Federal Bureau of Investigation

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SUBJECT: Silas Newton

JBL:VCR
65-837 - 151 January 29, 1941

Special Agent in Charge
New York, New York

12-13-80 SPIGSK/BA/PB
6-2-97 SPBBTJ/CC

Dear Sir: Re: [redacted]
ESPIONAGE - (G)

b7C

Reference is made to the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated January 7, 1941, at New York City.

It is noted that this report constitutes a file review for the purpose of setting forth the delinquent investigative leads for the various field offices and that a seventy-day delay was occasioned in the typing of this report.

This investigation requires active attention in an effort to bring it to a logical conclusion at the earliest possible date. The interested offices should, therefore, give this matter the necessary investigative attention in accordance with the leads set out and reports thereon should be submitted to the Bureau not later than February 25, 1941.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Mr Tolson
Mr Clegg
Mr E A Tamm
Mr Foxworth
Mr. Nathan
Mr Ladd
Mr Egan
Mr Glavin
Mr Nichols
Mr Hendon
Mr. Rosen
Mr Tracy
Miss Gandy

cc Miami
Newark
Washington Field
Denver
New Haven

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAR 5 1941
JAN 31 1941

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

70 days

Origin NEW YORK CITY NY File No. 65-87 MR

Made at	Date	Period	Made by
NEW YORK CITY	1/7/41	10/29/40	[redacted]

Title	Character
[redacted] with aliases	ESPIONAGE - G

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: File reviewed and all outstanding leads set out.

- P -

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 12-13-80 SP1GSK1BW1PB

REFERENCE: Letter from Miami Field Office to Bureau under date of Sept. 24, 1940, with copy to New York Office.

8/15/84 SP-6BJA/PSK 2/6/82 6-2-97 SP3BTJ/cc

DETAILS: A review of instant file is being made upon the request of the Special Agent in Charge who suggested that such a review be made from serial 172 to date in order to bring this case to a logical conclusion as soon as possible.

Serial 172 is the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated at New York City, April 27, 1940, and is a complete review of the entire file to that date. The principal leads set out in Special Agent [redacted] report are those to ascertain the identity and background of the people whom Subject had contacted or had listed in her address book.

The report of Special Agent [redacted]

Letter to NYC, cc Miami, Newark, W.F.O., Denver, New Haven 1-29-40 JBL

b7C

B. E. Sackett 65-837-159 JAN 22 1941

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FIVE HARDS

65-87

[redacted]

NEWARK FIELD DIVISION

[redacted]

WASHINGTON FIELD DIVISION

[redacted]

[redacted]

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DENVER FIELD DIVISION

* At DENVER, COLORADO, will make appropriate inquiry through the Hotel Brown Palace for information as to the identity and general reputation of SILAS M. NEWTON, whom Subject attempted to contact telephonically on January 17, 1940. (Set out in report of Special Agent [redacted] dated July 19, 1940 at New York City.)

NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION

[redacted]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

0.1
CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW YORK CITY FILE NO. 65-190

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
DENVER	2/18/41	1/3,7,10/41	[redacted] RO

TITLE [redacted] with aliases

CHARACTER OF CASE: ESPIONAGE - G.

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

SILAS M. NEWTON highly regarded at Brown Palace Hotel, Denver, Colo., where he has resided since 1/20/38. Records Retail Credit Men's Assn., Denver, revealed NEWTON has very substantial income, good character, and habits. No record of law suit, collections, or bankruptcy. Has been President of Oriental Refining Co., Denver, since 7/28/39; became connected with Kansas & Wyoming Oil Corp., Denver, Colo., in Sept. 1940. Both reputable concerns. No indication of Espionage activities. On 9/7/38 received inquiry relative possible mail fraud violation on part of NEWTON. Criminal record of one SILAS M. NEWTON received from Bureau on 9/24/38, set out.

- R.U.C. -

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 12-15-80 BY SP1GSK/BO/JBB 6-3-97

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent [redacted] New York, 1/19/40.
" " " " New York, 1/7/41.

DETAILS: AT DENVER, COLORADO ---

[redacted] Brown Palace Hotel, advised that SILAS M. NEWTON occupied Suite 842-843 from January 20, 1938, to December 1, 1940, at which time he moved to Suite 925-926, which he presently occupies. [redacted] advised that NEWTON's monthly rent is $250, [redacted]

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: [signature] SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

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5 - Bureau
2 - New York City
2 - Denver

CC - ONI [redacted]

12-2-40

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He advised that SILAS M. NEWTON is connected with the Oriental Refining Company in Denver and is considered to be a man of some means. [redacted] advised that frequently NEWTON is out of the city [redacted] when NEWTON returns to Denver.

[redacted] stated he has known NEWTON during the time he has lived at the Brown Palace Hotel, and regards him as a very substantial man; that NEWTON is highly regarded about the hotel; and in his opinion, NEWTON is not engaged in foreign activities of any type. He said NEWTON frequently plays golf with [redacted] of Denver, Colorado.

[redacted] to Agent [redacted] NEWTON from the hotel since January 1, 1940, and it was ascertained that NEWTON did not make any 'phone calls from the hotel to New York City during instant period.

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[redacted] Denver, stated that [redacted] NEWTON almost every day when NEWTON is in the city, and that in his opinion, NEWTON is a man of considerable means, highly regarded by all who come in contact with him; and is of the definite opinion that NEWTON is not engaged in Espionage activities.

[redacted] Brown Palace Hotel, stated he has known NEWTON for three or four years, NEWTON having lived at the Brown Palace Hotel [redacted] He said he knew NEWTON in New York City [redacted] the Gothen Hotel there; that NEWTON stayed at this hotel before he came to Denver about two years ago. He advised NEWTON had a high-priced apartment at the Gothen Hotel; however, as far as he knows, NEWTON has always conducted his affairs above-board.

[redacted] advised NEWTON had a good reputation at the Gothen Hotel, New York City, and is also highly regarded at the Brown Palace Hotel in Denver. He mentioned that at times NEWTON is out of the city [redacted] but [redacted] stated NEWTON [redacted] return to the city. [redacted] is of the opinion that NEWTON has a very substantial income, and is positive that NEWTON has never been engaged in any Espionage activities.

[redacted] stated they do not know where NEWTON goes while on his trips away from Denver, Colorado.

[redacted] Denver, [redacted] that NEWTON has had no credit activities; however, according to his records, SILAS M. NEWTON became President of the Oriental Refining Company, Denver, in July 28, 1939; and later became connected with the Kansas and Wyoming Oil Corporation, Denver, in September, 1940, both companies being reliable concerns, the Oriental Refining Company having a capital of $2,000,000.

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[redacted] also advised [redacted] that NEWTON is reported to be of good character, good habits, very substantial earnings, there being no record of law suits, collections, or bankruptcy against NEWTON.

On September 7, 1938, the Denver Field Division received a letter from [redacted] attorney-at-law, First National Bank Building, Denver, Colorado, which requested information concerning a possible mail fraud charge against one SILAS M. NEWTON.

Upon request of the Bureau, the Denver Field Division on September 24, 1938, received a copy of the criminal record of one SILAS M. NEWTON, FBI #835861, which is quoted as follows:

PD, NYC, NY.	Silas M. Newton #--	7-8-31	fug.-warrant- (Montclair,N.J. conspiracy)	7-10-31, del. to N.J.Auth.
SPol.,Oneida, NY.	Silas Mason Newton, alias Silas Newton, #2268	9-25-34	false stock statements	
SO, Elmira, N.Y.	Silas M.Newton, #--	7-15-35	2 indictments - vio.952 P.L.	rel.on bail $2500
PD, NYC,NY	Silas M. Newton #B-93874	9-25-36	G.L.2nd (warrant)	

" WANTED by Det. 18th Sqd. Comp., #2163, 11-9-35 for Wichita, Kans.
WANTED by Det. for G. L., 1st, Binghamton,N.Y.,card filed 9-14-34.
(Above notations as appearing on record sheet rec. from PD, NYC, NY).

[redacted] attorney-at-law, 810 First National Bank Building, Denver, upon interview, advised that in 1938 he was requested by a banker of Denver, whose name he refused to reveal in view of the fact the banker is a client, to find out all he could about SILAS M. NEWTON, and especially with regard to a possible conviction in a mail fraud case, several years previously. b7C

[redacted] advised he communicated with numerous penitentiaries and Government agencies, receiving replies from all to whom he wrote, advising they had no record of SILAS M. NEWTON and did not know him.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

THE NEW YORK CITY DIVISION:

At New York City - Will make appropriate investigation at the Gothen Hotel concerning the general reputation of SILAS M. NEWTON, who stayed at this hotel prior to 1938, and who Subject attempted to contact telephonically on January 15, 1940.

-- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN --

65-87

[redacted]

[redacted] listed the name of SILAS M. NEWTON.

Reference report sets forth a lead for the Denver, Colorado, office to make appropriate inquiry at the Hotel Brown Palace for information as to the identity and general reputation of SILAS M. NEWTON. Inasmuch as it is now thought that investigation indicates NEWTON is presently in Hollywood, California, it is requested that the Manager of the Hotel Brown Palace be openly interviewed concerning the identity and general reputation of SILAS M. NEWTON.

In the same report a lead is set forth for the New York office to obtain certain telegrams from the Western Union Telegraph Company in compliance with lead set forth by Special Agent [redacted] dated at New York City, July 19, 1940. Inasmuch as it is highly possible that the Western Union Telegraph Company has disposed of these telegrams, no effort is being made toward obtaining copies from the Western Union telegraph office.

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Attention is called to the undeveloped lead appearing in the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated January 7, 1941, at New York City, to ascertain the identities of the various persons with whom subject has been in telephonic communication as set out in the reports of Special Agent [redacted] at New York City, dated:

March 6, 1939
April 25, 1939

65-87

It is also suggested that in the event a bank account is located in the name of SILAS M. NEWTON that an examination of this account be made in order to determine if sums of money are being sent by NEWTON [redacted] b7C

[redacted]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW YORK CITY

FILE NO. 65-44

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
LOS ANGELES	3-20-41	3-7,12-41	[redacted] LT

TITLE: [redacted] with aliases

CHARACTER OF CASE: ESPIONAGE - G

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: SILAS M. NEWTON resided Hollywood Knickerbocker Hotel 12-23-40 to 2-18-41. Believed by management to now be at Brown Palace Hotel, Denver, Colorado, which is permanent address. NEWTON banks at Citizen's State Bank, McCracken, Kansas.

- RUC -

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 12-15-80 BY SP1GSK/BAL 6-3-97

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent [redacted] New York 3-1-41.

DETAILS: [redacted] Hollywood Knickerbocker Hotel, 1714 Ivar Avenue, Los Angeles, obtained the guest registration card of NEWTON which reflected that he registered at the hotel on December 23, 1940, giving his address as the Brown Palace Hotel, Denver, Colorado, that he was assigned to apartment 914 at a rate of $8.00 per day and that he remained at the hotel until February 18, 1941. Upon leaving, NEWTON gave no forwarding address and it was assumed that he had returned to Denver.

The Knickerbocker Hotel had obtained a credit card from NEWTON which reflected the following:

Name	S. M. NEWTON
Residence	Brown Palace Hotel Denver, Colorado

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APPROVED AND FORWARDED: SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE: RMtegall

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 7—2834

Bank reference	Citizens State Bank McCracken, Kansas
Local reference	Ambassador Hotel
	[redacted]
Occupation	Treasurer Oriental Refining Company, Denver, Colorado

Contained in the file was a letter from the Citizens State Bank, McCracken, Kansas which stated that business relationships with NEWTON had been very satisfactory and that he was well able to care for his financial undertakings.

[redacted] stated that NEWTON was well known as a guest of the hotel as he had been making the Hollywood Knickerbocker his headquarters when in Los Angeles for the past five or six years, that very little was known of his associates or his business connections aside from the fact that he frequently referred to the petroleum industry and indicated that he was well versed in the industry. [redacted] further stated that NEWTON, while in Los Angeles, plays golf continuously and that the reference on the credit card, [redacted] b7C

A review of NEWTON'S account during the time of his stay reflected numerous long distance telephone calls. These were made from the hotel switchboard and an effort was made to obtain the hotel telephone tickets showing these calls, however, [redacted] advised that the hotel did not retain them after the guests' bills were paid and therefore they were not available. For the information of the file the following record of telephone calls as taken from NEWTON'S account is being set out:

Date	Charge
December 23, 1940	$2.20
December 29, 1940	4.60
January 5, 1941	3.60
	2.20
	7.40
January 14, 1941	13.50
January 19, 1941	1.75
	3.60
January 21, 1941	7.50
	8.00
	3.60

Date	Charge
January 22, 1941	$ .65
January 26, 1941	4.70
February 2, 1941	3.60
February 10, 1941	.25
	.25
February 12, 1941	.25
February 14, 1941	.25
February 17, 1941	.25
	.30

[redacted] advised that to his knowledge NEWTON had never referred to his ever having been married or having a family. He further stated that NEWTON had never indicated particular interest in the present international crisis and had never expressed any nationalistic sympathies.

[redacted] described NEWTON as:

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Age	50 years
Height	5 feet, 9 inches
Weight	160 pounds
Build	Heavy, rather stocky
Complexion	Ruddy
	Smooth shaven
	Plays golf continuously

As noted on the credit card of NEWTON he listed the Ambassador Hotel as a local reference. [redacted] Ambassador Hotel, obtained the hotel credit card on NEWTON, which reflected the identical information set out on the credit card held by the Hollywood Knickerbocker Hotel. In addition it gave his business address as 908 Equitable Building, Denver, Colorado. The credit card is dated October 14, 1938. A letter contained in this file from the Citizens State Bank, McCracken, Kansas also indicates that NEWTON is well able to take care of his financial undertakings.

With reference to NEWTON'S stay at the Ambassador Hotel, [redacted] advised that he had only registered there on one occasion, that being from October 14 to October 16, 1938. [redacted] could not recall NEWTON or anything concerning him.

For the information of the Kansas City Office, report of reference states that information received from Inspector

[redacted]

[redacted] This NEWTON in all probability is SILAS NEWTON who is referred to in the Federal Income Tax Return of [redacted] for the year 1938, as reflected in the report of reference wherein [redacted] the name of SILAS M. NEWTON.

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Report of reference requested the Los Angeles Field Division to endeavor to locate a bank account for SILAS M. NEWTON and examine same to determine if sums of money are being sent by NEWTON to subject. In view of the fact that subject is no longer residing at the Hollywood Knickerbocker Hotel, no further investigation by the Los Angeles Field Division is being conducted.

The indices of the Los Angeles Field Division contain no record on [redacted] listed by NEWTON as a local reference.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

[redacted]

THE KANSAS CITY FIELD DIVISION

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AT MC CRACKEN, KANSAS:

Will examine the bank account of SILAS M. NEWTON at the Citizens State Bank and determine if sums of money are being sent by NEWTON [redacted] the subject of this case.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

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