Cecil Moore, born February 11, 1924, in Elm Grove, West Virginia, service number AO 711850.**
5. **All records upon which the following statement from February 27, 1952 memo from Chief of Naval Personnel to Commanding General, Far East Air Force was based: "It is now believed that there is a possibility that Captain Moore survived and is now a Prisoner of War."**
6. **All records regarding Captain Moore's incarceration and transportation from North Korea to the Soviet Union, his locations in the Soviet Union, and all evidence that he "may have been interrogated by Soviet officials.**

7. An unredacted copy of July 17, 1952, three page *CIA Information Report*, together with the materials upon which this Report was based, including reports, analysis, correspondence, signals intelligence, imagery, and live sighting reports.
8. An unredacted copy of December 31, 1953, *CIA Information Report*, together with the materials upon which this Report was based, including reports, analysis, correspondence, signals intelligence, imagery, and live sighting reports.
9. An unredacted copy of March 24, 1954, *CIA Information Report*, together with the materials upon which this Report was based, including reports, analysis, correspondence, signals intelligence, imagery, and live sighting reports.
10. An unredacted copy of April 23, 1954, *CIA Information Report*.
11. An unredacted copy of April 27, 1954, *CIA Information Report*, together with the materials upon which this Report was based, including reports, analysis, correspondence, signals intelligence, imagery, and live sighting reports.
12. An unredacted copy of December 8, 1954, *CIA Information Report*.
13. Any and all information relating to this Report [January 23, 1992 cable from Embassy Helsinki to Secretary of State]
14. An unredacted copy of March 9, 1988, CIA Memorandum to "US Army Chief, Special Office for Prisoners of War and Missing in Action," together with the materials upon which this Report was based, including reports, analysis, correspondence, signals intelligence, imagery, and live sighting reports.
15. All records relating to any of the POW/MIA's names in the attached list.
16. Any and all records relating that any POW/MIAs may have been held in the prisons identified in the attached list of Russian prison camps.
17. For the period beginning June of 1951, and continuing to the present time, please produce all POW records provided to, or receive from, any office of any component of the Department of Defense, including but not limited to:
 - a. CCRAK
 - b. Air Force 6004 Air Intelligence Service Squadron during the tenure of "Project American."
 - c. Missing in Action Office, including those provided in response to the attached February 12, 1997 letter from U.S. House of Representative James Talent seeking "Intelligence pertaining to American prisoners who were taken to China and the Soviet Union during the war" as well as:
 - i. The 389 American service members who into the 1980's were listed as unaccounted prisoners of war by the United Nations Command Military Armistice Commission (UNCMAC) ii. All U.S. Air Force F-86 pilots who remain unrepatriated.
 - d. Air Force Office of Special Investigations, of AFOSI
 - e. Naval Criminal Investigative Service, or NCIS
 - f. Army Criminal Investigation Command, CID
 - g. U.S. Army Combined Command Reconnaissance Activities Far East, or CCRAFE.
18. All POW records prepared by any officer, agent, or employee of the CIA, prepared for the Office of the President including the President's Daily Brief, or PDB, that include information on the possibility of POW's being transferred to the Soviet Union or China.
19. All records reflecting communications with Members of Congress, or Congressional Oversight committees concerning the capture of American airmen during the Korean

conflict who may have been transported to the Soviet Union or China and their presumed fate.

- 20. All records concerning POW's and KGB defector Yuri (or Yury) Rastvorov, who informed the United States Government that American military personnel were taken to the Soviet Union during the Korean Conflict. This request includes an unredacted version of the attached page with the heading, "Terminology".**
- 21. All intelligence material (including reports, analysis, correspondence, signals intelligence, imagery, and live sighting reports) concerning statements made by former Czech General Jan Sejna and other former Czech Officials concerning former US POWs held, interrogated and experiment on by Czech and Soviet advisors, and thereafter transferred to China, Czechoslovakia, East Germany and the Soviet Union.**

We processed your request in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552, as amended, and the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. § 552a.

We have identified two (2) additional documents that are responsive to your request. One (1) document is being released in full. One (1) document may be released in segregable form with redactions made on the basis of FOIA exemptions (b)(1), (b)(3), and (b)(6). Exemption (b)(3) pertains to Section 6 of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, 50 U.S.C. § 3507, noted as exemption "(b)(3)CIAAct" on the enclosed documents, and/or Section 102A(i)(1) of the National Security Act of 1947, 50 U.S.C § 3024(i)(1), noted as exemption "(b)(3)NatSecAct" on the enclosed documents. The releaseable documents are on the enclosed CD.

With respect to request nos. 1, 5-6, 13, 16-17, and 21 above, in accordance with Section 3.6(a) of Executive Order 13526, as amended, the CIA can neither confirm nor deny the existence or nonexistence of records responsive to those requests. The fact of the existence or nonexistence of such records is itself currently and properly classified and relates to intelligence sources and methods information protected from disclosure by Section 6 of the CIA Act of 1949, as amended, and Section 102A(i)(1) of the National Security Act of 1947, as amended.

Request no. 4 above is identical to plaintiffs' request no. 1 in F-2017-02391. That request was addressed in our 28 March 2018 correspondence.

This completes our response to the above referenced case.

Sincerely,



Mark Lilly
Information and Privacy Coordinator

Enclosures

~~SECRET~~

10 November 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: POW/MIA Committee's Request for Access to
National Indications Center (NIC) Archives

1. I attended a meeting on this subject this morning chaired by the NIO for Warning, Charlie Allen. Also present were Doug Bowman of this Office, [redacted] Scott Harris of the DO's East Asia Division and two lawyers enlisted by Allen to search the NIC files at the Pentagon in response to Senator Smith's request.

(b)(3)
CIAAct
(b)(6)

2. The two lawyers, possibly [redacted] reported that they had completed an intensive search of the files in question on Saturday, 7 November. They told us that their efforts yielded nothing of consequence on the POW/MIA issue. There was one unlabeled file that contained a few miscellaneous reports on POW/MIA matters but nothing that is not already in the Committee's possession.

(b)(3)
CIAAct
(b)(6)

3. To complete their search, the two lawyers have also made a request of the CIA Records Center to provide an index of all NIC files that have been retired [redacted] Allen [redacted] urged the lawyers not to wait for the index but to go to [redacted] and conduct a personal examination of the files. It was agreed that they would go today.

(b)(1)
(b)(3) NatSecAct

4. Allen suggested that, pending the results of the [redacted] search, the Agency should send a "firm response" to the Committee informing it of the results of our inspection and denying its request to receive the entire files of the NIC and its successor organization, the Strategic Warning Staff, for the period 1948 through 1975. Allen pointed out that the inspection results to date demonstrate that the Committee is in error if it believes that these records contain anything relevant to the POW/MIA investigation. Moreover, he characterized this latest request as another futile "fishing expedition" being made by a group of investigators who know that their legislative charter is about to expire. [redacted] agreed to prepare a draft response for review by the Deputy Director for Senate Affairs, John Breckenridge.

(b)(1)
(b)(3) NatSecAct

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

000001

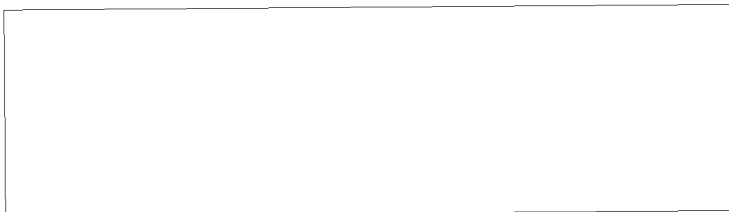
5. At today's meeting [redacted] also tabled a Spot Report (attached) of a news conference which Senator Smith plans to hold today. The report states that Smith will announce that the Committee is in possession of documents allegedly showing that US prisoners were sent to the Soviet Union and that the CIA hid this information. Neither [redacted] nor myself know what documents Smith could be referring to since, to the best of our knowledge, no CIA records on the subject of US prisoners in Russia have been sent to the Committee. We are aware, however, of one "highly unreliable" 1955 report (also attached) on this topic which the Committee requested last year. The request was denied on the grounds that the source, a Russian defector living in the US, had to be protected. The Spot Report speculates on how information in this report could still have reached the Committee.

(b)(3)
CIAAct
(b)(6)

(b)(3)
CIAAct
(b)(6)

6. On return from the meeting, I informed the D/OCA of Senator Smith's news conference and commenced the search for any Agency documents on US POWs in Russia, with the results described above.

Charles F. Turgeon
Senate Liaison



(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(3) NatSecAct

000002

~~SECRET~~

SPOT REPORT

10 NOVEMBER 1992

COMMITTEE PLANS TO CHARGE AGENCY

Shortly before 0900 hours on 10 November DASD/POW Affairs Alan Ptak telephoned C/EA/ICOGPOW to advise him that former Senate Select Committee for POW-MIA Affairs staffer Dino Carluccio (who lost his Committee clearance due to several security violations), a staff employee of Committee Vice Chairman Senator Smith, had reportedly gotten hold of "some classified Agency documents" stating that during the Korean War about ten American POW's were sent from Korea to Eastern Russia to a "Charm School". Mr. Ptak did not know which documents these were. Mr. Carluccio is believed to have obtained the documents "through his sources on Capitol Hill", according to Mr. Ptak.

Mr. Ptak said Sen. Smith plans to give a press conference at 1100 hours today at which he will announce the Committee's possession of documents showing that U.S. prisoners were sent to the Soviet Union, and that the CIA hid the information. Mr. Ptak is due to testify at 1400 hours today. He offered to defend the Agency, if we have any advice for him by then.

We believe the (single) report in question is the much-debated "Rastvorov Report", a report from Soviet defector Rastvorov in 1955 in which he reported hearsay information that American POW's held in Siberia would be screened by the Soviets and trained to be illegal residents in the U.S. or other countries where they could live as Americans.

This report (attached), which appears under its heading only in the Eisenhower Library, was the subject of an FOIA request to the Agency from Seattle journalist Mark Sauter. The Agency denied the report as source-indicative, a decision later appealed vehemently by Mr. Ptak. On 4 November, we showed this report to "Task Force Russia" commander Maj. Gen. Loeffke and two of his assistants when they visited ICOG, since the general raised it. Although the visitors did not take copies of the report, they could have memorized its brief contents.



(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(3) NatSecAct

~~SECRET~~

000003

Office Memorandum UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DATE: 31 January 1955



Handwritten initials/signature

TO : ~~EO - Mr. Stagg~~

FROM : ~~SPS - Dr. Craig~~

SUBJECT: ~~Interview with Rastvorov (former MVD)~~ concerning U.S. Prisoners of War in the USSR

FILE WAR Case No. 20
12
Document No.

On Friday, 28 January 1955, a meeting was arranged between members of the Special Projects Staff and Mr. Rastvorov. General Dale O. Smith was also present. The interview was on the subject of U.S. prisoners of war being held by the Soviets.

Mr. Rastvorov made the following important points bearing upon the subject:

1. He was told by recent arrival (1950-1953) from the Soviet Union to the USSR's Tokyo mission that U.S. and other UN POW's were being held in Siberia.
2. The POW's will be screened by the Soviets and trained to be illegal residents in U.S. or other countries where they can live as Americans.
3. Selected POW's will be used in propaganda work.
4. Use will be made of the identities and biographies of dead POW's in preparing legends for new Soviet agents.
5. The mechanism for POW control in Korea was headed by the Soviets.
6. [The sentencing of the eleven U.S. POW's charged with espionage by the Chinese Communists was conceived and directed by the Soviets. The release of other Americans in Europe was part of this plot.]

DENY IN FULL

1.3(a)(4)

[OCB:SPSFJCorso:mas]

SECRET

000004

NOTE TO: D/OCA

SUBJECT: POW/MIA Committee Request for Access to
NIO/Warning Archives, 1948-1975

We met on 4 November with Charlie Allen, who has command over the National Warning Staff, its files and archives. Allen described these files as containing highly sensitive material of all levels of classification relating to the country's major foreign policy crises and problems of the post-WWII era. POW/MIA staff member John McCreary worked in the Warning Center.

Allen objects strongly to giving the POW/MIA staff free ranging access to the Center's files and archives. I explained that the Director had personally pledged his support and cooperation with the Committee's work and described some of the efforts East Asia Division (represented at the meeting by C/EA/ICOG Scott Harrison and [redacted] had made to meet Committee demands.

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6)

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6)

Allen commissioned two of his officers [redacted] [redacted] to review the index specifically cited by the Committee, to review other indices and personally to examine the Center's files to identify any collection of paper or files directly related to the POW/MIA issue. (There was no such file listed on the document shown us, though there were files which probably contained reports which mention POW/MIA issues.) Allen said he will have a preliminary answer for us early next week, when we can decide how/whether to go further.

Allen said he will brief Fritz.

000005

JOHN F. KERRY, MASSACHUSETTS,
Chairman
THOMAS A. DASCHLE, SOUTH DAKOTA
HARRY REID, NEVADA
CHARLES S. ROBB, VIRGINIA
J. ROBERT KERREY, NEBRASKA
HERBERT H. KOHL, WISCONSIN

BOB SMITH, NEW HAMPSHIRE,
Vice Chairman
JOHN MCCAIN, ARIZONA
HANK BROWN, COLORADO
CHUCK GRASSLEY, IOWA
NANCY LONDON KASSEBAUM, KANSAS
JESSE HELMS, NORTH CAROLINA

FRANCES A. ZWENIG, STAFF DIRECTOR
J. WILLIAM CODINHA, GENERAL COUNSEL

United States Senate

SELECT COMMITTEE ON POW/MIA AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6500

October 20, 1992

Mr. John Breckenridge
Office of Congressional Affairs
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, DC 20505

Dear Mr. Breckenridge:

The Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs requests the Central Intelligence Agency provide to the Committee the files of the National Indications Center and of its successor organization, the Strategic Warning Staff, that cover the period 1948 through 1975. These files contain information relating to the losses of U.S. military personnel during the major crises and conflicts of the post-war period. This material is required to support a forthcoming hearing by this Committee.

These files are in the archives of the Central Intelligence Agency, filed variously. Some are listed under the Office of the Director of Central Intelligence; some are under the Watch Committee of the United States Intelligence Board, and some are logged under the National Intelligence Council. In addition, one five-drawer file cabinet located in the National Warning Staff contains a large number of post-war crisis management files that are related to the investigations of the Committee.

A large amount of this information can be declassified.

Ms. Linda Whitlow, Secretary for the National Intelligence Officer for Warning and the National Warning Staff, located in Room 1C925, The Pentagon, has a complete file of all materials archived by the National Indications Center and the Strategic Warning Staff. Please provide a copy of this master list to the Committee by 30 October.

~~SECRET~~

OCA 3326-92
10 November 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: POW/MIA Committee's Request for Access to
National Indications Center (NIC) Archives

1. I attended a meeting on this subject this morning chaired by the NIO for Warning, Charlie Allen. Also present were Doug Bowman of this Office, [redacted] Scott Harris of the DO's East Asia Division and two lawyers enlisted by Allen to search the NIC files at the Pentagon in response to Senator Smith's request.

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

2. The two lawyers, possibly [redacted] reported that they had completed an intensive search of the files in question on Saturday, 7 November. They told us that their efforts yielded nothing of consequence on the POW/MIA issue. There was one unlabeled file that contained a few miscellaneous reports on POW/MIA matters but nothing that is not already in the Committee's possession.

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

3. To complete their search, the two lawyers have also made a request of the CIA Records Center to provide an index of all NIC files that have been retired [redacted] Allen urged the lawyers not to wait for the index but to go t

(b)(1) [redacted] and conduct a personal examination of the fil
(b)(3) NatSecAct
(b)(3) NatSecAct

4. Allen suggested that, pending the results of the [redacted] search, the Agency should send a "firm response" to the Committee informing it of the results of our inspection and denying its request to receive the entire files of the NIC and its successor organization, the Strategic Warning Staff, for the period 1948 through 1975. Allen pointed out that the inspection results to date demonstrate that the Committee is in error if it believes that these records contain anything relevant to the POW/MIA investigation. Moreover, he characterized this latest

ALL PORTIONS CLASSIFIED
~~SECRET~~

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(3) NatSecAct

~~SECRET~~

000007

SECRET

SUBJECT: POW/MIA Committee's Request for Access to National Indications Center (NIC) Archives

request as another futile "fishing expedition" being made by a group of investigators who know that their legislative charter is about to expire. [redacted] agreed to prepare a draft response for review by the Deputy Director for Senate Affairs, John Breckenridge.

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

5. At today's meeting [redacted] also tabled a Spot Report of a news conference which Senator Smith plans to hold today. The report states that Smith will announce that the Committee is in possession of documents allegedly showing that US prisoners were sent to the Soviet Union and that the CIA hid this information. Neither [redacted] nor myself know what documents Smith could be referring to since, to the best of our knowledge, no CIA records on the subject of US prisoners in Russia have been sent to the Committee. We are aware, however, of one "highly unreliable" 1955 report on this topic which the Committee requested last year. The request was denied on the grounds that the source, a Russian defector living in the US, had to be protected. The Spot Report speculates on how information in this report could still have reached the Committee.

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

6. On return from the meeting, I informed the D/OCA of Senator Smith's news conference and commenced the search for any Agency documents on US POWs in Russia, with the results described above.

[redacted signature box]

(b)(6)

Charles F. Turgeon
Senate Liaison

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(3) NatSecAct

[redacted signature box]

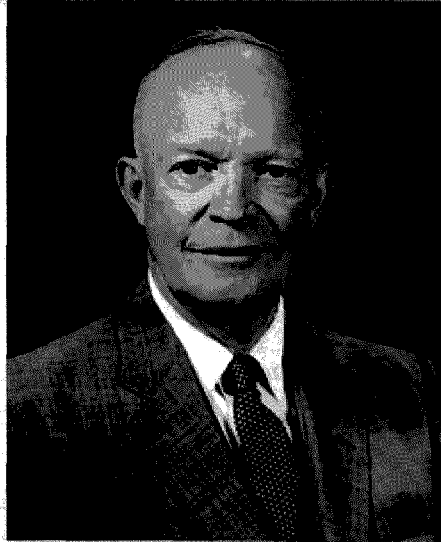
SECRET

000008

(U) Soviet Defector Claims Soviets Holding US Korean War POWs

APRIL 10, 2018 BY DAVID FOY LEAVE A COMMENT (EDIT)

~~SECRET~~



President Dwight Eisenhower

(U) The topic was one that haunted Americans in the wake of Korean War and continues to do so more than six decades later. The most definitive information on the subject seemed to come from a document dated 31 Jan 1955, which stated that three days prior, former Soviet KGB LTC Yuri Aleksandrovich Rastvorov had had a private meeting with President Eisenhower and senior advisors. According to the document, Rastvorov had told the President the stunning news that American and United Nations' POWs had been turned over to the Soviet Union and had been held in camps in Siberia during the Korean War—and likely were still there, if they were still alive.



A rare photo of Rastvorov

(S) Rastvorov had been thinking of defecting since the autumn of 1953, but it was early the next year before he approached a British Secret Intelligence Service (MI6) officer and made his desires known. His initial choice of British intelligence was apparently motivated at least in part by a positive relationship with an elderly English woman who had taught him English in Japan. However, in January 1954, he ultimately cast his lot with CIA, which so informed MI6 on 5 February. From the get-go, some in the Agency had concerns about Rastvorov and his claims—an Agency report on defector handling procedures characterized the Soviet second secretary in Japan as an “ambitious, prestige-disappointed man.” A stark assessment of Rastvorov in a footnote in the report included this assessment: “That he was a [Stalin’s internal security chief Lavrenti] Beria man fearful of his future doubtless contributed to Rastvorov’s defection. His failure in a mission and subsequent flight were in character with a psychological assessment of him made after his arrival in the United States. The conclusion that he is an egotistical dilettante who cracked when the going became rough has been borne out by persistent characteristics of his behavior during the course of efforts to resettle him.”

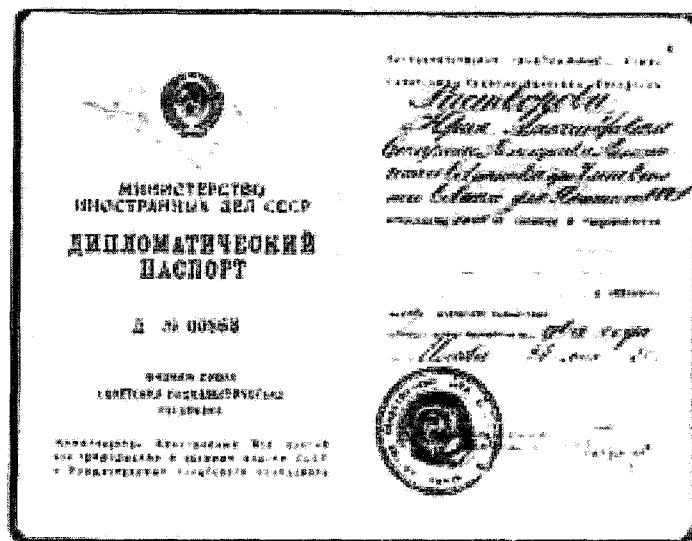
(U) Despite such misgivings, however, Rastvorov’s claims regarding US POWs in Soviet hands afforded him instant credibility. A declassified Agency Information Report dated 24 March 1954 provided the following information:

1. The Soviet Intelligence Service is exploiting United Nations, particularly US, PWs in China and North Korea. Some PWs listed as missing were in fact turned over to the Soviets by the Chinese and North Koreans. These PWs will be screened by the Soviets, and those eventually selected will be trained to be illegal residents either in the US or in other countries where they can live as Americans.

000010

2. Some selected PW personnel will also be used in propaganda work, especially as radio announcers because there is a shortage of this type of personnel.
3. Those PWs who are found to be unsuitable will never be released because they will have learned too much about Soviet PW handling techniques. Use will also be made of the identities and biographies of dead PWs in preparing legends of new Soviet agents.

It was this basic information that was included in the 31 Jan 1955 memo noted above, resulting from a meeting between members of the Special Projects Staff and Rastvorov, and including Gen. Dale Smith and, presumably, President Eisenhower. This later memo indicated that Rastvorov's information had come from "recent arrivals (1950-1953) from the Soviet Union to the USSR's Tokyo mission."



Rastvorov's passport

(U) His motivations for defecting were subject to some degree of speculation. CIA files indicated that his father, a Red Army officer, died in the famine that followed the collectivization of Soviet farms, prompting the Agency to conclude that painful memory prompted his defection. However, in his first press conference, on 13 Aug 1954, he simply said, "I wanted to live like a decent human being. I wanted to live decently and I wanted to be able to treat other people decently." A more complete answer may be connected to his January 1954 recall to Russia—fearful of returning, he resolved not to obey and contacted an American friend with whom he had previously shared his misgivings about the Soviet system. As another CIA study on defectors notes, his example "illustrate[s] the effectiveness of the combination of fear for personal safety and recall to Russia as a means of finally crystallizing a potential defector's latent thoughts of defection into immediate action."

(U) Rastvorov had been born on 11 July 1921 in Dmitrievsk, Russia. His father was a retired Army colonel, his mother a physician. In 1939, he was conscripted into the Russian Army and served in Latvia and Lithuania prior to his selection as a student at the Far Eastern Language Institute, where

000011

he learned English and Japanese. By 1942, he had been commissioned as a lieutenant in military intelligence, trained in the use of psychological warfare against the Japanese. In 1943, he was transferred to the People's Commissariat for State Security (NKGB) in Moscow and dispatched to the First Directorate School for Intelligence Training, graduating in June 1945. Promoted to Captain, he arrived in Tokyo in February 1946, ostensibly as a Foreign Office translator, actually as an NKGB (soon MGB) intelligence officer. He joined the Communist Party in 1947 and a year later was assigned to the screening of Japanese POWs, under Ministry of Internal Affairs (MVD) cover, to recruit agents from among the POWs. He returned to Moscow in August 1948 and was promoted to Major. He was reassigned to Tokyo in July 1950 and at the time of his defection was an MVD lieutenant colonel. When he left Tokyo, he also left his Russian ballerina wife and a young daughter.

(U) After understandably complex security arrangements, Rastvorov arrived in the United States on 20 Feb 1954. He signed an exclusive contract with LIFE magazine, for which he wrote a series of three articles on the Soviet Union in the post-Stalin era and was interviewed by Stewart Alsop for an article in the New York *Herald*. On 31 May 1955, his Agency-arranged name change became effective, and Yuri Aleksandrovich Rastvorov morphed into Martin F. SIMONS, employed as a technical writer by the Department of the Army and resettled in the United States.

(U) On Wednesday, 8 Feb 1956, Rastvorov testified before the Senate Internal Security subcommittee on the general subject of the scope of Soviet activities in the United States. As the hearing began, Idaho Senator Herman Welker requested that the press not take any pictures of Rastvorov, either in the hearing room or anywhere on Capitol Hill—at the witness's request. Rastvorov stated that he had been in the then-MVD from 1943 until he defected in 1954 and confirmed that his cover position in Tokyo was that of second secretary of the Soviet mission. In response to questions, he spoke at length about the structure of Soviet military and political intelligence, the Soviet officers operating under cover dispatched to the United States, and about the carefully-orchestrated 1944 tour of the USSR provided to 1948 Presidential candidate Henry Wallace, founder of the Progressive Party, a political entity of great interest to Soviet intelligence. He also confirmed that young MVD officers had been sent to seminaries and later became bishops/intelligence officers throughout the Soviet Union. However, his comments did not address the question of American POWs during the Korean War.

(U) Several months later, he married one of his Agency debriefers and was selected as a speaker at several USG Intelligence-related events. In April 1958, he was terminated as a source by the Agency and in March 1960 became a US citizen, complete with a Social Security number and a US passport. At some point thereafter, he was the proprietor of the "Captain's Table" restaurant in Georgetown, a venture which ultimately failed. Meanwhile, he and his new family were settling into the McLean neighborhood where they would stay for the next five decades, his two daughters attending the prestigious Holton-Arms School. An avid tennis player, Rastvorov/SIMONS was described by friends as "an ebullient, athletic, and fun-loving man who dressed well, drove

000012

expensive cars and supported charitable causes. In a gesture that was apparently typical, Rastvorov wrote a letter of condolence to DCI Allen Dulles in July 1959 following the death of his brother, Secretary of State John Foster Dulles. Rastvorov wrote:

Dear Mr. Dulles, I am very sorry to hear of Mr. John Foster Dulles' death. My wife and I wish to send our deepest sympathy to you and your family.

The free world and people of this country have lost a man to whom they are much in debted [sic]. All of us will miss his courageous example and leadership in the days ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Yuri Rastvorov



Former CIC chief Paul Redmond

(U) Though some undoubtedly begrudged his lavish lifestyle, the Agency was quick to point out his value as an asset. A declassified document noted that his information provided 'background insights into the KGB and the Soviet government' and lauded him for being 'a mentor to very young CIA case officers, teaching them about the Russians and the KGB.' Retired Counterintelligence chief Paul Redmond characterized him as 'a wonderful, warm, energetic Russian [who] taught us that KGB officers were humans after all—not stereotypical ogres. This helped us immensely as we worked against them as case officers.'

(U) His supporters were no doubt dismayed by the results of an October 1996 interview that Rastvorov had with several OSD/DoD representatives. In that interview, he stated that he had "no knowledge of U.S. POWs being held in Siberia or transferred to the Soviet Union. He further stated that none of his colleagues had ever told him about U.S. or UN POWs having been transferred to the Soviet Union or having been held in Siberia." When shown a copy of the memo, he said it was "not accurate and that he never provided the information contained in it. He specifically disclaimed making any statement in reference to U.S. and other UN POWs held in Siberia." Furthermore, "anything he could say on the subject of Soviet involvement with U.S. POWs would be guesswork or

speculation as he had no direct knowledge on the subject." Although he did not recall being interviewed on the subject in the 1950s, the interviewers described him as "cooperative and alert," willing to provide detailed answers to questions when necessary. He was aware of recent media attention on the POW issue and on him personally and likely had spent some time in thought on the subject prior to the interview.

(U) The POW-MIA Office within the Pentagon consistently and doggedly pursues the fate of US POWs, especially those from the Cold War and the Korean War. The Department of Defense was privy to Rastvorov's claims and the declassified 1955 memo since 1993; more significantly, DoD considers the memo credible. His testimony is also supported by other individuals, including Donald Jameson, who was a branch chief in the Soviet division in the Agency's Operations Directorate in the 1950s. Jameson noted that Rastvorov 'had a lot to say about relations between the Soviet Union and Korea,' a statement included in an Associated Press story which described Rastvorov as "a reliable and valuable source [who] was one of the most important defectors during the Cold War." With regard to the number of American POWs in question, Jameson said, 'My impression is that it was a few—10 to 15; they were aviators mostly.' But in a series of 1994-95 phone interviews, former NSC staffer Philip Corso, who said he was the one who arranged and conducted the interrogation described in the 1955 memo, claimed that Rastvorov told him that "several hundred Americans" had been sent to Siberia by rail during the Korean War. In answer to the burning question of why the Eisenhower Administration took no action based on Rastvorov's information, Corso said it was because the US Government feared that any sort of confrontation over the issue might have led to all-out war.

(U) In 2002, Yuri Rastvorov/Martin SIMONS suffered a devastating stroke and never fully recovered. The defector who had come to the United States in 1954 died on 19 Jan 2004, only five days prior to the 50th anniversary of his defection. Meanwhile, the veracity of his claims about Korean War-era US POWs being in Soviet hands defies confirmation or refutation.

FILED UNDER: ASIA, CIA, COLD WAR, COMMUNISM, COUNTERINTELLIGENCE, ESPIONAGE, HUMINT, INTELLIGENCE, SOVIET UNION, UNITED KINGDOM TAGGED WITH: CIA, DCI ALLEN DULLES, DONALD JAMESON, GEN. DALE SMITH, HENRY WALLACE, JAPAN, JOHN FOSTER DULLES, JOSEPH STALIN, KOREAN WAR, LAVRENTI BERIA, LIFE MAGAZINE, MARTIN F. SIMONS, MI6, MVD, NEW YORK HERALD, NKGB, PAUL REDMOND, PENTAGON, PHILIP CORSO, POW-MIA OFFICE, POWS, PRESIDENT EISENHOWER, PROGRESSIVE PARTY, SEN. HERMAN WELKER, STEWART ALSOP, UNITED NATIONS, YURI A. RASTVOROV

000014