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JFK ACT RELEASE

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14 February 1969

CIA SPECIAL COLLECTIONS RELEASE AS SANITIZED

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, ID

SUBJECTS : MAHEU, Peter Robert #234 529
MAHEU, Robert A. #111 540
MEIER, John Herbert #517 843
ELLIS, Richard Allen #551 433

Declassified and Approved for Release by the Central Intelligence Agency Date: 2/2003

1. By memorandum dated 5 February 1969 Central Cover Staff has requested an expedite QKENCHANT clearance for Peter MAHEU, a former Office of Security clerical employee, and the son of Robert A. MAHEU.

2. By memorandum dated 12 February 1969 Central Cover Staff has also requested a QKENCHANT clearance on Richard Allen ELLIS. ELLIS is employed by Robert A. MAHEU and Associates as a bookkeeper in Las Vegas, Nevada.

3. Robert A. MAHEU, the owner of Robert A. MAHEU and associates, was granted a Covert Security Clearance on 30 August 1954 to permit his use by Central Cover Staff as a covert associate under Project LPHIDDEN. According to Central Cover Staff, he has been utilized since that time and the above firm is being utilized to provide cover for an agent in South America. Robert A. MAHEU and Associates is reportedly a public relations activity whose principal and perhaps only client is Howard Hughes. At one time Robert A. MAHEU was also involved in providing investigative and security protection for Hughes and his enterprise and the Agency utilized both the Washington, D.C. and Los Angeles offices of MAHEU's organization.

4. Office of Security's concern over the utilization of Robert A. MAHEU was first expressed in July 1964. (See memorandum to DDS from Charles W. Kane dated 22 July 1964).

5. On 14 July 1968 ID/1 received a request for a Covert Security Approval to permit utilization of John Herbert MEIER in connection with the latter's employment with Robert A. MAHEU and associates. In view of DDP policy as set forth in CSI 50-10 regarding use of employees of US private detective investigative agencies, the use of MEIER was discussed with Central Cover Staff; the writer was assured that the firm Robert A. MAHEU and associates, which the Agency is using for cover purposes, is no longer associated with investigative or security activities. (See Central Cover Staff memorandum for the record dated 30 July 1968). (attached)

cc: Executive D/I

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However, it appears that Robert A. MAHEU does in fact own, or is a co-owner of the Bel Air Patrol which is one of the organizations that is currently establishing security services for Howard Hughes. (See LAFO RUC dated 29 July 1968, Subject: MEIER, John Herbert, #517 843 and the above cited Central Cover Staff memorandum).

6. This matter is being brought to your attention because of the possible interpretation that the use of Robert A. MAHEU and Associates conflicts with CSI 50-10, and the undersigned believes that the matter should be reviewed for that reason prior to ID/1's processing of the Covert Security Approval request on Peter MAHEU and Richard Allen ELLIS.

7. Central Cover Staff takes the position that the use of Robert A. MAHEU and Associates does not conflict with CSI 50-10 in as much as that firm is now solely engaged in public relations activities; they believe that Robert A. MAHEU's ownership or interest in the organizations currently providing security and investigative service to Howard Hughes is irrelevant. The undersigned agrees with this position.

Ervan E. Kuhnke, Jr.
Acting Chief, ID/1

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~~EYES ONLY~~

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP

TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	DATE	INITIALS
1	General Counsel 7D01 HQS		
2			
3	Deputy Director of Central Intelligence 7D6011 HQS		
4			
5			
6			

	ACTION		DIRECT REPLY		PREPARE REPLY
	APPROVAL		DISPATCH		RECOMMENDATION
	COMMENT		FILE		RETURN
	CONCURRENCE		INFORMATION		SIGNATURE

Remarks:

Attached for information is some background information on Robert A. Maheu and his first connection with the Agency together with a summary of the Las Vegas incident and the Sukarno operation.

R. L. Bannerman

FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER			
FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.			DATE
Deputy Director for Support 7D18 HQS x-5454			6/17/66
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FORM NO. 2-61 237 Use previous editions ~~EYES ONLY~~ (40)

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1961 O—587282

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by the Central Intelligence Agency
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X

General Counsel
7D01 HQS

Deputy Director of Central
Intelligence 7D6011 HQS

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SRL5
R. L. Bannerman

eputy Director for Support 7D18 HQS x-5454 6/17/66

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~~EYES ONLY~~

13 June 1966

SUBJECT: MAHEU, Robert A.

Biographic Data:

Robert A. Maheu was born on 30 October 1917 in Waterville, Maine. He graduated from Holy Cross College, Worcester, Mass., in 1940. He is married and has four children.

He was employed as a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation from 1940 to 1947. Upon resigning from the Bureau, he formed a private enterprise doing business as "Dairy Dream Products." This venture culminated in bankruptcy in 1952. He then re-entered Government service with the Small Business Administration in Washington, D. C. He was appointed Special Assistant to the Administrator with the specific duty of Director of Security. In February 1954, he was forced to resign from SBA because of political reasons. This was determined to be the result of his backing the wrong political party in the election. He then set up his own investigative organization known as Robert A. Maheu, Associates. Initially, he did not have his own office, but rented desk space in a suite occupied by Carmine S. Bellino, a former Bureau Agent and Certified Public Accountant. He, subsequently, through financial assistance from the Office of Security, moved to his own quarters.

Since the inception of Maheu's organization he has successfully handled several prestige accounts, including Niarchus, Schenley Distillers, New York Central Railroad, United Steel Workers Union and, presently, almost exclusively, Howard Hughes. He maintains offices in Washington, D. C., and Los Angeles, California.

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~~EYES ONLY~~

GROUP 1
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SUBJECT: MAHEU, Robert A.

Agency Relationships:

Mr. Maheu was recruited by the Office of Security in March 1954. He was previously known to Mr. Robert H. Cunningham, who at that time was Chief, Special Security Division. Cunningham and Maheu had worked together in the FBI. Cunningham saw in Maheu a covert asset which could be utilized by the Office in extremely sensitive cases. With the approval of the Director of Security, Maheu was offered a proposition wherein he was to receive $500.00 a month, with the stipulation that he move into his own office, and that he be on call for any assignments by the Office of Security. He agreed to this and immediately took steps to move out of Bellino's suite. The financial arrangement continued for approximately six months, at which time Maheu began to attract lucrative accounts. He, therefore, suggested that we only pay him on a c.o.d. basis thereafter.

From 1954 until about 1962 he performed many sensitive assignments for the Office of Security. None of these ever included technical surveillance. During the same period of time, through referral by the Office of Security, he accepted sensitive assignments from the FE and NE Divisions. On two occasions he handled assignments targeted against President Sukarno of Indonesia. When he was retained by the Niarchus interests, he reported this association to the Agency, and the NE Division ultimately became involved in the campaign being waged against Onassis.

Mr. Maheu was granted a CSA on 30 August 1954 to permit FI/Plans/Cover Division to utilize him under Project LPHIDDEN. He was again issued a CSA on 7 October 1959 in order that the NE Division could deal with him as a result of his handling public relations in the United States for the King of Jordan. The IODivision obtained a CSA approval on 4 June 1959 to approach Maheu and advise him of the Agency's interest in international labor.

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SUBJECT: Robert Maheu--Sukarno Operation

This item is for information and there is no indication that this will or should be within the interest of the Committee hearing on Maheu.

In 1958-59 FE Division was put in touch with Maheu by the Office of Security for assistance in an operation relating to Sukarno. With Maheu's assistance the FE Division identified and sent to Djakarta an American girl who was given the mission of developing a personal relationship with Sukarno. Maheu was informed at the time of all the essential details of this operation.

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