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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

28 August 1975

SUBJECT: Interview of Mr. Robert Tracy by the  
Senate Select Committee for the Investigation  
of Intelligence

On 28 August 1975 at 0930, Mr. Robert Tracy, C5, was interviewed by two members of the Senate Staff for the committee investigating intelligence at the Senate Office Building (Carol Arms Hotel). Present were Mr. Eric Richard and Mr. Peter Fenn of the Senate Staff and [redacted] NSA monitor.

General questions about Mr. Tracy's responsibilities were followed by specific questions on the origin, maintenance and destruction of the files on U. S. citizens held in C5. A gist of the more significant questions pertaining to the files on U. S. citizens and Mr. Tracy's reply follow:

Q - How many file cabinets would you estimate?

A - Seven or eight out of well over 100.

Q - When were they destroyed?

A - October 1974.

PL 86-36/50 USC 3605

Q - Why were they destroyed?

A - As a matter of economy and reduction of space.

Q - Was the lawfulness of these files ever questioned by you?

A - No.

Q - Did CIA ever use these files?

A - Not to my knowledge.

Q - What personalities would be included in these biographic files?

A - Senator Kennedy - Yes

Senator McGovern - No.

Rep. Abzug - No.

Q - Who maintained these files?

A - [redacted] of my division.

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Q - Did other agencies outside NSA, such as FBI, State/ local police, have access to these files?

A - Not to my knowledge.

Q - What procedures were established to handle M5 checklist queries?

A - These queries were handled on strictly need-to-know bases. An envelop with a card on which would appear a name or some bit of information would arrive and be checked against the file. Then pertinent information and a serialized reference indicating sources available in the file would be provided to M5. This practice was discontinued on January 1974 as a result of findings in December 1973 that of 192 queries that month, only three correlations could be made.

Q - Who took care of these queries?

A - A [redacted] took care of this name-check procedure. She was employed at NSA on a parttime basis then and is now no longer at NSA.

Q - From what sources were the information in the files on U.S. citizens derived?

A - SIGINT, State cables (INR), Press and DIA and CIA Intelligence Reports.

Q - Who ordered Mr. Welday to destroy these files?

A - I don't know.

Other questions dealing with a description of the "Rhymeing Dictionary" and Project Mill Stream were pursued and answered very succintly by Mr. Tracy. The whole interview proceeded very smoothly and in a very amicable atmosphere. Mr. Tracy handled the situation very professionally and was very forthright in answering all the questions asked.

[redacted]

Special Assistant to the Deputy Director

cc: Mr. David Lowman

[redacted]

Mr. R. Welday

Mr. Tracy

PL 86-36/50 USC 3605

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