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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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- Deleted under exemption(s) \_\_\_\_\_ with no segregable material available for release to you.
- Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
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FBI Headquarters file 100-12304 - Not Recorded Black Stamp date  
10-14-58.

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67  
FBI/DOJ

Interview with Mr. and Mrs. Paul Robeson

Text of recorded interview with Mr. and Mrs. Robeson on the eve of their departure from the Soviet Union (as broadcast in the English service for Africa), introduced as follows: "Our programme today is devoted to Paul Robeson, the well-known American singer and fighter for peace and for the rights of the Negro people. Because of his progressive activities, Paul Robeson has repeatedly been persecuted by the racists, who have stopped at nothing. They have even gone so far as to try to lynch him. But their attempts to silence Paul Robeson, singer of freedom, have been in vain."

Interviewer: Mrs. Robeson as an authority on Africa, especially on South Africa, will you say a couple of words to our African friends abroad?

Mrs. Eslanda Robeson: Well, I don't really consider myself an authority on Africa, but certainly I consider myself deeply interested in the whole of Africa, the African people. As a descendant of African people, and so partly an African myself, I am naturally interested in everything concerning my remote background and my distant brothers and sisters. I consider all African people my distant brothers and sisters. Now, the first thing I would like for them, as I would like for my compatriots in America, the Negro people, is freedom. There is nothing more important than freedom and self-government, so that you can arrange your life and work for your future and for your children.

I have the greatest admiration for African women. I know a great deal about how they have participated in the struggle for self-government, against colonialism. It has been a long, hard struggle, and the women have been steadfast. They have stood beside their men, and they have struggled right along with them. I have the greatest admiration for them. I hope for African children, as I hope for my grandchildren, that they will be able to live in a world of peace and freedom, in good health, and get a good education and arrange for their lives for perhaps the first time in a long time, the way they want to arrange them, in the way they think best for them - not what somebody else says, but what they think best is for them. This is my hope for the African people, and especially African children.

"SUMMARY OF WORLD BROADCASTS"  
BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION

9/26/58 Re: PAUL LEROY ROBESON  
IS - C

50 OCT 16 1958 BUFILE 100-12304

EX-102

100-12304-543

NOT RECORDED  
OFFICE OF THE CONSUL ATTACHE  
16 OCT 8 1958  
AMERICAN EMBASSY  
- LONDON, ENGLAND.

SUP CONTROL

File 100-12304  
S-BR

68

B 9-1

Interviewer: Thank you very much, Mrs. Robeson. And now Mr. Robeson, I would like you to say to our African friends abroad about your impressions of the Soviet Union.

Mr. Paul Robeson: I would first, however, like to express my great pleasure at being able to speak directly, as my wife has said, to a people from whom I spring. And especially in America for many years we had a council on African affairs which was deeply interested in what was going on in South Africa, and much help came from us to the peoples of South Africa, and I hope for you there all success in your tribulations today, when they have many of the African leaders on trial, purely because they are struggling for their people. And I, as my wife has suggested, hope for your freedom, and the abilities to control your own destinies and your own resources.

We have been now in the Soviet Union for the better part of a month. As you know in Africa, or parts of Africa, I have long been a friend of the Soviet Union. I first came here in 1934, and my boy, who also visited Africa with Mrs. Robeson, visited South Africa and East Africa, went to school here in the Soviet Union. I just had a chance to see the Soviet Union for the first time in nine years. I was here last in 1949, and have seen remarkable achievements, achievements which you all know about - the Sputnik, and the great advances in science. You would be astounded to see the advances in construction, in every part of the development. I was in the factories. I saw tremendous agricultural development, the new homes all over the Soviet Union. And I was in Uzbekistan - somewhat similar to the lives which you who (live) your lives in Africa, but in one generation they are functioning as well as any other section of these great Soviet Republics.

I myself feel very deeply, as you know perhaps from my book and other things, that our development, not only in Africa, but in Asia, from the Negro people of America and all the coloured peoples of the earth, that we are able to think about freedom, able to struggle towards our freedom precisely because of the existence of the powerful countries of the socialist world, led by the Soviet Union, by mighty China and by the people's democracies. And so I am here only as a visitor. I am here, as I have said many times, as a firm and true friend of the Soviet people, because they are our friends, Hope to see you later (word indistinct).

Interviewer: Thank you very much, Mr. and Mrs. Robeson. (Moscow in English for Africa 07.00, 21.9.58)

2

69

Office

mm • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)

DATE: 10/16/58

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (100-56680)

SUBJECT: ESLANDA CORDOZO ROBESON, was.  
SM - C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 1-16-81 BY sp-5/gh/w

ESLANDA ROBESON and her husband, PAUL ROBESON, have been in Europe since 7/10/58.

The "New York Times", Late City Edition, dated 9/22/58, page 26, contains an article captioned: "Robeson Intends to Live in London - But singer says he is not deserting U.S. - Foresees concerts in New York."

This article is set forth as follows:

"Blackpool, England, Sept. 21 (Reuters) - Paul Robeson said here tonight that he would make his future home in London.

'I find the British people very warm and I have lived here before', the American singer declared. 'London will be my center, as Hollywood is the center for some British film stars.'

'I don't want any overtones of suggestion that I am deserting the country of my birth', Mr. Robeson added. 'If I have a concert in New York, I will go there and return to London.'

An FD 122 has been submitted to the effect that ESLANDA ROBESON is out of the country and should be placed in the "Unavailable Section" of the Security Index.

Appropriate legats should be alerted to furnish information to the effect that ESLANDA ROBESON is to return to this country to accompany her husband, PAUL, on concert tours or for other purposes.

A closing report will be submitted to bring ESLANDA ROBESON's activities up to date.

OCT 31 10 25 AM '58 REC-85

100-12304-544

- 4 - Bureau (100-12304) (RM)
- 1 - New York (100-56680)

OCT 16 1958

JLW:mmc  
(5) AGENCY

REC'D  
DATE FORW  
BY

10-24-58

1958

AGENCY  
REQ. REC'D  
DATE FORW  
HOW FORW  
BY

10-28-58

1958

AGENCY  
REQ. REC'D  
DATE FORW  
HOW FORW  
BY

11-21-58

1958

70

66 OCT 29 1958

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)

DATE: 10/17/58

*From* : SAC, NEW YORK (100-25857)

SUBJECT: PAUL LEROY ROBESON, was.  
IS - C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 1-16-81 BY *SP5/STK/STP*

*Singer*

Rerep of SA [redacted] at NY, 9/15/58.

*67C*  
*JTB*

The "New York Times," late city edition, issue 9/22/58, page 26, contains an article captioned:

"ROBESON Intends to Live in London -- But Singer says he is not Deserting U.S. - Foresees Concerts in New York."

Context of this article set forth as follows:

"Blackpool, England, Sept. 21 (Reuters) -- Paul Robeson said here tonight that he would make his future home in London.

"I find the British people very warm and I have lived here before," the American singer declared. "London will be my center, as Hollywood is the center for some film stars.

"I don't want any overtones of suggestion that I am deserting the country of my birth," Mr. Robeson added. "If I have a concert in New York, I will go there and return to London."

In view of the above, it is recommended that ROBESON be removed from the Key Figure list of the NYO. An FD-122 has been previously submitted to place ROBESON in the "Unavailable Section" of the Security Index.

It is requested appropriate Legal Attaches be alerted to the fact that ROBESON will be living abroad so that when information is received that he is returning to the U.S. for concerts or other purposes, his activities may be followed in this country.

In view of the above, this case is being closed.

- 4 - Bureau (100-12304) (RM)
- 1 - New York 100-96900 (KEY FIGURE CONTROL)
- 1 - New York 100-25857

JDW:epo:mms  
(6)

REC-55

100-12304-545

*at NY*  
*10-28-58*  
*BCR/fbm*

EX - 133

OCT 20 1958

SUB CONTROL

REC'D  
DATE FORW. 10-28-58  
HOW FORW. 105-01818  
BY *BCR/fbm*

Mr. Haack  
1 - Mr. Rachner

SAC, New York (100-25857)

October 28, 1958

REC-93 Director, FBI (100-12304) -545

PAUL LEROY ROBESON  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

EX-102

Reurlet 10-17-58.

DATE 1-16-81 BY SP-5 RJ/HW

The Bureau does not concur with your recommendation that Robeson be deleted from the Key Figure List of your office.

It is apparent that Robeson's sympathies for the communist movement and the Soviet Union are well established. His activities and sympathies, coupled with the extensive international publicity afforded him as a prominent controversial figure, have certainly contributed greatly to the communist movement in the United States and abroad. It is also apparent that the Soviet Union, the Communist Party, USA, and other communist groups abroad will continue to take advantage of Robeson's prominence and influence to promote communist interests to the detriment of the United States Government. In this regard, it would appear that Robeson's increased activities, occasioned by the recent issuance of his passport, will enhance his value to the movement which in turn will increase his potential dangerousness to the national security of the United States.

As a basis for deleting Robeson as a key figure, you noted in relet Robeson's recent decision, which he stated publicly, to make his future home in London. It is noted, however, that Robeson at the same time made it clear that he was not renouncing his United States citizenship. He emphasized that he was not deserting the country of his birth; that he was making London the center of his activities just as some foreign stars make Hollywood the center of their activities; and that he would return to the United States for concert engagements. In view of Robeson's statements, coupled with the continued residence of his son and family in the United States, it is feasible that he may spend considerable time in the United States in the future.

MAILED 14  
OCT 28 1958  
COMM-FBI

BCR:fbw  
(5) jmw

SEE NOTE ON YELLOW PAGE 2

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Parsons \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Holloman \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

OCT 30 1958

MAIL ROOM  TELETYPE UNIT

OCT 28 1958  
VFB/10/58  
7288

Letter to New York  
RE: PAUL LEROY ROBESON  
100-12304

In line with the above comments and observations, it is felt that Robeson continues to be of sufficient importance and potential dangerousness from an internal security standpoint to require his immediate apprehension in the event of an emergency. Consequently, he should be retained as a key figure of your office and his case handled accordingly.

NOTE ON YELLOW:

Robeson is noted Negro concert singer who has long supported communist and communist front groups and who has been outspoken in his praise for the Soviet Union. For many years communist groups have capitalized on Robeson's prominence, influence, and publicity as a propaganda medium. Since the issuance of his passport he has traveled extensively in Russia and Europe where he has been well received and where he has obtained widespread publicity. In view of his decision to make London his home and center of activities, New York Office recommended that he be deleted as a key figure. It is felt, however, that Robeson's current activities and freedom to travel enhance his value to the communist movement. It is, therefore, felt that his potential dangerousness to the internal security of the United States is increased. It may also be noted that Robeson will undoubtedly return to the United States on many occasions for concert engagements and for the purpose of visiting with his family.

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (100-12304)

DATE: 10/17/58

FROM : SAC, New York (100-56680)

Cards UTD  
Cards Sent OO  
10/28/58  
Howl

SUBJECT: ESLANDA CORDOZO ROBESON, was  
SM - C

"UNAVAILABLE SECTION"

It is recommended that a Security Index Card be prepared on the above-captioned individual.

OK BR

The Security Index Card on the captioned individual should be changed as follows: (specify change only):

Name		
Aliases <b>ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 1-16-81 BY SP-5RLj/kw</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Native Born	<input type="checkbox"/> Naturalized	<input type="checkbox"/> Alien
<input type="checkbox"/> Communist	<input type="checkbox"/> Socialist Workers Party	<input type="checkbox"/> Independent Socialist League
<input type="checkbox"/> Miscellaneous (specify)	Out of Country	
<input type="checkbox"/> Tab for Detcom	Race	Sex <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
Date of Birth	Place of Birth	
Business Address (show name of employing concern and address)		
Travelling in Europe		
Key Facility Data		
Geographical Reference Number	100-12304- NOT RECORDED responsibility 23 OCT 20 1958	
Interested Agencies		
Residence Address		
Travelling in Europe		

Stat  
Tab "OC"

JDW:ecf

REGISTERED MAIL 52 OCT 29 1958

SUBV. CONTROL

W.C. Lester

74

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

SCF

TO : Director, FBI (100-12304)

DATE: 10/23/58

ny

FROM : Legat, London (100-1182)

CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: PAUL LEROY ROBESON  
IS - C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

Remylet 9/8/58. (u)

[REDACTED]

b1/24

2  
b/D

[REDACTED]

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 K... 1-16-81  
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW 10/23/88

REC'D - FBI

5 - Bureau  
1 - London  
JAC:lc  
(6)

Classified by 2650 YLR  
Exempt from GDS, Category  
Date of Declassification Indefinite

REC-46

100-12304-546

12 OCT 28 1958

AGENCY REC'D NY  
REQ. REC'D  
DATE FORW. 11-30-58  
HOW FORW. AS ORG  
BY BT/...

59 OCT 30 1958 EX-101

CONFIDENTIAL

SUBV. CONTROL

75

Mr. Tolson  
 Mr. Belmont  
 Mr. Mohr  
 Mr. Nease  
 Mr. Parsons  
 Mr. Rosen  
 Mr. Tamm  
 Mr. Trotter  
 Mr. W.C. Sullivan  
 Tele. Room  
 Mr. Holloman  
 Miss Gandy

CS

AIRTEL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

TO DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)  
 FROM SAC, WFO (100-24387) (100-19021)

10/17/58

PAUL ROBESON, ~~SM~~  
 SM - C  
 (OO: NY)

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
 AND FIELD OFFICES  
 ADVISED BY ROUTING  
 SLIP(S) OF  
 DATE

Referred  
 to the  
 Dept  
 of  
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 for their  
 review  
 and  
 return  
 to  
 the  
 FBI,

[REDACTED] (S)(u)

[REDACTED] (S)(u)

[REDACTED] (S)(u)

The "Thermo-fax" copy is being forwarded to the  
 New York Office. WFO is not conducting any further investiga-  
 tion. RUC. (u)(u)

- 3 - Bureau
- 1 - New York (Encl. 1) (100-95550) (100-25157)
- 1 - WFO

EX-135 REC-92 100-12304-547-BA  
 File 100-12304

AIRTEL OCT 15 8 10 AM '58 OCT 17 1958

Let to Dir, WFO  
 10-24-58  
 cc NY -  
 BCL:lbw

CLASSIFIED BY: [REDACTED]  
 EXEMPT FROM GDS, CATEGORY 2  
 DATE OF DECLASSIFICATION INDEFINITE  
 MAY 24 1977

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SUBV. CONTROL  
 Released Per State  
 DECLASSIFIED BY: SP5R/SLH/W  
 ON... 2-3-87

SAC, Washington Field (100-19021)

October 24, 1958

REC-92 Director, FBI (100-12304) -547

PAUL LEROY ROBESON  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

EX-135

Reurairtel 10-17-58 captioned "Paul Robeson, Jr., Security Matter - C," (your file 100-24387, New York file 100-95550).

Information contained in referenced airtel pertains to captioned subject, the father of Paul Robeson, Jr. Make necessary changes.

2 - New York (100-25957)

NOTE ON YELLOW:

Subject is key figure of New York Office. He is currently traveling in Europe and Asia. Re airtel contains information from State Department dispatches concerning subject's travel abroad. WFO apparently mistook this information as pertaining to subject's son, Paul Robeson, Jr., and reported it accordingly. WFO and NY being requested to make appropriate changes.

BCR:blm  
(5)

*libra*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 1-16-81 BY sp-5 RJg/HW

COMM - FBI  
OCT 24 1958  
MAILED 20

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Parsons \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Holloman \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

57 OCT 30 1958 530

MAIL ROOM  TELETYPE UNIT

NO 9-

*Handwritten notes and initials*

OFFICE MEMORANDUM \*\*\* UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-3-81)

DATE: 10/31/58

FROM :

[REDACTED]

b7D

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SUBJECT: COMMUNIST PARTY - USA  
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

UTMOST CARE MUST BE UTILIZED IN HANDLING AND REPORTING THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE IDENTITY OF A HIGHLY PLACED INFORMANT.

SA [REDACTED] orally furnished to [REDACTED] the information on the following page. This oral information was reduced to writing on [REDACTED]

2 - Bureau (REGISTERED)

[REDACTED]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

b1  
b7C  
b7D

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ MATERIAL ATTACHED

CLASS. & EXT. BY sp-5 Rg/HW  
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2 2  
DATE OF REVIEW 1-16-91

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING  
SLIP(S) OF  
DATE 12/1/58

100-12304-  
NOT RECORDED  
128 NOV 12 1958

60 NOV 12 1958

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ORIGINAL FILED IN 100-3-81-11

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For your information: \_\_\_\_\_  
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11-10-58

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FBI/DOJ

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (100-12304)

DATE: November 14, 1958

FROM : Legat, London (100-1666)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

SUBJECT: ESLANDA CORDOZO ROBESON, was.  
SM - C

CLASS. & EXT. BY: SP-5 R/g/H/w  
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2, 3  
DATE OF REVIEW: 1-16-91

Re New York letter to the Bureau, 10/16/58, and Washington  
Field report 7/29/58. (2)

[REDACTED]

P.

AGENCY: 211277  
REQ. REC'D  
DATE FORW. 12-2-58  
HOW FORW. 95  
BY: [Signature]

- 6 - Bureau (Encls. 6)
  - 1 - London File 100-1666 (E. ROBESON)
  - 1 - London File 100-1182 (P. ROBESON)
- CWB:mas  
(8)

100-12304-578

2 NOV 21 1958

ENCLOSURE

Classified by 250  
Exempt from GDS, Category 1  
Date of Declassification Indefinite

NOV 21 10 21 AM '58

REC-72

60 DEC 2 1958

EX-136

SECRET

SECRET

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For your information: \_\_\_\_\_  
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The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:  
FBI Headquarters file 100-12304-548 (Enclosure)

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
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- Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) Department of State, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

\_\_\_\_\_ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); \_\_\_\_\_ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

\_\_\_\_\_ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

For your information: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:  
FBI Headquarters File 100-12304-549

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X FOR THIS PAGE X  
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84

SAC, New York (100-56680)

November 21, 1958

Director, FBI (100-12304)

ESLANDA ROBESON  
SECURITY MATTER - C

Reurairtel 11-17-58 captioned "Paul Leroy Robeson, Internal Security - C," (Bufile 100-12304, your file 100-25857).

Subject's activities should be closely followed. Pertinent information concerning her activities while in United States as well as pertinent information concerning her travel plans and proposed activities abroad should be furnished to the Bureau promptly in a form suitable for dissemination.

NOTE ON YELLOW:

Subject in Security Index. She is wife of Paul Robeson, a key figure of New York Office. Both subject and her husband have been traveling in Europe and Asia, including Russia, for the last several weeks. State and Central Intelligence Agency have been advised and Legal Attaches have been following the matter closely. Re airtel advised that subject had returned to New York City for three-week period and would give speeches concerning the travels of herself and her husband. She intends to return to her husband in London in late November. In line with previous instructions, New York being advised to follow the matter closely.

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 1-16-81 BY SP-5B/1g/HW

REC- 83

100-12304-550

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- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Boardman \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Parsons \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Holloman \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

50 NOV 25 1958

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Reporting Office <b>NEW YORK</b>	Office of Origin <b>NEW YORK</b>	Date <b>11/19/58</b>	Investigative Period <b>10/16,17;11/6,7,10/58</b>
TITLE OF CASE <b>ESLANDA CORDOZO ROBESON, WBS.</b>		Report made by <b>[REDACTED]</b>	Typed By: <b>AR</b>
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>SECURITY MATTER - C</b>	

ESLANDA ROBESON visited Trinidad B.W.I., on 4/17/58, and returned to her former residence, 16 Jumel Terrace, NYC, on 5/1/58. ROBESON and her husband, PAUL ROBESON, have been in Europe since 7/10/58. On 9/21/58, PAUL ROBESON stated he would make his future home London, England. On 3/31/58, ESLANDA ROBESON ~~acted as a correspondent~~ as a correspondent for "New World Review" at the UN. In contact with BENJAMIN J. DAVIS, JAMES JACKSON, and WILLIAM L. PATTERSON, National and New York State CP leaders. Active as co-chairman of the Committee of Women of the NCASF. Was active on behalf of ELIZABETH GURLEY FLYNN, PRP candidate for NYC Council in 1957. Contributed articles to "The Worker" on 4/27; 5/18; 6/1/58. In contact with Soviet and Satellite establishments in 1957-1958. PAUL ROBESON's book, "Here I Stand" dedicated to ESLANDA ROBESON.

*Handwritten notes:*  
 B7D info 12/1/58  
 re investigation  
 12/1/58  
 HOLD  
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 12/1/58

CLASS. & EXT. BY **SP-5 RL** 1-16-81  
 REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
 DATE OF REVIEW **1-16-91**

*Handwritten notes:*  
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 CIA  
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 BR used 1/2

Approved <i>[Signature]</i> Special Agent in Charge	Do not write in spaces below
copies made:  ①- Bureau (100-12304) (RM) 3- New York (100-56680)	100-12304-55 REC-71 NOV 24 1958 CONTROL 1-135
APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP(S) OF DATE	AGENCY REQ. REC'D DATE FORW. HOW FORW. BY
52 DEC 2 1958	Pub. State CIA 12-1-58

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-56680

I. BACKGROUND

A. Foreign Travel

██████████ advised on March 15, 1958, that ESLANDA ROBESON stated she was planning to travel to the West Indies on April 15, 1958, and would be there for a week or two. She stated she would make the trip with a United Nations (UN) group.

On March 30, 1958, ██████████ advised that on that date, ROBESON stated she had secured her ticket and would leave New York on April 16, 1958, and planned to return on May 9, 1958.

██████████ advised on ██████████ that on approximately April 15, 1958, the UN was sponsoring reduced rate fares for travel to Trinidad, British West Indies, in connection with the celebration of the freedom of the British West Indies. Informant expressed the belief that ROBESON was travelling to Trinidad in her capacity as a correspondent for the "New World Review", a publication for which she was editorial consultant on Negro and colonial questions, and also correspondent to the UN.

██████████ advised on April 26, 1958, that ROBESON was then on a trip to the West Indies and was expected to return to New York on or about April 30, 1958.

On May 1, 1958, ██████████ advised that ESLANDA ROBESON returned to her residence, 16 Jumel Terrace, New York City, on that date.

██████████ again advised on May 3, 1958, that ESLANDA ROBESON had visited Jamaica, Trinidad, and the city of Port-Au-Prince. Informant stated ROBESON indicated she enjoyed the trip very much and during the trip had appeared on radio several times.

Referred to  
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State for  
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NY 100-56680

[REDACTED]

Referred  
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Dept of  
the Navy  
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review on  
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FBI

(S X) for release

ESLANDA ROBESON and her husband, PAUL ROBESON, have been in Europe since July 10, 1958.

ROBESON and his wife were able to obtain passports in view of a decision by the United States Supreme Court, on June 16, 1958, in the case involving ROCKWELL KENT, WALTER BRIEHL, and WELDON BRUCE DAYTON in which it was held that under existing statutes governing travel, the Secretary of the State lacks the authority to withhold a passport because of an applicant's present or past membership in or association with the Communist Party (CP).

The "New York Times", Late City Edition, dated September 22, 1958, page 26, contains an article captioned: "Robeson Intends to Live in London - But singer says he is not deserting U.S. - Foresees concerts in New York."

This article is set forth as follows:

"Blackpool, England, Sept. 21 (Reuters) - Paul Robeson said here tonight that he would make his future home in London.

'I find the British people very warm and I have lived here before', the American singer declared. 'London will be my center, as Hollywood is the center for some British film stars.'

'I don't want any overtones of suggestion that I am deserting the country of my birth', Mr. Robeson added. 'If I have a concert in New York, I will go there and return to London.'

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NY 100-56680

B. Former Employment

[redacted] advised on March 31, 1958, that ESLANDA ROBESON's accreditation as a correspondent for "New World Review" at the UN was good until January 31, 1959.

II. CONNECTIONS WITH THE CP AND/OR CP FRONT ORGANIZATIONS

The CP, United States of America has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

A. CP Associates

[redacted] advised on November 26, 1957, that ESLANDA CORDOZO ROBESON in attempting to contact BEN DAVIS left a message to the effect that PAUL ROBESON, when he recently had shared a taxi with DAVIS, had lost two books; a Russian book and a music book. ESLANDA indicated she wondered if BEN possibly had these books. [redacted] advised on March 22 and April 2, 1958, that ESLANDA ROBESON was in contact with BEN DAVIS in those dates.

[redacted] advised on April 4, 1958, that BEN DAVIS would be at the house of ESLANDA ROBESON that morning.

[redacted] advised on May 3, 1958, ROBESON contacted BEN DAVIS and said she had just gotten back and intended to write four articles about her trip.

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NY 100-56680

"The Worker" issue of September 21, 1958, page 5, identifies BENJAMIN J. DAVIS as the New York State Chairman of the CP.

[REDACTED] (C)  
[REDACTED] (C)

The "Daily Worker" issue of May 6, 1957, page 3, column 1, reported that JAMES E. JACKSON was elected to the CP's National Executive Committee at a meeting of its National Committee held on April 28, 1957.

[REDACTED] on [REDACTED] commented that recently [REDACTED] WILLIAM L. PATTERSON, [REDACTED] had stated that his wife, LOUISE, and ESLANDA ROBESON before their marriage had been roommates.

[REDACTED] on [REDACTED], advised according to a New York State CP official, the New York State Committee, and the National Executive Committee of the CP, approved WILLIAM L. PATTERSON as a functionary for "The Worker".

B. National Council of American-Soviet Friendship (NCASF)

The NCASF has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

[REDACTED] advised on [REDACTED] that at a meeting of the NCASF held in New York City on [REDACTED] ESLANDA ROBESON spoke about the experiences of her son, PAULIE, who was enrolled in a Russian school for several years.

[REDACTED] advised that [REDACTED] was present at meetings of the [REDACTED] CP on [REDACTED]

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NY 100-56680

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

[redacted] advised on [redacted] that a luncheon of the Women's Division of the NCASF was held in New York City on [redacted] ESLANDA ROBESON spoke about her work in the UN, and praised the organization, but condemned the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the Western nations. She had unlimited praise for the politics and the scientific achievements of the United Soviet Socialist Republics, but only criticism for everything the United States is doing. Mrs. ROBESON said for instance, "The Soviet Union has never been so modest and so quiet as right now when she surprised the world with the greatest scientific achievement, the satellites. It was a blow to the US and a complete victory presented to the world in all modesty. The US instead who always claimed to be on top and always struggling to gain world leadership lost her prestige. As for the American people, I must say that they are the most ignorant, stupid and stinking arrogant people in the world."

This sentence she repeated several times.

[redacted] advised on [redacted] that <sup>at</sup> an NCASF meeting, held in New York City on [redacted] ESLANDA ROBESON acted as co-chairman of the meeting.

On [redacted] made available a mimeographed invitation to a showing of two color films on the evening of May 21, 1958, which meeting was sponsored by the Committee of Women's Division of the NCASF. Mrs. ESLANDA G. ROBESON as Co-Chairman of the Committee of Women was one of those who would preside.

#### C. People's Rights Party (PRP)

The PRP has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

[redacted] on October 17, 1957, furnished information in which it was stated that a meeting in honor of ELIZABETH GURLEY FLYN, PRP candidate of the New York City Council, would be held October 31, 1957, at 91 Second Avenue, New York City.

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NY 100-56680

ESLANDA GOODE ROBESON was listed as a sponsor and the mistress of ceremonies at this meeting was listed as ESLANDA ROBESON.

[redacted] advised on [redacted] that at a meeting of the [redacted] CP, held in New York City on [redacted] it was announced that there would be a reception for ELIZABETH GURLEY FLYNN on October 27 at Rappaport's Restaurant on the lower East Side, New York City. ESLANDA ROBESON would be the mistress of ceremonies.

"The "Daily Worker" issue of October 22, 1957, page 4, column 2, contained the following statement:

"Mrs. Eslanda Robeson, anthropologist and lecturer, will be Mistress of Ceremonies at a gala reception to be held 10/31 at Rapaport's Banquet Room 91 Second Ave., for Eliz. Gurley Flynn, Communist leader and People's Rights Party candidate for the City Council."

[redacted] advised on [redacted] that at the ELIZABETH GURLEY FLYNN reception of October 31, 1957, ESLANDA ROBESON, who worked with the UN, spoke and said that she had always been radical in the fight for socialism and that the goal of the labor movement was to "get rid of Capitalism."

[redacted] on July 7, 1958, advised that ELIZABETH GURLEY FLYNN was elected National Field Organizer of the CP, United States of America, at the CP National Committee meeting held June 28, 1958.

#### D. Writings

The "Daily Worker" was an East Coast Communist newspaper which suspended publication on January 13, 1958.

"The Worker" is an East Coast Communist weekly newspaper.

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"The Worker" issue of April 27, 1958, page 6, column 3, contains an article captioned, "How World Greeted Paul Robeson", by Eslanda Robeson. In this article, ESLANDA ROBESON stated in part:

"Throughout seven long years of persecution Paul Robeson has been sustained by the knowledge that many people in many places, near and far, have continued to respect him and remain steadfastly loyal to him as an artist and as a man.

'These people, whose number runs into hundreds of millions, have assured Paul from time to time that they consider him a great artist and a courageous human being. They have been indignant because the U. S. Department of State continues to deny him his right to travel, preventing them from hearing him sing and act. They have, upon occasion, arranged trans-Atlantic telephone concerts in order to hear his 'live' voice.

'This year, friends, neighbors, colleagues and admirers all over the world decided to honor Paul Robeson by celebrating his 60th birthday (April 9th). Formal and informal Paul Robeson Birthday Committees were organized in Australia, Bulgaria, Ceylon, China, Ecuador, England, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, the USSR and the USA.

'On or about April 9th these Committees held concerts, meetings, radio and television programs in which distinguished academicians, scientists, theatre and film personalities took part. Together with many groups and individuals, they sent Paul Robeson cables, telegrams, letters, cards and presents for his birthday. These continue to pour in, more than a week after the birthday.

'Telephone calls and greetings came to our home from Accra, Armavir, Azerbaijan, Berlin, Bombay, Brooklyn, Bucharest, Budapest, Calcutta, Detroit, Kalinin, Kazan, Kiev, Kingston, Leningrad, London, Los Angeles, Mexico City,

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NY 100-56680

Moscow, New Delhi, New Haven, New York, Odesa, Peking, Paris, Port-au-Prince, Prague, Reykjavik (Iceland), Rostov, San Diego, Sofia, South Norwalk, Stalingrad, Stockholm, Sydney, Tashkent, Tiflis, Tokyo, Ulan Bator, (Mongolia), Vienna, Vilnius, Warsaw, Washington, D. C. and many other places.

'An interesting variety of special groups in many countries sent collective greetings: actors, architects, an aviation institute, composers, critics, dancers, editors, faculties of universities, film directors, a folklore institute, labor unions, musicians, Peace Committees, Pioneers, radio and television stations, school children, scientists, singers, students, teachers' institutes, writers, youth groups.

'Ambassadors, statemen, public officials, and hundreds of people -- distinguished and obscure -- sent him personal messages of admiration, friendship, encouragement and love. They assured him that they wait eagerly for him to come to sing and act for them in their countries, that they wait to welcome and embrace him.

'Paul is deeply moved by this extraordinary manifestation of friendship, concern and support. It is our plan to preserve these messages in a special 60th Birthday Album. He warmly thanks all those who have so thoughtfully and generously made this 60th birthday such a memorable occasion. His family is deeply grateful, etc. In order that you know at once how happy you have made us -- this is our personal Thank You to each and every one of you."

"The Worker" issue of May 18, 1958, page 1, column 1, contains an airticle captioned, "The West Indies - A New Nation", by ESLANDA GOODE ROBESON. In this article ESLANDA ROBESON stated in part:-

"There is a new nation here in the Western Hemisphere, and 3,500,000 people, most of them non-white, have happily joined the world fellowship of self-governing peoples."

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NY 100-56680

"The new nation consists of ten Territories of the British West Indies: Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, St. Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla, Antigua, Dominica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Grenada and Montserrat."

"The Worker" issue of June 1, 1958, page 11, column 1, contained an article captioned, "The West Indies - Union of New Nations" by ESLANDA GOODE ROBESON. In this article ESLANDA ROBESON stated she attended the celebration of the Federation in Port-of-Spain. She stated while she was there she had the good fortune to attend the Third Biennial Conference of Trade Unions of the area of the British West Indies. She set forth some of the comments of the speakers at this conference.

III. CONTACTS WITH SOVIET AND SATELLITE ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE WEST

[redacted] advised on [redacted] that LEONID M. ZAMYATIN of the Soviet UN Delegation was in contact with Mrs. ESLANDA ROBESON on that date.

[redacted]

[redacted] advised on [redacted] that ESLANDA ROBESON was present at a reception held at the Rumanian Mission to the UN on [redacted]

[redacted] advised on [redacted] that the Albanian Delegation to the UN had a reception on [redacted] at which ESLANDA ROBESON was present.

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[redacted] (c)

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NY 100-56680

Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, New York City, reflect that [redacted] was a Soviet National who entered the United States on [redacted]

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[redacted]

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[redacted]

[redacted]

VI. MISCELLANEOUS

[redacted] advised on [redacted], that on [redacted] ESLANDA ROBESON had been in contact with Prince DIKA AKWAY NYABONAMBELA of the French Camerons in West Africa.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-56680

[redacted] advised on [redacted] that ESLANDA and PAUL ROBESON were present at a cocktail party held by the Libyan Delegation to the UN during the week of December 9, 1957.

The "New York Mirror" issue of March 22, 1958, in its editorial on that date indicated that Prime Minister NEHRU was lending support in India to an unusual campaign that was "waxing it up for American singer PAUL ROBESON and a celebration of ROBESON's 60th birthday April 9th." NEHRU also described ROBESON as a sufferer "in the case of human dignity."

[redacted] on March 22, 1958, advised that BEN DAVIS in contact with ESLANDA ROBESON on that date commented on NEHRU's statement above, and said that it was a wonderful thing and described it as "a massive breakthrough."

[redacted] on [redacted] furnished a copy of PAUL ROBESON's book "Here I Stand." This book is dedicated to PAUL ROBESON's wife, ESLANDA GOODE ROBESON.

[redacted] on March 30, 1958, advised that ESLANDA ROBESON had stated that a resolution had been passed by Actors Equity on March 21, 1958, which endorsed a resolution of the British Actors Equity that PAUL ROBESON be granted a tentative passport. ROBESON expressed surprise at the Equity action because subsequent to the assumption of its leadership by actor RALPH BELLAMY, a reactionary group had taken over the organization.

ESLANDA continued that OSSIE DAVIS had introduced the resolution and despite the opposition of Equity President BELLAMY, the resolution was carried by approximately 110 votes to 75. She commented that OSSIE DAVIS refers to his action relative to this resolution as his birthday contribution to PAUL ROBESON.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-56680

[REDACTED] on April 29, 1953, furnished information which reflected that O. DAVIS, 5 Cooley Place, Mt. Vernon, New York in April, 1953, was a subscriber to the "Daily Worker" and "The Worker".

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-56680

[REDACTED] advised on May 1, 1958, that ESLANDA ROBESON inquired of her son, PAUL ROBESON, JR., as to whether May Day was a holiday in the United States, as the people in the West Indies had asked her this question. ROBESON, JR., replied that it is not a holiday in the United States, but that the day it is a national holiday "they" will have nothing to worry about.

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NY 100-56680

APPENDIX

"New World Review"

The "Guide to Subversive Organizations and Publications", revised and published as of January 2, 1957, prepared and released by the Committee on Un-American Activities, United States House of Representatives, Washington, D.C., contains the following concerning "New World Review":

- "1. Cited as an organization specializing in pro-Soviet propaganda. It was formerly known as Soviet Russia Today.

(Internal Security Subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Handbook for Americans, S. Doc. 117, April 23, 1956, p. 90.)"

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- 15 -

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)

DATE: 11/19/58

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (100-56680)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SUBJECT: ESLANDA CORDOZO ROBESON, was.  
SM-C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

Enclosed herewith are four copies of the report of SA JACK D. WOOD, dated and captioned as above. Also enclosed are four copies of a letterhead memorandum setting forth the reliability of informants.

### REFERENCE

Report of SA [redacted] at WFO, dated 7/29/58, and NY letter to Bureau, dated 10/16/58. b7c

### ADMINISTRATIVE

ROBESON's husband, PAUL LEROY ROBESON, is a key figure of the NYO.

### INFORMANTS

Identity of Source	Date of Activity or Description of Information	File Number Where Located
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T-1 [redacted]

[redacted]

1-16-81

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 R/dg/dw  
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW 1-16-91

T-2 [redacted]

[redacted]

100-56680-531

REC-77

100-12304-552

NOV 24 1958

(By request)

2-Bureau (100-12304) (Encls 8) (RM)  
3-New York (100-56680)

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(5)

EX-135

ENCLOSURE

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

52 DEC 2 1958

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REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-56680

<u>Identity of Source</u>	<u>Date of Activity or Description of Information</u>	<u>File Number Where Located</u>
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T-3 ONI Bulet to NY, 6/3/58; captioned; "ESLANDA CORDOZO ROBESON; IS-C"		100-56680-576
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T-4 [REDACTED] (c) (By request)		100-56680-530
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T-5 [REDACTED] (c)	[REDACTED]	
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T-6 [REDACTED] (c)	[REDACTED]	
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T-7 [REDACTED] (c)	[REDACTED]	100-56680-542
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T-8 [REDACTED] (c)	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] (c)
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T-9 [REDACTED] (c)	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] (c)
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T-10 [REDACTED] (c)	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] (c) 100-7518-1A2119 [REDACTED] (c)
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T-11 [REDACTED] (c)	[REDACTED]	100-80641-8371 <del>CONFIDENTIAL</del>
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NY 100-56680

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<u>Identity of Source</u>	<u>Date of Activity or Description of Information</u>	<u>File Number Where Located</u>
T-12 [redacted] (c)	[redacted]	
T-13 [redacted] (c)		100-56680-497
T-14 [redacted] (c)	[redacted]	
T-15 [redacted] (c)	[redacted]	100-56680-470 100-56680-491
T-16 [redacted] (c)	[redacted]	
T-17 [redacted] (c)	[redacted]	
T-18 [redacted] (c)	[redacted]	
T-19 [redacted] (c)	[redacted]	
T-20 [redacted] (c)	[redacted]	100-56680-506 100-56680-508
T-21 [redacted] (c)	[redacted]	100-56680-523
T-22 [redacted] (c)	[redacted]	

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

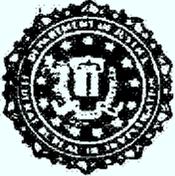
103

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

1.  Subject's name is included in the Security Index.
2.  The data appearing on the Security Index card are current.
3.  Changes on the Security Index card are necessary and Form FD-122 has been submitted to the Bureau.
4.  A suitable photograph  is  is not available.
5.  Careful consideration has been given to each source concealed and T symbols were utilized only in those instances where the identities of the sources must be concealed.
6.  Subject is employed in a key facility and is charged with security responsibility. Interested agencies are \_\_\_\_\_
7.  This report is classified ~~confidential~~ because (state reason) it contains information from confidential informants such as [redacted] and [redacted] the disclosure of which would seriously hamper the investigation of the CP, USA, and would be prejudicial to the defense interests of the US. b7D
8.  Subject was not reinterviewed because (state reason) her residence as been taken up in London, England.
9.  This case no longer meets the Security Index criteria and a letter has been directed to the Bureau recommending cancellation of the Security Index card.
10.  This case has been re-evaluated in the light of the Security Index criteria and it continues to fall within such criteria because (state reason) subject's association with Communist front organizations as well as her husband and the fact that her husband recently visited NIKITA KHRUSHCHEV.

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United States Department of Justice  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

NY 100-56680

New York, New York  
November 19, 1958

Re: Eslanda Cordozo Hobson,  
with aliases  
Security Matter - C

All informants mentioned in the report of  
Special Agent [redacted] dated and captioned as above,  
at New York, have furnished reliable information in the  
past. b7c

This is loaned to you by the Federal Bureau of  
Investigation, and neither it nor its contents are to be  
distributed outside the agency to which loaned.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 1-16-81 BY SP-5 RLS/dew

06 044b 044f  
Lab, State, CIA  
DATE 12-1-58  
HOW FOR  
BY [signature]

ENCLOSURE

100-12304-552

105

FBI

Date: 11/17/58

CZ  
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE (Type in plain text or code)  
Via \_\_\_\_\_ (Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)  
FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (100-25857)  
SUBJECT: PAUL LEROY ROBESON  
IS - C  
CINAL

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 RJD/...  
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW 1-16-91

1-16-81  
1266

UTMOST CARE MUST BE USED IN HANDLING AND REPORTING THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE IDENTITY OF THE INFORMANT.

[REDACTED]

a speech would be presented by ESLANDA ROBESON (Mrs. PAUL ROBESON), who is identified as the Co-Chairman of the Committee of Women of the NCASF and a member of the Board of Directors of the NCASF, on Sunday, 11/23/58, at 6 P.M. at the "Club House" (True Sisters Club House), 150 West 85th Street, NYC.

that Mrs. PAUL ROBESON is in the United States for only "three short weeks" and she will depart "for far away places" on 11/28/58.

- 4 - BUREAU (100-12304) (Encl. 8) (RM)
- 1 - [REDACTED] (ESLANDA ROBESON)

- 1 - NY 100-7518 (NCASF) (411)
- 1 - NY 100-56680 (ESLANDA ROBESON) (415)
- 1 - NY 100-25857 (Att. 1) (415)

DR:mfd (41) - 124  
(9)

AGENCY REC'D  
DATE FORW. 11-19-58  
HOW FORW.  
BY  
NOV 18 1958

ENCLOSURE

Approved:

Special Agent in Charge

63 DEC 1 1958

SUBV. CONTROL

CENTRAL RESEARCH

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

b1  
b7C  
b7D  
b1

See to my re...  
11-21-58  
scribble

100-12304-558  
11-25-58  
142

106

FBI

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Date:

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plain text or code)

Via \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

NY 100-25857

[redacted] to hear Mrs. ROBESON discuss the intimate experiences of the travels of herself and her husband in the Soviet Union.

[redacted] (c) noted that ESLANDA ROBESON had been a feature speaker at the NCASF "Rally for Peace and Friendship" held on 11/14/58, at Carnegie Hall, NYC, where she assured those present that PAUL ROBESON still considered the United States his homeland even though he should take up temporary residence in England "or somewhere else."

[redacted] that ESLANDA ROBESON, after departing from the United States on 11/28/58, would join her husband, PAUL ROBESON, in England and both would then travel to Communist China.

Enclosed for the Bureau are 8 copies of a letter-head memorandum. This memorandum has been classified Confidential inasmuch as information appearing therein emanates from a confidential informant of continuing value. Unauthorized disclosure of this information could conceivably result in the identification of this source and compromise her future effectiveness.

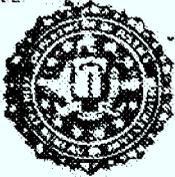
FOSTER

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

b7c/b7D  
b1  
b7D  
b1  
b7C  
b7D

107



United States Department of Justice  
 Federal Bureau of Investigation  
 New York, New York  
 November 17, 1958

100-12304

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 1-16-81 BY SP-5R1g/dw

Re: Paul Leroy Robeson  
 Internal Security - C

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

[REDACTED]

b7C  
b7D

[REDACTED] that a speech will be given by Eslanda Robeson (Mrs. Paul Robeson), who is identified [REDACTED] as Co-Chairman of the Committee of Women, NCASF, and member of the Board of Directors, NCASF, on Sunday, November 23, 1958, at 6 P.M. at the "Club House" (True Sisters Club House), 150 West 85th Street, New York, New York.

The NCASF has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

[REDACTED] that Mrs. Paul Robeson is in the United States for only "three short weeks" and she will depart "for far away places" on November 28, 1958.

[REDACTED] to hear Mrs. Robeson discuss the intimate experiences regarding the travels of herself and her husband in the Soviet Union.

[REDACTED] Eslanda Robeson had been a feature speaker at the NCASF Rally for Peace and Friendship, held on the evening of November 14, 1958, at Carnegie Hall, New York City, where she assured those present that Paul Robeson still considered the United States his homeland even though he should take up temporary residence in England "or somewhere else."

[REDACTED]

AGENCY  
 REC'D  
 DATE FORW.  
 HOW FORW.  
 BY

688 AUG 29 1973

DECLASSIFIED BY

MAY 24 1977

100-12304-553

ENCLOSURE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
 AND FIELD OFFICES  
 ADVISED BY ROUTING  
 SLIP(S) OF  
 DATE

108

~~SECRET~~  
[REDACTED] Eslanda Robeson, after departing from the <sup>b7c/b7D</sup>  
United States on November 28, 1958, would join her husband,  
Paul Robeson, in England, and thereafter with him would travel  
to Communist China.

This memorandum is loaned to you by the  
Federal Bureau of Investigation and neither  
it nor its contents are to be distributed  
outside the agency to which loaned.

XXXXXX  
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XXXXXX

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

4

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Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

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For your information: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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FBI Headquarters file 100-12304-554

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FOREIGN SERVICE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
American Embassy  
Paris 8, France

Date: November 28, 1958  
To: Director, FBI (100-12304)  
From: Legat, Paris (100-715)  
Subject: PAUL LEROY ROBESON  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Re Paris letter 8/20/58.

[REDACTED]

Two copies of this communication are provided for transmittal to New York (100-25857 and 100-56680).

RUC.

4 - Bureau  
1 - Paris  
ROL:CM  
(5)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 1-16-81 BY SP5R/gdw

REC-50

100-12304-555

EX-133

11 DEC 8 1958

DEC 18 11 05 AM '58

AGENCY 2 112 ny  
REC. REC'D  
DATE FORW. 12-10-58  
HOW FORW. 12-15-58  
BY [Signature]  
F256

DEC 2 3 55 PM '58

BOUCH HAIF

SUBV CONTROL

DEC 11

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)

DATE: 12/3/58

*WAD*  
FROM : LEGAT, BONN (105-720)

SUBJECT: PAUL LEROY ROBESON  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Re mylet 9/16/58.

The following sources of the Bonn Office have been alerted regarding our interest in ROBESON's travel and activities in Europe:

- G-2, Headquarters, U.S. Army, Europe;
- Office of Special Investigations, U.S. Air Forces;
- Consular Unit, U.S. Embassy, Bonn, Germany;



No information of pertinence to captioned matter has been received to date. Appropriate entries have been made in the files of the above-listed agencies to insure that this office will be notified in the event any information of a security nature concerning ROBESON comes to their attention.

Accordingly, this matter is being considered RUC, subject to being reopened upon the receipt of such information.

RUC.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 1-16-81 BY SP5 RJA/HW

- 3 - Bureau
- 1 - Bonn
- (4) WFD:tlc

EX-103

*Ar*

REC-8

100-12304-556

25 DEC 9 1958

DEC 2 11 17 AM '58

BONN UNIT

SUBV CONTROL

67 DEC 15 1958

113

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FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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\_\_\_\_\_

For your information: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:  
FBI Headquarters file 100-12304-557

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X NO DUPLICATION FEE X  
X FOR THIS PAGE X  
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
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\_\_\_\_\_

For your information: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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FBI Headquarters File 100-12304 - Not Recorded, dated 12-6-58.

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X FOR THIS PAGE X  
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Mr. Haack  
Mr. Rachner

SAC, New York (100-98941)

~~SECRET~~

December 4, 1958

Director, FBI (100-414116)

PERSONAL ATTENTION

**SECURITY MATTER - C**

57c

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING  
SLIP(S) OF [Signature]  
7-8-77

[REDACTED]

(S)

The above is furnished for your information. If a review of your office files indicates inquiry or investigation is warranted based upon this information, you should furnish the Bureau the basis for the inquiry and request Bureau authority to take such action. (u)

1-16-91  
CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5R/g/hw  
REASON-FROM II, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REV. 1-16-91

[REDACTED]

(S)

1 - 100-12304 (Paul-Eslanda Robeson)  
NOTE ON YELLOW:

Classified by 269/RA  
Exempt from GDS, Category 2  
Date of Declassification Indefinite

MAY 24 1977

Subject previously considered for Security Index but not included therein. She was last known to be employed by the "National Guardian" in 1955. However, no evidence of CP membership has been developed. (u)

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Boardman \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Parsons \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Holloman \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

BCR:bkcm  
(6)

52 DEC 10 1958

MAIL ROOM  TELETYPE UNIT

~~SECRET~~  
DUPLICATE YELLOW  
~~SECRET~~

100-12304-  
NOT RECORDED  
168 DEC 8 1958

ORIGINAL FILED IN 100-414116

118

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)

DATE : 12/9/58

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (100-25857)

SUBJECT: PAUL LEROY ROBESON  
IS - C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

Remyairtel, 11/17/58.

[REDACTED] a speech by ESLANDA ROBESON on the evening of  
11/23/58, sponsored by the Women's Division of the National  
Council of American Soviet Friendship [REDACTED]

as follows:

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 RJS/HW  
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW 1-16-91

- 3- Bureau (100-12304) (RM)
- (1- 100- (ESLANDA ROBESON))
- 1- NY 134-116 (Inv) (41)
- 1- NY 100-56680 (ESLANDA ROBESON) (415)
- 1- NY 100-7518 (NCASF) (411)
- 1- NY 100-121080 [REDACTED] (423)
- 1- NY 100-46163 [REDACTED] (411)
- 1- NY 100-135720 [REDACTED] (411)
- 1- NY 100-20030 [REDACTED] (425)
- 1- NY 100-134858 [REDACTED] (425)
- 1- NY 100-128118 [REDACTED] (425)
- 1- NY 100-134428 [REDACTED] (421)
- 1- NY 100-114410 [REDACTED] (421)
- 1- NY 100-133510 [REDACTED] (41)
- 1- NY 100-82136 [REDACTED] (425)
- 1- NY 100-82160 [REDACTED] (422)
- 1- NY 100-44201 [REDACTED] (421)
- 1- NY 100-103749 [REDACTED] (425)

(COPIES CONT'D)

1- NY 100-25857 (415)

DR: ras  
(25)

REC-17

100-12304-558

25 DEC 12 1958

63 DEC 18 1958

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

116

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-25857

(COPIES CONT'D)

- 1- NY 100-110444 [REDACTED] (425)
- 1- NY 100-116924 [REDACTED] (421)
- 1- NY 100- [REDACTED] (412)
- 1- NY 100-92483 [REDACTED] (425)
- 1- NY 100-70087 [REDACTED] (425)

←  
b7C  
←

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

117

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-25857

Identity of Source [redacted] (c) who has furnished reliable info in past (conceal)

b1

Description of info: Women's Division, NCASF speech by Eslanda Robeson, 11/23/58

←

Date Received: [redacted]

b1

Received by: SA [redacted]

b7C

Original location: [redacted] (c)

b7D

Utmost care must be used in handling and reporting the following information in order to protect the identity of the informant.

←

A copy of informant's written report follows:

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

118

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-25857

[REDACTED]

b7D

Sunday, 23 November 1958 - Womens Division of NCASF  
at True Sisters Club House.

Topic: Eslanda Robeson and her trip to the USSR.  
Attendance: 74  
Admission: \$ 1.00 plus collection  
Speaker: Eslanda Robeson  
Chairman: Virginia Epstein

Present: Eslanda Robeson, Virginia Epstein, Mrs. & Mr. R. Morford, Mr. & Mrs. Yakontoff, Clara Leet, Ann Weiss, Goldie Levitt, Regina Boelicki, Rochelle Meadow, Mildred Hirsch, Bluma Feinstein, Rose Wallach, Sara Frank, Sonia Best, Rose Brohman, Mary (Mollie) Rosen, Tamara Tchach, 2 male Negroes; 2 female Negroes, names unknown.

Mrs. Robeson was one hour late. Virginia Epstein had to phone her several times. When she arrived, she said that she was too tired to come in time and had to rest up, else she would not be able to talk now. During her one hour speech, she played nervously with a rubber band around her hand.

About the trip to England, she only said that she and Paul received a very warm welcome. In USSR, the reception was terrific. Besides heavy police guard, the army had to be mobilized to protect her and Paul. When he sang at the Sports Palace, there were 60,000 persons inside and 60,000 more standing outside. She said that she met and spoke to Khrushshev and his wife and also to the wife of the Soviet Minister of Culture. She called Khrushshev charming and his wife very plain, the house wife type. Usually, she said it is difficult to meet the wives of the Soviet leaders.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

119

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-25857

when she interviewed the wife of the Minister of Culture, she asked her about what should she write in the American papers and the woman suggested that she write about the Soviet School system. She visited several schools with dormitories. Two students share a bath, but each one has a room of his own. Every Soviet citizen no matter what age is only interested in one thing: production. They are building one-room apartments and later will build 2-room apartments. Mrs. Robeson said that the USSR has so-called "Parents' Committees", a group of people, mostly women, who supervise the schools, classes, kitchen, dining-room and every department. They investigate the complaints turned in by pupils or their parents, or by teachers and even visit parents of problem children. Mrs. Robeson said, "These people of the Parents Committee, members of the Communist Party are not allowed to have a job or any occupation."

Mrs. Robeson also said, "There are rumors that Paul will take up residence abroad. Paul's home will always be where his family is, in the US., even if he takes up temporary residence somewhere else. Paul is making 2 movie pictures in the Soviet Union, one will be his own life story, the other one a travel picture. Paul will return to the Soviet Union in December."

Mrs. Robeson spoke till 8 PM. Then the collection started. Later on, there was to be a discussion, but a number of people started to leave. When asked by Ann weiss to stay till the end, they said that they had come before 6 o'clock without having supper.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (100-12304)

DATE: December 10, 1958

FROM : Legat, London (100-1182, 100-1666)

SUBJECT: PAUL LEROY ROBESON  
IS - C

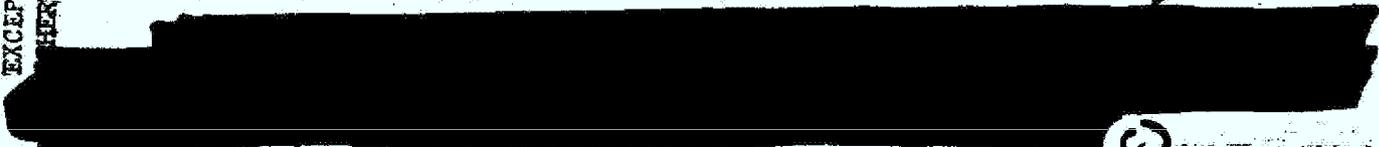
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ESLANDA CORDOZO ROBESON, was.  
SM - C

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 RJD/W  
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW 1-16-81

Remylet 11/14/58 re ESLANDA CORDOZO ROBESON and New York  
airtel to the Bureau, 11/17/58, re PAUL LEROY ROBESON. (u)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE



ENCLOSURE

Classified by 2650/Reg  
Exempt from GDS Category 1  
Date of Declassification Indefinite

100-12304-559

- 6 - Bureau (Encls.)
- 1 - London File 100-1182 (P. ROBESON)
- 1 - London File 100-1666 (E. ROBESON)

CWB:mas  
(8)

2 DEC 16 1958

AGENCY 2  
REQ. REC'D  
DATE FORW.

SUBV. CONTROL

67 DEC 23 1958

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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For your information: \_\_\_\_\_  
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X NO DUPLICATION FEE X  
X FOR THIS PAGE X  
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# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. PARSONS *D*

DATE: December 3, 1958

FROM : C. F. DOWNING *C.F. Downing*

SUBJECT: PAUL LE ROY ROBESON  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Tolson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Belmont	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mohr	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nease	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parsons	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rosen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tamm	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trotter	<input type="checkbox"/>
W.C. Sullivan	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tele. Room	<input type="checkbox"/>
Holloman	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gandy	<input type="checkbox"/>

In the September, 1958, issue of Russian language newspaper "ZA VOZVRASHCHENIE NA RODINU" (Return to the Homeland) published in East Berlin and which has the objective of enticing people of Slavic birth to return to their native country, an article concerning PAUL ROBESON appeared. Translation of this article is set forth below:

ON SEPTEMBER 15, PAUL ROBESON AND HIS WIFE, ESLANDA, LEFT FOR LONDON, AFTER A MONTH'S VISIT IN THE SOVIET UNION.

"MANY THANKS TO ALL THE SOVIET PEOPLE," HE SAID: "NOW, AFTER A MONTH'S SOJOURN IN THE UNION, EVERYONE OF YOU SEEMS TO ME A CLOSE FRIEND, BROTHER, OR SISTER. I THANK YOU ALL, FRIENDS !

"YESTERDAY, ON THE EVE OF MY DEPARTURE FROM MOSCOW, I VISITED THE MAUSOLEUM, VISITED THE KREMLIN, AND SAW THE GRAVE OF JOHN REED, AN AMERICAN JOURNALIST AND FIGHTER, WHO SACRIFICED HIS LIFE IN ORDER THAT ALL THE SIMPLE PEOPLE IN THE WORLD WOULD LIVE HAPPILY. AND HERE, IN THE RED SQUARE, I AGAIN FELT MYSELF NOT SIMPLY A FRIEND OF THE LAND OF THE SOVIETS; I FELT MYSELF AS PART OF YOUR PEOPLE. GOOD-BY, UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN SOON, FRIENDS!"

JOHN REED, American writer ("Ten Days That Shook the World") and a leading Bolshevist, died of typhus in Moscow in 1920 and is buried in a place of honor within the Kremlin. (100-208097)

**ACTION:**

For information.

100-12304

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Nease

ML:mal mal  
(6)

60 DEC 22 1958

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 1-16-81 BY SP5Rtg/flw

REC-51

100-12304-569  
DEC 16 1958

*100-12304-569*  
*5-6R*  
*123*

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

4

TO : Director, FBI (100-12304)

DATE: 12/29/58 1-17-91

FROM : Legat, London (100-1666)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 R/LHJ  
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2 3  
DATE OF REVIEW 1-17-91

SUBJECT: ESLANDA CORDOZO ROBESON, was.  
SM - C

CONFIDENTIAL

Remylets 11/14 and 12/10/58. (u)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

[Redacted block]

b1 D

P.

- 6 - Bureau, Encs. 6
- 2 - London: 1 - 100-1666
- 1 - 100-1182 (PAUL LEROY ROBESON)

EX - 132 REC-31 100-12304-561

JAN 6 1959

CWB:1c  
(8)

3d

CONFIDENTIAL

ENCLOSURE  
53 JAN 8 1959

AGENCY 2116 77  
REQ. REC'D  
DATE FORW. 1-1-59  
HOW FORW. 1-1-59  
BY [Signature]

Classified by 2450 YEA  
Exempt from GDS, Category 1  
Date of Declassification Indefinite  
5-24-77

124

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\_\_\_\_\_

For your information: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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FBI Headquarters file 100-12304-561 (Enclosure)

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~~SECRET~~

- 1 - Liaison Section
- 1 - Mr. B. C. Rachner
- 1 - Mr. Aull

100-363216

Date: December 29, 1958

VIA LIAISON

To: Director  
 Central Intelligence Agency  
 2430 E Street, N. W.  
 Washington 25, D. C.

*yt* } 3-1  
 9-1

Attention: Deputy Director, Plans

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
 OTHERWISE

From: John Edgar Hoover, Director  
 Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: [REDACTED] with aliases  
 INTERNAL SECURITY - R

*b7c*

CLASS. & EXT. BY *SP-5 RJA/42*  
 REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
 DATE OF REVIEW *1-2-81*

*Robeson Eslanda*

[REDACTED] (S)

[REDACTED] (S)

[REDACTED] (S)

[REDACTED] (S)

[REDACTED] (S)

YELLOW  
 DUPLICATE  
 DEC 30 1958  
 MAIL ROOM

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Boardman \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Parsons \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Holloman \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

1 - New York (See Note page 2)  
 ① - 100-12304 (Eslanda Cordoza Robeson)

MCT-5 | 100-12304-  
 NOT RECORDED  
 176 JAN 7 1959

WAA:mlj  
 (8)  
 MAIL ROOM  TELETYPE UNIT  ~~SECRET~~

ORIGINAL FILED IN 100-362016-75

*126*

Director  
Central Intelligence Agency

~~SECRET~~

[REDACTED]

(S)

[REDACTED]

(S)

Our files reflect that background information concerning Islands Robeson and her husband, Paul Robeson, was furnished you in a report of Special Agent Jack D. Wood dated November 19, 1958, at New York entitled "Islands Cordozo Robeson, with aliases, Security Matter-C," a copy of which was forwarded to you December 8, 1958. (u)

[REDACTED]

(S)

[REDACTED]

(S)

[REDACTED]

(S)

Office Memorandum • UNITED

ERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)

DATE: 1/2/59

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (100-25857)

SUBJECT: PAUL LEROY ROBESON  
IS-C

The New York "Herald Tribune" issue of 12/31/58, page 9, column 1, carried the following under the date line "London, December 30":

"Paul Robeson, American singer, and his wife arrived today in Moscow to start a month's stay in the Soviet Union, Moscow radio said".

- 2- Bureau (100-12304) (RM)
- 1- New York (100-56680) (ESLANDA ROBESON)
- 1- New York (100-25857) (415)

RGO:jrc  
(4)

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DATE 1-17-91 BY SP-5 RJA/HW

EX-132

100-12304-562

REC-31

5 JAN 6 1959

AGENCY U.S. Legal Attache  
REQ. REC'D  
DATE FORW. 1-2-59  
HOW FORW. Hand  
BY [Signature]

727  
60 JAN 8 1959

SUBV. CONTROL

128

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)

DATE: 1/2/59

*F*  
*gms*

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (100-56680)

SUBJECT: ESLANDA GOODE ROBESON  
SM - C

ReBulet to NY, 12/23/58, requesting status of instant case.

*Robeson*  
Subject is presently traveling in Europe with her husband, PAUL. She departed the United Kingdom for the US, on 11/7/58, and remained in the US until on or about 11/28/58, when she returned to the United Kingdom.

Subject's return to the United Kingdom on the HMS QUEEN MARY arriving in England, on 12/3/58, was verified through officials of the Cunard Lines in NYC.

A closing report was submitted in November, 1958. The subject is currently maintained in the "Unavailable Section" of the Security Index.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 1-12-81 BY *SP-5 Rlg/dw*

- 2 Bureau (100-12304) (RM)
- 1- New York (100-56680)

REC-21

*100-12304-563*

JAN 6 1959

RGO:gms  
(3)

~~SUBV CONTROL~~

AGENCY *116 Legat Jordan*  
 REQ. REC'D  
 DATE FORW. *1-4-59*  
 HOW FORW. *R/S*  
 BY *[Signature]*

60 JAN 8 1959

*129*

Justice Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO: Director, FBI (100-12304)

DATE: December 31, 1958

FROM: Legat, London (100-1182, 100-1666)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

SUBJECT: PAUL LEROY ROBESON  
IS - C

CONFIDENTIAL

ESLANDA CORDOZO ROBESON, was.  
SM - C

Remylet 12/10/58. (u)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 RJS/HW  
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW 1-17-91

[REDACTED]

P. 53 JAN 13 1959

Classified by (C) 240 JRA  
Excluded from GDS, Category 1  
Date of Declassification Indefinite

- 6 - Bureau, Encls. 6
- 2 - London 1 - 100-1182 (P. ROBESON)
- 1 - 100-1666 (E. ROBESON)

JAC:1c  
(8)

BOUCH WAIF

JAN 7 1959

ENCLOSURE  
CONFIDENTIAL

SUBV CONTROL

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

1 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

Deleted under exemption(s) (b)(1) with no segregable material available for release to you.

Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) \_\_\_\_\_, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

\_\_\_\_\_ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); \_\_\_\_\_ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

\_\_\_\_\_ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

For your information: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:  
FBI Headquarters file 100-12304-564 (Enclosure)

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XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

131  
FBI/DOJ

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)

DATE: January 19, 1959

FROM : *amb* Legat, London (100-1182)

SUBJECT: PAUL LEROY ROBESON  
IS - C

Remylet 12/31/58.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 1-17-81 BY SP-5R1g/HW

The January 13, 1959, issue of the London Daily Worker carried an article indicating that PAUL ROBESON would open the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre season at Stratford-on-Avon, England, on April 7, 1959, by appearing in "Othello." Subject is presently traveling in the USSR and, if the Daily Worker article is correct, will return to the United Kingdom some time prior to April 7, 1959.

There are enclosed two thermofax copies of excerpts from the Summary of World Broadcasts, No. 999, dated January 16, 1959, containing an interview Radio Moscow had with ROBESON. This information is prepared by [redacted] and this particular summary covers the period January 11 through 13, 1959.

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BOUCH WVF 100-12304-565  
AGENCY REC-17  
REQ. REC'D  
DATE FORW. 1-23-59  
HOW FORW. [redacted]  
BY [redacted]  
JAN 23 1959  
SUB CONTROL

and precision, I want to say to you, Chairman, that your idea for John Kenyatta has not gone unheard in this city, or in the people of the U.S. We are all for justice and freedom for all people. We are worried about John Kenyatta, and that is the call which was made by the All-African Peoples Conference for his freedom to be released and reinforced right here by the representatives to the UN from the United States. This I know, and I want to assure you of this fact. I would like also to assure the people of the conference that the resolution which you passed, the resolution calling for the reconstitution of the committee (from South Africa) these questions too, and these resolutions too, will be passed by the good people of the USSR. It was a wonderful conference. I have talked about it, and Mrs. Robeson has talked about it, we are writing about it, we are telling the people about you, the representatives of 200,000,000 people who came together in unity, overcoming all difficulties of language, overcoming all the various influences of the different countries which have held you oppressed over these many, many years, overcoming the differences of tribalism and religious (and indistinct), that during this conference you came together and have declared your intention to be free, independent and united in a world of peace and friendship and brotherhood to all men.

Dr. Dubois (on his message to the Accra conference). The message was in two parts: first a rehearsal of what had been done by US & USSR towards pan-African unity, and then the second part had to do with the economic progress of the new Africa. I sensed that the Africans today rather had the idea that they were poised between two different systems, and that they could adopt an attitude of neutrality, as to whether they would veer toward socialism or towards capitalism. I wanted to remind them that that wasn't true, that the day of private capitalism was gradually waning, as could be seen in the whole recent history of the world, and that they must remember that their attitude toward capitalism was not a matter of choice; it was a matter of necessity. They had to choose socialism, and they would get on a great deal easier if they were aware of what the choice was and made the choice without trying to go through a preliminary trial of transient capitalism.

(Mrs. Dr. Dubois was asked if he thought the colonial countries in Africa would achieve the same economic and political successes as had the countries of the East, when they obtained their independence.) - Oh yes. The achievements in the USSR and in China were made under unusual difficulties, difficulties that have been increased by the enormity of large numbers of people. Now, today, when you have a continent like Africa which is full of all sorts of wealth, of materials that can be used in various new ways in which we are using materials, and especially with the great reservoir of labour, the advancement can be made much faster than it was in the past in countries like the USSR and China. Therefore, Africa has every opportunity to go forward and to go fast, if she goes the right way - if she starts immediately to hitch her advancement in the near future to the old communism of the African tribe, she has a chance to make her progress much faster than otherwise would be the fact.

Mr. Paul Robeson Mrs. Robeson told me about her trip to Accra. She was in Africa some other times, and even reflecting (sic) the feeling among my own folk in America, that we are part of an emerging coloured world, formerly colonial world, which is determined to have their freedom and to work out their own destiny. As I have said many times on different occasions, for me the friendship of the Soviet people, the peoples in the socialist democracies, especially here in the USSR, has been decisive to my mind. I said this years ago; I felt this when I first came in 1938; I think the events around Suez and the events that have followed since have made it clear that the Soviet peoples stand, and the peoples in the socialist land, as firm friends of this mighty world in Africa and in Asia. I go further and say that, were it not for the strength and power of the Soviet people, perhaps the struggle for liberation would not be taking place - I include (among the struggles for liberation) the people of America who are concerned. So I am very happy to hear of your trip to Accra.

Interview with Dubois and Robeson

Excerpts from statements by Dr. William Dubois, Mrs. Dubois and Dr. Paul Robeson during an interview broadcast in the service in English for Africa.

Dr. Dubois: We were greatly impressed in the US. by Sputnik because, before that, there had been a great deal of propaganda against the claim that the USSR had a fine system of education. Everything that was spoken of the USSR was usually disputed by somebody saying that it was merely propaganda and was not true. And then, when suddenly Sputnik came, here you had plainly in the skies for everybody to see the result of the splendid system of education here, and of your advancement in science, so that that marked an era. Now when we are here and we have this almost unimaginable triumph of human calculation, it is very difficult for me to express myself and to say just what the effect has been. But I do know this: hereafter, in the US the people are going to believe what the USSR is doing in education and science and they are going to be more disposed to live in peace and harmony with this great nation.

Mrs. Shirley Dubois [notes: Mrs. Dubois, asked her impressions of the Laury conference which she had attended as a member of the US delegation, greeted among others John Elliott, Mrs. Youse, and Tom Kiboya]: This young man [Kiboya], who has gone back to Kenya, who presided over the conference with such dignity and poise

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DATE 1-17-81 BY SP-5 RJA/ld

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