



"Onassis incorporated in country after country: in Sweden it was A. S. Onassis Aktiebolaget; in Germany, the Olympic Marine Aktiengesellschaft; in Panama, Honduras, France, the United States, it was other firms with other names - all meaning Onassis."

"Nevertheless, the Senate hearings brought out that the United States Petroleum Carriers Corporation - control of which is held by the Onassis interests - paid a generous \$100,000 in legal fees to ex-Congressman Joseph E. Casey and his associate, Joseph Rosenbaum, for their help in obtaining four tankers from the Maritime Commission."

It is requested that Mr. Leiser be interviewed, with the view of developing the following:

1. Obtain the names and addresses of the associates of Aristotle Onassis so that they can be questioned regarding the "thirty assorted companies" which Mr. Onassis owns and controls.
2. Determine who furnished Mr. Leiser the information that Aristotle Onassis interests had "managed to buy some of the Maritime Commission tankers;" also, if possible, ascertain the names of said tankers.
3. Where were the "luxurious, modernistic offices" of Onassis' New York agents and what firm occupied said offices.
4. Where did he get the information that Onassis owns or controls "ninety-odd ships."
5. Who was the Norwegian whaling-fleet owner to whom Onassis and Constantine Konialidis supposedly lent all their savings.
6. What are the names of the corporations which Onassis controls in the United States and what proof does Mr. Leiser have of Onassis' ownership and/or control.
7. What knowledge and/or proof does Mr. Leiser have regarding control of the U. S. Petroleum Carriers Corporation by Onassis.

*Gilbert  
New York*

It is also requested that [redacted]

[redacted] the U. S. Petroleum Carriers Corporation and Mr. Laurence W. Keating, former Director and Treasurer of the same firm, be interviewed for the purpose of determining whether they can furnish any information which will lead to proof that Aristotle S. Onassis controls and operates U. S. Petroleum Carriers, Inc.

SAC, Washington Field (46-2607)

September 16, 1953

Director, FBI (46-17783)

**46-17783-323**  
NORTH AMERICAN SHIPPING AND TRADING COMPANY,  
INCORPORATED, ET AL  
FRAUD AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT

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Attached to this memorandum and the copies designated for the New York Field Division is a copy of a self-explanatory memorandum from the Criminal Division dated September 10, 1953, requesting additional investigation in this matter.

The New York Division, through its contacts with the various literary agents will ascertain the address of Ernest Leiser, the author of the article in the Saturday Evening Post referred to in the Criminal Division's memorandum. When Mr. Leiser has been located he should be interviewed as requested by the Criminal Division but prior to such interview should be advised that this investigation is being conducted at the specific request of Assistant Attorney General Warren Olney III of the Criminal Division, Department of Justice. In the event Mr. Leiser is not located by the New York Division leads should be set forth for the appropriate field division setting forth sufficient background so that this interview may be intelligently conducted. The advice to Mr. Leiser that this investigation is being conducted at the specific request of Assistant Attorney General Olney should not be set forth in your investigative report.

The interviews of the former officials of United States Petroleum Carriers, as set forth in the last paragraph on page two of the Criminal Division's memorandum, should be conducted as requested.

This investigation must receive immediate and continuous investigative attention to insure that reports reflecting the completion of this investigation be submitted to reach the Bureau not later than October 6, 1953.

Attachment

cc: 2-New York (46-2507) (Attachment)

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Clegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Harbo \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
- Conroy \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Holloman \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

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SEPTEMBER 18, 1953

AIRTEL  
MAIL

SAC, NEW YORK (46-2507)  
WASHINGTON FIELD (46-2607) (BSM)

NORTH AMERICAN SHIPPING AND TRADING COMPANY, INC., ETAL; SAC  
REBUREAU MEMO DATED SEPTEMBER 16, 1953. THE REQUEST CONTAINED IN  
DEPARTMENT'S MEMO SEPTEMBER 10, 1953, TO INTERVIEW LAURENCE L.  
KEATING SHOULD BE DISREGARDED BY YOUR OFFICE.

HOOVER

CC: 2 - WASHINGTON FIELD (46-2607) (BSM)

NOTE: Mr. Howard F. Smith, Department Attorney, telephonically 9/17/53  
advised SA [REDACTED] that the request to interview  
Keating should be disregarded and that he is submitting  
a memo to the Bureau verifying this conversation.

WAH: [REDACTED]

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EX-124

46-17783-326  
SEP 23 1953  
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[Handwritten signature]

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Clegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Harbo \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
- Quinn \_\_\_\_\_
- Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Holloman \_\_\_\_\_

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FBI  
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# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

*EVB  
WTH*

TO : Director, FBI (46-17783)  
Attention: Investigative Division  
Accounting and Fraud Section

DATE: 9/30/53

FROM : SAC, New York (46-2507)

SUBJECT: NORTH AMERICAN SHIPPING AND  
TRADING COMPANY, INC., ET AL  
FRAUD AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT

ReBulet 9/23/53.

There are attached hereto copies of the following enclosures referred to in New York report dated 5/10/52:

Enclosures 1 through 16 and 21 through 27.

Copies of enclosures 17 through 20, 28 and 29 are not available.

Enclosures 17 through 20 consist of documents pertaining to the Olympic Trading Corporation loan agreement of 6/17/48 in the amount of \$22,400,000.00. Information concerning these enclosures is set forth on pages 148 through 152 of New York report dated 5/10/52.

Enclosure 28 is a copy of the indenture and related documents pertaining to the \$10,000,000.00 bond issue of USPC that was purchased by Metropolitan Life Insurance Company under Bond Purchase Agreement dated 9/12/51 in which National City Bank of New York acted as trustee under Preferred Ship Mortgage and Indenture dated 9/1/51.

Enclosure 29 is a copy of the Third Preferred Fleet Mortgage dated 5/27/49 between USPC and National City Bank.

Information concerning enclosures 28 and 29 is set forth on pages 198 and 199 of New York report dated 5/10/52.

*Carney follow up  
H. ENCL*

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*gn*  
~~DISPATCHED~~

Encls. (23)

*Documents to  
Florence, Arnold  
EX-121  
1953 10-1-53*

*46-17783-328*

38 OCT 2 1953

*6- [Signature]  
W.A. Hall*

AIR-TEL

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

NEW YORK, N.Y., 10/2/53.

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Ladd	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Gearty	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Holloman	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

Transmit the following Teletype message to: BUREAU

NORTH AMERICAN SHIPPING AND TRADING COMPANY, INC., ET AL.

REBULET 9/16/53. ERNEST LEISER INTERVIEWED AT PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT, CBS, NYC, RE ONASSIS ARTICLE. UNABLE TO FURNISH PERTINENT INFORMATION FROM MEMORY. HE WILL ENDEAVOR TO LOCATE NOTES RE ONASSIS ARTICLE AND MAKE SAME AVAILABLE 10/5/53. REPORT WILL BE SUBMITTED PROMPTLY THEREAFTER.

Mr. Rosen

BOARDMAN

3 BUREAU (46-17783) (REGULAR MAIL)

46-2607

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46-17783-329

OCT 3 1953

Approved: [Signature] Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

79 OCT 9 - 1953

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DATE: 10/13/53

TO : Director, FBI (46-17783)

FROM : SAC, New York (46-2507)

SUBJECT: NORTH AMERICAN SHIPPING AND TRADING CO., INC.; ET AL FRAUD AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT

RE: US PETROLEUM CARRIERS, INC.

*of*

By memorandum dated 9/10/53, WARREN OLNEY, III, Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, requested certain investigation that would lead to proof that ARISTOTLE S. ONASSIS, an Argentine citizen of Greek origin, controls and operates United States Petroleum Carriers, Inc. (USPC).

The following background info is being set forth for the benefit of the Norfolk office for assistance in interviewing a former USPC employee, [REDACTED] Norfolk, Va.:

USPC was organized under the laws of the State of Delaware on 9/27/47 with an organized capital stock of 1,000 shares of no par value stock. The original stockholders were as follows:

HAROLD G. BOWEN

ROBERT W. DUDLEY

ROBERT L. BERENSON

Shares

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

EXPEDITE PROCESSING

*b7c*

*b7c*

*P*

BOWEN, DUDLEY, and BERENSON are US citizens.

The original [REDACTED] shares were issued for a consideration of [REDACTED] per share for a total amount of [REDACTED]. On 1/7/48 BERENSON purchased from DUDLEY and BOWEN their [REDACTED] shares of stock for the amount of [REDACTED], and, on the same date, the remaining [REDACTED] shares of unissued stock were sold to Sociedad Industrial Maritima Financiera Ariona Panama, SA (Ariona) for an amount of \$100,000.00 or at the rate of \$250.00 per share.

*b7c*

RM

1-Norfolk (AM)

[REDACTED]

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*[Handwritten signature]*

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Letter to Director  
NY 46-2507

Ariona, a Panamanian corp., is controlled by ONASSIS.

b7c On 3/23/48, BERENSON sold [redacted] shares of his stock to CLIFFORD N. CARVER [redacted] per share.

b7c On 6/17/48, BERENSON sold [redacted] shares of his stock to NICOLAS COKKINIS at [redacted] per share and [redacted] shares to Ariona [redacted] per share. COKKINIS received his US citizenship papers shortly before purchasing the above-mentioned stock. BERENSON also sold [redacted] shares of his stock to ARNE C. STOREN on 6/17/48 at [redacted] per share.

The present stockholders are as follows:

	<u>Shares</u>
ROBERT L. BERENSON	[redacted]
CLIFFORD N. CARVER	[redacted]
ARNE C. STOREN	[redacted]
NICOLAS COKKINIS	[redacted]
Ariona	<u>490</u>
<u>Total</u>	1,000

BERENSON, CARVER, STOREN and COKKINIS are US citizens which means that 51% of the stock is owned by US citizens. As set forth previously, Ariona, a foreign corp., owns 49% of the USPC stock.

Investigation reveals that USPC and affiliated companies purchased 24 vessels from the US Maritime Commission or US Corps. The purchase of these vessels would not have been possible without the financial assistance of ONASSIS. Also in many instances, the charter arrangements between USPC or affiliates and ONASSIS controlled companies were such that most of the

Letter to Director  
NY 46-2507

profits reverted to ONASSIS controlled companies.

USPC owned or controlled the following corporations:

American Marine Corp.

Victory Carriers, Inc.

Western Tankers, Inc. (formerly known as Pacific Tankers, Inc.)

Oceanic Transport Corp.

USPC also owns 40% of the stock of Trafalgar SS Co.

By memorandum dated 12/6/51 the Dept. pointed out that a corp. in purchasing a vessel from the US Maritime Commission or securing mortgage aid from the Maritime must, under Section 802, Title 46, USC, establish that the controlling interest in the corp. is owned by US citizens free from any control by non-citizens whether by contract, understanding, or otherwise.

Investigation has been conducted with a view of establishing that although US citizens own 51% of USPC stock, this corp. is actually controlled by ONASSIS.

In addition, investigation has been conducted for possible violations of Section 371, Title 18, USC, and Section 1001, Title 18, USC.

The following USPC officers are US citizens who have been active in the operation of USPC and affiliated companies:

ROBERT L. BERENSON, Chairman of the Board.

NICOLAS COKKINIS, Vice President.

HAROLD O. BECKER, Treasurer & Assistant Secretary.

Letter to Director  
NY 46-2507

Dept. memorandum dated 9/10/53, also requests that the identity of the Norwegian whaling-fleet owner, to whom ONASSIS and CONSTANTINE KONIALIDIS supposedly lent all their savings, be determined.

[redacted] advised that [redacted] was formerly employed by USPC and Victory Carriers, Inc. He stated that he believes [redacted] may be able to furnish info concerning the extent of the control that ONASSIS exercises over USPC and affiliated companies. b7c b7d

[redacted] The Md. Drydock Co., 1 Broadway, NYC, advised that [redacted] told him that about 30 years ago ONASSIS and KONIALIDES, an ONASSIS associate, supposedly lent all their savings to a Norwegian whaling-fleet owner. [redacted] identified the name of this individual as ANDERS JAHRE. He did not have further info concerning JAHRE. b7c b7d

[redacted] desired that their names be kept confidential.

The Norfolk office is requested to contact [redacted] Norfolk, and question him along the following lines: b7c

1. Obtain [redacted] period of employment at USPC and the nature of his duties.
2. Obtain any info [redacted] may have concerning the degree of control that ONASSIS exercised over USPC and affiliates. b7c
3. Ascertain whether [redacted] can furnish the present location of the Norwegian whaling-fleet owner, ANDERS JAHRE. Also obtain the details of the transaction whereby CONSTANTINE KONIALIDES and ONASSIS loaned all their savings to JAHRE.

Letter to Director  
NY 46-2507

It is requested that this lead be expeditiously handled since the Buded is past. Washington Field is the office of origin.

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

WASHINGTON FIELD

jr1

REPORT MADE AT <b>NEW YORK</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>OCT 22 1953</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>10/2/53</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>[REDACTED] (A)</b>
TITLE <b>NORTH AMERICAN SHIPPING AND TRADING COMPANY, INC., ET AL</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>FRAUD AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT</b>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

[REDACTED] unable to furnish pertinent information re ONASSIS control of WSPC. 672

*200 Mr. Krouse, Crim. Div. - RUC - 10-29-53*  
*BSM, Rm 3423, U.S. Courthouse*  
*100 Mr. F. Cooney, Rm 3125, Civil Div. WAD/AN*

**DETAILS:**

[REDACTED] was interviewed at his business address on October 21, 1953. He advised that he has met BERENSON but to the best of his recollection he has never had business dealings with BERENSON. He also advised that he is acquainted with ONASSIS who has contacted him on various occasions concerning business matters. [REDACTED] advised that, to the best of his recollection, ONASSIS never contacted him regarding United States Petroleum Carriers, Incorporated. 672

[REDACTED] stated that he does not have "concrete evidence" that would lead to proof that ONASSIS has either direct or indirect control over United States Petroleum Carriers. He advised that it is his opinion that ONASSIS controls United States Petroleum Carriers. He further advised that his opinion is based on gossip and hearsay and that he is not able to name a reliable source to substantiate this opinion. 672

[REDACTED] stated that he is acquainted with COKKINIS, whom he described as an extremely capable and shrewd individual. He advised that he believes COKKINIS is the person best qualified 672

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES DESTROYED COPIES OF THIS REPORT: MAY 18 1970 ① - Bureau (46-17783) 2 - Washington Field (46-2607) 1 - New York (46-2507)	46-17783-331 OCT 23 1953 <i>WAD</i>	RECORDED EX-124
	COPY IN FILE 63 NOV 2 1953	

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to furnish information reference ONASSIS and his United States interests. He advised, however, that COKKINIS is "very cagey" and has never indicated to him that ONASSIS exercises either direct or indirect control over United States Petroleum Carriers.

- R U C -

NY 46-2507

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

REFERENCE: Report of SA (A) [REDACTED] New York, 10/15/53. b7c

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

17474

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **WASHINGTON FIELD**

**MCS**

REPORT MADE AT <b>NEW YORK</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>10/15/53</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>9/21, 22, 24, 25, 29, 30; 10/1, 5-9, 12/53</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>[REDACTED] b7c</b>
TITLE <b>NORTH AMERICAN SHIPPING AND TRADING COMPANY, INC., ET AL</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>FRAUD AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT</b>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

[REDACTED] advised when resigned took various USPC documents without USPC knowledge. Exam. of said documents reveals BECKER computed estimated USPC profits for 1st year under original charter agreements as \$7,341,767.90 before Federal taxes. USPC, after revising original charter agreements and chartering to PETCAP, had loss of \$17,054.04 for 1st year. Rough draft copy of letter dated 7/12/48 from BECKER to BERKINSON sets forth computations of estimated earnings under various charter arrangements that may have been basis for final USPC-PETCAP charter arrangements. Letter states "after you talk with Mr. ONASSIS, you no doubt will be able to arrive at a solution of your different problems." LEISER interviewed ONASSIS at office of Central American SS Agency, Inc., NYC. LEISER advised has no informants and unable to furnish pertinent data re ONASSIS' control of USPC. [REDACTED] USPC, now located Norfolk, Va., furnish info re Norwegian whaling-fleet owner, ANDERS JAHRE, to whom ONASSIS and KONIALIDES, supposedly lent all their savings.

*2 cc M. Krause, Crim. Div. (BSM) with [unclear]  
 2 cc Rm 3423, U.S. Courthouse  
 1 cc P. J. Cooney, Rm 2125, Civil Div.*

*10-22-53  
 WAMP*

COPIES DESTROYED <b>300 MAY 16 1964</b>	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES <b>46-17783-332</b>
5 - Bureau (46-17783) (RM) Encs. [unclear] 2 - Washington Field (46-2607) (RM) 2 - New York (46-2507) <b>63 OCT 29 1953</b>	RECORDED - 7 EX-12 [unclear]



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**DETAILS:** This investigation is predicated upon a departmental memorandum dated September 10, 1953 from WARREN OLNEY III, Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, to the Director. Instant memorandum requests that one ERNEST LEISER be interviewed concerning his article entitled, "Monte Carlo's Mysterious Millionaire," which appeared in the July 25, 1953 issue of the "Saturday Evening Post." Instant memorandum also requested that [redacted]

[redacted] of United States Petroleum Carriers, Incorporated (USPC), be interviewed for the purpose of determining whether he could furnish any information which will lead to proof that ARISTOTLE S. ONASSIS controls and operates USPC. b7c

[redacted] was interviewed at the New York Office. He was employed by USPC [redacted] took various USPC records with him. [redacted] stated that he did not have permission to take these records, but did so because he was displeased with the treatment he had received at USPC. b7d

The USPC documents taken [redacted] were examined and those containing information that might be of assistance to the department were identified [redacted] and turned over to the writer. b7d

[redacted] prior to his employment by USPC he was casually acquainted with BERENSON, whom he had known [redacted] He stated that he never prepared balance sheets or profit and loss statements during the period of his employment at USPC and has no information concerning the actual earnings of USPC. b7d

On October 7, 1953 [redacted] executed a sworn statement, pertinent portions of which statement are set forth below: b7d

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[REDACTED]

b7c

[REDACTED]

b7d

[REDACTED]

b7c

"At this meeting BERENSON gave the impression that he was a key figure in the new company. However, he did not go into detail re this company.

[REDACTED]

b7c  
b7d

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"I believe that BERENSON never made an important policy decision re U.S.P.C. without consulting ONASSIS. However, I can't give specific instances reflecting or illustrating this.

b7d [REDACTED]

"Shortly thereafter BECKER set up the books and records. From Feb. 1948 until he became officially connected with USPC BECKER worked at USPC on the books and records nights, lunch hours and Saturdays. He received a salary of \$500.00 per month for this work.

[REDACTED]

I worked under the supervision of BECKER during the period of my employment by U.S.P.C. b7d

"BERENSON always maintained that he controlled U.S.P.C. All expenditures had to be approved by COKKINIS whom I considered to be ONASSIS'S representative. On various occasions that I saw ONASSIS and COKKINIS together it appeared to me that COKKINIS was taking orders from ONASSIS.

b7d [REDACTED]

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"The Fort Bridger and Lake George were chartered to Socony Vacuum Oil Company by U.S.P.C. on Consecutive Voyage Charter. The Camas Meadows was chartered to Groupement D'Achat des Carburants by U.S.P.C. on Consecutive Voyage Charter. The Arickaree was on Bareboat Charter to Socony Vacuum.

"According to the above-mentioned statement total revenue would have been \$10,431,787.00 and net profit before federal taxes would have been \$7,341,767.00.

"I have examined a rough draft copy of a letter dated July 12, 1948 from BECKER to BERENSON enclosing nine statements. I have examined the work sheets pertaining to these statements and noted that the writing on the nine statements is BECKER'S handwriting.

"Statement Number one entitled 'United States Petroleum Carriers, Inc.' 'Estimated Profit and Loss Account - Year 1948 -' shows that estimated loss for the year 1948 before depreciation was \$72,192.47 and \$386,964.62 after depreciation. According to this statement Charter Revenue before expenses amounted to \$1,442,112.75.

"Statement Number 2 sets forth the detail of previously mentioned Charter Revenue of \$1,442,112.75. This is based on revised charter arrangements between U.S.P.C. and Petroleum Carriers of Panama, based on Time Charters for the Fort Bridger, Lake George and Camas Meadows at a rate of \$2.70 per deadweight ton per month, and a bareboat charter for the Arickaree at \$1.00 per deadweight ton per month.

"Statement Number 6 shows the Profit and Loss Account of U.S.P.C. if the four vessels were chartered to Petroleum Carriers of Panama at \$1.00 per deadweight ton per month. This statement shows a profit after depreciation of \$26,235.20.

"The other statements show estimated Profit and Loss for the American Marine Corporation years 1948 and 1949 and details concerning U.S.P.C. interest expense and overhead for the year 1948.

"After setting forth information concerning the nine statements BECKER in the rough draft letter dated July 12, 1948 makes the following statements:

"I believe the above fully explains the position of the two companies and after you talk with Mr. ONASSIS you no doubt will be able to arrive at a solution of your different problems."

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"I wish to state that all work sheets that I have examined and identified contain BECKER'S handwriting.

"I have never seen the stock certificate book for U.S.P.C. I don't know whether ONASSIS was a stockholder in U.S.P.C. BERENSON never told me whether ONASSIS had an interest in U.S.P.C."

The first four tankers purchased by USPC, that is, FORT BRIDGER, LAKE GEORGE, CAMAS MEADOWS and ARICKAREE, were originally chartered to Socony Vacuum Oil Company and Groupement D'Achat des Carburants as set forth in [redacted] signed statement. b7D

There was attached to BECKER'S worksheet, showing USPC estimated profit for the first year under the original charter agreements, a typed statement setting forth the data contained on this worksheet. A photostatic copy of this statement, Schedule A, captioned "UNITED STATES PETROLEUM CARRIERS, INCORPORATED, Statement of Estimated Profit and Losses," is attached to this report.

According to Schedule A, estimated net profit before Federal Taxes for the year 1948 was \$7,341,767.00.

SA (A) [redacted] examined the books and records of USPC in May, 1952 after the original charter agreements had been revised, and determined from this examination that for the year ended December 31, 1948, USPC showed a loss of \$17,054.04. Further data concerning revised charter agreements will be set forth subsequently in this report. b7c

[redacted] also made available a typed copy of a memo dated February 11, 1948, captioned, "MEMO [redacted] signed with the initials "RLB, [redacted] that he received this memo from ROBERT L. BERENSON. b7D

The following portion of this memo is being set forth:

"Vessels owned by United States Petroleum Carriers, Inc., and their wholly owned subsidiary, American Marine Corporation, are all to be chartered to Petroleum Carriers of Panama for periods of ten or twelve years. This is done simply for tax purposes - it does not change the registry of the vessels. As

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an example, on the Socony Vacuum bareboat charters, we now have a rate of two dollars - the Charter Party will be written between Petroleum Carriers of Panama and Socony Vacuum Oil Company. Two dollars will be paid to Petroleum Carriers of Panama. The same vessel will be bareboat chartered by United States Petroleum Carriers, Inc., for twelve years to Petroleum Carriers of Panama at one dollar. Therefore, one dollar revenue comes into the United States on which we pay taxes. Taxes on the dollar less expenses.

"All this, of course, is subject to approval of the Maritime Commission to whom we have made application."

From the above, it appears that it may have been the original intention of USPC on February 11, 1948 to organize Petroleum Carriers of Panama (PETCAP) for tax purposes. However, the USPC minutes reflect that PETCAP was sold to Sociedad Maritima Miraflores Ltd. (Miraflores) on May 10, 1948 for \$2,600.00, and, as will be shown subsequently, entered into charter agreements with Miraflores whereby most of the USPC estimated profit of \$7,341,767.00 for the year ended December 31, 1948 apparently was diverted to Miraflores.

As set forth in his signed statement, [redacted] furnished the following rough draft typed copy of a letter dated July 12, 1948, from H. O. BECKER to R. L. BERENSON: b7d

"July 12, 1948

"Mr. R. L. BERENSON

"Dear Bob:

"Mr. COKKINIS & myself have gone over the enclosed statements which I am giving you a detailed explanation of as follows:

"Exhibit #1 - U. S. Petroleum Carriers Inc. - Est. P. & L. for 1948

"This statement shows \$72,192.47 loss before depreciation and \$386,964.62 loss after depreciation.

"Exhibit #2 - Detail of Charter Revenue as shown on Exhibit #1,

"Exhibit #3

Detail of Overhead Expenses as shown on Exhibit #1.

NY 46-2507

You will note a service charge credit of \$27,500. This amount represents 11 months overhead of American Marine Corp. which is shown as a charge on their P. & L. statement. Also Detail of Interest as shown on Exhibit #1 amounting to \$229,594.41.

"Exhibit #4

"Detail of Interest Payable by month you will note that AUONA'S loan at December 31, 1948 will be \$3,580,000.00 if charter hire is according to Exhibit #2 and P. & L. according to Exhibit #1.

"Exhibit #5

"This statement details the amount of loans which to U.S. Petroleum Carriers Inc. will owe on December 31st, amounting to \$6,686,666.74 and also shows payments which must be met in 1949. These amounts are in addition to the \$187,214.80 less \$14,334.11 for inventory or net of \$173,307.69 which is owed the Socony Vaccum Oil Co. for repairs to the S/T Arickarie. Also in addition to the Chase Loan by the American Marine Corp. there is the amount of \$241,292.91 owed the Socony Vaccum Oil Co. for repairs to their 3 ships less \$35,134.24 for inventories or a net balance due of \$206,158.67.

"Exhibit #6

"This statement shows the Profit and Loss a/c of the U.S. Petroleum Carriers, Inc. if their four vessels were chartered to Petroleum Carriers of Panama at \$1 per ton Bareboat. This statement shows a profit before depreciation of \$341,007.35 and a profit after depreciation of \$26,235.20. If accounts are to be adjusted on this basis additional revenue of \$413,199.82 will have to be paid to the U.S.P. by Petcap for the year 1948. This amount could then be used to pay the interest due Auona and also balance due Petroleum Carriers of Panama.

"Exhibit #7 - Estimated P & L - U.S. Petroleum Carriers Inc. for the year 1949

"This statement shows a loss after depreciation of \$253,071.20. This is based on \$2.70 Time Charter on 3 vessels

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and \$1 - Bareboat on the S/T Arickarie.

"Exhibit #8 - Estimated P & L - American Marine Corp. - Year 1948

"This statement shows a profit of \$538,742.20 after depreciation:-

"Depreciation is based on 20 year life from time built, if we are allowed a five year life there will be no profit for the first five years. Please note that Revenue is at \$2 - Bareboat.

"Exhibit #9 - Estimated P. & L - American Marine Corp. - Year 1949

"This statement shows a profit of \$675,306.00 with Charter Revenue at \$2.00 - Bareboat, this profit is before taxes and would be ample to absorb the loss of the U.S.P. for 1949 which is \$253,071.20 or a combined profit of \$422,000 on which taxes would be paid.

"I believe the above fully explains the position of the two companies and after you talk with Mr. ONASSIS you no doubt will be able to arrive at a solution of your different problems.

"Trusting you are enjoying your trip, I am.

"Yours very truly,

"H. O. BECKER"

The following words in the next to the last paragraph were crossed out - "and after you talk with Mr. ONASSIS."

There was attached to this rough draft a copy of a typed letter dated July 12, 1948 from H. O. BECKER to Mr. ROBERT L. BERENSON; care of Agence Maritime, L. STRAUSS; 36 Rue De Chateauden, Paris IX, France.

The wording in this letter is identical with the



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wording in the rough draft copy with the exception of the paragraph referring to ONASSIS. The name ONASSIS is omitted and the paragraph is changed to read "I believe the above fully explains the position of the two companies and you no doubt will be able to arrive at a solution of your different problems."

[redacted] furnished the work sheets pertaining to Exhibits #1 through #9 and also typed copies of the work sheets. As previously set forth, [redacted] that BECKER'S handwriting is contained on the work sheet copies of the above-mentioned Exhibits. Before commenting on these Exhibits, the following remarks pertaining to the charter arrangements of USPC and American Marine Corporation are being set forth. b7d

As previously noted, the original USPC charter arrangements for the Tankers CAMAS MEADOWS, FORT BRIDGER, LAKE GEORGE, and ARICKAREE would have, according to BECKER'S computations, resulted in an estimated profit of \$7,341,767.00 for the year ended December 31, 1948. However, USPC cancelled the original charter agreements and entered into the following agreements:

The CAMAS MEADOWS, FORT BRIDGER and LAKE GEORGE were time chartered to PETCAP at a monthly rate of \$2.70 per dead weight ton. In addition, Miraflores entered into a guarantee agreement with USPC whereby under the 3 time charters, the net of charter hire and vessel operation expenses would be at least equivalent to the revenue that would accrue to USPC under bareboat charters at the rate of \$1.00 per dead weight ton per month. The ARICKAREE was bareboat chartered to PETCAP at the monthly rate of \$1.00 per dead weight ton.

An examination of the USPC books and records by SA [redacted] in May, 1952 for the period 1948 through 1951, revealed that Miraflores was required to remit to USPC under the guarantee agreement for each of these years. Therefore, the operation of the 4 vessels over the 4 years was, in effect, a bareboat charter at a monthly rate of \$1.00 per dead weight ton. b7c

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According to the information contained in Exhibits #1 and #2, if the vessels FORT BRIDGER, LAKE GEORGE and CAMAS MEADOWS were time chartered to PETCAP at a monthly rate of \$2.70 per ton and the ARICKAREE was bareboat chartered at the monthly rate of \$1.00 per dead weight ton, the estimated losses for the year 1948 would have been \$72,192.47 before depreciation and \$386,964.62 after depreciation.

According to Exhibit #6, if the 4 vessels were bareboat chartered to PETCAP at the monthly rate of \$1.00 per dead weight ton, the estimated profit for the year 1948 would have been \$341,007.35 before depreciation and \$26,235.20 after depreciation.

It is to be noted that the figure of \$26,235.20 is little more than a break-even figure.

It is possible that the above computations were the basis of the final charter arrangements between PETCAP and USPC for the period 1948 through 1951, whereby the CAMAS MEADOWS, FORT BRIDGER and LAKE GEORGE were time chartered to PETCAP at the monthly rate of \$2.70 per dead weight ton and Miraflores guaranteed USPC that the net of charter hire and vessel operation expenses would be at least equivalent to the revenue that would have accrued to USPC under bareboat charters at the monthly rate of \$1.00 per dead weight ton.

Since, as previously set forth, Miraflores was required to remit to USPC under the guarantee agreement for each of the four years during the period 1948 through 1951, the operation of these three vessels over these years was in effect at a bareboat charter rate of \$1.00 per dead weight ton per month.

SA [REDACTED] examined the USPC books and records for <sup>b7c</sup> the years 1948 through 1951 in May, 1952 and prepared the following schedule showing the profits from the operations by USPC of its various vessels.

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Schedule B

	<u>Total Operations</u>	<u>Operation of CAMAS MEADOWS FORT BRIDGER LAKE GEORGE and ARICKAREE</u>	<u>Operation of STONY POINT CAMP NAMANU and BATTLE ROCK</u>	<u>Other Activities</u>
Profit or Loss before Federal Income Tax				
1948	\$ (17,054.94)	\$ 182.05	\$ 443,828.46	\$ ( 17,236.09)
1949	293,612.30	8,524.49	632,350.82	(158,740.65)
1950	469,726.53	72,865.14	662,917.14	(235,489.43)
1951	<u>652,040.63</u>	<u>139,640.22</u>		<u>(150,516.73)</u>
Total				
1948-51	<u>\$1,398,325.42</u>	<u>\$221,211.90</u>	<u>\$1,739,096.42</u>	<u>\$ (561,982.90)</u>

Details pertaining to SA [REDACTED] method of allocation at arriving on the data shown in Schedule B is contained in his work papers. b7c

The STONY POINT, CAMP NAMANU, and BATTLE ROCK were under bareboat charter to Socony Vacuum Oil Company at a monthly rate of \$2.00 per dead weight ton.

As set forth in Schedule B, most of the USPC earnings are attributable to these 3 vessels.

The above vessels were originally owned by American Marine Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of USPC. On March 3, 1949, American Marine Corporation was merged into USPC.

According to the records of USMC on April 17, 1948, American Marine Corporation applied to the commission for approval to charter the tankers BATTLE ROCK, CAMP NAMANU, and STONY POINT to PETCAP for a period of 12 years.

On May 17, 1948, G. H. HELMBOLD, Chief of Bureau of Operations, United States Maritime Commission (USMC) recommended approval of the charters.

This recommendation was disapproved by the USMC on June 10, 1948.

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[redacted] made available a typed copy of a memorandum dated May 19, 1948 from R. L. BERENSON to A. C. STOREN [redacted] b7d  
[redacted] The last paragraph of this memorandum is set forth below:

"Under the Time Charter with Petroleum Carriers of Panama, United States Petroleum Carriers, Inc., will receive \$2.70 per deadweight ton per month, for a period of ten years, on the FORT BRIDGER, CAMAS MEADOWS, and LAKE GEORGE. On the ARICKAREE, also owned by United States Petroleum Carriers, we have a bareboat charter to Petroleum Carriers of Panama for a period of twelve years, and on the American Marine vessels, CAMP NAMANU, STONY POINT, and BATTLE ROCK, we also have a bareboat for a period of twelve years for one dollar per deadweight ton per month."

It appears from the above paragraph that BERENSON assumed that CAMP NAMANU, STONY POINT, and BATTLE ROCK would be bareboat chartered to PETCAP for a period of 12 years for \$1.00 per dead weight ton per month.

As shown on Schedule B, the net profit before Federal Income Tax from the operation of the STONY POINT, CAMP NAMANU, and BATTLE ROCK for the period 1949 through 1951 is \$1,739,096.42. The figure of \$1,739,096.42 is based on vessel revenue and various expenses as shown below:

Vessel Revenue	\$ 3,390,103.99
Various Expenses	<u>1,651,007.57</u>
Net Profit Before Taxes	\$ 1,739,096.42

The above vessel revenue in amount of \$3,390,103.99 is based on a bareboat charter between American Marine Corporation and Socony Vacuum Oil Company at the monthly rate of \$2.00 per dead weight ton. If American Marine Corporation's request to bareboat charter its vessels to PETCAP at the monthly rate of \$1.00 per dead weight ton had been granted, vessel revenue would have been halved or reduced from \$3,390,103.99 to \$1,695,051.99. Since the charters would have been bareboat

NY 46-2507

charters, the expenses would have been about the same as the expenses under the \$2.00 bareboat charters between American Marine Corporation and Socony Vacuum Oil Company. Therefore, if American Marine Corporation's request to bareboat to PETCAP had been granted, profit before Federal Income Taxes for the period 1949 through 1951 would have been \$44,044.42 as shown below.

Vessel Revenue	\$1,695,051.99
Various Expenses	1,651,007.57
Net Profit Before Taxes	\$ 44,044.42

The various documents furnished by [redacted] have been numbered USPC-1 through USPC-45 and are being forwarded as enclosures to this report. b7d

A photostatic copy of Schedule C, which lists enclosures USPC-1 through USPC-45, is attached hereto.

[redacted] advised that [redacted] of USPC might be able to furnish pertinent information concerning the extent of ONASSIS' influence in connection with USPC and related companies. [redacted] b7d

[redacted] that he could not furnish the names of other ex USPC employees who might be able to furnish pertinent information. b7c

[redacted] was interviewed at his place of business, [redacted] where he is employed in the liquidation of the [redacted] a textile firm. b7d

[redacted] advised that he was employed by the USPC from [redacted] He stated that although he felt that ONASSIS actually controlled USPC and related companies, he was unable to give information which would lead to proof of this. He stated that he had no contact personally with ONASSIS. [redacted] expressed the opinion that the following individuals might be able to furnish information concerning ONASSIS and his connection with USPC and related companies: b7d

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[REDACTED] who was employed [REDACTED] b7c  
[REDACTED] USPC.

[REDACTED] b7c  
[REDACTED]  
He also advised that one [REDACTED] might be able to furnish information in this matter. He stated that [REDACTED] b7c

[REDACTED] New York City, which company had negotiations with ONASSIS and USPC about the time that USPC was organized. He stated that he obtained this information from conversations that he had had with [REDACTED] whom he described as a close personal friend.

[REDACTED] requested that his name be kept confidential b7D  
in the event that [REDACTED] are interviewed. b7c

[REDACTED] b7D  
[REDACTED] He stated that he had no direct contact with ONASSIS during the period of his employment by this company but that he knows that ONASSIS did contact [REDACTED] b7c  
[REDACTED] of Tankers Company, Incorporated, about late 1947 or early 1948. He stated that it is possible that [REDACTED] might be able to furnish information concerning ONASSIS' connection with USPC and related companies.

[REDACTED] stated that he has no first hand information concerning any control that ONASSIS may exercise over USPC and related companies. He stated that he has just heard gossip and heresay to that effect and was not able to name a reliable source that might be able to substantiate this. b7D

Inquiry at Tankers Company, Incorporated, revealed the [REDACTED] will not return to his office until about b7c  
October 15, 1953.

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ERNEST LEISER was interviewed by SA [REDACTED] and the writer at the office of Columbia Broadcasting System, Museum of Natural History, 79th Street and Central Park West, where LEISER is employed as a writer. He advised that he obtained material for the ONASSIS article from articles appearing in the "New York Times" and "Time" magazine. He also reviewed the testimony before the Senate Committee for reference to ONASSIS. In addition, one [REDACTED] a free-lance writer, assisted him in the preparation of the article. [REDACTED]

LEISER stated that he does not have informants in this matter and most of his information comes from one or more of the above-mentioned sources.

LEISER advised that he interviewed ONASSIS at the Office of Central American Steamship Agency, Incorporated, 655 Madison Avenue, New York City, about February, 1953. The offices of this company are the "luxurious, modernistic offices" of ONASSIS' New York agents. He also interviewed NICOLAS COKKINIS, President, and CREON BROUN, Treasurer of Central American Steamship Agency, Incorporated.

LEISER advised that he had read or heard something to the effect that ONASSIS owns or controls "thirty assorted companies." He cannot recall the original source of this information. When he interviewed BROUN, he asked BROUN a lead question as to whether ONASSIS owned or controlled thirty companies. BROUN said this was so. ONASSIS answered something to the effect that he did not know the exact extent of his holdings while COKKINIS was non-committal on this point.

Aside from BROUN, LEISER cannot furnish the names of additional associates of ONASSIS who may be able to furnish data re "thirty assorted companies" which ONASSIS owns and controls.

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In regard to the ninety ships owned or controlled by ONASSIS, LEISER advised that he cannot recall the source of this information, but believes it was obtained from an article he had read or from [REDACTED]. He stated that he also asked BROUN a lead question in regard to this matter to which BROUN replied in the affirmative. b7c

LEISER advised that ANDERS JAHRE was the Norwegian whaling-fleet owner to whom ONASSIS and CONSTANTINE KONIALIDES supposedly lent all their savings. He stated that he obtained this information from [REDACTED]. b7c

LEISER advised that he has no knowledge or proof regarding control of USPC by ONASSIS. He also advised that he cannot furnish information concerning other United States corporations which ONASSIS controls or has an interest in.

[REDACTED] was interviewed at the New York Office on October 6, 1953. He advised that his principal source of information was obtained by reviewing the Congressional Hearings on this matter. [REDACTED] advised that [REDACTED] the Maryland Drydock Company, 1 Broadway, told him that ANDERS JAHRE was the Norwegian whaling-fleet owner to whom ONASSIS and CONSTANTINE KONIALIDES supposedly lent all their savings. He stated that he could not furnish further information concerning JAHRE. b7c b7d

He advised that [REDACTED] told him that ONASSIS had an interest in the following companies but did not elaborate as to the extent of ONASSIS' interest in these companies. b7d

USPC Victory Carriers, Incorporated; Olympic Oil Lines; Central American SS Agency, Incorporated; Western Tankers, Incorporated; Trafalgar SS Company.

He requested that his name be kept confidential in the event that [REDACTED] was contacted in this matter. b7d



NY 46-2507

[REDACTED] The Maryland Drydock Company, 1 Broadway, was interviewed at his business address. He stated that he had general information to the effect that ONASSIS had an interest in the above-mentioned companies. He stated that he thought [REDACTED] of USPC, might be able to give further information concerning ONASSIS' interest in USPC and related companies. He stated that his personal information was in the nature of heresay and gossip and he could not substantiate same. b7d b7c

[REDACTED] told him that ANDERS JAHRE was the Norwegian whaling-fleet owner whom ONASSIS and KONIALIDES had loaned money to about twenty-five years ago. [REDACTED] he could not recall whether [REDACTED] had given him additional details concerning this matter. b7d

Enclosures to Bureau:- 45

There is being forwarded the 45 documents obtained from [REDACTED] which are to be forwarded to the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice. b7d

- P -



USPC	USPC	USPC	USPC
USPC-1	USPC-2	USPC-3	USPC-4
USPC-5	USPC-6	USPC-7	USPC-8
USPC-9	USPC-10	USPC-11	USPC-12
USPC-13	USPC-14	USPC-15	USPC-16
USPC-17	USPC-18	USPC-19	USPC-20
USPC-21	USPC-22	USPC-23	USPC-24
USPC-25	USPC-26	USPC-27	USPC-28
USPC-29	USPC-30	USPC-31	USPC-32
USPC-33	USPC-34	USPC-35	USPC-36
USPC-37	USPC-38	USPC-39	USPC-40
USPC-41	USPC-42	USPC-43	USPC-44
USPC-45	USPC-46	USPC-47	USPC-48
USPC-49	USPC-50	USPC-51	USPC-52
USPC-53	USPC-54	USPC-55	USPC-56
USPC-57	USPC-58	USPC-59	USPC-60
USPC-61	USPC-62	USPC-63	USPC-64
USPC-65	USPC-66	USPC-67	USPC-68
USPC-69	USPC-70	USPC-71	USPC-72
USPC-73	USPC-74	USPC-75	USPC-76
USPC-77	USPC-78	USPC-79	USPC-80
USPC-81	USPC-82	USPC-83	USPC-84
USPC-85	USPC-86	USPC-87	USPC-88
USPC-89	USPC-90	USPC-91	USPC-92
USPC-93	USPC-94	USPC-95	USPC-96
USPC-97	USPC-98	USPC-99	USPC-100

b7d  
b7c





NY 46-2507

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

MISCELLANEOUS

The following lead was set out for the Norfolk Office by letter dated October 12, 1953.

LEADS

NORFOLK

At Hassler & Co., Norfolk, Virginia

Will interview [REDACTED]

1. [REDACTED] b7c b7d
2. Obtain any information [REDACTED] may have concerning the degree of control that ONASSIS exercised over USPC and affiliates. b7c b7d
3. Obtain the complete details surrounding the circumstances in connection with the loan by ONASSIS and KONIALIDES of all their savings to ANDERS JAHRE, Norwegian whaling-fleet owner. Ascertain whether [REDACTED] can furnish present location of JAHRE. b7c

NEW YORK

At New York, New York

Will interview [REDACTED] b7c

[REDACTED] for any info he might be able to furnish concerning the extent to which ONASSIS controls and operates USPC, Inc. and affiliated companies.

REFERENCE: Bureau letter to WFO, 9/16/53.

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE: October 15, 1953

FROM : Warren Olney III, Assistant Attorney General  
Criminal Division

SUBJECT: Victory Carriers, Inc.

WO:AJK:HFS: [initials]

146-20-598

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Gearty	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Winterrowd	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holloman	
Miss Gandy	

*[Handwritten initials and marks over the routing slip]*

Reference is made to our recent memorandum in which we advised that on October 13, 1953, a grand jury in the District of Columbia returned a sealed indictment in the above-captioned matter, charging violations of the conspiracy statute, 18 U.S.C. 371 and the false statement statute, 18 U.S.C. 1001. For your further information, the indictment contains eight counts - one charging the existence of a conspiracy to defraud the Government between all of the persons and corporations named in the indictment and the other seven counts charging substantive violations of the false statement statute. The following is a list of the persons and corporations named in the indictment:

1. Aristoteles S. Onassis, alias Aristotle S. Onassis (naturalized citizen of Argentina)
2. Robert L. Berenson (U. S. citizen)
3. Nicolas Cokkinis (naturalized U. S. citizen)
4. Joseph E. Casey (U. S. citizen)
5. Joseph H. Rosenbaum (U. S. citizen)
6. Robert W. Dudley (U. S. citizen)
7. Charles Augenthaler (U. S. citizen)
8. George Cokkinis (Greek citizen)
9. Harold O. Becker (U. S. citizen)
10. United States Petroleum Carriers, Inc., a corporation (U. S. citizen)
11. Victory Carriers, Inc., a corporation (U. S. citizen)
12. Central American Steamship Agency, Inc., a corporation (U. S. citizen)
13. Sociedad Industrial Maritima Financiera Ariona Panama, S.A., a corporation (Panamanian corporation)
14. Sociedad Maritima Miraflores, a corporation (Panamanian corporation)
15. Transatlantica Financiera Industrial Panama, S.A., a corporation (Panamanian corporation)

*[Redacted area]*  
b7c

The above information is furnished pursuant to a request from *b7c* [redacted] of the Bureau.

EXPEDITE PROCESSING  
OCT 16 1953

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OCT 23 1953

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63 OCT 29 1953

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

October 15 1953

TO : Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE:

WOLF FROM : Warren Olney III, Assistant Attorney General  
Criminal Division

WO:AJK:HSS:et  
146-20-596

SUBJECT: Victory Carriers, Inc.

- Mr. Tolson ✓
- Mr. Ladd ✓
- Mr. Nichols ✓
- Mr. Belmont ✓
- Mr. Clegg ✓
- Mr. Glavin ✓
- Mr. Harbo ✓
- Mr. Rosen ✓
- Mr. Tracy ✓
- Mr. Gearty ✓
- Mr. Mohr ✓
- Mr. Winterrowd ✓
- Tele. Room ✓
- Mr. Holloman ✓
- Miss Gandy ✓

On October 13, 1953, a grand jury in the District of Columbia returned a sealed indictment in the above-captioned matter charging violations of the conspiracy statute, 18 U.S.C. 371 and the false statement statute, 18 U.S.C. 1001.

Three of the principal defendants in this case, namely, Aristoteles Socrates Onassis, Robert L. Berenson and George Cokkinis left the United States while the investigation was in progress. According to our best knowledge and belief, Berenson is presently residing in Paris, France, and Onassis and Cokkinis are residing on the French Riviera. Berenson is a United States citizen, Onassis is a naturalized citizen of Argentina and Cokkinis is a citizen of Greece.

Bench warrants of arrest for all three men have been issued by the United States District Court for the District of Columbia and the warrants are now in the possession of Mr. Allen J. Krouse of the Criminal Division.

Because it is believed that these individuals are not presently subject to extradition, it is requested that the Bureau take steps to ascertain whether any of them have recently returned to the United States or, if not, when they may return. If the Bureau should develop information that any of them has returned to this country or is about to return, it is requested that the Bureau communicate immediately with Mr. Krouse, Mr. Frederick W. Becker or Mr. Howard F. Smith. During office hours these men may be reached at St. 3-5700 or Government Code 1204, ext. 451. After office hours Mr. Krouse can be reached by telephone at Ra. 3-2074; Mr. Becker at Tu. 2-1192; and Mr. Smith at Ol. 2-8256.

*Handwritten note:* see index

*Handwritten notes:* W. C. ...

*Handwritten initials:* K

*Handwritten notes:* 10/27/53 memo to WFO with cc for New York

*Vertical stamp:* EXPEDITE PROCEDURE  
OCT 16 1953

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46-17783-354  
OCT 27 1953  
*Handwritten signature:* Wolf

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RECORDED-11

SAC, Washington Field (46-2607)

October 22, 1953

46-17783-334

Director, FBI (46-17783)

**NORTH AMERICAN SHIPPING AND TRADING COMPANY, INC., ET AL.  
FRAUD AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT**

10381

Attached to this memorandum and the copies designated for the New York Division is a copy of a self-explanatory memorandum from the Criminal Division dated October 15, 1953.

b7E

[REDACTED]

and the [REDACTED] in the event that Aristoteles Socrates Onassis, Robert L. Berenson and George Cokkinis attempt to enter the country.

The New York Office should immediately ascertain through discreet inquiries the exact whereabouts of these three individuals. Every effort should be made to determine through confidential sources the future itinerary of these three persons. Any information developed by the New York Office regarding their present whereabouts should be promptly communicated to the Bureau and the Washington Field Office.

If your investigation should establish that any of the three above-mentioned individuals are located in the United States or their entry into this country is imminent this information should be furnished to the Bureau by teletype or telephone, depending upon the urgency of the situation. No arrests shall be made without prior Bureau authority.

COMM - FBI  
OCT 22 1953  
MAILED 19

It should be noted by both offices that warrants for these individuals' arrests are based on a secret indictment returned by a Federal Grand Jury in the District of Columbia on October 13, 1953. Therefore, all correspondence relating to the location of these individuals must bear the classification "confidential." Both offices should advise the Bureau not later than November 1, 1953, regarding the action taken in this matter.

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Clegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Harbo \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
- Gearty \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Holloman \_\_\_\_\_
- Rice \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

Attachment

cc: 2-New York (46-2507) (Attachment)

See Note 2nd Page.

FBI  
RECEIVED - RTIT ROOM

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02 NOV 2 1953

Note:

Allen J. Krause, Department attorney who is handling the Tanker Case, telephonically advised SA [REDACTED] that he did not desire Robert L. Berenson to be arrested in the event that he entered this country by himself. Krause stated that by arresting Berenson it would be necessary to open the secret indictment thereby putting Onassis and Cokkinis on notice and they thereafter would never enter this country knowing that an indictment was outstanding against them. b7c

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

C O N F I D E N T I A L

TO : Director, FBI (46-17783)

DATE: 10/30/53

FROM : SAC, New York (46-2507)

SUBJECT: NORTH AMERICAN SHIPPING AND TRADING COMPANY, INC., ET AL  
FAG

ReBulet to WFO 10/22/53.

[REDACTED] advised that he recently received a telephone call from HAROLD O. BECKER, USPC Treasurer, who told him that BERENSON was residing in Paris. BECKER did not indicate BERENSON's exact residence in Paris.

It is to be noted that when interviewed by Bureau agents on 5/8/52 BERENSON advised that he spent most of his time in Paris where he operated the Continental American Travel, Inc., a travel agency.

[REDACTED] was contacted on a confidential basis re this matter. He stated that in the past he has contacted ONASSIS on various occasions re various business matters. [REDACTED] to his knowledge, ONASSIS has not been in the United States for about one year.

[REDACTED] he has never met GEORGE COKKINIS.

[REDACTED] may be able to furnish pertinent information re GEORGE COKKINIS and ONASSIS.

[REDACTED]

68-100-100-100

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1 - Washington Field (46-2607)

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

58 NOV 4 1953

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (46-17783)

DATE: 10/31/53

FROM : SAC, Norfolk (46-540)

SUBJECT: NORTH AMERICAN SHIPPING AND TRADING CO.,  
INC., ET AL  
FAG

Re: U. S. PETROLEUM CARRIERS, INC.

[REDACTED]

any steamship agency business involves business with Greek ship owners either directly or indirectly. He advised that he feels that any information he might give could possibly affect his employer from a financial aspect. He therefore requested that any information that he might give be maintained on a confidential basis. He stated, however, that he would willingly appear in court or before a grand jury in any matter whereby he might be of assistance to the U. S. Government.

[REDACTED]

II. [REDACTED] that he was in possession of no direct information to his knowledge that might reflect that ONASSIS exercised control over U. S. PETROLEUM CARRIERS, INC. and/or any of its affiliates.

During the course of extensive interview [REDACTED] he volunteered the following bits of information which he believed might suggest investigative leads in the Bureau's attempt to show that ONASSIS might have exercised control over the U. S. PETROLEUM CARRIERS, INC. and its affiliates:

cc: 2 - New York (46-2507)  
2 - Washington Field

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Norfolk include in Investigative Report

~~No other available on 11-5-53~~

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[redacted] feels strongly that ONASSIS did exercise control over USPC and affiliates. He knew ONASSIS and NICHOLAS COKKINAS, Vice President of USPC to have been exceedingly close; further, that COKKINAS on many occasions [redacted] would ask advice of [redacted] chartering of pierage and water depth in various ports. [redacted] believed that this information was being secured from him by COKKINAS for ONASSIS. b7 8

[redacted] USPC had business meetings once a week. He recalled that there was always a "battery of attorneys" at these meetings. He recalled that COKKINAS "ran the whole show." He stated that ROBERT BERENSON, b7D

[redacted] attended very few of these meetings. COKKINAS were in conflict [redacted] and that he specifically recalled on one occasion he got tired of COKKINAS' petty orders and he mentioned same to BERENSON. He stated that shortly thereafter [redacted] was told by COKKINAS not to bring information to BERENSON, whom [redacted] believed to have had controlling interest in USPC, but to discuss matters directly with him, COKKINAS. When BERENSON was told [redacted] about COKKINAS' order [redacted] not to report to BERENSON, BERENSON [redacted] should go through COKKINAS. [redacted] that from that time he felt that BERENSON had less say than his holdings in the company would have indicated.

[redacted] he heard that ONASSIS had borrowed several million dollars from METROPOLITAN LIFE INSURANCE CO., NYC. He stated that if his memory serves him right, shortly after one of the bigger loans by ONASSIS of the METROPOLITAN LIFE INSURANCE CO., all outstanding mortgages of USPC ships were taken up and the ships were remortgaged with the METROPOLITAN LIFE INSURANCE CO. HE stated that he recalled this re-mortgaging of ships since he performed the clerical duty of taking appropriate papers to U. S. Customs, while an international attorney who maintains office in NYC and who was secretary to USPC certified to Customs as an officer of USPC as to the remortgaging of USPC ships under the METROPOLITAN LIFE INSURANCE CO. b7D

[redacted] that sometime in the fall of 1950 the USPC had planned to form a new whaling company. [redacted] that the USPC was going to get a tanker and convert it for use as a whaling boat. [redacted] that he contacted [redacted] International Seaman's Union, NYC, and requested [redacted] to write a letter to the U. S. Maritime Commission stating that ISU would not oppose transferring a ship of U. S. registry to a Panamanian flag. U. S. PETROLEUM CARRIERS, INC. b7E at that time gave the whaling company the SS HERMAN F. WINTER and USPC in return received the SS OLYMPIC GAMES, the latter ship transferring her flag from Honduran to American. [redacted] that during the course of this transaction he went to Washington, D. C., and talked with Admiral SHEPHERD, U. S. Coast Guard with the object of getting approval for this whaling company which he thought was to be an American company and a subsidiary of USPC. He advised he made several visits to Washington, D. C., over a three-month period and conferred with Admiral SHEPHERD several times. He stated that on one occasion he made arrangements with Admiral SHEPHERD to meet a Mr. BROWN of the American Bureau of Shipping, NYC.

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He advised that when Admiral SHEPHERD came to NYC to meet with BROWN, NICHOLAS COKKINAS met with BROWN and SHEPHERD. Admiral SHEPHERD on this occasion refused to discuss any whaling arrangements without [redacted] being present. [redacted] recalled also that on one of his visits involving the whaling transaction he took [redacted] whom he believes to be presently foreman for ONASSIS at Hamburg, Germany, where he [redacted] is supervising the building of several super tankers for ONASSIS. [redacted] is believed to be presently receiving his salary from Central American Steamship Agency, INC., NYC. During these same whaling arrangements, [redacted] received his salary from USPC. [redacted] that USPC could not get a whaling permit and that as a result ONASSIS formed a whaling company. [redacted] this information to light since he believed that it tended to show that at least ONASSIS kept abreast of transactions of USPC. b7c

[redacted] that all victory ships of USPC were time-chartered to ARIONA for 10-year periods and further that CARGO PARIS of Paris, France, were operating agents for ARIONA. He stated that to his recollection a few tankers were time-chartered to PETROLEUM CARRIERS OF PANAMA, which he believes to be owned by ONASSIS. [redacted] that he had no factual evidence of the earnings of USPC and its subsidiaries, but that on one occasion while employed there he heard that USPC had operated in the red. He stated that he merely surmised that the system of time-chartering tankers to ONASSIS-owned firms served as a means of permitting ONASSIS' companies to operate the time-chartered tankers at a tremendous profit while the USPC was absorbing the losses. b7c

Interviewee advised that on one occasion he met an attorney from DUDLEY's office [redacted]. He recalled having lunch [redacted] who appeared to have been chagrined about the failure of ONASSIS to pay one million dollars to USPC for the exchange of the tanker SS HERMAN F. WINTER and SS OLYMPIC GAMES. [redacted] that the newly-formed whaling company of ONASSIS had apparently "overlooked" paying approximately one million dollars to USPC for a period of approximately nine months. [redacted] that the HERMAN F. WINTER is now listed in Lloyds Register as the OLYMPIC CHALLENGER of Panamanian registry. [redacted] that the attorney known to him as [redacted] track of all minutes of the weekly meetings of the USPC. b7c

[redacted] that there was an accountant formerly employed by USPC, [redacted]. This accountant, whose name [redacted] could not recall, originally set up the books for USPC and thought he was going to become the comptroller. [redacted] however, that BECKER became comptroller and this accountant was made to resign from USPC. He advised that this person whose name he could not recall was accused by BECKER of stealing \$900 from the company's funds. b7c

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III. [REDACTED] that he does not know ANDERS JAHRE. He stated, however, that it is general knowledge in the shipping business that ANDERS JAHRE is a successful Norwegian sailing fleet operator. He denied any knowledge of any financial transactions between JAHRE, KONIALIDES, and ONASSIS. He stated that ARNE STOREN, a stockholder of USPC, allegedly has a brother who was formerly Secretary of State under QUISLING in Norway. [REDACTED] heard from an unrecalled source that this brother escaped from Norway and went to Buenos Aires. He advised that the brother of ARNE STOREN and LARS ANDERSON, a whaling expedition leader formerly of Norway and now whaling expedition leader for ONASSIS, were allegedly very close associates. [REDACTED] that he deduced that since STOREN's brother and ANDERSON were affiliated with ONASSIS in the whaling business and since ARNE STOREN is a stockholder in USPC, there would probably be some connection between ONASSIS' whaling business and USPC. b7d

[REDACTED] b7c  
[REDACTED] advised that should he recall any specific and factual information that would show whereby ONASSIS has any control over the USPC and its affiliates, he would immediately contact this office.

RUC.

NOVEMBER 4, 1953

AIRTEL

SAC, NORFOLK (46-540) (AIR MAIL)

NORTH AMERICAN SHIPPING AND TRADING CO., INC., ET AL, PAG. *Sub*  
 REURMEMO DATED OCTOBER 31, 1953. YOU ARE INSTRUCTED TO INCLUDE  
 INFORMATION CONTAINED IN REFMEMO IN AN INVESTIGATIVE REPORT  
 THAT SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO REACH THE BUREAU NOT LATER THAN  
 NOVEMBER 9, 1953. COPIES OF YOUR REPORT SHOULD BE DESIGNATED  
 FOR THE NEW YORK DIVISION FOR THEIR INFORMATION. IF YOU DEEM  
 IT DESIRABLE THAT THE INFORMATION FURNISHED BY [REDACTED] SHOULD *b7c*  
 BE ATTRIBUTED TO A CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE, IT SHOULD BE QUALIFIED  
 THAT THIS SOURCE HAS EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO APPEAR BEFORE A  
 FEDERAL GRAND JURY OR IN ANY COURT WHEREBY HE MIGHT BE OF  
 ASSISTANCE TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

HOOVER

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1 CC: NEW YORK (46-2507) (MAIL)  
 1 CC: WASHINGTON FIELD (46-2607) (BSM)

EX-103

[REDACTED]

*b7c*

*[Handwritten mark]*

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Clegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Harbo \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
- Gearty \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Holloman \_\_\_\_\_
- Gann \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

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# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE: October 27, 1953

FROM : Warren Olney III, Assistant Attorney General  
Criminal Division

WO:AJK:HFS:

SUBJECT: Victory Carriers, Inc.

146-20-596

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Ladd	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Gearty	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Holloman	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

This is to further clarify our recent memorandum in which we advised that warrants of arrest had been issued by the United States District Court for the District of Columbia for Aristoteles S. Onassis, Robert L. Berenson and George Cokkinis.

It is not the desire of this office that any of these men be arrested or detained immediately upon their return to this country, but it is requested that the Bureau immediately notify Mr. Krouse, Mr. Smith or Mr. Becker if, and when, they return. Upon receipt of this information, the Bureau will be given instructions as to what further action should be taken.

[Redacted] b7c

10/29/53

No action necessary. Field already advised no arrest without prior Bureau authority

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