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OGC 69-0399

4 March 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Thomas L. Roberts

1. Messrs. Ward Greene, Office of Security, Kenneth Heinonen, LPGLOBE Case Officer, and I arrived in Frankfurt, Germany, at 1100 hours, 19 February 1969, and were met by a representative of the Frankfurt Base. Mr. Greene and I then were taken to a safehouse and Mr. Heinonen waited for Mr. Roberts to arrive from Dakar and then brought him to the safehouse. It had been agreed upon earlier that the debriefing of Roberts would not commence until Thursday morning; however, Mr. Heinonen did discuss general LPGLOBE matters and some broad aspects of the Itkin problem with Roberts on the afternoon of 19 February. Mr. Greene and I went to the Frankfurt Base where we met with the Chief of Base, Mr. McManus, and Chief of Security, Mr. Crawford.

2. It was decided to start the debriefing from Roberts' earliest contact with the FBI, which occurred in Boston some time in 1950, and proceed chronologically covering Roberts' subsequent move to New York City, then discuss his employment with the law firm of Delson, Levin and Gordon, which was followed in 1957 by the formation of the law firm of Itkin, Roberts and Greenbaum. Subsequently we discussed his employment with CIA, which involved his disengagement from the New York law firm and cover for his various trips to Africa. We repeatedly stressed his contacts with Herbert Itkin over the years 1955 through 1967.

3. It was considered that Roberts had a very difficult task if he intended to conceal or deceive the Agency about his relationships with Herbert Itkin. This conclusion was reached since Roberts could not anticipate what information was available to the debriefers. Roberts was advised that Mr. Greene was from

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the Office of Security, which carried with it the inference that he had been privy to all the reports Roberts gave to the FBI. Roberts was told that I had dealt with Mr. Hogan's office, the New York District Attorney, and Mr. Morgenthau, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and had talked with Herbert Itkin personally. Roberts was fully cooperative during the entire debriefing and did not hesitate to discuss any topics.

4. We concluded that Roberts has not been involved in any of Itkin's illegal activities since Roberts has been an employee of CIA. It is my opinion that Roberts is an individual with a strong sense of dedication to principles so long as they result in what he considers a worthwhile sense of accomplishment. I think it is significant to mention this assessment since Roberts does not give the impression of having been motivated solely by monetary rewards in any of his activities. This lack of concern for money was disturbing during certain phases of the debriefing because Roberts was rather vague about the amount of income he received from the law firm of Itkin, Roberts and Greenbaum. He stated that he used a drawing account and only took what was needed for his living expenses. Roberts gives the impression of being a proud individual who is not prone to admit to his personal deficiencies. The LPGLOBE files contain several references to admonitions given by station representatives to Roberts for non-achievement in the operational field. Although Roberts did not allude to these admonitions voluntarily, he did discuss them when asked.

5. It was our feeling that Roberts did not discuss with Herbert Itkin his employment with CIA, nor did he discuss with Itkin his earlier reporting activities to the FBI. Roberts was not aware of Itkin's relationship to CIA and did not know of Mario Brod's affiliation with CIA.

6. After the debriefing had been concluded, Roberts was told of the possible exposure of his employment with CIA by Itkin's defense counsel, F. Lee Bailey, should Itkin be tried in the New York state court. Roberts appeared to be genuinely disturbed and expressed bitter feelings toward Itkin since he

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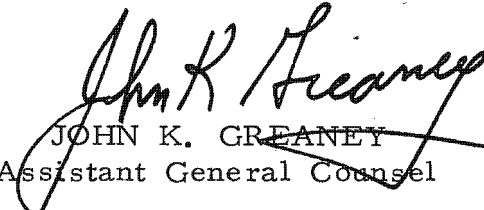
feels that such exposure could prevent him from performing future operational assignments. He is enthusiastic about his future assignment to Paris and is hopeful that circumstances will permit him to pursue his operational tasks in the very near future.

7. Mr. Roberts left Frankfurt for Dakar the night of 21 February and was told to continue with his disengagement plans as his departure from Dakar had already been announced to his local contacts. It was suggested that Roberts take a boat from Dakar to Marseille. After his arrival in Marseille, Roberts was to proceed to Austria and take a ski vacation which is consistent with earlier vacation plans when he traveled from Dakar to Austria during the month of March for skiing in previous years. Roberts has been instructed to remain in contact with LPGLOBE so that further instructions can be furnished him when a firm estimate of future events with regard to the Itkin trial can be decided.

8. On 24 February 1969, I discussed with Mr. David Murphy, Chief of Station, Paris, the possible exposure of Roberts in the event Herbert Itkin is tried in the New York state court. I explained how Roberts had been a law partner of Itkin but as a result of our debriefing in Frankfurt we had concluded that Roberts was not involved with illegal activities with Itkin since Roberts has been employed by CIA. Mr. Murphy appreciated being briefed on the complicated case but indicated that he was anxious for Roberts to arrive in Paris for his operational assignment in view of the priority need for his services in penetrating certain leftist organizations. Mr. Murphy felt that if Headquarters was considering a cooling off period for Roberts of approximately three or four months, Murphy would hope that Roberts could spend this time in Paris establishing himself with the target community and not have any station contacts. Mr. Murphy understands that this decision of necessity must be made at Headquarters, but that he as Chief of the Paris Station does not feel that circumstances as they exist today represent a compromise of such magnitude that would preclude Roberts' operational assignment to Paris. C/Paris

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