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N-1735

11 June 1961

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Report on William H. Covington (U)

THRU: General G. B. Erskine, USMC-Ret,
Assistant to the Secretary of Defense, Special Operations

1. William H. Covington has been employed in cryptologic activities almost continuously since December 1952. The first three years of this period (Dec '52 to Sept '55) he served as an enlisted radio intercept operator in the Army Security Agency. The remainder of the period (Jan '56 to June '61) he has been employed by NSA as a radio intercept operator and analyst of foreign communications procedures.

2. Mr. Covington's work has required him to become skilled in the methods used by NSA and the cryptologic agencies to assure interception and identification of radio communications. These methods are normally classified Secret and are not considered to be among the more sensitive of the cryptologic processes except as they apply to procedures used by foreign agents. Such procedures, with which Covington was familiar, are considered more sensitive and classified Top Secret. Covington was not employed in cryptanalytic work at any time nor was he made aware of results achieved in that field.

3. A detailed report of the effort to locate Covington will be submitted separately.

L. H. FROST

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Vice Admiral, USN
Director~~SECRET~~

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M/R: Report to General Erskine and SecDEF on W. H. Covington.



R. P. HALLORAN/DIR/OPS/3574/jc