

# NODULE X12

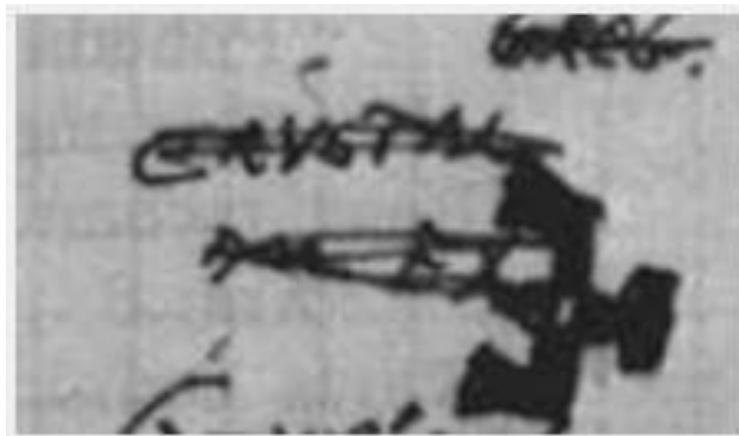
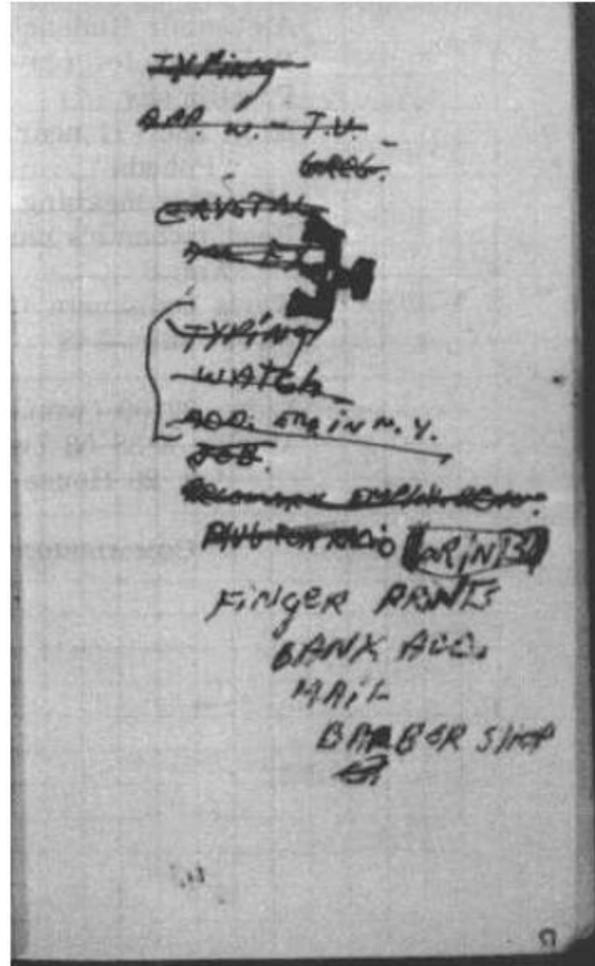
## DAVID LEMAR CHRIST

AFTER THREE YEARS IN THE ISLE OF PINES PRISON IN CUBA WHILE THE KENNEDY ADMINISTRATION FIDDLE-FUCKED AROUND TRYING TO SPRING HIM CHRIST WAS JUST ITCHIN' TO BLOW KENNEDY'S HEAD CLEAN OFF THIS SHOULDERS!



(AKA DANIEL LESTER CARSWELL)

For the most up-to-date version of this Nodule go to  
<http://ajweberman.com/noduleX12.pdf>



The word CRIST appears on the same page as ANGLETON AND FIORINI disguised as the word CHYSTAL. Note the dot that appears over the "Y". DAVID LEMAR CHRIST was born **January 20, 1918**, in Tamaqua, Pennsylvania. He died in December 1985 in Bethesda, Maryland. From **1935 to 1937** CHRIST worked in an ESSO gasoline station. From **1937 to 1942** he worked at the Atlas Powder Company in Pennsylvania, packing dynamite and bombs in gelatinous box packs. He joined the Air Force in **1943**, where he

became a Communications Officer, Cryptography Section, after training at Yale University. When the war ended he rejoined the Atlas Powder Company, received a B.S. from Pennsylvania State University in 1950, and then was recruited by the CIA in **November 1950** as "the first research and development electronics engineer in what has evolved as the Technical Services Division. He created an Applied Physics Branch.

The CIA reported,

Mr. David L. Christ is recommended for the Intelligence Medal of Merit in recognition of his career of especially meritorious service which has contributed significantly to the missions of CIA. Mr. Christ joined CIA in November of 1950 as the first research and development electronics engineer in what has evolved as TSD. He created an Applied Physics Branch setting high standards for himself and the R&D engineers he recruited. His accomplishments included the anti-disturbance mine and the time pencil, both of which are still Agency stock items, and an IR beacon. As a pioneer in audio surveillance devices, he recognized very early that the use of systems concept would be most productive in meeting Agency needs. As part of his development program, his efforts led to the establishment of specialized contract facilities such as (deleted) which in 1953 was the first Agency source of transistorized equipment.

In early 1957, Mr. Christ was made Chief of what is now the Audio Operations Branch of TSD and, realizing that a drastic upgrading of the caliber of field technicians was required, began aggressively recruiting and training graduate engineers. His high standards and efforts in this area are reflected in the fact that the majority of TSD Audio mid-management personnel were recruited by him. In September 1960, he and two associates were apprehended while on an operation in a denied area. His exemplary conduct and personal courage during the resulting two and one-half years incarceration permitted the maintenance of a very difficult cover situation and successful extraction of all three men.

Upon his return, Mr. Christ joined the Office of Research and Development soon after its inception, assisting in the definition and establishment of the various divisions. Under his early guidance, the over-the-horizon radar program developed finally into an operational system. His sensitivity to the needs of Agency operational elements based upon his experience, his technical expertise and his dedicated desire to broaden the technological capabilities of the Agency precipitated his development of a major coordinated program of accelerated R&D to provide the clandestine services with a number of new audio surveillance techniques of which the laser probe is an example, and his conception and direction of the Micro technology R&D program. Within this program, the success of the micro-power transistor led to the award of Medals of Merit to two scientists under his supervision. Other progeny of the micro-

technology concept are three novel intelligence gathering systems to function in the air, in space, and in the sea environments, one of which is approaching operational status. Mr. Christ has also been responsible for pioneering efforts in the area of Audio Surveillance Countermeasures, first proposing the application of computers to the problem.

Mr. Christ's imaginative leadership and inspiration to those working with him, his broad scope of interest, his resourcefulness, and philosophical devotion to the cause of the Agency and the United States have provided this Agency with an individual whose unique efforts and accomplishments over his 20 years service are worthy of this recognition.

October 1950 – January 1958 Christ was Deputy Chief, Applied Physics Branch. Recruitment, development and supervision of up to 20 professionals – electronic engineers and physicists – in research, development and engineering. Technical areas covered – electronics, acoustics, optics, electro-optics, magnetic, electromagnetic, solid state physics. Typical Programs: RF systems, microphones, recorders, transmitters, receivers, amplifiers, control systems, signal processing and enhancement, radar systems, audio and video circuitry and devices.

From April 16 1956 to May 6, 1956 CHRIST was bugging facilities in Japan, Formosa, Korea. In September 1956 CHRIST met with Captain William I. Bull, USN, Electronic Design Divisions to discuss details of a security nature regarding Navy Communication Channels (deleted as of 2010). From June 22, 1957 to July 8, 1957 he was planting bugs in Berlin, Frankfurt, Munich, In August 1957 the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission granted CHRIST a Q CLEARANCE. From September 17, 1957 to October 17, 1957 he was in Brazil, Uruguay, (HUNT was Chief of Station) Argentina, Chile and Panama. In December 1957 CHRIST was made Audio Operations Branch Chief of the Technical Services Division and he began aggressively recruiting and training electronics engineers. Ten R & D scientists worked under his direction. From March 7, 1958 to April 22, 1958 he was in Pakistan, Turkey, Iran, Greece, Germany and Belgium. From January 25, 1959 to February 18, 1959 he visited England, Germany. From January 21 1960 to January 28, 1960 he was in Mexico, (tourist with backstop). From March 12, 1960 to April 30, 1960 he was in Morocco, Greece and Germany. From January 1958 to August 1963: Chief, Technical Applications Group. Supervised 30 engineers and technicians; Engineered, produced, tested and evaluated components, devices and systems such as list below. Developed administrative, logistics, supply and training programs, and reliability procedure and programs to implement their effective application. August 1963 to November 1970 Chief, Applied Physics Division. Recruited, developed and supervised 10 to 14 professionals – scientists and engineers, GS-12 to GS 15 one SPS-4, in advanced R & D programs. Primary emphases were on new advanced components devices, system and concepts for intelligence collection intelligence support activities, surveillance, reconnaissance etc. Basic orientation --- advanced systems concepts based on micro technology. Technical areas – Microelectronics (particularly micro power) solid state physics, acoustics, electro-optics,

electro mechanics, avionics, stability and control, navigation, communications (analogue and digital) radar. Typical programs --- Solid state components and devices; communication systems – audio, video, telemetry, sensors --- acoustic, optical, nuclear RF, etc. avionic subsystems; data processing, power sources; electronic equipments; dc to microwave; antennas; system study and analysis.

David L. Christ September 22, 1950

1. It is requested that appropriate action be taken to issue a security waiver for the above named individual in order that he may become available II/RD as soon as possible.
2. Subject served with the Signal Corps of the Department of the Army during War II and taught courses in radar and electronics. He is at the present time teaching electronics at Pennsylvania State College, and is needed by II/RD in connection with electrical and electronics work being carried out.
3. Inasmuch as a personnel action requesting the employment of Mr. Christ was made on 23 August 1950, it is requested that waiver be granted if possible by October 9, 1950, and that his full clearance through security channels be expedited.

FRANK WISNER

Assistant Director for  
Policy Coordination

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

*Office Memorandum* • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT



TO : File  
FROM : Chief, Personnel Security Branch  
SUBJECT: CHRIST, David Lamar - 43872

DATE: 8 November 1950

On this date, Mr. Shanklin, FBI, advised that the results of the name check conducted by the FBI in connection with the investigation currently in process are as follows:

CSC, State, G-2, OSI, ONI, HCUA ..... NR  
FBI ..... NIC

According to Jim Hosty, Shanklin was the most likely person to have ordered the tramps release. I doubt if CHRIST had access to his CIA personnel or Security File but ANGLETON did and could have told him that if there was a problem SAC Gordon Shanklin was familiar with his status. The other alternative is that SHANKLIN would have had to recognize him which, due to his heavy CIA supplied disguise, this is highly unlikely.

## THE MISSION

In September 1960 the Republic of Cuba opened diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China. In September 1960 DAVID CHRIST was assigned to an audio mission in Havana. The target of this mission was the New China News Agency, located in apartment No. 162, on the 17th floor of the Edificio de Retiro Medico. He approached a member of the Foreign Intelligence /Directorate /Operations staff on September 20, 1960

...to state that he would soon be going to Havana to redo an audio installation in the [24 deleted as of 2010] and possibly to mount other audio operations, unspecified by CHRIST. CHRIST requested that Mr. [03 Deleted as of 2010] and possibly some of the [03 Deleted v of H ...] ]'s personnel accompany him on the Havana assignment. In response to the query by the undersigned as to why [03 Deleted as of 2010]'s services were desired, CHRIST stated that [03 Deleted as of 2010] might be needed for entry into the target area. When the undersigned pointed out that there was apparently no entry problem with regard to the [24 deleted as of 2010] target room, CHRIST changed the basis for his request in that he mentioned the possible need for protection while in Havana. He went on to explain that [03 Deleted as of 2010] and his people could be used to determine whether he, Mr. CHRIST, was under surveillance. At this junction [03 Deleted as of 2010] entered the undersigned's office, and CHRIST repeated his request. After a review of the pros and cons, and particularly in view of [03 Deleted as of 2010]'s duties, it was decided there was no concrete purpose which could justify the assignment of [03 Deleted] as requested by CHRIST. CHRIST proceeded to Havana on August 17, 1959, returned to Washington o/a August 31, 1959, and departed again for Havana for the NCNA task O/a September 7, 1963. [Deleted 03] FI/D/ops [CIA Memo Chief, FI/D OPS]

September 20, 1960

Memorandum For: DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

September 20, 1960

SUBJECT: Summary of [02] ESCALADE – Audio Operation Against New China News Agency in Havana

1. In May 1959, the New China News Agency (NCNA) opened an office in Havana in the El Medico Building which is occupied partly by business concerns and partly used for residential apartments. Shortly thereafter, the Havana Station obtained the concurrence of Ambassador Bonsal and Miss Carolyn O. Stacey, an Embassy employee, to mount an audio operation against NCNA through the wall of the adjacent apartment in which Miss Stacey lived. In November 1959, the FE Division sent one case officer and one TSD technician to Havana, and the installation of a microphone and tape recorder was completed in Miss Stacey's apartment on November 29, 1959.

By June 1960, it had become evident that two other rooms occupied by NCNA possibly housed communication equipment and were used for conferences. At that time [Deleted 03] FE Division case officer, went to Havana and explored the possibility of improving the operation. He managed to lease an apartment directly over the NCNA office, and arranged for a stay-behind agent to occupy this space.

3. In August 1960 a team of three TSD technicians who were in Havana on a separate SR Division operation agreed to install the additional equipment required for the NCNA operation. A second FE Division case officer, Robert Neet, came down to Havana; and he, together with the technicians, installed a probe microphone and tape recorder in the apartment obtained by [deleted 03] over the NCNA office. About this time the equipment was removed from Miss Stacey's apartment with the exception of the plastic probe which was left in the wall and plastered over.

4. As an additional security precaution to provide a safe haven, and after consultation with the Acting Chief of Station, a key to an apartment in the same building leased by Mrs. Marjorie Lennox, an Embassy secretary, was obtained. Mrs. Lennox was told that access to her apartment was needed for photographic surveillance purposes.

5. The Station was then faced with the probability that time and security would work against holding indefinitely the lease to the apartment of NCNA since the owners of the building were cancelling sub-lessor's contracts and recalling leases. It was, therefore, decided to install transmitters and switches in order to permit continued monitoring of the target from a distant listening post. Another three man team of TSD technicians consisting of David L. Christ, Walter E. Szuminski and Thorton J. Anderson documented as tourists had been sent to Havana to install audio equipment in the Chinese Nationalist Embassy before it was due to be turned over to the Chinese Communists. This operation aborted. This team was then sent to work on the installation of the transmitters in apartment over the NCNA office.

6. At 2400 hours on September 14, 1960, Christ, who with the other technicians was working in the target apartment, failed to keep a scheduled appointment with Neet. At 0100 hours on September 15, 1960, the apartment of Mrs. Lennox was entered into and searched by Cuban authorities, and she was taken into custody. At 1540 hours on September 15, 1960 Neet, the stay-behind agent and his wife were picked up by the Cuban authorities and detained.

7. As of today the agent remains in the custody of the Cuban authorities. His wife has been released and is still in Havana. Neet was released 1715 hours on September 15, 1960 and has subsequently returned to Washington where he was debriefed. Mrs. Lennox was subsequently released and has also returned to Washington where she is being debriefed. The three TSD technicians remain in confinement. They have been seen in confinement but not contacted by an Embassy officer when he first attempted to secure the release of Mrs. Lennox. Christ was last seen by Neet when they were jointly interrogated the morning of September 16. At that time Christ did not appear to have been maltreated.

8. According to articles in the Cuban papers the three technicians were arrested while in the apartment over the NCNA office and completing the installation of the equipment. The press article adds that the key to Mrs. Lennox's apartment was found on one of the technicians who identified the apartment to which it belonged. All Cuban press releases have referred to the men by alias and have not identified them as Government or Agency employees. It is unclear at present what story had been agreed upon by the technicians and station personnel to be used in the event they were caught. (While being interrogated with Neet, Christ indicated that Neet was his boss, and Neet consistently denied any knowledge as to why he was being held.) The sublease for the apartment in which the men were caught is in the name of the stay-behind agent with the original lease being in the name of [03 deleted] the FE Division Case Officer.

9. Initial information indicated that the three technicians would be charged with espionage "against the people of China." Subsequent press releases have been unclear on this point. An attempt by Consul Hugh Kessler to contact the three men at 1730 hours on September 17 was unsuccessful. He was not permitted to see them but was told they were in custody.

10. The three technicians travelled to Cuba as tourists under very light commercial cover, two of them working for a company in New York and the third, one in Baltimore. In each case the cover company consists of a telephone answering service and a name on the door. Telephone messages and mail are picked up periodically by an Agency contract employee. The men were provided with this cover as well as unbackstopped home addresses for use when entering or leaving Cuba as tourists since the filling out of the landing card requires this information. Subsequent to their detention the home addresses have been partially backstopped so that inquiries will indicate that someone with this alias name had lived in the apartment house in question. Insofar as the cover companies are concerned, efforts are being made to provide a backstop to withstand inquiries from the press should the Cubans reveal this information. In view of the thinness of cover, it is uncertain whether this will succeed.

11. A cleared and witting law firm in New York has been briefed by Mr. L. Houston on the situation with the thought that inquiries received by the cover company could be referred to the firm of lawyers from whom no comment would be obtained by the press or other inquirers. The law firm has been briefed on the entire situation so that they may be in a position to act if any action by them appears to be desirable or feasible. It would

not appear that much support of any kind can be obtained from the law firm or law firms in Cuba which are associated with them.

12. Insofar as the families are concerned, one of the technicians is a bachelor presently on home leave between two tours in (deleted as of 2010). His father, a cook in a diner in the Boston area, has been contacted by the Office of Security, and he will get in touch with Security if he receives any inquiries on this matter. Security, by the same token, will keep in touch with him as the Cubans reveal their intentions and course of action.

13. The wives of the other two technicians have been told what has happened and are being contacted at least once daily by TSD on September 19 to go over the whole situation and determine if there were any personal problems on which the Agency could be of help. For the time being the wives are telling their neighbors that their husbands are on a trip. This story will be adjusted depending on what course of action the Cuban Government takes, whether the aliases remain unbroken and whether recognizable photographs of the individuals are released to the press. The two wives so far have taken the bad news exceedingly well. Rudolph E. Gomez

#### DANIEL LESTER CARSWELL

Central Cover supplied CHRIST with false Identification that consisted of a New York Driver's License, Pennsylvania Birth Certificate, Social Security Card, a United States Air Force Reserve Officers Association Membership Card, an American Association of Engineers Membership Card, and a International Vaccination Certificate. CHRIST had a backstopped address in New York City that appeared on all his documents. According to a New York CIA Field Office CIA document, the New York Field Office backstopped CHRIST'S Identification with the help of S. M. Horton. Later S. M. Horton's name was removed from this document and the name of John Mertz was substituted. [CIA Memo To Victor White from Byron B. Burnes 3.28.62] John Mertz stated in November 1994: "Horton was ANGLETON'S deputy. Burnes was the adman officer for ANGLETON. Horton was transferred. He went to Australia. He left, so they put me down as the guy who was the contact." The true name of DANIEL L. CARSWELL was first revealed in a CIA interview with John Mertz: "The team's leader was DAVID CRIST." [CIA OGC 77-6457 10.11.77] In January 1994 the CIA released the Biographic Profile of DAVID LEMAR CHRIST. HEMMING 1994:

I thought it was spelled *Crist*. I've seen the fucking name somewhere before. I've seen the name in an unpublished report, a biography. I've never seen it spelled CHRIST.

Former CIA agent Melvin Beck reported that when he was stationed in Cuba in 1960:

Two technicians from the Clandestine Services Technical Services Division were dispatched to Havana. They arrived as ordinary tourists (on September 8, 1960), with their personal belongings. Many of the tools of their trade were on hand, stored in the station, and whatever else they

needed would be sent by pouch...The plan was to plant a microphone transmitter in the ceiling of the penthouse room expected to be occupied by the Soviet Ambassador [in the Hotel Rosita].

This operation was a success. Soon, "Bryan reappeared at our suburban retreat in the company of three technicians from Headquarters, one of whom had worked with me earlier on the ROSITA OPERATION...I gathered that the technicians were about to plant a listening device in the floor of an apartment directly above the office of the New China News Agency."

#### THE ARREST OF DAVID LEMAR CHRIST AND FRIENDS SEPTEMBER 1960



Este fue tomada en pésimas condiciones de luz. Sin embargo, es perfectamente visible el rostro de los tres norteamericanos detenidos por las autoridades cubanas bajo la acusación de espionaje. El que se oculta en la sombra aparece en el fondo.

Melvin Beck stated that a few days later, "a frantic telephone call from the station related that evidently something had gone wrong with Bob's [Robert Neet] operation: the technicians had reportedly been taken into custody by Cuban G-2; Bob's whereabouts were unknown...How would the technicians hold up if they were tortured? What information had G-2 extracted from them?" [Beck, Melvin *Secret Contenders* p74] The CIA:

TO: Director  
FROM: Havana  
DATE: September 15, 1960.

1. (Deleted) blown and CARSWELL, Taransky and Danbrunt under detention. Following are facts at present time:

A. Contact made with (2) who reported he left 6:00 p.m. September 14, 1960, and made an agent contact which went well. Returned to his apartment at 8:00 p.m. and found two men outside his door. (2) sneaked out and destroyed agent report and spent night in bar. Returned to apartment 7:00 a.m. and found two men outside. Later contact with A-1 [Mrs. Nordio] wife who was in apartment. She reported nothing unusual.

B. (Deleted) one of three techs in (deleted) failed make contact 12:00 p.m. September 14, 1960. Case Officer waited until 1:30 p.m. then attempted to go (deleted) apartment. Watchman intercepted Case Officer and Case Officer detoured to another apartment, which he knew was not occupied. Returned, asked watchman for phone number rental where he could get change of address since occupant had moved. While waiting for watchman to get number, noted three militiamen, policemen, who appeared to be *Prensa Latina* reporters in front which was more people than usual that time night, but on entering noticed large group of couples waiting for cars at adjoining garage apparently leaving from party in building.

C. At 1:00 a.m. September 15, 1960, apartment on 23rd floor occupied by Mrs. Marjorie Lennox, Embassy Staff employee, was entered into and searched by DIER agents. Mrs. Lennox was detained without explanation and at approximately 11:00 a.m. taken to DIER Headquarters. Ambassador has lodged energetic protest with foreign office demanding her release.

D. On the afternoon of September 14, 1960, Station borrowed key Mrs. Lennox apartment under pretext to need to observe *Prensa Latina* personnel from apartment. Duplicate of key was made and given to CARSWELL for use in extreme emergency if evasive action required in building. Can be surmised men were apprehended and key found and through process of elimination Lennox apartment located.

A CIA cable advised Havana to exfiltrate or move to diplomatic area everyone who was involved in the operation. Jake Esterline noted these events.

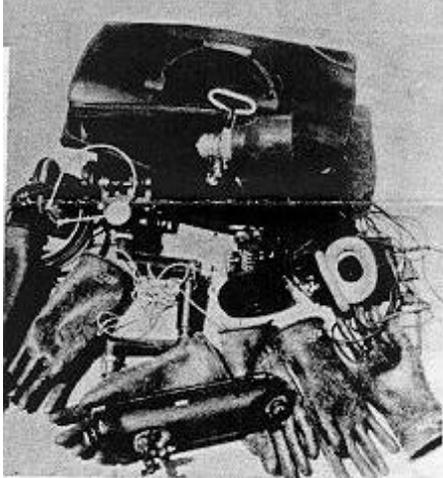
SECRET  
DAVID L. CHRIST

Chief of TSD/Audio Operations Branch witting of the following:  
All audio operations world-wide since December 1957 to present date.  
Complete knowledge of all R & D aspects of audio equipment research.  
Had knowledge of certain Staff D and FI equipment and operations.  
Complete knowledge of all audio assets in production and stocked for use overseas.  
Clearances through Top Secret, Special Intelligence clearance. and "Q" clearance.  
World-wide knowledge of the location of all our audio technicians.  
Having previously been with the Applied Physics Branch of TSD, he was also aware of many of our other R & D activities.  
At Branch Chief in TSD, he has full information on all personnel in TSD and general knowledge of the overall activities, including the research programs.  
He has been to (deleted as of 2010) many times.

### THE PLAYERS



The CIA agents in the New China News Agency bugging operation used these names: CHRIST used the name DANIEL LESTER CARSWELL, 45, born 1918, Ashland, Pennsylvania, Engineer, East Chester, New York. Thorton J. Anderson, Jr. used the name "Eustace H. Danbrunt" 38, born 1925, Cleveland, Mechanical Engineer, 3915 Deerfield Blvd., Baltimore, Maryland. Walter Szuminski used the name "Edmund Konrad Taransky," 33, born 1930, Boston, Technician, New York City. Others involved included



Mario Nordio (an Italian-born naturalized American dance teacher), Marjorie Lennox, 26, the Secretary of the Commercial Attache at the U.S. Embassy who sublet an apartment from Mario Nordio, an unnamed individual (Mr. Lennox?), and CIA Agent Robert Neet, the Embassy employee who ran the operation. Everyone except for CHRIST, Thorton J. Anderson and Walter Szuminski were deported. The United States Ambassador was restricted to a ten-block area. Thorton J. Anderson, Walter Szuminski and CHRIST had been caught in an apartment borrowed by Robert Neet from Marjorie Lennox. They had electronic listening devices, as well as a tape of a conversation between the Red Chinese in San Juan, Puerto Rico and the New China News Agency. CHRIST told the G-2 agents who questioned him that he was on his way back to the United States, when someone in the American Embassy asked him to do a small favor and fix some electronic equipment in their apartment. John Mertz:

By that time Castro assigned all living quarters. You registered. They went down and rented this apartment and stored their audio equipment in the closet, and then came back to the States. They went back two or three weeks later, and then were going to set it up. They went to work and they were greeted by the Cuban Police. Apartments weren't vacant at that time, there was no possible way to be undetected. It was a dumb-assed trick. They should have known the conditions in Cuba before they ever went down there the first time. Hell, I never had any admiration for CHRIST at all. They were in Havana foolishly to begin with. CHRIST decided to go down himself. They shouldn't have been down there doing what they were doing, knowing what Castro was doing. There was a mix-up of signals there somewhere. I don't know what it was. When they were captured we saved them from going to the wall. We later brought their lawyer to the States. It became my job to get 'em out alive, if possible. At least I would know what damage had been done. We were afraid the Russians would take 'em over. Which they didn't. Castro never found out who they were.

#### THE TRIAL OF DAVID LEMAR CHRIST

On December 18, 1960, CHRIST, Thorton J. Anderson Jr. Walter Szuminski and Mario Nordio underwent a military trial. They were charged with "Crimes Against the Powers of the State." The trial was held in a small schoolroom located on the second floor of the *Jefatura* (Guard's Office) building at La Cabana Fortress Prison. Little public interest was shown. Members of the Military Tribunal were all from the Cuban Army, except for one member from the Cuban Navy. The prosecutor was an Army Officer. The President of the Tribunal devoted part of his time during the trial to talking with other members, one of whom spent his time carving on the table with a pocket knife, cleaning his

fangnails and dropping nose drops in his nose. CHRIST'S defense attorney, Dr. Fernando Colomar, said that Robert Neet, who was neither a Consular Officer, nor a diplomatic officer, had been expelled from Cuba by the Cuban Government. This, Colomar pointed out, was a error on the part of the Cuban Government. Robert Neet, he said, was the guilty party and should be facing trial:

CARSWELL, Taransky and Danbrunt are technical engineers, who specialized in electrical, mechanical and electronic engineering, and were instigated and induced to come to Havana, during their vacation in the month of September, by the actual author of this fact by direct participation, instigator and inducer, Mr. Robert L. Neet...the invitation was to arrange and adapt different audio and sound recording devices. Before their arrival to Habana as tourists such devices were already connected to a microphone previously installed...

Yet, he said, the Cuban Government expelled the guilty person from Cuba and left three innocent tools - "men who were employed by Robert Neet, men who were paid by Robert Neet and men whose transportation was paid for by Robert Neet" - to stay and face trial for a crime they did not commit. Robert Neet was contacted in June 1993. He declined to be interviewed. [telephone 703-532-5285] On January 11, 1960, CHRIST was sentenced to 10 years in La Cabana. His co-defendants received identical sentences. Mario Nordio was deported.

#### THE ISLE OF PINES PRISON



BUILT IN THE 1920's AS A MODEL PRISON

SUBJECT: MRS. DAVID L. CHRIST September 15, 1960

3. Following their arrest, CHRIST, Thornton J. Anderson and Walter Szuminski were first detained at G-2 Headquarters then moved to La

Cabana prison. It was possible to keep them supplied with food, vitamins, reading material, an electric frying pan etc. On January 23, 1961, the three men were moved to the Isle of Pines prison where living and sanitary conditions were intolerable. Prisoners were required to perform hard manual labor and there was an insufficiency of food.

4. With the assistance of Mr. Hugh Kessler, a U.S. consular official, close contact was kept with the three men until diplomatic relations with Cuba were severed. Through a Washington attorney, James R. Murphy, arrangements were made with a Cuban lawyer, Dr. Fernando Colomar, to represent the three men in court. Colomar was not told of the Agency interest in the operation. Through the joint services of Messrs. Kessler and Colomar, the three men were supplied with pocket money, food, clothing, toilet articles etc. After diplomatic relations were severed, Colomar continued to visit the men until they were transferred to Isle of Pines.

5. The three men have been held in the Modelo Prison, Nueva Gerna, Isle of Pines since January 1961. We have been successful in getting money and supplies to them through the Washington Attorney to the Swiss Embassy in Havana. They have maintained contact by letters. Their last correspondence was written on October 18, 1962. They are believed to be in reasonably good health. The Swiss are attempting to verify a report that three Americans were transferred to Boniato Prison in early November 1962.

6. It has been necessary in this case to conceal Government interest in the three prisoners in order to avoid their execution and/or full debriefing on the sensitive information they possess.

7. The Washington Attorney has obtained associate counsel in Mexico City and in Chicago, Illinois. The Chicago Attorney, who is unwitting of Government interest (Constantine N. Kangles) visited Havana in May/June and as of November 22, 1962 received word that as soon as possible he will be invited back to Cuba to negotiate with Fidel Castro on this case. Kangles expects the release of the three men not later than the first week in January 1963.

8. Other operational efforts to secure the release of the men are in progress. We have avoided keeping Mrs. Christ fully on the specifics of the efforts being made, as she tends to be critical of the Agency and of the fact that she is unaware of any significant interest in the case in the Executive Branch of the Government. She has previously seen Messrs. Allen Dulles, General Cabell, General Maxwell Taylor and General Carter.

9. Mr. James Donovan, who has appeared in connection with negotiations for the Playa Giron prisoners, has been made aware of the 22 Americans

held in Cuba and of Agency interest in three of those prisoners. He has not been told their true names.

10. David Christ's wife, Wilma, and their six children live in the Washington area where they have been frequently visited by members of the Agency. She has explained to neighbors that her husband is away on a long TDY for the Government which has become a permanent assignment and that in line with the new regulations on overseas travel of dependants she has not been allowed to follow him. Wilma Christ has been paid her husband's accumulated per diem and salary.

11. David Christ is 45 years old, his birthday was January 20. He is a graduate of Pennsylvania State College with a degree of B.S. in Electrical Engineering. He worked before the war for the Atlas Powder Company and was a 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. in the USAAF from 1942 to 1946. Following the war, he instructed at Pennsylvania State College until 1950 when he joined the Agency.

12. Wilma Christ is 42 years old. There are six children in the family: Thomas age 18, Elaine age 16, Linda, age 12, Susan, age 9, Stuart age 5 and Robert, age 3. The two older children have been briefed on the situation and are aware of their father's predicament.

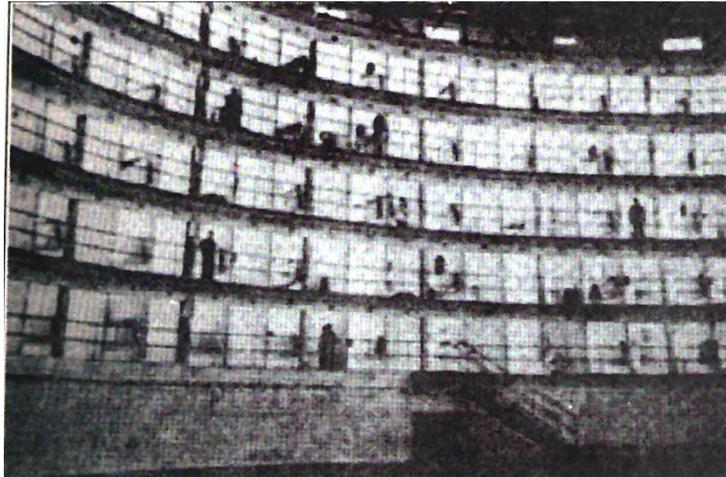
When former prisoner of Castro Mafia OC member JOHN MARTINO returned to the United States in 1962, he spoke and wrote about his friendship with his fellow prisoner in Cuba, DANIEL LESTER CARSWELL. [*Long Island Press* Edith K. Roosevelt 7.21.62] In *I Was Castro's Prisoner*, MARTINO recalled his first conversation with CARSWELL:

He told me, 'We had drilled through the floor, which is the ceiling of the Chinese News Agency, and we were about to lower a microphone into the next room so that we could put everything that was said there on tape.'

CARSWELL shared the special food he received from the American Embassy with MARTINO, although the Embassy closed in January 1961. Both men shared a common lawyer, Dr. Fernando Colomar Lluch, Doctor of Law of the School of Havana. When CARSWELL was released, he gave MARTINO his personal possessions. Mrs. Martino explained:

In speaking of her husband's release from Cuban prison she said she was directed to an attorney named Dr. Fernando Colomar after the original attorney she hired 'became afraid' and dropped the case. She said she was directed to Colomar by a friend, Gustavo Aleman, who knew Hugh Kessler in the American Embassy in Havana. Mrs. Martino said that Colomar later told her she didn't have to pay him because he was being paid by Kessler to also defend four other Americans, the group involved Daniel Carswell, the CIA Agent who had been arrested for bugging the Red Chinese News Service. Mrs. Martino said Colomar came to Miami

and worked for the State Department after the Bay of Pigs. [HSCA Memo From: Fonzi and Gonzales to Cliff Fenton 10.7.77]



#### CHARLES SIRAGUSA & THE PLAN TO SPRING CHRIST

Journalist Jack Anderson reported that the CIA was determined to get CHRIST out of Cuba, and to do this, it contacted Charles Siragusa. In 1978 Charles Siragusa told Jack Anderson that he had met with a CIA agent in Washington, D.C., in 1960:

Three Spanish-speaking CIA operatives had been arrested while pulling a Watergate-style break-in at the Chinese Communist News Agency in Havana. Cuban police thought they had caught three small fry burglars and locked them up on an island off Cuba. The CIA was desperate to get them back before their cover was blown. One knew the names of numerous CIA contacts in Cuba. The CIA turned to Charles Siragusa, suggesting that he enlist Mafia types for a rescue raid. This proved impractical; instead, Charles Siragusa began dealings with a Chicago lawyer supposedly close to Fidel Castro's brother, Raoul. The CIA authorized Charles Siragusa to spend up to \$1 million to effect the rescue of the imprisoned agents. The Chicagoan received \$10,000 from CIA funds, but his efforts failed. Eventually the three won their freedom through the legal efforts of a Havana attorney retained by the CIA without Castro's knowledge. [*Wash. Post* 1.4.78 B13]

A CIA document read: "The Chicago attorney, who is unwitting of Government interest visited Havana in May / June 1962 and as of November 22, 1962, received word that as soon as possible he will be invited back to Cuba to negotiate with Fidel Castro on this case. **Constantine Kangles** expects the release of the three men not later than the first week in January 1963." Wilma Christ, the wife of David Christ, stated that Constantine Kangles would have gotten \$100,000 if he succeeded in getting the technicians out of prison.

[Constantine N. Kangles Suite 2350 200 N La Salle St Chicago, IL 60601-1023 (312) 263-2121]



John Michael Mertz related that in 1960 Richard Helms charged him with developing a project to free CHRIST and his two associates from La Cabana Prison. John Mertz: "I was functioning in the thing as a lawyer for their notional families. Up in New England somewhere. I represented the legal interest of the notional families. I operated as a supposed member of a Washington law firm." A CIA document stated:

Mertz, identifying himself as CIA affiliated, contacted Siragusa and told him in general terms what was required. Siragusa put Mertz in contact with several people e.g. Batista's chauffeur and wife, who had the desired connections. The project did not succeed in freeing the Agency employees...Mertz considers Siragusa a friend. The above Project was well documented and Counter-Intelligence Staff or Security should be able to locate the records. He cannot remember the project crypt.

John Mertz:

Well, how to get them out? Prior to that time the mafia had been runnin' the warehouses and the gamblin' joints in Havana. SANTO TRAFFICANTE. I went to Charlie Siragusa and said, 'You got any connections with the mafia?' He said he did. 'Well, find out what they can do to help get these guys out.' I don't know who he contacted. They laughed at him. They said, 'Hell, we're on the wanted list down there too.' We abandoned that, but he did come up with a guy who had been Batista's driver. We met with him and his wife in Miami and he came back said, 'We'll get them out easy. We know one or more guards down there. And for \$200,000 upfront, we'll have the guards take him out on a work detail and let them escape and they've got a ten mile walk due south to the shore and we'll meet them there with a boat. We called Headquarters. 'What's between the prison and the south shore?' 'Ten miles of mangrove swamp.'

Walter Szuminski wrote this Memorandum for the Record on August 6, 1975.

1. After being released from the Isle of Pines, Cuba, in the summer of 1963, several debriefing sessions were held with members of Counter-Intelligence Staff and Office of Security after my official return to duty. Of several ops, two were the subject of discussion, since they involved efforts to obtain our release from the Isle of Pines by escape, bribes or whatever. One effort was by a prominent Chicago lawyer who supposedly had some influential contacts both in the U.S. and Mexico. The Counter-Intelligence collective opinion at the time was that 'this guy took us for a ride.'

2. The second effort mentioned in the ZRCHEST trip reports was travel to Miami by the Counter-Intelligence case officer, John Mertz, with a suitcase full of large bills to impress the local hoods. Specific details are difficult to recall, but in essence it seemed with the right contacts and enough money anything was possible in Cuba at that time (1960 to 1961). From the reports the 'hoods' were impressed with that amount of money, but nothing more ever happened. In any case, during our imprisonment in Cuba nothing more happened to indicate anything was going on.

3. During all this conversation back and forth, mafia may have been mentioned, but after ten years it is difficult to say with any accuracy if this was the case. Only a review of the ZRCHEST files could confirm or deny this.

4. The timing of these various operations on our behalf would seem to coincide with the recent publicity about Mr. Maheu and his efforts with the mafia. For that reason, and to forestall any misconception about our mission in Cuba which was an audio op I have related the facts as best I can recall. OTS / APB Walter Szuminski

John Mertz:

You had one memo there that I was running around with a bushel basket full of money. That's a lot of bullshit. I don't think anyone in the government could get a hold of a bushel basket full of cash, running around, giving it out. Anyway, the Chief of Station in Mexico City, Winston Scott, found a Mexican lawyer down there that was doing business with Castro. We went down and talked to him and paid him a small retainer to see what he could do with Castro. Nothing ever came of it. They got out before he had much of a chance. He was a member of a big law firm down there.

The CIA:

Mertz assumed a cover as a lawyer for the prisoner's relatives. **JIM ANGLETON**, who was Siragusa's supervisor in the OSS in Italy, during World War II, suggested to Mertz that Siragusa might have U.S. underworld connections with connections in Cuba who could be utilized to free the prisoners."

A document released in 1994 read:

Mr. Mertz is off for the afternoon with Murphy. (Deleted) of Technical Service Division called and left word with Jean that General Carter might be calling Mr. ANGLETON about the Techs case. When I asked (deleted) how he knew this, he said it came about this way: Wilma Christ had been

needing him all day about when she was going to get to see the Attorney General. (Deleted) called Carter's secretary to see if an appointment had been set up, and while he was talking to her, General Carter cut in and asked what was going on and who was in charge of the case. (Deleted) told him Mr. Mertz was. Carter asked about 'this thing up in New York' and (deleted) told him he knew we were on top of it. Carter asked if anybody had discussed it with the Attorney General or anyone on that level: (Deleted) said he knew it had been discussed with the Bureau. Carter then said he would be calling you regarding the case...Mr. Mertz called to say he had talked to (deleted) and had placed a call to General Carter who was out but would be calling Mertz back (at Mertz's home) at any moment. The point Carter indicated he planned to tell you about was the possibility of a trade, our boys for the saboteurs the FBI arrested in NY.

When **ANGLETON** was questioned about CHRIST during *HUNT v. WEBERMAN*, he testified that the name "CARSWELL" and photograph of CARSWELL were unknown to him. When DAVID PHILLIPS was asked about Christ, he responded: "I'm afraid, Counselor, that on the long list of names, that I now realize I must stick by my feeling that I have to have CIA permission to discuss whether I did, or did not, have connection with these people." **Wilma Christ** was often unhappy with the inability of the Agency to secure the release of her husband. The Christ family had six children and Mr. CHRIST'S absence caused innumerable problems. Wilma Christ was contacted by a Technical Services Division employee on an almost daily basis. She met with **Allen Dulles** on March 28, 1961: "Mrs. Christ meets with Allen Dulles, Director, CIA, who reports that the best hope of obtaining husband's freedom lies in revolution in Cuba. Mrs. Christ appreciated the Director's candor but disappointed that more active efforts were not being undertaken."

On May 24, 1961, Mrs. Christ arranges for (deleted) for self and for eldest son, who is (deleted). On July 7, 1961, "Mrs. Christ meets with General Cabell, DDCI, with reference to her demand to see the President." On August 16, 1961, Mrs. Christ met with "General Maxwell Taylor in lieu of President. Mrs. Christ again disappointed by lack of action to free her husband." In August 1962, **Larry Christ**, the brother of DAVID CHRIST, presented an ultimatum:

Either we arrange for a meeting with Attorney General or he will move to see him independently." Lawrence Christ was "of the opinion that Mrs. Christ is in the early stages of a nervous breakdown. Her health and cooperation are vital to the operational security aspects of this case. He is embittered because of the lack of cognizance of Wilma Christ by the Executive Branch of the Government. As he stated it, 'They have time to greet astronauts, foreign dignitaries and the like, yet they cannot even call her on the telephone. Just five minutes is all it would take.' The security implications involved in a meeting with the Attorney General or a telephone call from the White House has been repeated to the Christ family many times. Their present attitude can be summed up in a few

words, 'Security be damned! If we don't do something in a hurry he may never come back.'" (Wilma: "That is entirely erroneous.") [CIA Memo DD/P 10.16.62 Seymour Russell c/DD/P/TSD]

Wilma Christ was losing it. She was fed up with the lack of response that she received from the Kennedy Administration. She would tell her husband how she was treated after he returned.

## DAVID CHRIST AND SIDNEY GOTTLIEB

In July 1962 Sidney Gottlieb established a scholarship fund for Thomas Christ, the son of David Christ. John Mertz: "Gottlieb was the head of the division where those guys worked." Dr. Gottlieb: "Although this request is in part motivated by compassion for the Tech's families and a strong desire to lighten their burden, the overriding consideration is the need for continued operational security and control, which will be aided by your approval of our request." [Memo DD/Support 7.23.62 Sidney Gottlieb AC/DD/P/TSD]

Sidney Gottlieb stated:

1. That DAVE CHRIST was not knowledgeable of Sid's specialties, beyond knowing he was in charge of the chemical division of Technical Services Division and had something vague to do with debilitating drugs.
2. Among the contacts in Cuba of (deleted) (Air Force medico in Sid's hypnosis project) is a lawyer who is also an accomplished hypnotist. He has reportedly had some success in his cases by hypnotizing the judge at parties beforehand, and making the judge susceptible to his suggestions in the courtroom. (Deleted) has the poop on the lawyer. (Deleted) and I yesterday agreed there might be some merit in sending (deleted) to Cuba to snoop through the lawyer. We can get (deleted) down here on a day's notice through Gittinger, who is acting for Sid during the next few weeks. [CIA Memo Havana Flap 9.21.60]

## HYPNOSIS

John Marks, in his 1979 book *The Search for the "Manchurian Candidate"* wrote: "In June 1960 [Gottlieb's] TSS [Technical Services Support -Technical Services Division] officials launched an expanded program of operational experiments in hypnosis in cooperation with the Agency's Counter-Intelligence staff. Counter-Intelligence officials wrote that the hypnosis program could provide a 'potential breakthrough in clandestine technology.' Their arrangement with [Technical Services Division] was that the MK-ULTRA men would develop the technique in the laboratory, while they took care of 'field experimentation.' The Counter-Intelligence program had three goals:

- (1) to induce hypnosis very rapidly in unwitting Subjects;

(2) to create durable amnesia; and

(3) to implant durable and operationally useful posthypnotic suggestion."

Mexico City was a primary locale for the new experiments. Melvin Beck told about it in *Secret Contenders*:

[ANGLETON'S] Counter-Intelligence staff had in tow a young psychiatrist who claimed that he could produce a hypnotic state in an instant of shock to the Subject. He had evidently convinced the staff of its feasibility. Such a feat opened up wide vistas of utilization by the staff, particularly in the area of its prime concern-the bona fides of Clandestine Services agents. Under hypnosis, the agent was compelled to reveal the truth, thus putting to rest the doubts that always remained after studying the scattered and elusive evidence contained in a dossier or a file. Best of all, the method of putting the Subject under instantaneous hypnosis was practical and adaptable to the agent situation, with the significant added factor that the agent would remember nothing of the experience.

In December 1962, the Chief, Technical Services Division/ Liaison Services Section set up a meeting between **Wilma Christ**, Deputy Director /CIA General Carter and United States Attorney General **Robert F. Kennedy**. John Mertz had Wilma Christ meet with General Carter before the meeting. She told him she wanted to meet with the Attorney General. It was unclear if the meeting occurred. On December 26, 1962, **Wilma Christ** threatened to make contact with a member of a delegation headed for Havana that was led by **James Donovan**. James Donovan was involved in sensitive negotiations with the Cubans. On December 28, 1962, Wilma Christ was assured by James Donovan and Robert Hurwich of the State Department that the release of her husband would be secured, in return for supplies:

She was extremely happy with these assurances and there was no reason for the Attorney General to call her at that time." [MFR 3.22.63 Report of Meeting between Mrs. Christ and Mr. James Donovan in New York City on 3.20.63 from C/TSD/LSS]

In January 1963 Wilma Christ met with a CIA representative:

During conversation with Mrs. Christ and her daughter, Elaine, on January 2, 1963, I attempted to bring them up to date on the latest efforts in the ZRCHEST Project. Their only significant comments were continual requests that they be guaranteed that every effort is being made to effect the release of the Techs. At this time they do not feel that we are doing everything possible and voiced the opinion that the government is not forceful enough. Mrs. Christ again agreed not to take any unilateral action at this time, but commented that this whole episode is a very black page in American History. JAMES P. O'CONNOR Chief TSD/LSS

On March 6, 1963, the CIA reported:

1. The publicity resulting from DONOVAN's negotiations regarding the release of the Americans has given Mrs. Christ renewed hope that her husband will be released in the near future. Efforts to minimize the significance of these negotiations have little effect. At times Mrs. Christ contacts the undersigned on an hourly basis requesting information. She is knowledgeable of a few of the details regarding these negotiations, but has not been given any information of a highly sensitive nature or any information concerning the Cuban personalities involved in a possible trade.
2. Occasionally, Mrs. Christ becomes temperamental, somewhat abusive, and highly excitable. She continues to severely criticize the Administration, as well as the Agency's previous operations to free her husband. Her brother-in-law, Larry, continually threatens unilateral action unless 'something is done very soon.'
3. Mrs. Christ and her Brother-in-Law voiced an intent to contact DONOVAN or one his associates under alias in order to obtain more detailed information about the negotiations. However, they were successfully persuaded not to take any action which might precipitate a collapse of the entire project. Only by giving Mrs. Christ some hope for the future and some reason to believe that the Donovan negotiations might succeed have we been able to contain her from pursuing action which would undoubtedly compromise this operation. It is extremely difficult to predict, short of a complete mental breakdown, the effects that a collapse of the DONOVAN negotiations might have. At this time no considerations have been given to any other operations that we could discuss with Mrs. Christ, nor have there been any serious discussions regarding the continued containment of the Christ Family should the negotiations collapse.
4. Since Mrs. Christ's morale, welfare and co-operation are vital to the security and cover of this operation, it is anticipated that we will continue to advise her of some of the details and the human interest aspects of Donovan's negotiations. Under the present system the undersigned receives information from Mr. Mertz or Mr. Miskovsky regarding the current negotiations. This information is declassified as much as possible under the circumstances. The desensitized information and any hope or lack of hope that it may contain is transmitted to Mrs. Christ as soon as possible. It is particularly important that any information regarding Donovan's activities be relayed to Mrs. Christ before it appears in the press. Usually some detail or bit of information regarding negotiations or operational activity regarding her husband's release assists in satisfying her curiosity, for at least a few days.

5. About a week ago the Director queried regarding the status of the families. Mr. Miskovsky advised the Director that the situation was very tense but for the moment was being contained. Should the situation become desperate I believe Mrs. Christ could be subtly directed to seek consultation and or advice from Donovan. This has been discussed with Mr. Miskovsky who agrees that it would be safer to have her channel her efforts in that direction rather than to a source over whom we have little or no control.

On March 22, 1963, Wilma Christ met with James Donovan: "This preliminary meeting lasted about 45 minutes and gave Wilma Christ an opportunity to vent much of her anger and resentment." Other CIA reports noted: "Wilma Christ becomes temperamental, somewhat abusive, and highly excitable. She continues to severely criticize the Administration, as well as the Agency's previous operations designed to free her husband. Robert Hurwich of the State Department was present at some of these meetings. After the meeting, Mrs. Christ confided that "she often feels embarrassed and ashamed for saying many of the nasty things she has in the past, and for doubting the Agency's efforts to gain her husband's release." Wilma Christ was contacted in February 1994:

I am still under the secrecy business. I didn't know they had released anything. Why didn't they tell me? Because of how heavily my husband guarded the secrets, I have been indoctrinated that way, so I am fearful of saying anything. I am engulfed in this secrecy business. I have to talk to someone at the Agency. I wasn't privy to the details of the attempts made to release him. Alan, I have to make some calls to check on you.

Wilma Christ was told, "I need some checking out, that's for sure. I'll send you a book so you'll know what I'm really about." Wilma Christ was re-contacted in March 1994:

I haven't contacted the CIA about you, but I decided I'm not going to discuss it. Thanks for the book. The whole thing you read about my attempting to secure my husband's release is ridiculous. Not a shred of truth. I met with Robert Kennedy. I didn't demand it, it was suggested. I'm not going to talk about it. It's a bunch of garbage. I don't even want to hear it.

John Mertz:

Mrs. Christ was Security's problem, not mine. People from the Office of Security were holding CHRIST'S wife's hand during the time he was in jail there. I didn't have anything to do with that. I was trying to get him out. I never heard of a meeting between RFK and Mrs. Christ. She was not my baby. She could have gotten him killed by blowing her stack.

HEMMING told this researcher:

CHRIST'S wife was lucky that he was a career officer. If he had been a contract employee, she would have been threatened, and told to keep her mouth shut. They wanted to get his ass out before there was an invasion or execution or anything else. They weren't hurting for money.

#### THE RELEASE OF DAVID LEMAR CHRIST



CHRIST'S release was secured by the CIA in April 1963 when James Donovan arranged a prisoner exchange. CHRIST arrived at Homestead Air Force Base, Homestead, Florida. The United States agreed to release four G-2 agents, including Francisco "the hook" Molina, a Castro agent with a missing hand, who was serving a 20-year sentence for the accidental murder of a nine-year-old child. Governor Nelson Rockefeller agreed to sign the pardon that freed Francisco Molina from Attica prison on April 22, 1963. Simultaneously, Attorney General Robert Kennedy announced that charges had been dropped against three Cubans who had been arrested for plotting to blow up defense installations around New York City. The three, plus Francisco Molina were deported from Florida to Havana as Donovan brought back the Americans from Cuba in a straight swap.

John Mertz disagreed:

Donovan didn't know anything about our three guys who were in the Isle of Pines. But we prevailed upon him, to prevail on Castro, to let the 40 Americans out that were in the Isle of Pines, following the release of the Bay of Pigs prisoners. Fidel Castro agreed in exchange for 40 million dollars worth of medical supplies. And those 40 Americans were flown into Homestead. They weren't traded for anybody. They were a follow-up on the Bay of Pigs thing.

#### DESMOND FITZGERALD



Desmond FitzGerald suggested James Donovan be given contaminated scuba diving gear which James Donovan was to present to Fidel Castro as a gift. According to the Senate Intelligence Committee, James Donovan, on his own initiative, gave Fidel Castro a different diving suit. [Hinckle *Deadly Secrets* p214] When Richard Helms was appointed the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency in April 1965 he was succeeded as DD/P by Desmond FitzGerald. Desmond FitzGerald attended Harvard Law School where he received his degree in 1935. He enlisted as a private in the infantry during World War II, and rose to the rank of major. He joined the OSS, where he worked as an Operations Officer in Southeast Asia . He entered the CIA in 1951 and soon became its Far East Operations Division Chief. Desmond FitzGerald was appointed CIA Cuban Operations Chief in 1962, and Chief, Special Activities Staff, in November 1963. [CIA 181-73] Desmond FitzGerald, 57, died of a heart attack on a tennis court on July 23, 1967, and Thomas Karamessines, Richard Helms' Assistant DD/P, became DD/P.

#### CHRIST PHOTO AT HOMESTEAD AIR FORCE BASE APRIL 1963

On April 23, 1963, CHRIST landed at Homestead Air Force Base in Florida. In New York City, *The World-Telegram and Sun* ran this headline: "CIA Trio Slips Past Castro In Swap." The article stated that the trio's connection to the CIA had been confirmed with reliable Government sources. John Mertz:

At Homestead, our three guys were separated from the others and flown to Washington. They weren't on the ground more than five minutes. They all marched into a building, he went out a back door into another building, and on to another plane. He was in the air ten minutes later. Hell, they had the greatest collection of thieves, hoodlums and murderers in that 40 guys that came out of Cuba. They had to get them all, to prevent the three from being identified. Even Donovan didn't know we had some people in that group.

William C. Sullivan was notified of CHRIST'S return. [FBI 64-47305-93] David Wise and Thomas Ross reported: "When they landed in Miami CARSWELL, Danbrunt and

Taransky vanished. They declined to talk to reporters. And for some reason, unlike the other returnees, they would not tell the American Red Cross their destination." [*Inv. Gov.* p260]

### CHRIST APRIL 1963 TO AUGUST 1963

REQUEST FOR PERSONNEL ACTION APRIL 30, 1963

DAVID L. CHRIST

Nature of Personnel Action

REASSIGNMENT AND CHANGE OF SERVICE DESIGNATION

Organizational Designation

DDP/TSD

Position: PHYSICAL SCIENCE

FROM: IAS Foreign Field Undetermined.

[deleted 03]

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION (Category of Report) OO/C (DELETED)

Case no. 43 872 Christ, David L. Date **May 28, 1963** Office of Origin (Deleted but most likely Manhattan Field Office) Report made by John E. O'Hare Character of Case E/SD/3 Francis R. Favorini, Special Agent in Charge. DIST (Deleted). Two pages dated April 26, 1963 withheld.

An FBI case was opened on the three men entitled, "Cuban Sabotage Efforts in the United States." [FBI 105-115667-172] Much of this document was withheld. John Mertz commented:

When he came back, he was in the Science and Technology Directorate. I don't know what he did when he came back. He was spending all his time trying to get decorated with a medal. My vote was no. Someone told me he got a medal. I don't know what he did in S & D. I don't think he was assigned to the Scientific Division until about a year after he returned. He was on ice, and we were carefully preserving his identity. They were under medical surveillance for a few months. He was being debriefed. I debriefed him. That was 30 years ago, pal. Everybody's dead but me.

CHRIST was transferred to another Agency component. Melvin Beck reported: "After their release they were brought back to the Agency, although, as was common talk, they were excluded from active assignment." The CIA reported that upon his return from Cuba, CHRIST joined the Office of Research and Development, where he worked on the over-the-horizon radar program. CHRIST was also responsible for pioneering efforts in the area of Audio Surveillance Countermeasures, first proposing the application of computers to the problem. On August 9, 1963, J. Edgar Hoover had an interest in CHRIST and sent a telex to Richard Helms about him. [FBI NI 105-38509-13]

## CHRIST: UNHAPPY W/CIA'S EFFORTS TO SECURE HIS RELEASE

In 1964 John Mertz wrote this memorandum to the Chief, OPSER.

3. The details of the cover story were perfected at Headquarters and were conveyed to the prisoners in Cuba by Mr. Hugh Kessler, who at that time was an American Consul in Cuba. The subsequent unrelenting and expensive efforts to save the lives and secure the release of the prisoners were carried out within the framework of that cover story which to this day has protected the true identities of the three employees. Our success in this case is attributable to a major effort on the part of the CIA and the U.S. Government.

4. Mr. CHRIST'S inference in Para. 6 of his memorandum that the cover story was developed by Mr. Anderson and Mr. Szuminski is not accurate. Neither is he accurate in Para. 13C when he infers that "neither CIA or the U.S. Government" tried "to get them out."

5. Upon their return to the United States on April 22, 1963, the Counter-Intelligence Staff, assisted by representatives of the Office of Security, upon direction of the DD/P, initiated further investigation to determine the reasons for the arrest. (Deleted) ESCALADE roll-up and the loyalty of the three employees while in the hands of the enemy.

6. The investigation disclosed that they were loyal and that the roll up and arrest were the direct result of Mr. CHRIST and certain members of the Havana Station. The matter was complicated by the refusal or inability of Mr. CHRIST to tell the whole truth to the investigating officers regarding certain portions of his conversations with the Cuban arresting officers on matters relating to his judgment, but not related to his loyalty. [CIA Memo, Chief, OPSER Mertz undated]

### CHRIST SEPTEMBER 1963

1. On several occasions during early September 1963 Mr. Christ came by invitation to the office of undersigned for the purpose of informing himself from the files regarding the nature and extent of the Headquarters effort to secure the release of the ZRCHESTERS from the Isle of Pines.

2. At the time of his first visit, which was shortly after the Chairman of the DD/P Review Committee had informed him of the approval of the Committee's recommendations, Mr. CHRIST expressed concern that no time limit had been placed on the restriction that he could not travel outside the U.S. either TDY or PCS; whereas in the case of the other two Subjects a specific period of time was mentioned in connection with the restrictions upon foreign travel.

4. Speaking as an informed officer, and not for the review committee, undersigned pointed out to Mr. CHRIST that the investigation established that he, as the senior officer in the group, had been under more pressure than the other two men. Also, that this pressure was further evidenced by his lack of objectivity in the discussion of certain matters during his debriefing that he might have been mistaken in his recollection of certain events in Cuba. Undersigned corrected Mr. CHRIST by stating that the record shows that Mr. CHRIST admitted he might have lied.

5...Mr. CHRIST is not too pleased with the debriefing officers who crowded him into this corner. John Mertz SA/C/CI.

#### DAVID CHRIST AND HEMMING

HEMMING 1994:

CHRIST was in the same cell with me in Havana when I got busted on September 27, 1960. He thought I was being tortured. I was laying on the spring, it was like steel wool, a finely woven mesh. I was laying on it without my shirt. When I rolled over, I heard this English voice: 'Jesus Christ, he's one of them, and look what the fuck they did to him.' My back looked like hamburger. They were scared shitless. We ended up in the same cell together. A cell that would normally be for four people had 40 people in it. Standing room only.

When interviewed in 1977 and 1994 HEMMING maintained that the true nature of CHRIST'S mission was to bomb the Chinese Communist News Agency:

CHRIST knows too much to be sent down to a hostile environment unless he's the only guy they can trust because he has done other operations. When you say audio devices, it's total bullshit. Audio expert was his cover. All the other steamy shit they're not going to publicize. He was an inventor, an expert in remote controlled explosives. That's his main job. When you got a hot mission like that, then they had to decide, we've got to risk putting this guy in. CHRIST got arrested in Cuba in September 1960 running an operation located in an apartment above the Chinese Communist News Agency. They had a transmitter and code book there. CHRIST was going to get the book out without the Chinese even knowing they had it. Hey, he might have to take a few guys out to do it, but so what? It would look like a goddamned accident anyway. See, they were going to pump kitchen gas into the place, blow the fuckin' place up, enter, grab the book, and then set a big goddamned fire. The chinks would think the code books had been burned, and not change the fucking codes. The Agency supplied them with some outdated bugging equipment and told them to say, if they were caught, that they were bugging the place on behalf of the U.S. Embassy.

HEMMING'S story about CHRIST and explosives did not check out, however, CHRIST was an explosives expert and *The New York Times* reported that during the overthrow of Kwame Nkrumah, the left-wing leader of Ghana, the CIA Chief of Station, Accra, requested a group of paramilitarists storm the Chinese Communist Embassy, kill everyone there, then steal the code books and the records of the installation. The group was instructed to blow up the building before leaving so that it would look like Embassy personnel had been killed in an explosion.

In 1994 HEMMING stated:

In the circle of my immediate Miami acquaintances the tramp *resembled* CHRIST. He buddied up with us. He figured we were the real thing. We didn't give a fuck who he was. He felt he had been betrayed. He wanted to work with something that was legitimate.

HEMMING was asked how CHRIST reacted when his identity was revealed: "It could be he felt I was in charge, and I knew what I was doing." **Howard Kenneth Davis** was sent a photograph of CHRIST then asked:

Q. Did you ever see DAVID CHRIST around INTERPEN?

A. Yeah, I saw him around, I didn't know him well.

Q. You saw CHRIST?

A. Yeah, I did. I believe I did if I can remember. I think I saw him over there a couple of times. People would wander in and out all the time - even CIA people. That was no big secret. FIORINI had a relationship with the Company. That is absolute. We knew it at the time, it was no secret in Miami.

#### INTERVIEW WITH WALTER E. SZUMINSKI

A Walter E. Szuminski was contacted in March 1994 in suburban Virginia and asked: "Did you ever use the name Taransky in Cuba?"

A. You must have the wrong guy.

Q. You were never in CIA?

A. Who is this speaking?

Q. I came across your name in a document about DAVID CHRIST.

A. Am I related to somebody like that?

Q. Did you ever work for him?

A. Where are you getting this information?

Q. CIA documents.

A. Hey, go back and talk to those guys. Maybe they can enlighten you. I can't.

Q. What about the Cuban bugging operation?

A. Well, I'm sure they do that.

Q. Were you ever incarcerated in Cuba?

A. (Sighs) You've got the wrong person here.

#### Meeting with Walter Szuminski March 18, 1994

I met with him in your office -- told him I did not have a file or documents to show him today. We were searching the files and may be able to show the him something next week. He offered some background on the Cuban operation and the calls he had received. First he gave me the story of the Cuban imprisonment and their return. He said that D. Christ was interviewed by HSCA in mid-1970s to see if there was any connection between their time in Cuban [prison] and the assassination (Christ told him about the interview). The story of their imprison [ment] was public knowledge but only with pseudos. He mentions the classified article in the Studies which was with true name. Last month he received a call from D Christ's widow & son -- they had received a call from Allan J Weberman (assassination author) who said Dave Christ's debriefing by HSCA had been released and that true names were included. I mentioned that we would not have released an HSCA document.

Two weeks ago Szuminski received a similar call ("was he the Szuminski who was imprisoned in Cuba with Christ and released through Donovan's efforts). He told Weberman he had wrong person. Yesterday he received another call asking if he was aware that his name is in the national archives. The callers referred to both the CIA JFK releases and a FOIA release. My impression was that his name was also released in an FOIA but if the researcher was using Lesar's file he may have confused the two.

I talked a little about the law and the balancing test for disclosure (public vs national security, etc.). Also said that the link of Carswell to 3 tramps in Dallas made Christ part of the story. Since Christ became an overt employee in 1963, retired overt and was dead much of the information on

him was subject to release. Because of the Cuba imprisonment there are documents on, or that mention, Szuminski and Anderson in Christ's file.

Szuminski said he also retired overt. He mentioned Christ son who has a firm in Reston that has done work for the Agency -- 'negative publicity could hurt him. He said he wanted to see what was out so he would know how to deal with the calls. He also made a couple of comments about suing but doubted he could. Told him we would get back to him next week. He said we could reach him through his wife (Elise S.) [24 deleted, 03 as of 2010] [deleted 03 as of 2010].

#### CHRIST: SEPTEMBER 1963

September 4, 1963.

Memorandum For: Chief, Personnel Security Division

Subject: David Lemar Christ DDS&T

The above individual is under consideration for clearance for Special Intelligence. Your recommendation is requested concerning granting of such clearance, together with any information or comment which may be pertinent.

On September 12, 1963 CHRIST was granted a CORAL clearance.

On September 13, 1963 CHRIST signed an ARGON AGREEMENT.

FILE DATE **SEPTEMBER 17, 1963**

MEMORANDUM FOR SECURITY OFFICER DIS (?) T

SUBJECT: DAVID LAMAR CHRIST #43872

The following action on the above named individual was completed on **September 13, 1963: INDOCTRINATED FOR SPECIAL INTELLIGENCE**

REMARKS: cc: C/PSD/OS (DELETED) Chief Special Clearance Center, SSC/OS

On **September 19, 1963**, CHRIST received a form that indicated "Reassignment, Change of SD, and Transfer to Vouchered Funds." On September 20, 1963 an Investigative Transmittal Sheet was generated on CHRIST.

Next the following document was generated:

SAM CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

PHS DTD: Biographic Data (Rec'd. date) **September 23, 1963**. October 29, 1963 No INV 43872

SUBJECT CHRIST, DAVID LAMAR January 20, 1918 Tanagua, Penn

On **September 27, 1963**, CHRIST requested Form 1322 [requesting cover], From the Chief, Records and Services Division, and Chief, Operating Component, Office of Research and Development, DD/S & T. He returned it to these components. On a "Notification Of Establishment Of Military Cover, Backstop" these boxes were marked: "Submit form 642 to change limitation category to 3. Ascertain that (deleted as of 2010)

being issued. Submit form 1322 or any change affecting this cover. Submit form 1323 for transferring cover responsibility." A highly deleted CIA Office of Security document dated **September 27, 1963**, read, "Request For Entry or Change. Inclusion of Subject on the Domestic Cover List requested as noted below."

On September 13, 1963 CHRIST, Deputy Director of Science and Technology signed a secrecy agreement as he had become part of PROJECT OXCART, the redesign of the U-2 and PROJECT CORONA, PROJECT IDEALIST and PROJECT (DELETED).

**CHRIST: OCTOBER 1963**

On October 31, 1963 the CIA was made aware of the fact that CHRIST had moved to Washington. On October 11, 1963 a document on CHRIST was generated based on "Sensitive sources and methods." Special Affairs Staff memo was generated on October 26, 1963. The SAS was the new name for William Harvey's Task Force 11. On November 8, 1962, a six-man CIA sabotage team dispatched as part of Task Force W blew up a factory in Cuba. The CIA arm of the operation, Task Force W, continued to exist as the Special Affairs Staff, located at the CIA's Miami station. William Harvey, the head of Task Force W, was replaced by Desmond FitzGerald as head of the Special Affairs Staff. Covert attacks against Fidel Castro (including assassination attempts) and Cuban government officials continued throughout 1963 under FitzGerald. Other operations included industrial and economic sabotage as well as terrorism.

**CHRIST NOVEMBER 1963**

21 nov

Mr. Mertz

Mr. Helms ret'd the [ ] memo with this note:

"When the meeting is set up, Elizabeth can arrange with the IX AG's secy secure handling of the meeting. We do this frequently"

Input

I put it on JA's desk.

B

TRANSMITTAL SLIP			D. 11/20/63
TO: C/OPS/SEC.			
ROOM NO.	BUILDING		
REMARKS			
<p>Herewith a note of my dealings with CHRIST. My steno is gone - if you want to have your girl clean it up, I will sign it.</p> <p>Mertz</p> <p><i>ILW</i></p> <p><i>John</i></p> <p><i>John</i></p> <p><i>John</i></p>			
FROM:			
ROOM NO.	BUILDING	EXTENSION	

