

SECRETG-65-40
22 January 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR : Chief, TSD/OA
ATTENTION : Mr. (Jack Tashiro)⁰³
SUBJECT : Info Re Conversation with Cleve Backster in
"Anastatia" Matter (22, 838-X)

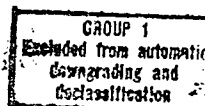
1. In response to request from Mr. (Tashiro)⁰³ following are the facts to the best of my recollection (I made some notes at the time, but have just recently destroyed them) of my dealings with Cleve Backster in the celebrated "Anastatia" case. It has recently come to light, with the publication in the Washington DAILY NEWS, 19 January 1965, of an interview with Herman E. Kimsey, former Chief, TSD/GARB/A&R, that one Col. Michael Goleniewski, Polish defector, might be related to "Anastatia".

2. At about 2330 hours, sometime in February or March 1964 (specific date not recalled) Cleve Backster, director or owner of the Academy for Scientific Interrogation, New York, called me at my home and attempted to engage me, on a private basis, as a handwriting expert or questioned document examiner to examine and compare some handwriting specimens of a Chicago woman named Smith with the handwriting of "Anastatia" in an attempt to prove that Smith was the true "Anastatia".

3. I have never met Backster but have known of him for about 10 years, have read some of his articles on the operation of the polygraph, and did know that he is a long-time friend of Kimsey's. It is claimed, by Kimsey at least, that Backster set up the polygraph (lie detector) program for the Agency.

4. I told Backster during the conversation that it would be impossible for me to do any work for him on the matter of trying to prove that Mrs. Smith was the real "Anastatia", citing heavy work load at the office or some similar reason to placate him. (Frankly, from what I knew about him, his connection or association with Kimsey, and entire muddled background of the "Anastatia" matter, I was determined not to have any dealings with him.)

5. I have not had any conversation with him since. This was the first and only one.

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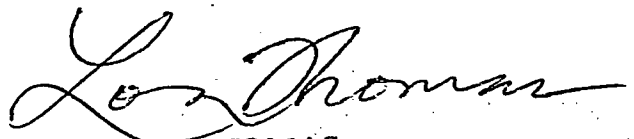
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6. Mrs. [redacted] TSD/BAB, did make some graphological analysis for Backster on a contract basis, and I believe she furnished him my residence phone number, or perhaps Kimsey supplied it.



LON H. THOMAS
TSD/GARB/QDS

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Ex-CIA Official Polish Defector Son of the Las

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He said: Allen Dulles, former CIA head, and John A. McCone, present agency chief, should reverse their policy of silence on all inquiries about Col. Goleniewski, who has given weeks of testimony to Government security agencies regarding involvement of Americans in the communist spy apparatuses, and is to testify this year before congressional committees.

During the months of 1951 when Col. Goleniewski's antecedents were under CIA scrutiny with the aid of information from British intelligence, Mr. Kimsey was head of CIA's research section.


He is now aiding an independent investigation of Col. Goleniewski's claims for the

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Official Claims Defector to Be the Last Czar

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