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DAILY ENTERPRISE



(U) HISTORY TODAY - 28 October 2014

Run Date(s): 10/28/2014



(U) One of the CCH's long-time friends, William Kvetkas, who was an NSA employee early in his career and then became the director of the Intelligence Community Staff in the 1980s, recently told us about one of his experiences in this position:

(U) It is not clear where the thought germinated, with William Casey himself, at Fort Meade, or somewhere on the IC staff, but it became known in mid-1982 that Casey was interested in visiting the Fort for briefings, and he was willing to spend a full day in the process. I was the person in charge of setting up the visit.

(U) William Casey had been in the Office of Strategic Services during World War II, handling agents inside Germany. After the war, he had a stellar career on Wall Street and wrote a standard text on investing. He served as Ronald Reagan's campaign manager in 1980, and was appointed as the Director of Central Intelligence (DCI) in the Reagan administration.

(U) The Fort's response to these types of briefings had been uneven, ranging from excellent to awful. The main problem on the downside had been that briefers, who were brilliant scientists and technicians, had a strong tendency to talk in terms of "gigabits" and "megahertz," leaving the subject unintelligible to a layperson. My main objective was to get them to speak in English. I also spent time helping to scope the series of briefings to cover subjects of interest to the DCI. As it turned out on this occasion, the Agency was absolutely superb in selecting briefings and in the professionalism of the presentations.

(U) Getting the DCI pre-briefed for the meetings and getting him to the Fort, however, was a great adventure. The visit was scheduled for a Monday, and I went to Casey's office late Friday afternoon. Casey had an evening engagement, so I only got in the first part of the briefing before he decided I could finish it in the car on the way out on Monday morning.

(U) I was to be at CIA Headquarters at about 7:15 to meet his car and his security personnel, and drive with them to Casey's house to pick him up at 8 a.m. I arrived early, but to my amazement and chagrin, the security folks had already left. The people who were still there said not to worry, we will have another car take you over, which they did. I arrived before eight, but Casey was on the phone and was running late.

(U) At this point while waiting outside the house, I was chatting with the driver and other security personnel (there were two cars involved, one for Casey, and one for back-up security personnel -- call it the "chase car.") I asked the driver which route he intended to take. He said down Foxhall, across Constitution and out New York Avenue. Being somewhat presumptuous, I observed that he would be driving with rush hour traffic down to and across Constitution Ave and he might consider going up Foxhall, across Nebraska Ave, and out Connecticut to the Beltway, and then over to the BW Parkway. It is hard to describe the look the driver gave me, but it was not cordial.

HISTORY TODAY - 28 Oct. 2014 (Historic photo: President Ronald Reagan & William Casey.)

(U) From left, U.S. President Ronald Reagan & William Casey

Doc ID: 6660633

(U) Casey did not come out to the car until 8:20; we were seriously late. He looked at me and said, "You have been out here for quite a while. Why didn't you come in for a cup of coffee?" I don't remember what my exact response was, but I had not even considered walking up to the door and asking Mrs. Casey if she could spare a cup of coffee.

(U) As we were departing the DCI's community, and I was preparing to brief Casey, the security person said to the driver: "We are running very late. We should use the technical apparatus." The security man took a light from the glove compartment and placed it on the dashboard and hit some buttons inside the compartment. The siren and the red flashing light responded immediately. We departed the community and took a left up Foxhall, and started weaving in and out of traffic.

(U) Then we went along Nebraska Avenue and around Ward Circle, often driving in the oncoming lane. My briefing was not going well. The chase car would pull alongside when we went through major intersections, but soon we were going against traffic up Connecticut Avenue, which went more smoothly. The Beltway and BW Parkway also went smoothly, but the speed easily exceeded 80 mph in traffic. Amazingly, we arrived at the NSA front gate within one minute of 9 a.m.

(U) Although my pre-brief was in tatters, the entire day went beautifully. All briefings were excellent. Casey truly looked like the proverbial kid in the candy shop. Two R&D briefings, I believe by Charley Gandy and "Doc" Beddard, were worthy of special note.

(U) The return trip was normal by any standard. Casey had an appointment at the White House, so that is where we went. I did not have a White House pass, so I got out at the White House gate. As I was leaving the car, I said to Mr. Casey, "My compliments to the driver on that trip out this morning."

(U) Casey got a big grin on his face, and said, "Did you like that?" Obviously he had rather enjoyed the trip himself.

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(U) [Larger view of photo.](#)

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Information Owner
Page Publisher
Last Modified: October 27, 2014
Last Reviewed: October 27, 2014

~~DERIVED FROM: NSA/CSSOM 1-52, DATED: 20180110, DECLASSIFY ON: 20430110~~
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