SY - Dr. Ostepka

ITC - R. D. Gatewood

American Defectors to Sino-Soviet Bloc Countries

Your memorandum of October 13 on the above subject raises certain questions which I believe you would wish to consider further:

1) Are not the FBI and the CIA the primary sources of all data concerning defectors who have been recruited as intelligence agents by Bloc countries? If so, would it be useful or necessary for the Department to have on hand current lists of such agents?

2) In applying the term "defector" to Americans, would it not be proper to limit this description to those Americans who have either been capable of providing useful intelligence to the Bloc or those whose desire to reestablish in Bloc countries has been significantly exploited for communist propaganda purposes? This would mean that no attention need be paid to Americans whose resettlement within the Bloc had no counter-intelligence implications or had attracted no particular attention; for instance, this definition would not cover individual US citizens of Eastern European or Chinese origin who returned to the "homeland" because of mere inability to adjust to American conditions.

3) If the above definition of "defector" is acceptable, could it not be useful for SCA (and particularly ITC) to compile a list of such persons covering the last 12 years or more? I am thinking that the defection of two US code clerks in Moscow in 1949 should be included in such a list.

As you requested, ITC has applied to CIA for assistance in verifying and possibly expanding the short list of American "defectors" within the past 10 months. The Agency will also check on the few additional names attached to this memorandum.

Please keep ITC informed of any further developments in this matter.

cc: ITC - Dr. Cunningham

SCA - Mr. Mccarroll

Attachments: ITC memorandum to Mr. Massell.