

Airtel

1 - [redacted]

b6
b7C

FM

To: SAC, Savannah

~~TOP SECRET~~
REC-31

9/27/74

From: Director, FBI (65-75452)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

HOOKSHOT
ESPIONAGE - RUSSIA

Classified by *SP5 SCL-1 BT*
Declassify on: OADR

Hookshot is the Bureau code name for our investigation to identify a member of the United States military who in 1964 and 1965 was acting as an agent of the Soviet intelligence services (SIS). The Bureau has learned from [redacted] that an individual who was with a United States Army supply unit in Vietnam during the early part of 1965 was cooperating with the SIS. There is some indication that this individual had access to information on the location and distribution of nuclear weapons. As of January, 1965, the individual was to serve approximately 10 to 12 additional months in Vietnam and had 10 years to serve in the Army to be eligible to retire. (S)

b7D

This information was provided to the Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Department of the Army during February, 1974, with a request for assistance in identifying the Hookshot subject. The Army recently concluded a thorough and discreet review of persons meeting the criteria of Hookshot and have located a possible suspect.

This individual has been identified as Joseph George Helmich, Jr., born July 13, 1937, at Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Helmich was separated from the military during the early part of 1967 and his present whereabouts are unknown to the Army. A recent check with Baltimore Source 4 indicates that Helmich, during the latter part of 1973, was employed by Heritage American, Inc., 1269 Gordon Highway, Augusta, Georgia 30901. He has SSAN 262-46-8727..

- Assoc. Dir. _____
- Dep. AD Adm. _____
- Dep. AD Inv. _____
- Asst. Dir.:
- Admin. _____
- Comp. Syst. _____
- Ext. Affairs _____
- Files & Com. _____
- Gen. Inv. _____
- Ident. _____
- Inspection _____
- Intell. _____
- Laboratory _____
- Legal Coun. _____
- Plan. & Eval. _____
- Spec. Inv. _____
- Training _____

[redacted] (4)

APPEAL # *310629-001*
SEARCHED *8-6-74*

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

b6
b7C

MAILED 1
SEP 26 1974
FBI

~~TOP SECRET~~
Classified by *6136*
Exempt from GDS Categories 2 and 3
Date of Declassification Indefinite

ROUTE IN ENVELOPE

8-1 OCT 2 1974

MAIL ROOM

TELETYPE UNIT

HCC

~~TOP SECRET~~

Airtel to Savannah
Re: Hookshot
65-75452

Savannah is requested to discreetly ascertain Helmich's current residence and employment through established sources only.

(U) In view of the sensitivity of [redacted] extreme caution must be exercised in the handling of any information obtained from this source and no action taken which could jeopardize the security of this source of information. (S)

b7D

~~No dissemination should be made of this information outside of the Bureau unless such action has been specifically approved by FBIHQ. [redacted] must still be utilized in [redacted] [redacted]~~

NOTE:

(U) Information concerning Hookshot, a developed agent of the SIS during 1964 and 1965, was included in the material furnished by [redacted] during 1972. The original information from the source indicated that the GRU had an agent named "Greenwood" who was possibly assigned in France prior to his posting to Vietnam in 1964. There were indications that at some stage of his military service this individual was selected for assignment in radio interception and decoding work. (S)

b7D

[redacted] This information was provided to the Army during February, 1974. They recently advised that Helmich appears to be a logical suspect for the Greenwood agent. Helmich was assigned to various Army units in France during the early 1960's and was assigned to a supply unit in Vietnam during the latter part of 1964 and the early part of 1965. He held a crypto clearance while in the Army until January 29, 1965, when he was denied access to information above confidential. He was intensively investigated by the Army over financial difficulties. Savannah at Augusta is requested to discreetly verify Helmich's current residence and employment, *access to classified material*

~~TOP SECRET~~

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATION MESSAGE FORM

2 CONTINUATION SHEET

~~PAGE TWO DE HQ 0062 SECRET~~

(U) MILITARY SERVICE IS SET FORTH AS FOLLOWS: (S) (S)

20 NAME: JOSEPH GEORGE HELMICH, JR.

18 DOB: JULY 13, 1937

POB: FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA

16 RACE: CAUCASIAN

HEIGHT: 6'0"

14 EYES: BROWN

HAIR: RED

12 SSAN: 262-46-8727

SPOUSE: [REDACTED]

b6 per Army

10 DOB: [REDACTED]

POB: [REDACTED]

1954 (NOVEMBER): ENTERED U. S. ARMY

1955-1957: SERVED IN REPUBLIC OF KOREA

(U) 1959-1963: SERVED IN A SIGNAL UNIT IN THE PARIS, FRANCE,

AREA. APPOINTED WARRANT OFFICER AND WAS CLASSIFIED DOCUMENT

CUSTODIAN WITH TOP SECRET CRYPTOLOGIC ACCESS. (S) (S)

(U) 1963: RETURNED TO FORT BRAGG, NORTH CAROLINA; SIGNAL

UNIT. (S) (S)

1963-1964: U. S. ARMY INVESTIGATED HELMICH DUE TO REPORTED

DO NOT TYPE PAST THIS LINE

~~SECRET~~

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
 COMPLAINING TELETYPE MESSAGE FORM

3

INVESTIGATION SHEET

 PAGE THREE DE HQ 0062 ~~SECRET~~

"AFFLUENCE." HELMICH OWNED A HOME, TWO JAGUAR AUTOMOBILES AND OTHER ITEMS THAT WOULD BE CONSIDERED UNUSUAL FOR A MAN OF HIS AGE AND MILITARY RANK. (S) (u)

(U) 1964: TURNED DOWN FOR ARMY SECURITY AGENCY (ASA) ASSIGNMENT IN VIETNAM FOR THIS UNRESOLVED "AFFLUENCE." (S)

1965: SERVED FORT GORDON, GEORGIA. DUE TO EXTREME FINANCIAL DIFFICULTY, HELMICH'S SECURITY CLEARANCE WAS REVOKED

1966: HELMICH RESIGNED U. S. ARMY IN LIEU OF ELIMINATION PROCEEDINGS FOR INDEBTEDNESS. (S) (u)

(U) WHILE IT IS KNOWN THAT THE HOOKSHOT SUBJECT WAS ACTING AS AN AGENT OF SOVIET MILITARY INTELLIGENCE (GRU) IN 1964 AND 1965, IT CANNOT BE DETERMINED IF HOOKSHOT HAS CONTINUED TO WORK FOR THE SOVIETS. (S) (u)

SAVANNAH IS REQUESTED TO DISCREETLY ASCERTAIN HELMICH'S CURRENT RESIDENCE AND EMPLOYMENT. SAVANNAH SHOULD ALSO DETERMINE IF HELMICH'S PRESENT "STATION IN LIFE" IS COMMENSURATE WITH HIS STANDARD OF LIVING. IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, SAVANNAH SHOULD ATTEMPT TO ASCERTAIN IF HELMICH PRESENTLY HAS ACCESS TO "CLASSIFIED" MATERIAL. (S) (u)

SAVANNAH SHOULD INSURE THAT THIS MATTER BE ASSIGNED TO

PLEASE TYPE MESSAGE BELOW THIS LINE

DO NOT TYPE PAST THIS LINE

~~SECRET~~

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS MESSAGE FORM

4

CONTINUATION SHEET

~~PAGE FOUR DE HQ 0062 SECRET~~

(U) AN EXPERIENCED AGENT, [PREFERABLY WITH AN FCI BACKGROUND.] ~~(S)~~

(U) THIS MATTER SHOULD BE HANDLED [ON A STRICT NEED-TO-KNOW BASIS, IN AN EXPEDITIOUS MANNER, AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH FCIM, PART I, SECTION 6.5.] ~~(S)~~

(U) IN VIEW OF THE SENSITIVITY OF [REDACTED], EXTREME CAUTION MUST BE EXERCISED IN THE HANDLING OF ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM THIS SOURCE AND NO ACTION TAKEN WHICH COULD JEOPARDIZE THE SECURITY OF THIS SOURCE. ~~(S)~~

NO DISSEMINATION SHOULD BE MADE OF THIS INFORMATION OUTSIDE OF THE BUREAU UNLESS THIS ACTION HAS BEEN SPECIFICALLY APPROVED BY FBIHQ. ~~(S)~~ (u)

~~C AND E 5808 REASON 2 AND DRD FEBRUARY 12, 2000.~~

BT

b7D

DO NOT TYPE PAST THIS LINE

DO NOT TYPE MESSAGE BELOW THIS LINE

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

Memorandum to [REDACTED]
RE: HOOKSHOT
65-75452

b6
b7C

(U) While Helmich is now a civilian with no apparent direct access to classified information, it is believed that due to the information (sigint) he would have been able to provide the SIS in the mid 60's, there is reason to indicate that Helmich could possibly be working for the Soviets presently. In what capacity, we are unable to determine. There presently exists a rather elaborate antenna on the roof of Helmich's residence. In this regard, Helmich resides in a lower class neighborhood. He appears not to be living beyond his means. He is, however, in close proximity to Fort Gordon, Georgia, (a sensitive sigint training facility) and Charleston, South Carolina, (Navy nuclear submarine base).

It is noted that Helmich resigned from the Army, in the fall of 1966 as the Army had begun indebtedness proceedings against him. Helmich seemed to have gone from "rags to riches and back to rags". At the time he left the Army, he was in financial difficulty in that he had many creditors. (S) U

(U) It is realized that Helmich does not appear to be receiving large sums of money, however, if he in fact is still working for the SIS, his motivation may have changed over the years to one of ideology. The ultimate goal in any case, is to interview Helmich (provided he is determined to be Greenwood) in order to gain information for the purpose of making a determination on the following: 1) Prosecution 2) doubling him back against the Soviets and 3) a damage assessment as to any sigint information he may have furnished the SIS. This last factor could have enabled the SIS to intercept and decipher our codes even today. (S)

(U) As Columbia does not have secure telephone communications and a substantial number of FCI trained personnel, it is recommended that FBIHQ Supervisor, [REDACTED] travel to Columbia for a conference with the SAC, FCI Supervisor and the case officer for the purpose of briefing these individuals on the extensive background of this case as well as to provide direction in discreetly conducting this investigation within distinct parameters. Until it is determined otherwise, this matter is being handled under the assumption that Helmich is presently working for the SIS in some capacity. (S)

b6
b7C

~~SECRET~~

b6
b7C

088

U
A
P

1 6

6/4/80

~~SECRET~~

~~ROUTINE~~

*F088800 CO JK NK SV TPIDE HQ H0088 ***H0YS80 042045Z JUN 80

FM DIRECTOR FBI (65-75452)

TO FBI NEWARK (65-6624) IMMEDIATE

FBI JACKSONVILLE (65-303) IMMEDIATE

FBI TAMPA (65-467) IMMEDIATE

FBI SAVANNAH (65-1233) IMMEDIATE

FBI COLUMBIA (65-156) IMMEDIATE

BT

~~SECRET~~

HOOKSHOT; ESP-R; 00: CO.

~~ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE~~

Classified by 3006
Declassify on: DATE
8-7-90 PT

RECOTEL TO BUREAU JUNE 4, 1980. (U)

(U)

[Redacted]

(U) (S)

b7E

FOR INFORMATION RECEIVING OFFICES, HOOKSHOT IS AN EXTREMELY SENSITIVE ESPIONAGE INVESTIGATION OF JOSEPH GEORGE HELMICH, JR., 1170 ABBEVILLE AVENUE, AIKEN, SOUTH CAROLINA.

(S)

(S)

(U)

ON MAY 29 - 30, 1980, HELMICH WAS IN CONTACT WITH THE SOVIET EMBASSY, OTTAWA, CANADA, POSSIBLY SEEKING TO RE-ESTABLISH

(S)

[Redacted]
1- [Redacted]
1- [Redacted]

6/4/80

4216

4558

SEE NOTE PAGE SEVEN

b6
b7C

52

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

2210
JUN 4 1980

JUN 6 1980

~~SECRET~~

97 JUN 13 1980

PAGE TWO DE HQ 0088 ~~SECRET~~

(U) CONTACT WITH THE SOVIETS OR SEEKING RELOCATION IN THE SOVIET UNION. ~~CS~~

(U) ~~(S)~~ IT DOES NOT APPEAR THAT HELMICH RECEIVED SATISFACTION FROM THE SOVIETS REGARDING HIS REQUESTS.] ON MAY 31, 1980, AT 2:23 P.M., HELMICH, ALONG WITH HIS WIFE AND NINE YEAR OLD SON CROSSED THE U. S. CANADIAN BORDER BACK INTO THE UNITED STATES AT NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK. ~~CS~~ (S)

TO DATE, SUBJECT AND FAMILY HAVE NOT RETURNED TO THEIR HOME IN AIKEN. ~~CS~~

THE FOLLOWING IS A DESCRIPTION OF JOSEPH GEORGE HELMICH, JR.:

DATE OF BIRTH: JULY 13, 1937

PLACE OF BIRTH: FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA

RACE: CAUCASIAN

HEIGHT: 6'0"

WEIGHT: 160 LBS

EYES: BROWN

HAIR: LONG BLONDE; STRAIGHT

BUILD: SLIM

COMPLEXION: TANNED

~~SECRET~~

3

PAGE THREE DE HQ 0088 ~~SECRET~~
VEHICLE: 1970 BROWN PONTIAC, SOUTH CAROLINA LICENSE

[REDACTED]

WIFE:

[REDACTED]

DATE OF BIRTH:

[REDACTED]

PLACE OF BIRTH: LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

ADDRESS:

[REDACTED]

b6
b7C

est u

THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT SUBJECT IS ATTEMPTING TO FLEE AS 1) HE HAS CONCEIVABLY LEARNED OF THE FBI'S INTEREST IN HIM OR 2) HE IS UNDERGOING FINANCIAL PROBLEMS IN THE AIKEN AREA. *est u*

IT IS KNOWN THAT SUBJECT HAS SOLD HIS FURNITURE, A CAR AND OTHER BELONGINGS. HIS RESIDENCE IS CURRENTLY LISTED FOR SALE WITH A REALTY FIRM. *est u*

THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT SUBJECT MAY NOT RETURN TO AIKEN. *est u*

FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF SUBJECT RELATIVES, AND/OR FRIENDS WHERE HE COULD CONCEIVABLY BE STAYING:

NEWARK DIVISION:

[REDACTED]

b6
b7C

~~SECRET~~