

Legal Attache, London

Director, FBI

LEGAL ATTACHE OPERATIONS

February 25, 1960

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CLASS. & EXT. BY *SP-2 JF/SP-2*  
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW *6/6/90*

*C* [REDACTED] *b1*

The current agitation regarding Caryl Chessman, who is under death sentence in California, is a case at point. The agitation being carried on in various countries concerning that case, which is entirely a matter of state processes in California, is, of course, a matter in which the Bureau should not become involved.

Each Legal Attache receiving a copy of this letter should exercise all possible caution to avoid involving the Bureau in matters controversial and unrelated to the Bureau's jurisdiction or interests.

- |                 |                                     |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 - Bonn        | 1 - Paris                           |
| 1 - Havana      | 1 - Rome                            |
| 1 - Madrid      | 1 - Rio de Janeiro                  |
| 1 - Mexico City | 1 - Tokyo                           |
| 1 - Ottawa      | 1 - Foreign Liaison Unit (detached) |

[REDACTED]

MAILED 20  
FEB 26 1960  
COMM-FBI

11 MAR 1960

44-3760-71  
NOT RECORDED  
167 MAR 11 1960

51 MAR 16 1960

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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XXXXXXFEDERAL 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.

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☐ For your information: \_\_\_\_\_  
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☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

44-7700-44

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# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 2-26-60

FROM : SAC, SAN DIEGO (26-0)

ATTENTION: CRIME RECORDS DIV.

SUBJECT: CARYL CHESSMAN  
INFORMATION CONCERNING

*Whittaker -  
put in  
clip in  
comm file*

CARYL CHESSMAN, who is under death sentence at San Quentin and whose execution was stayed for sixty days by recent action of Governor EDMUND G. (PAT) BROWN of California, has been very much in the news lately.

Enclosed is a clipping from the "San Diego Tribune" 2-17-60 giving the background on CHESSMAN'S crimes. It is interesting to note that the article plays up the fact that CHESSMAN started his life of crime as a car thief.

This is being submitted to the Bureau with the thought in mind that the Bureau will want to note this case in connection with its continuing interest in young hoodlums who start out as car thieves and advance to involvement in more serious and heinous crimes.

2 - Bureau (Enclosure - 1) - AIR MAIL  
1 - SD  
FLP:jec  
(3)

ENCLOSURE

REC-29

44-11760-44X

23 MAY 11 1960

REC.

63 MAY 13 1960

# Car Theft Starts Life Of Crime

**EDITOR'S NOTE** — Caryl Chessman, who entered San Quentin's death row July 3, 1948, has his eighth date with death in the gas chamber Friday, 11 1/2 years later. What's the background of the bizarre case? What are its most amazing highlights? Here in a two-part series are some of the answers.

By **HAROLD V. STREETER**

**SAN QUENTIN (AP)** — In 1937, when the United States was shaking off the effects of a depression, a 16-year-old boy's theft of a car in Glendale, drew no attention beyond a routine police report. It happened all the time.

But this particular car theft was the beginning of a fantastic criminal case. The thief was Caryl Whit-tier Chessman.

## 6 Lawyers Used

Now 38, his last date with death in the gas chamber was postponed Oct. 21, 1959, by the Supreme Court of the United States. The condemned marauder of Los Angeles lovers' lanes has:

Beaten off seven-execution dates.

Gone through a half dozen lawyers, some who said the case had dragged on for so long they couldn't stick with it.

Been in death row under  
(Continued Next Page, Col. 3)

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

three wardens, Clinton Duffy, Harley O. Teets, and Fred R. Dickson.

Done so well with his writing that he's made more than \$150,000 in royalties.

Been dunned for back taxes on income acquired in the death house.

Had his first book — "Cell 2455, Death Row" — made into a movie.

Baffled a prison system geared to guard against it by smuggling out manuscripts of two more, "Trial by Ordeal" and "The Face of Justice."

Cars became a penchant with him. Before he could be brought into court for that first Glendale car theft, he stole another. He was sent to a juvenile forestry camp.

## Camp Escape Told

He escaped and resumed stealing. Sent to Preston School of Industry, he was paroled after eight months and stole another car.

A year more in Preston, then parole, and again a car theft. He served three months, was released, then got into big trouble.

In February, 1941, when he was 19, Chessman was arrested with two other youths on charges which included attempted murder. A guilty plea to three armed robberies sent him to San Quentin under sentence of 16 years to life.

## He Flees Chino

Transferred to Chino, he escaped in 1943 and plunged into robbery and car theft.

Another four years in prison, then parole in 1947, preceded the lovers' lane terrorism of January, 1948.

On the night of Jan. 22 of that year, Mary Alice Meza, 17, was parked in a car with a young man in an isolated spot. A car's red spotlight flashed suddenly in their startled faces.

## Slaying Threat Reported

The gunman said he would kill them unless the girl came with him. He repeated the threat to her out in the darkness when she protested against demands she perform an act of sex perversion. Only when the gun was pressed against her did she comply.

The gunman then forced the girl to disrobe and made a brutal abnormal sexual attack on her.

Chessman was convicted in the Mary Alice Meza case and also of a similar crime against another young woman. The violation under California's Little Lindbergh law was held to be kidnaping for robbery in which there is bodily harm. This is punishable by the death penalty.

SAN DIEGO EVENING TRIBUNE  
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA  
FINAL EDITION  
2-17-60

RE: CARYL CHESSMAN  
INFO. CONCERNING

ENCLOSURE 44-7760-44

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
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[REDACTED] 67C  
San Francisco 8, California  
February 29, 1960

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
U. S. Department of Justice  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover;

The enclosed Sermon preached in Grace Cathedral and Editorial from  
The San Francisco Chronicle may interest you.

You may recall that we sent you a copy of Dean Bartlett's sermon  
of October 20, 1957 on The Moral Climate of the Nation.

This most recent sermon makes reference to the Caryl Chessman case  
and its impact upon our society.

Caryl Chessman

Respectfully yours 67C

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
San Francisco 8, California

EX-168

REC-10

44-776-46  
12 MAR 11 1960

19  
51 MAR 16 1960

CHERRY EPOCH

SERMON PREACHED IN GRACE CATHEDRAL, SAN FRANCISCO

February 21, 1960

by The Very Rev. C. Julian Bartlett, Dean

+ + +

2 COR. 11:30; "If I must boast, I will boast of the things which show my weakness."

2 COR. 12:9 and 10; "but (the Lord) said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' I will all the more gladly boast of my weaknesses that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities; for when I am weak, then I am strong."

In the world of men, it has been said that "the best defense is a good offense." This axiom is very widely accepted, we all know. We apply it to football teams, to contract bridge, to the trying of cases in courts of law, to our military preparedness program, to almost all areas of endeavor. The concept even has produced theories in psychiatric diagnosis where a person with an aggressive behavior pattern is sometimes said to be really "covering up" an inferiority complex.

In the part of the 2nd Letter to the Corinthians, from which our Epistle of the Day and our texts are taken, St. Paul is defending himself and his role of authority. Apparently some self-styled apostles had come to the church in Corinth during St. Paul's absence and had laid claim to certain authority. St. Paul takes his stand with two goals in mind: 1st, to protect the Corinthians from the usurpation of authority by those false apostles; and, 2nd, to preserve among them the pure doctrine he had taught.

With regard to the latter, we are reminded of our Lord's Parable of the Sower and the Seeds, which is our Gospel of the Day. The Corinthian Christians have been at least in part like the plants that grew by the wayside, like those which grew upon the rocks and among the thorns. St. Paul chides the Corinthians for letting false doctrine deceive them and displace or uproot the teaching he gave them.

But it is principally of the former goal I would have us think today: i.e., the manner in which the Apostle defends himself. We infer easily from the letter that the false apostles had boasted of their accomplishments, their prowess, as "proofs" of their authority. St. Paul first meets them on their own terms. He declares: (vs. 21 & ff) "... But whatever anyone dares to boast of--I am speaking as a fool--I also dare to boast of that. Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. ... and etc." He goes on to recapitulate all his credentials and to recount all that he has suffered for Christ's sake.

That was his "worldly defense." It was a good offense. In effect, the Apostle says he will take a "back seat" with no one. His credentials and his performance are and have been all that anyone could demand. He is willing to match measure for measure with any false apostle. That, I say, was his "worldly defense." It was a good offence, really, for he dares his challengers to match his credentials and his performance.

Up to this point, his argument reminds us of ourselves, it seems to me. How do we react to challenges which threaten us? Most of us, I think, mobilize ourselves to meet the threat measure for measure--by argument, by aggressive action, by "worldly proofs" of one kind or another. The truth, of course, is that seldom are such offensive tactics really effectual. We do not really and thoroughly defeat the threat and we are left with either anger or frustration--or both.

St. Paul somehow knew this to be so, apparently. Accordingly, he sweeps all that aside. He even called himself a fool for allowing the argument to proceed on that level: "What I am saying," says he, "I say not with the Lord's authority but as a fool, in this boastful confidence; since many boast of worldly things, I too will boast." (ch. 11, vs. 17) But eventually, he sweeps all that kind of boasting aside and reveals the secret of life which he had found: "If I must boast, I will boast of the things which show my weakness." Of his greatest weakness (to which he repeatedly referred as his "thorn in the flesh") he says that he prayed three times to the Lord to be relieved. When those prayers did not result in its removal, he saw in this the challenge to throw himself in dependence upon Christ's grace. He reads Jesus' mind and will as saying to him: "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." He goes on, therefore, to affirm a great Christian paradox: "I will all the more gladly boast of my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions and calamities; for when I am weak, then I am strong." (ch. 12, vs. 9 & 10)



This is perhaps the most important of all Christian paradoxes: i.e., in situations fraught with what the world would call greatest weakness, there can emerge the strongest power of God! The most powerful demonstration of this paradoxical truth, of course, was the crucifixion! In the moment of Jesus' apparently greatest weakness, there was demonstrated the greatest power of God! Despite the use of the cross as the primary symbol of the Christian Faith, Christians have found this the most difficult of all tenets to live by! Yet it may be demonstrated time and again in every person's life!

"I will all the more gladly boast of my weaknesses that the power of Christ may rest upon me." St. Paul had found, through his faith in the power of Christ's grace, that his human power was of very little worth. His best defense was not a good offence by the World's standards, but rather a willingness to be weak that grace might abound!

How difficult we all find it to bury our primitive drive to fight back! How difficult we find it to suffer our own crucifixions! People often go into their pastors' counselling rooms bitter because of some injustice they have suffered--or bitter because of some serious frustration in their life. If they only could see in their situation the opportunity for great spiritual growth. In those moments of greatest weakness, of greatest impotence, because of injustice or frustration they can experience the greatest power of God's grace! Instead, they so often think they must fight back--against all odds! They cling to that worldly standard: the best defense is a good offense. But where Christ's grace is the difference between peace of soul and mind and bitterness or frustration, the cross and the secret of life which St. Paul found afford the only way out.

The application of this great Christian paradox is not limited to personal crises, however. One of the most highly charged of public issues to appear upon the stage of contemporary life in these United States is the figure of Caryl Chessman. Most thinking Americans are ashamed, embarrassed or frustrated by this complex affair. Now the real issue in this case is not capital punishment. Many convicted criminals have lost their lives without causing an international "cause celebre." The real issue in this particular case is the challenge it presents to our judicial procedure. Something is radically wrong somewhere in that procedure when a man can live in "death row" for 12 years and come within sight of the gas chamber 8 times without the legal strings having been unravelled! This is the offense to Christian conscience and this is the challenge which is producing embarrassment, shame and frustration! Our highly vaunted American judicial procedure is being called into question. How will we, the people of California, respond to this challenge. Will we "fight back" with an ever-increasing rigidity in procedure and thus overcome our weakness with a better offense? Or will we seize the moment of our greatest weakness in justice to seek God's grace and guidance in over-hauling with humane concerns the whole judicial process? Will we admit our weakness that grace may abound? "For when we are weak, then we are strong!"

The greatest profit you and I could receive from this pre-Lenten and Lenten season is to face at realistic levels the implications of the Paradox of the Cross! How do you face the weaknesses, the insults, the hardships, the calamities of life? Do you fight back by the rules and standards of the world? Or do you believe that Christ's grace is sufficient for you, that your power is made perfect in weakness? St. Paul "boasted" of his weakness in order that the power of Christ could rest upon him. Need we ask the outcome of the controversy in the Corinthian Church? He had found the only kind of life worth living--the life lived under the Paradox of the Cross!

Hear the stirring words of Ella Wheeler Wilcox in her "Poems of Experience:"

"Pausing a moment ere the day was done,  
While yet the earth was scintillant with light,  
I backward glanced. From valley, plain and height,  
At intervals, where my life path had run,  
Rose cross on cross; and nailed upon each one  
Was my dead self. And yet that gruesome sight  
Lent sudden splendour to the falling night,  
Showing the conquests that my soul had won.  
Up to the rising stars I looked and cried,  
"There is no death! For year on year re-born  
I wake to larger life: to joy more great,  
So many times have I been crucified,  
So often seen the resurrection morn,  
I go triumphant, though new Calvaries wait."



# San Francisco Chronicle

THE VOICE OF THE WEST

Charles de Young Thieriot, Editor and Publisher

George T. Cameron, Publisher 1925 to 1955

Founded 1865 by Charles and M. H. de Young

PAGE 26 Wednesday, Feb. 24, 1960 CCCC

## Embarrassment For California

VERY LITTLE of the astonishment caused by the reprieve of Caryl Chessman last Thursday has been cleared up or modified, for most Californians, by Governor Brown's statement about it.

The Legislature quite clearly does not welcome his throwing back into its hands an issue disposed of a year ago when it refused to impose a moratorium on the death penalty. To assume, as Brown did, from the preponderance of his correspondence calling for clemency for Chessman, that the majority of people favor an end to capital punishment is to make a long leap in logic and very probably into a stone wall. Polls of opinion, notably in our own Chronicle Poll of last spring, which ran 5 1/2 to 4 against abolition of capital punishment, do not appear to bear out his belief that the public is with the abolitionists.

Brown's second excuse for granting his reprieve was the Rubottom telegram from the State Department telling what President Eisenhower might be up against in Montevideo if the execution were carried out. We believe most people join Senator Fulbright, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, in finding it "very disturbing" that American justice can be "pressured by incipient mobs of students in a small Latin American country," students whose presumptuousness is probably equalled only by their ignorance of the Chessman case.

Is the status of American society so insecure, many people have lately asked themselves, as to be swerved from justice by considerations of its public relations effects? Are we so fearful of world opinion that we sidestep our own laws?

Governor Brown, whose conscience as an opponent of capital punishment has been weighed down by the Chessman case, seemed only too eager to have the State Department provide him with an excuse for stopping the march of lawful processes. The Rubottom telegram's intentions have, however, never been made clear. Was it or wasn't it a White House request to keep the coast clear while the President was on tour?

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It seems to us that the Governor had no warrant whatever for reprieving Chessman to allow a resubmission of the capital punishment issue to the Legislature, and that so far as the State Department telegram goes, he should have issued merely a brief, 24-hour reprieve in order to find out if the telegram expressed a genuine presidential desire for a halt of the execution.

As things stand, the issue is in confusion, the processes of law in Death Row are at a standstill, and many citizens feel acutely embarrassed at the pass of affairs. That Chessman himself, his attorneys and the more determined opponents of capital punishment, among whom is Governor Brown, do not share this concern does not lessen its acuteness.

Chessman has been given every opportunity to pursue the due process of law; he has successfully carried on a delaying action for 11 years. Some think this a burlesque of justice; others consider it an evidence of how scrupulous our system is to give the individual his due. But if it is a "cruel and unusual" process, it could have been made less cruel and unusual at any time by the execution of the defendant. Presumably he is satisfied to have his 11 years strung out by another 60 days.

And what now? How does the Governor get out of the situation that will exist after the Legislature declines, as no doubt it will, to abolish capital punishment? Will he enforce the law of the courts or will he find a new basis for reprieve?

There is talk of placing capital punishment's future on an initiative petition for a vote of the people in November. If the State is to avoid further gubernatorial and foreign misinterpretation of what its sovereign will is, such a vote of the people may be required.



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

Date: March 22, 1960  
To: Director, FBI  
From: Legat, Paris (62-0)  
Subject: CARYL CHESSMAN  
MISCELLANEOUS-- INFORMATION CONCERNING

This is to advise that on 3/21/60 [REDACTED] b7c/b7D

[REDACTED] of the Association Française Contre  
la Peine de Mort (French Association Against Capital Punishment)  
called at the Paris Office.

She advised that she has done considerable work  
in France and in the United States for the cause of CARYL  
CHESSMAN and to eliminate capital punishment. She stated that  
she has personally contacted an Assistant Secretary of State  
and Governor BROWN of California regarding the CHESSMAN case.  
She was responsible for circulating a petition in Paris prior  
to the last date set for the execution of CHESSMAN, which  
petition was forwarded to the Governor of California. She  
stated that her organization intends to do everything possible  
to discourage the execution of CHESSMAN between now and the  
next date set for his execution. She stated that there is  
some indication that if CHESSMAN should change his plea from  
"not guilty" to "guilty" that he would not be sentenced to  
death. She requested advice as to the correctness of this  
statement.

She was advised that the Legal Attache is not  
competent to comment on this point and has no responsibility  
or authority whatsoever in the CHESSMAN case. She was advised  
that the CHESSMAN case is completely an affair of the State of  
California and that the Federal Government has no power or  
authority to intervene in any way.

She stated that she thoroughly understands this  
and is merely seeking technical advice. She asked to be  
referred to an American attorney in Paris who may be familiar

2 - Bureau - LCC to

1 - Paris

WJP:mas

San Francisco REC-14

for info v.s. 0-7

3/30/60

rep:

20 MAR 24 1960

52 MAR 30 1960



Director, FBI

March 22, 1960

with the laws of the State of California or who may be in a position to refer her to another attorney who could answer her question.

She was furnished with a list of American attorneys practicing in Paris.

This is furnished for record purposes.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAR 17 1960

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson ☒  
Mr. Mohr ☒  
Mr. Parsons ☒  
Mr. Belmont ☒  
Mr. Callahan ☒  
Mr. DeLoach ☒  
Mr. Malone ☒  
Mr. Felt ☒  
Mr. Rosen ☒  
Mr. Sullivan ☒  
Mr. Tavel ☒  
Mr. Trotter ☒  
Mr. W.C. Sullivan ☒  
Tele. Room ☒  
Mr. Ingram ☒  
Miss Gandy ☒

URGENT 3-17-60 4-27 PM PST PAL

TO DIRECTOR, FBI

ATTENTION--ASST. DIR. C.D. DE LOACH

FROM SAC, SAN FRANCISCO 64-408 2 PG

CARYL CHESSMAN, MISCELLANEOUS INFO CONCERNING. REPHONE CALLS FROM SAN FRANCISCO TO ASSISTANT DIRECTOR DELOACH MARCH SIXTEEN AND SEVENTEEN, SIXTY. FILE OF CHESSMAN AT SAN QUENTIN REFLECTS BUREAU IS IN POSSESSION OF COMPLETE IDENTIFICATION RECORD OF CHESSMAN UNDER FBI NO. ONE THREE FIVE THREE THREE SIX ZERO. IDENT RECORD SHOWS DATES AND PLACES OF ALL ARRESTS AS WELL AS CHARGE AND DISPOSITION IN EACH CASE. IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED THAT CALIFORNIA YOUTH AUTHORITY HAS NO RECORD PERTAINING TO CHESSMAN INASMUCH AS YOUTH AUTHORITY NOT ESTABLISHED IN CALIF. UNTIL NINETEEN FORTYONE. RECORDS OF PRESTON SCHOOL OF INDUSTRY, IONE, CALIF. WHICH IS NORTHERN CALIFORNIA JUVENILE DETENTION INSTITUTION CONSISTS SOLELY OF THREE BY FIVE CARD AND THEIR FILE ON CHESSMAN HAS BEEN DESTROYED. INSTANT THREE BY FIVE CARD REFLECTS ONLY FOLLOWING INFORMATION. CHESSMAN WAS COMMITTED AT AGE SIXTEEN ON SEPT. SIX, THIRTY-SEVEN FOR AUTO THEFT. ON APRIL NINE, THIRTYEIGHT, THE FOLLOWING NOTATION WAS PLACED ON CARE QUOTE ORDER OF COURT UNQUOTE. THIS NOTATION, FROM FOLLOWING OTHER DATA ON CARD INDICATES THAT THIS WAS A MARCHARGE FROM PRESTON ON THIS DATE BUT RECORD DOES NOT INDICATE WHETHER

END PAGE ONE

50 MAR 29 1960

MR. DELOACH

REC-48  
EX-117  
MAR 24 1960  
CRIMINAL REC.

PAGE TWO

DISCHARGE WAS DUE TO A PAROLE OR COMPLETION OF SENTENCE. RECORD FURTHER INDICATES THAT ON JUNE EIGHTEEN, THIRTYEIGHT, CHESSMAN WAS RECOMMITTED TO PRESTON BY ORDER OF COURT, REASON NOT STATED. RECORD ALSO REFLECTS HE WAS PAROLED FROM PRESTON ON JUNE THREE, THIRTYNINE AND WAS DISCHARGED FROM PAROLE ON FEBRUARY ONE, NINETEEN FORTY. FILE OF CHESSMAN AT SAN QUENTIN, WHICH IS COMPLETE RECORD OF ACTIVITY SINCE NINETEEN FORTYONE SHOWS CHESSMAN PAROLED ON ONLY ONE OCCASION SINCE FORTYONE. THIS WAS PAROLE ON DECEMBER EIGHT, FORTYSEVEN TO LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, PAROLE OFFICE. PAROLE WAS SUSPENDED ON JANUARY TWENTYNINE, FORTYEIGHT FOLLOWING CHESSMAN-S ARREST BY WHITTIER, CALIFORNIA, PD AT REQUEST OF LOS ANGELES PD ON JANUARY TWENTYTHREE, FORTYEIGHT. FOLLOWING THIS ARREST HE WAS TRIED AND CONVICTED IN LOS ANGELES AND ON JULY THREE, FORTYEIGHT WAS RETURNED TO SAN QUENTIN PRISON ON THE NUMEROUS CHARGES WHICH CONSTITUTE HIS LAS CONVICTION AND ON WHICH DEATH SENTENCE WAS GIVEN. ABOVE INFORMATION IS ALL AVAILABLE IN THIS DIVISION ON PAROLES AND REVOKATION OF PAROLES THROUGH PRESENTLY EXISTING RECORDS. ALL INFO WAS DISCREETLY OBTAINED FROM ESTABLISHED SOURCES AND BUREAU-S INTEREST WILL NOT BE REVEALED. LA ADVISED BY AM.

END AND ACK PLS.

7-35 PM OK FB WA RAM

TU DISC PLS

CC-DELOACH



FBI

Date: 3/18/60

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

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL  
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Malone \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ingram \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

TO : Director, FBI ATTN: Assistant Dir. C. D. DELCACH

FROM: SAC, San Francisco (64-408)

CARYL CHESSMAN  
MISCELLANEOUS INFO CONCERNING

ReSftel to Bureau dated 3/17/60.

Enclosed for the Bureau is a copy of a cumulative case summary of CARYL CHESSMAN, which is maintained at San Quentin Prison, Calif. It will be noted that this record contains the arrest record of CHESSMAN, the circumstances of the offenses involved in his adult criminal violations, the proceedings at the sentencing of CHESSMAN, social data concerning CHESSMAN taken from the Probation Officer's report, his social history prepared at the San Quentin Prison by the psychiatric social worker, a neuropsychiatric report on CHESSMAN, his medical history and comments concerning him by the warden and chaplain at San Quentin.

This data is being furnished to the Bureau for its information and was obtained on a confidential basis from San Quentin Prison.

REC-48

9 MAR 21 1960

3 - Bureau (Encl. 1) (AM)  
1 - San Francisco

TEB:cs  
(4)

ENCLOSURE

CRIME REC.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

64 MAR 28 1960 Special Agent in Charge

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Hoover

PERSONAL

DATE: 3/15/60

FROM : SAC Auerbach

SUBJECT: "THE KILLER IS A KID"  
PROSPECTIVE BOOK BY CARYL CHESSMAN  
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Mr. Parsons  
Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Callahan  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Trotter  
Mr. Holloman  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Ingram  
Miss Gandy

I thought you might like to know an interesting facet of the Chessman case.

I have been informed that convicted killer Caryl Chessman has recently completed a new book entitled as above. It is being published by one Julian Messner whose place of business is unknown, with the Agent representing Chessman in the sale of the book as Joseph Longstreth of Richmond, Indiana.

It is to be noted that Longstreth, according to [REDACTED] of San Quentin Prison, was involved in a previous investigation to determine the means by which other manuscripts prepared by Chessman were smuggled in and out of San Quentin State Prison. Officials believe Longstreth was directly responsible for this.

Further, it is understood that Rosalie Asher, Chessman's lawyer, bookkeeper and financial adviser, along with Longstreth, are presently in Hollywood conferring with movie studio representatives to make a motion picture predicated on the book. [REDACTED] has confidentially advised that the manuscript is already in the hands of the publisher and is supposed to be released to the public in the immediate future. However, they are not able to advise as to the contents or general theme of the book. REC-13 44-7761-50.

23 APR 1 1960

attested 3-25-60  
11-11

73-76  
51 APR 6 1960

## Memorandum

Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
 Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
 Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
 DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
 Malone \_\_\_\_\_  
 McGuire \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
 Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: March 23, 1960

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: CARYL WHITTIER CHESSMAN

There is attached a detailed memorandum setting out the background of Caryl Chessman; a summary of the legal developments in his case and a detailed analysis of his criminal record with particular attention being paid to all instances wherein Chessman received paroles.

In compiling this information, we have checked all available sources. The sources included Chessman's FBI identification record, which is under FBI #1353360; records of San Quentin Prison in California where Chessman is confined; available records at the Preston School of Industry, Ione, California, where Chessman was confined in the late 1930's and which is the Northern California Juvenile Detention Institution. We have also reviewed the flood of recent public source material on this case including the current feature story in the March 21, 1960, issue of "Time" magazine.

RECOMMENDATION:

For your information.

Enclosures (3)

TFM:mbb

59 APR 18 1960

APR 13 1960

CRIM. DIV.



MARCH 23, 1962

CARYL WHITTIER CHESSMAN, aka, Carl W.

Chessman, Carol Whittier Chessman,  
Carol W. Chessman, Caryl W. Chessman,  
Caryl Whittier Chessman

Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Malone \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ingram \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

### BACKGROUND OF CHESSMAN:

Caryl Whittier Chessman was born May 27, 1921, at St. Joseph, Michigan, as Carol Chessman. He was the only child born to Whittier and Hallie Chessman. He attended school in Los Angeles and completed the twelfth grade in high school. Prison records reflect that he is of the Baptist faith but has never attended church regularly.

On 8-8-40, he married one Lucy Gaylord in Las Vegas, Nevada. This marriage has now been dissolved. Chessman has never served in the military service.

Chessman has been confined to the death row in San Quentin Prison in California since 1948 awaiting a sentence of death for kidnaping - robbery.

During this 12-year period, his fight to avoid execution has become known throughout the world and is currently serving as a focal point for those advocating the abolishment of capital punishment. Chessman has studied law while in prison and has personally handled many of his appeals and other legal maneuvers.

Chessman reputedly possesses high intelligence, and in one test given to him, he achieved an intelligence quotient of 172 and was rated a "genius."

While confined to San Quentin, Chessman has written several books concerning his case. The manuscripts for these books were smuggled out of the prison in some cases by his attorneys. Perhaps the best known of his books is "Cell 2455 - Death Row" which was a "best seller," and it was subsequently made into a movie. His other books are "Trial by Ordeal," "The Face of Justice" and "Obsession." The last named, according to "Time" magazine, is a novel which was first published in Europe and is scheduled for publication in the United States next month.

### CHESSMAN'S CRIME:

In January, 1948, Los Angeles Police were baffled by a bandit described as "completely heartless" who, in a 20-day period, committed numerous robberies and sex atrocities.

During this crime spree, the criminal became known as the "Red Light Bandit" because of his method of operation. Posing as a policeman with a flashing

COPIES DESTROYED

44-1111-1  
ENCLOSURE  
A207 JAN 1 1962

red light attached to his car, he would accost couples in "lovers lane" areas and rob and sexually molest his female victims.

There follows a detailed account of the crimes committed during this period, all of which ultimately were charged to Chessman:

1-3-48	-	Robbery of a shoe store.
1-13-48	-	Theft of an automobile
1-18-48	-	Robbery of a man who was driving along a highway
1-18-48	-	Robbery of a man parked in an isolated area with a woman companion
1-19-48	-	Robbery of a man parked in an isolated area with a woman companion; robbery and kidnaping of the woman and sexual perversion against her.
1-20-48	-	Attempted robbery of a man and girl parked in an isolated place;
1-22-48	-	Attempted robbery of a man parked in an isolated place; kidnaping of his female companion; attempted rape of this girl; and sexual perversion against her. This is the 17-year-old child who, suffered a complete mental breakdown following the indignities heaped upon her by Chessman and who is still confined to a California mental institution
1-23-48	-	Robbery of the owner of a clothing store; robbery of the clerk; kidnaping of the store owner with bodily harm; and kidnaping of the store clerk.

It was the two kidnap cases on January 19 and 22 which resulted in the death sentence for Chessman. Complete details on the crimes committed by Chessman during his 20-day rampage are contained in a summary prepared by San Quentin Prison authorities which was obtained by the San Francisco Office on a confidential basis from San Quentin and forwarded to the Bureau by airtel 3-18-60. Details of these crimes are not being included in this memorandum in view of their obscene nature.

#### THE LEGAL BATTLE:

Following his arrest and conviction on 17 charges growing out of the 20-day crime spree in January, 1948, Chessman was sentenced to death and on July 5, 1948, was received in the death row at San Quentin Prison.

On 12-18-51, the death sentence was first confirmed by the California Supreme Court and Chessman's application for rehearing was denied. The original execution date was set for 3-28-52. On 2-19-52, the California Supreme Court granted

the first stay of execution for Chessman pending final action on his bid to the United States Supreme Court for review.

This was the first of eight reprieves from death he has received to date.

On March 31, 1952, Chessman's application to the Supreme Court of the United States for a review of his case was denied.

The foregoing steps represented Chessman's opening maneuvers in his 12-year fight to avoid execution. In that period, he has carried over a dozen petitions to the United States Supreme Court plus numerous writs and petitions which he has poured into lower courts. One of these petitions, a request for a "writ of habeas corpus" was written by Chessman in pencil and delivered to the court on 11 sheets of toilet tissue.

#### MOST RECENT DEVELOPMENTS:

Chessman was scheduled to die on 2-19-60.

On 2-17-60, the California Supreme Court voted 4 to 3 against granting Chessman clemency. On the same day, the United States Supreme Court turned down his appeal.

Ten hours before the 10 a. m., 2-19-60 execution date, Governor Brown of California granted Chessman a stay of 60 days.

May 2, 1960, has now been set as the date of Chessman's execution.

In granting the stay of execution on 2-19-60, Governor Brown claimed that his decision was influenced by a telegram he received from the United States State Department. This telegram pointed out that the American Ambassador in Montevideo, Uruguay, had been advised by the National Council of the Government of Uruguay of its great concern over anticipated hostile demonstrations by student element and others when President Eisenhower visited Uruguay 3-2-60 if Chessman was to be executed. (It is noted Chessman was reprieved and President Eisenhower, nevertheless was greeted by certain hostile demonstrations in Uruguay.)

Uruguay, however, was not the only country which protested Chessman's planned execution. Brazil expressed concern and petitions with thousands of signatures were received from many countries requesting mercy for the condemned man. Editorials criticizing the execution appeared in newspapers in almost every country in Europe. In the United States, there were demonstrations of protest and telephone calls, letters and telegrams poured into Governor Brown's office.



At the time he announced the stay of execution, Governor Brown indicated he would ask the California State Legislature, in special session, to abolish capital punishment. Governor Brown has expressed his personal opposition to such punishment.

Immediately following the stay of execution, Chessman sent a 7000-word letter to the Governor, which was delivered by a California Highway Patrolman, in which Chessman stated he is willing to die if it would ease the way for the abolition of capital punishment.

In connection with the growing crescendo of those who desire clemency for Chessman, "Time's" story points out that following Governor Brown's stay of execution and while the California Legislature was in session conducting its hearing on capital punishment, an auto caravan pulled into Sacramento bringing 384 University of California faculty signatures on a petition urging abolition of capital punishment. A rodeo rider, billed as a "minuteman," rode a horse from San Francisco to Sacramento picking up save-Chessman signatures. An unemployed schoolteacher named Norbert Nicholas went on a save-Chessman hunger strike. Demonstrators picketed the California Capitol Building carrying signs "stop institutionalized murder" and "love, not hate." A song has been written and released nationally called "The Ballad of Caryl Chessman" which contains the mournful urging, "Let him live, let him live, let him live!" This frenzy has spread across the seas and in the Netherlands, a recording in Dutch called "The Death Song of Chessman" has become popular. An Argentina newspaper has called the Chessman case "the most terrible case that has faced the world in recent history."

#### PRIOR CRIMINAL RECORD:

In July, 1937, Chessman, who was then 16, was arrested by Los Angeles police for burglary and auto theft. In August, 1937, prior to sentencing on this charge, he escaped from custody while undergoing a medical examination. He was arrested shortly after this escape in the act of robbing a drugstore.

On September 6, 1937, he was committed to the Preston School of Industry as a result of this arrest. Currently available records at that school disclose that Chessman was released 4-9-37 by "order of court." The record does not indicate whether this release was due to parole or upon completion of sentence. Some newspaper accounts have reflected that Chessman was actually released on parole at this time.

In May, 1938, he was again arrested for burglary and auto theft. On 6-13-38, he was sentenced to Preston School of Industry and was recommitted there on 6-18-38. On 6-3-39, he was paroled. Preston records disclose that he was discharged from this parole on 2-1-40.

However, in November, 1939, Chessman was arrested by Los Angeles police as an automobile thief. A California judge was impressed by Chessman's plea on his own behalf to the effect that he was filled with "a sense of repulsion at all things, criminal, including myself for having become ensnared in the brutal grip during my formative years." Chessman was placed on probation at this time.

In February, 1941, he was arrested for robbery, kidnaping and grand theft. After being found guilty, he was committed to San Quentin to begin serving a term of 5 years to life. In May, 1943, he was transferred to the California Institution for Men at Chino, California. In August, 1943, he escaped from this institution but was apprehended shortly thereafter at Glendale, California. He was returned to San Quentin in January, 1944, after having been found guilty and sentenced to additional jail terms for offenses committed while he was an escapee. In August, 1945, he was transferred to the State Prison at Represa, California. On December 8, 1947, he was released on parole.

While on parole, he undertook the vicious spree which led to his arrest by Los Angeles police on January 23, 1948, on suspicion of robbery. He was ultimately tried and convicted on 17 of 18 charges which included burglary, sexual perversion, kidnaping for the purpose of robbery, attempted robbery, and attempted rape. His conviction of these charges resulted in the death sentence for two kidnapings for the purpose of robbery.

2/24  
✓  
2/24  
2/24

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Malone \_\_\_\_\_  
McGuire \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Ingram \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

UPI-96

(CHESSMAN)

ATTORNEYS FOR CONDEMNED CONVICT AUTHOR CARYL CHESSMAN TODAY WIPED THE CALIFORNIA SUPREME COURT ASKING FOR A NEW STAY OF EXECUTION WHILE CHESSMAN'S CASE IS APPEALED TO THE U.S. SUPREME COURT FOR THE 16TH TIME.

THE MOVE WAS MADE BY ATTORNEYS A.L. WIRIN, CHIEF COUNSEL FOR THE AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, AND ROSALIE ASHER OF SACRAMENTO, CALIF.

WIRIN SAID HE SOUGHT A NEW STAY OF EXECUTION FROM THE CALIFORNIA COURT ON GROUNDS THAT THERE ARE "SUBSTANTIAL FEDERAL QUESTIONS" TO BE DECIDED BY THE U.S. HIGH COURT IN CHESSMAN'S CASE.

WIRIN SAID HE WOULD FILE A NEW APPEAL WITH THE U.S. COURT MONDAY TO REVIEW THE CALIFORNIA SUPREME COURT'S DENIAL LAST TUESDAY OF CHESSMAN'S LATEST PETITION FOR A WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS.

4/15--EG254P

*This would be a farce  
if it did not make  
our procedures of justice  
a laughing stock.*

REC-28 44-776-52

APR 21 1960

67 APR 22 1960

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (64-45690) *44-7760* *Changed to* DATE: 4/15/60  
FROM : SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (64-408) *Air Tel*  
SUBJECT: CARYL CHESSMAN  
MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION CONCERNING  
REPORTED PLAN OF ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT EISENHOWER

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

Re Legat Bonn cablegram to the Bureau dated 4/2/60 regarding reported plan of assassination of President Eisenhower, IS - Algeria, wherein it was claimed that the Governor of California has been notified and that the Warden of San Quentin (Prison) would receive a notice of the planned assassination.

Enclosed for the Bureau is an envelope, newspaper article in the German language stapled to a sheet of paper and a translation of the article into English, (Identity of the translator not known.) which was obtained from [REDACTED] by SA [REDACTED] *b7c*

The translation captioned "Attempt or plot upon EISENHOWER" is predicted to occur during the summit conference in Paris, France by the Algerian Freedom Movement. The article refers to CHESSMAN (CARYL) indicating the Algerian Committee has decided to destroy EISENHOWER should CHESSMAN's sentence not be reduced to 15 years.

2-Bureau (Encls. 3) (AM)  
2-San Francisco  
(64-45690)  
(105-new) (Algerian Activities)

SFF:dcd  
(4)  
#12

REC- 48

*44-7760-53*

12 APR 21 1960

ENCLOSURE  
*6223*  
64 APR 25 1960



The Algerian Freedom Movement

Inclosed scribe because of murder case!

Because of Chessmann!

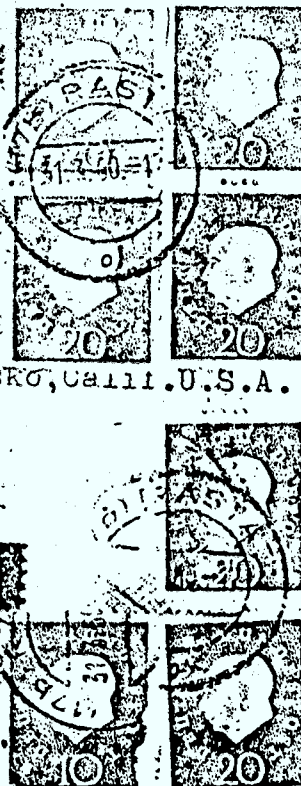
Air Mail! Express Delivery!

Person to

Mr. Fred Dixon

Headmaster of the  
State Prison

San Quentin, San Francisco, Calif. U.S.A.



44-7760-53

ATTEMPT (or plot) upon Eisenhower is Predicted.

RASTATT -- A mysterious note to the criminal Police Dept. in Karlsruhe indicated that an attempt to harm the President Dwight Eisenhower is plotted during the Summit Conference in Paris.

The writer also stated that a bomb will be resorted to to accomplish it.

The note was mailed out of Rastatt, the source, the Algerian Freedom Movement.

"Thousands of egg-shaped hand grenades, 100 (automatics) machine pistols and many hundreds of pistols, out of a stock-pile originally belonging to the Wehrmacht (German Army) including ammunition, being at disposal in order to extinguish the life of the American President."

All above mentioned word for word in said note.

At the same time the question arises why should the German authority be possibly involved or accused, the answer to that, the writer of that note states with the fact that the people concerned are in a state of war with France at present, also taking the occasion to ridicule the U.S.A.

It is further emphasized no bad thoughts or feelings are intended against Germans this being the reason why such a note was directed to them.

Therefore no harm should come to them in case Eisenhower is attacked.

44-7760-53

The Police Dept. in Karlsruhe is advised to do something in order to see to it that all Germans get out of Paris during the Summit Conference.

Finally referring to Chessman, the secret Algerian Committee has decided to destroy Eisenhower even if it means the consequences of suffering losses of its own, should Chessman's sentence not be reduced to 15 years.

A copy was sent to the Editor "Badische Tagblatt", etc., etc.

ST. QUENTIN  
San FRANCISCO, Calif.  
U.S.A.

THE ALGERIAN FREEDOM - MOVEMENT WILL MURDER  
EISENHOWER BY THE SUMMIT-MEET IN PARIS. WHE  
NO PARDON FOR CHESSMANN TO 15 YEARS PRISON  
HERE IS A REPORT FROM THE GERMAN NEWSPAPER  
BADISCHES TAGBLATT, RASTATT, WEST - GERMANY

Nr. 71

#### Attentat auf Eisenhower angekündigt

RASTATT (Eig. Bericht) — Ein mysteriöses Schreiben an die Kriminalpolizei in Karlsruhe kündigte am Donnerstag ein Attentat auf den US-Präsidenten Dwight Eisenhower während der Pariser Gipfelkonferenz an. In dem Schreiben, das in Rastatt zur Post gegeben und als Absender die algerische Befreiungsfront nennt, wird gesagt, daß während der Gipfelkonferenz in Paris ein Bomben-Attentat auf den Präsidenten der Vereinigten Staaten geplant sei. „Tausend deutsche Mörderhandgranaten aus Beständen der ehemaligen Wehrmacht, 100 Maschinenpistolen und mehrere Hundert Pistolen einschließlich der dazugehörigen Munition stehen bereit, das Leben des amerikanischen Präsidenten auszulöschen“, heißt es in dem Schreiben wörtlich. Die Frage, warum gerade eine deutsche Behörde angeschrieben werde, beantworteten die Absender mit der Feststellung, daß sie mit den Franzosen sowieso auf Kriegsfuß stehen und den Amerikanern eins auswaschen wollen. Gegen die Deutschen hätten sie nichts. Gerade deshalb wende sich die Befreiungsfront an eine deutsche Behörde, weil sie nicht wolle, daß einem Deutschen etwas geschehe, wenn auf Eisenhower der Anschlag verübt werde. Die Kriminalpolizei in Karlsruhe wird aufgefordert, etwas zu unternehmen, daß sich alle Deutschen während der Gipfelkonferenz aus Paris entfernen. Zum Schluß heißt es in einer Anspielung auf den Fall Chessman, daß das geheime algerische Komitee beschlossen habe, Eisenhower ohne Rücksicht auf eigene Verluste auszulöschen, wenn Chessman nicht zu 15 Jahren Zuchthaus begnadigt werde.

Die Kriminalpolizei in Karlsruhe betrachtet dieses Schreiben, das abschriftlich auch der Redaktion des „Badischen Tagblatt“ in Rastatt zugegangen ist.

THE ALGERIAN FIGHTER  
NOT JEST IN THIS CASE!  
IT'S OUR DUTY, TO MAKE  
ATTENTIVE YOU OF THIS CASE!

THE LANGUAGE, WHAT THE  
AMERICAN GOOD ANDERSTAN,  
IS THE PISTOL - LANGUAGE!

WE DEMAND  
PARDON FOR CHESSMANN!

YOURS FAITFULLY!

ALGERIAN FREEDOM-  
MOVEMENT

44-7760-



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

APR 26 1960

TELETYPE

Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Callahan  
Mr. DeLoach  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Bishop  
Mr. Casper  
Mr. Callahan  
Mr. Conrad  
Mr. Felt  
Mr. Gale  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Sullivan  
Mr. Tavel  
Mr. Trotter  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Ingram  
Miss Gandy

URGENT 4-25-60 12-30 PM PST JDW  
TO DIRECTOR, FBI AND SAC, LOS ANGELES  
FROM SAC, SAN FRANCISCO

UNSUB, BOMB THREAT WESTERN AIRLINES FLIGHT SEVEN NINE FOUR SAN FRANCISCO  
CALIFORNIA, APRIL TWO TWO, ONE NINE SIX ZERO. <sup>Destruction of Aircraft or Motor Vehicle</sup> DAMV PAREN (FALSE REPORT  
END-PAREN. CARYL WHITTIER CHESSMAN PAREN (AWAITING EXECUTION SAN QUENTIN  
STATE PRISON MAY TWO, NEXT) END-PAREN. INFORMATION CONCERNING. RE  
LA TEL APRIL TWO THREE, SIXTY ON DAMV CASE. SA NEWS DASH CALL BULLETIN  
APRIL TWO FIVE, INSTANT, CARRIES ANNOUNCEMENT THAT CHESSMAN-S ATTORNEY,  
GEORGE T. DAVIS, HAS PRESENTED TO GOVERNOR-S CLEMENCY SECRETARY A  
QUOTE "PRIME SUSPECT" UNQUOTE AS THE QUOTE "RED LIGHT BANDIT" UNQUOTE.  
FOR WHOSE CRIMES CARYL CHESSMAN WAS SENTENCED TO DIE. DAVIS CLAIMS  
TO HAVE QUOTE "DOCUMENTED EVIDENCE" UNQUOTE CHESSMAN IS INNOCENT OF  
CRIMES FOR WHICH HE WAS SENTENCED TO DIE THAT THIS EVIDENCE WAS  
GATHERED BY MILTON MACHLIN AND WILLIAM WOODFIELD OF ARGOSY MAGAZINE  
AND WILLIAM LINHART, PRIVATE DETECTIVE WORKING FOR CHESSMAN. IN-  
FORMATION CONCERNING THESE THREE IS SET FORTH IN LA TEL, ABOVE. TO-  
NIGHT, MACHLIN APPEARED AT <sup>San Francisco</sup> SF OFFICE AND REPORTED THAT INFORMATION  
RECEIVED TODAY FROM WOODFIELD-S WIFE, RESIDENCE ONE TWO THREE THREE  
SIX RYE STREET, STUDIO CITY, CALIFORNIA, THAT SHE RECEIVED THE FOLLOW-  
ING THREAT BY TELEPHONE FROM UNKNOWN MALE AT SIX AM APRIL TWO THREE,  
LAST. QUOTE "HAS YOUR HUSBAND GONE TO SEE THE GOVERNOR. I WOULD  
END PAGE ONE

Mr. Rosen

62 MAY 4 1960

NOT RECORDED  
198 MAY 2 1960

P  
A

GE TWO

ADVISE YOU TO TELL HIM NOT TO UNLESS YOU WANT A FULL FACE OF ACID "~~UN~~  
-QUOTE. MACHLIN EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT THIS CALLER IS IDENTICAL WITH  
ONE MAKING BOMB THREAT OR THE CALLS ARE LINKED TOGETHER, THAT HE  
BELIEVES WOODFIELD-S TELEPHONE IS TAPPED, APPARENTLY BASING THIS BELIEF  
ON ASSUMPTION THAT NO ONE COULD HAVE KNOWN OF PLANS FOR FLIGHT TO  
VISIT GOVERNOR-S OFFICE EXCEPT IN THIS MANNER SINCE PLANS ONLY DISCUSSE  
IN TELEPHONE CALLS FROM THIS SAME NUMBER WITH GOVERNOR-S OFFICE.  
MACHLIN ADMITTEDLY DESIRED TO BRING FBI INTO INVESTIGATION OF THREAT  
AGAINST MRS. WOODFIELD AND ALLEGED TELEPHONE TAPPING. HE WAS INFORMED  
THAT BOTH MATTERS SHOULD BE REPORTED TO LOCAL POLICE, THAT NO FEDERAL  
VIOLATION IS INVOLVED AND THE ONLY FBI INTEREST WOULD CONCERN ANY  
POSSIBLE LINK BETWEEN THE TELEPHONE THREAT AND THE BOMB THREAT, THE  
LATTER BEING OUR PRIME INTEREST. MACHLIN NEXT ALLEGED THAT THE LOS ANG.  
POLICE DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE INVESTIGATED FOR THEIR FAILURE TO TAKE  
COGNIZANCE DURING THE CHESSMAN INVESTIGATION TWELVE YEARS AGO OF CHESS-  
MAN-S REPEATED ASSERTIONS THAT THE TRUE ~~QUOTE~~ "RED LIGHT BANDIT" ~~UNQUOTE~~  
GUILTY OF HIS CRIMES WAS A PERSON WHOSE SURNAME ONLY WITH PHONETIC  
END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

SPELLING WAS FURNISHED TO POLICE. ALLEGEDLY, CHESSMAN HAS DELIBERATELY AVOIDED REVEALING FULL ACTUAL NAME OF THIS PERSON OUT OF <sup>Los Angeles</sup> FEAR OF BEING CONSIDERED A ~~QUOTE~~ "SQUEALER" ~~UNQUOTE~~. MACHLIN STATES THE ~~LA~~ POLICE CHECKED A NUMBER OF SIMILAR NAMES FROM RECORDS IN THAT DEPARTMENT BUT FAILED TO INQUIRE INTO GUILT OF THE PROPER PARTY WHO WAS ALLEGEDLY IN THEIR FILES, NOW REVEALED AS [REDACTED] MACHLIN <sup>67</sup> STATES THAT [REDACTED] IS THE TRUE ~~QUOTE~~ "RED LIGHT BANDIT" ~~UNQUOTE~~ AND THAT ONLY WITHIN PAST FEW DAYS WAS CHESSMAN SHOWN A PHOTO OF [REDACTED] AND STATED ~~QUOTE~~ "THAT-S THE MAN" ~~UNQUOTE~~. [REDACTED] IS CURRENTLY A FBI FUGITIVE, <sup>office of origin</sup> HEAD ~~BASH~~ BURGLARY, OO LA, BUFILE [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ABOVE INFORMATION REPORTED IN VIEW OF POSSIBLE PUBLICITY THAT WILL BE GIVEN TO [REDACTED] WHOSE NAME NOT YET PUBLICLY REVEALED AND ABOVE INFO. RELATED TO BOMB THREAT.

END AND ACK PL

WA 3-44 AM OK FBI WA RL

LA OK FBI LA DRG

TU DIC

CC-MR. ROSEN

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

## Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 4/13/60

FROM : SAC, LOS ANGELES (62-4802)

SUBJECT: CARYL WHITTIER CHESSMAN  
MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION  
CONCERNING

ATTN: Crime Records

The "Los Angeles Mirror News", Los Angeles, California, has recently completed a series of ten articles entitled "The Real CHESSMAN Story" which gives a detailed account of the activities of CHESSMAN, both in his criminal career as well as his legal activities since his conviction in 1947.

Attached hereto for the completion of the Bureau files are copies of the ten articles.

2-Bureau (12 Encls) REC-33  
1-Los Angeles  
WMA:mmb  
(3)

44-7761-54  
25 APR 18 1960  
5-2

Mr. Parsons  
Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Callahan  
Mr. DeLoach  
Mr. Malone  
Mr. McGuire  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Trotter  
Mr. W.C. Sullivan  
Mr. Rountree  
Mr. Ingram  
Mr. Gandy

59 MAY 5 1960



## Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 4-29-60

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: THE DEATH PENALTY AND CARYL CHESSMAN  
 CBS RADIO NETWORK  
 WTOP - WASHINGTON, D. C.  
 9:05 p. m. to 9:50 p. m. EDT  
 April 28, 1960

The above-entitled program, a Unit 1 production of the Public Affairs Department of CBS News, was produced by Don Kellerman with associate producers being Philip Gittelman and Arthur Rabin. The narrator for the program was Howard H. Smith of CBS News. This program was monitored by SA [REDACTED] of the Crime Research Section. b7c

The program opened with a very dramatic recreation, through sound effects, of an execution. The hollow-sounding footsteps of a condemned man were heard approaching the death chamber, the heavy door slammed, cyanide pellets were heard dropping into water and then the bubbling effect as the pellets dissolved.

Smith then introduced the central figure in the current controversy, Caryl Chessman, who stated that once again he is faced with death. He said he is not anticipating it nor hoping for it and that he has no secret desire to leave this world but gradually he has been compelled to realize what he is against.

The narrator then gives a brief account of the crimes which brought about Chessman's death sentence, leading up to the voice of one of Chessman's women victims. This apparently was Mrs. Johnson who was suffering from infantile paralysis when Chessman forced his perversions upon her. In an emotion-packed voice, this woman recounted her night of terror when Chessman assaulted her. During her recital she broke down, sobbing audibly.

The next voice heard was that of the death watch officer at San Quentin who matter-of-factly recited the events of the usual last day of a condemned man. Graphically he described the execution chamber and the manner in which the condemned would be strapped to the chair. Sound effects were heard in the background accompanying his description.

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ones to DeLoach memo 4-29-60 re: The Death Penalty and Caryl Chessman.

The narrator then stated the big issue at stake is the death penalty and that many question the morality of it. Governor Pat Brown of California stated that the death penalty has been a gross failure and has neither protected the innocent nor deterred the wicked. He said in actual practice the death penalty is inflicted on the sick, the poor, the ignorant, the alcoholic, the psychotic and racial minorities.

Smith then returns to Chessman and asks why is he so important. He mentions he is a convicted author who has written several best sellers and who maintains his innocence. James Miller Levy, who prosecuted Chessman, states he earned the death penalty. Al Matthews, Chessman's defense attorney, then describes the trial pointing out the discrepancies in the descriptions furnished by witnesses at the time the crimes were reported and the Chessman trial. He claims Chessman is not guilty and has been denied due process of law because of a faulty trial transcript which contains 2,000 errors. He points out after original court reporter died his notes were transcribed by a draftsman and is amazed an innocent man could be convicted this way. Mr. Levy answers by saying that he has no quarrel with Chessman's right to appeal. He then quotes from a Supreme Court Justice who, in his opinion, points out Chessman cannot escape the violent story of what he did and that the so-called errors in transcription are trifling.

The next voice heard is that of Abraham Wirin of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) who claims that Chessman's execution will have an effect throughout the world. He points out Chessman has been used as a pawn in a high international game and was snatched from the death penalty to protect the President of the United States. He feels it is not fair that any man should be used for such a purpose.

Governor Brown then reads from his statement granting Chessman's reprieve in February giving as his reason his desire to let the California Legislature express itself once more on capital punishment and because of the telegram from the State Department relative to possible repercussion in Uruguay.

Stanley Mosk, California Attorney General, then states that the U. S. Department of State lacked courage in that instance by first doing the right thing and then backing away from its position when subject to Congressional criticism and attempting to blame California for initiating the inquiry as to the effect Chessman's execution would have on the President's South American trip.

Smith, the narrator, then points out that the Vice President of the United States is on record as favoring the death penalty. He discusses reasons why this case has caused such an uproar principally because of Chessman's brilliance and the fact

Jones to DeLoach memo 4-29-60 re: The Death Penalty and Caryl Chessman

that people cannot understand our judicial system. Smith then starts to trace Chessman's background and brings in a childhood acquaintance who says she is sorry for Chessman that he had a hard background and as a youth gave every appearance of being neglected.

Father Edward Dingberg (phonetic), Catholic Chaplain at San Quentin, relates that he has always found Chessman respectful and over the years has noticed a tremendous change in him. According to Father Dingberg, Chessman has matured and no longer does he feel that it is a question of Chessman dueling with the executioners but rather the main issue is the social service he has brought about by bringing a bright light to bear on the death penalty.

Wirin of the ACLU then discusses "the issue and the man." He says Chessman is completely rehabilitated and would be a useful person if allowed to live. He is against the death penalty which is not morally justified for anyone. Arthur Koestler, an author, then states that capital punishment merely adds a second murder to the score and does not bring the victim back to life. He says if it had a deterrent effect, it might be justified but he doubts it.

The narrator then introduces one Henry J. Rice whose 9-year-old son was murdered by a sex criminal. Rice speaks for the death penalty. During his talk, Rice is obviously emotionally disturbed and on one occasion broke down and sobbed. In substance he said people like this who take a human life were not good to anyone and should not be made wards of the state to live off the people.

Narrator Smith points out that the death penalty is applauded by law enforcement personnel. Chief W. H. Parker, Los Angeles Police Department, states that the men who arrest these people know more about the behavior of that type of individual than anyone else. He recounts a recent Los Angeles case when two men held a gun on two police officers and could easily have killed them to make their escape. Later one said he did not shoot the officers because he is fearful of the death penalty. The other said he did not even have his gun loaded because he did not wish to take the chance of killing someone and subjecting himself to the possibility of execution. A Dr. Salin (phonetic), a university professor, disagreed with Parker and points out that recent surveys proved that police are not protected in death penalty states.

Smith then introduced a convicted armed robber who has admitted twelve armed robberies, at least eight of which were in Michigan which does not have capital punishment and the others were in Canada where the sentence for murder can be death. This robber said that in his Michigan robberies he never carried an empty chamber in his



Tones to DeLoach memo 4-29-60 re: The Death Penalty and Caryl Chessman

gun because he knew that if he killed a man in that state his only punishment would be jail. In Canada, however, he always used an unloaded gun because he had a strong desire to stay alive and did not want to risk killing anyone.

Dr. Austin McCormick, criminologist at the University of California, points out that many criminals carry toy guns in robberies so that they won't kill anyone. He says that no one can tell what a criminal thinks but merely has to be guided by what he says.

Clinton P. Duffy, former San Quentin Warden, states he does not believe in the death penalty since it is responsible for much of the inequality in justice. He points out that many are serving life terms in San Quentin for crimes equally as serious as those for which others have paid with their lives. Fred Dixon, described as Duffy's successor at San Quentin, points out that only the poor and ignorant people and those about whom no one cares, usually minority groups, are executed. He states that money has its advantages. Warden Duffy then recounted a story of an execution in the early 1930s when the Governor granted a reprieve on the basis of new evidence at the very minute of the execution. Word of this reprieve was received at the prison too late. Duffy infers that an innocent man may have died. He concludes by stating that a vast change has taken place in Chessman in 15 years.

The remainder of the program concerns itself with the reaction to the Chessman case throughout the world. A CBS reporter in London states that on his arrival there a cab driver asked him "How can you kill Carl Chester after 12 years?" He points out that he found a similar reaction everywhere he went. He says that the execution of Chessman, according to the thinking abroad, would be the final outrage of an outrageous case and that what happens to Chessman will be the responsibility of every American. A British Member of Parliament then states that he fails to understand how America can keep one man under sentence of death for so long a period. He feels that Chessman must be a different man and should be spared.

The narrator concludes the program by stating that whatever the ultimate decision is regarding Chessman, capital punishment is the large issue and that Caryl Chessman has been a symbol of the dramatic quality of that issue.

From 8:50 p. m. to 10 p. m. WTOP presented a brief discussion entitled "Capital Punishment - The District Issue." This program was handled by Scott Sutton of CBS. U. S. Attorney Oliver Gasch cited statistics on recent first degree murder indictments in the District and pointed out that of 104 such indictments only one was found guilty and electrocuted. Sutton pointed out that in the District conviction for first degree



Jones to DeLoach memo 4-29-60 re: The Death Penalty and Caryl Chessman

murder carries a mandatory death penalty. The District Judicial Conference is seeking to change this ruling so that the jury would have the discretion of recommending death if the facts warranted it. Senator Kenneth B. Keating (Republican - New York) points out that he is in favor of legislation which would require in the District the death penalty for first degree murder but give the jury the discretion of recommending life imprisonment. Others heard on this program were District Municipal Court Judge Hyde who had some doubt about the value of the death penalty and Representative Abraham J. Multer (Democrat - New York) who opposes capital punishment on any ground. Mr. Multer did not commit himself on the Chessman case as it relates to the principle of capital punishment.

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

*all a lot of information*

*Tom*

*John  
4/30*

*V. Keating  
4/30*

*DeLoach*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 5-2-60

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Captioned individual telephoned the Bureau at 8:45 a. m. on 5-2-60 and was interviewed by SA [REDACTED] of the Crime Research Section on referral from the Director's Office. [REDACTED] requested that Mr. Hoover intercede with the President to seek clemency for Caryl Chessman who was to be executed on that day. [REDACTED] was informed that this was a matter over which we had no jurisdiction and that he should make any such request directly to the White House.

[REDACTED] is not identifiable in Bufiles.

## RECOMMENDATION:

For Information.

1 - Mr. Ingram

50 MAY 9 1960

RWK:cbc (3)

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Tolson  
DeLoach  
Mohr  
Bishop  
Casper  
Callahan  
Conrad  
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Sullivan  
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Tele. Room  
Ingram  
Gandy

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REC- 61

12 MAY 4 1960

JPW  
5/3

OK

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 5-2-60

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: CARYL CHESSMAN

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Malone \_\_\_\_\_  
McGuire \_\_\_\_\_  
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Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Ingram \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

Chessman was executed at 1 p. m. today in the gas chamber at San Quentin Prison, per W. E. A. M., RADIO.

1 - Mr. DeLoach

JRH:cbc  
(4)

REC-21

22 MAY 5 1960

CRIME RECORDS

53 MAY 1960

## Memorandum

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McGuire	_____
Rosen	_____
Tamm	_____
Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holmes	_____
Gandy	_____

TO : Mr. L'Allier

DATE: May 5, 1960

FROM : W. V. Cleveland

SUBJECT: CARYL CHESSMAN

While talking to [REDACTED] of the National Presbyterian Church, on another matter, he exhibited a telegram he had received from [REDACTED] dated April 30, 1960, reading "Clergymen here deeply concerned over Chessman. We plead and urge that you reach the President asking clemency." [REDACTED] stated that he, of course, had taken no action in connection with this matter.

ACTION:

None.. For information.

1-Mr. Cleveland  
1-Liaison Section

WVC:mad (3)

REC-59

44-7760-57

MAY 11 1960



Tolson ☒  
 Mohr ☐  
 Parsons ☒  
 Belmont ☐  
 Callahan ☒  
 DeLoach ☒  
 Malone ☒  
 McGuire ☒  
 Rosen ☒  
 Tamm ☐  
 Trotter ☒  
 W.C. Sullivan ☒  
 Tele. Room ☐  
 Ingram ☐  
 Gandy ☐

*5/4-7760-58*

UPI-226

(CHESSMAN)

SAN FRANCISCO--CARYL CHESSMAN WAS THE FATHER OF A 17-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER WHOSE EXISTENCE HAS NEVER BEEN DISCLOSED BEFORE, GEORGE T. DAVIS, CHESSMAN'S ATTORNEY, SAID TODAY.

IT WAS FEAR FOR THE LIFE OF THIS DAUGHTER, THE ATTORNEY SAID, THAT KEPT CHESSMAN FROM DISCLOSING THE IDENTITY OF THE "REAL RED LIGHT BANDIT."

DAVIS REFUSED TO GIVE ANY MORE DETAILS.

5/4--EG840P

*such not!*

*J*

REC-20

*44-7760-58*

MAY 10 1960

# Chessman Pic Producer Tells Court He Expects 200G Net

Net profit of \$200,000 is expected from the world wide distribution of Terence Cooney's "Justice And Caryl Chessman," made on a budget of \$49,000, Jerry Persell of Sterling World Distributors said yesterday in Superior Court.

The 45-minute documentary has already recovered its negative cost, Persell said, although it is playing second and third on the bill in most situations and drawing flat rentals from \$15 to \$1,000 depending on theatre and length of run — average of three or four days.

## Many Suits Pending

Suits pending against Sterling (Persell, William P. Hunter and Frank P. Sanders) include one for \$3,000,000 brought by Barjul International, alleging Sterling pirated the film, and one for damages of \$250,000, by J. Miller Leavy. Sterling, it's understood, shares liability of latter suit, and the possible profits, on a 50-50 basis with producer Terrence Cooney. The Leavy matter was in court yesterday.

Persell said he yanked his prints out of California when Leavy brought suit but that 150 prints of it are playing in every other state except Hawaii via 30 exchanges.

## Some Exhib Resistance

There has been no word from Hunter, overseas setting European release. Film also is to go into release in South America where feeling has been strong on the Chessman matter; hence — with official or unofficial State Dept. interference always possible — ploy of the film in the domestic market could mean controversy over the picture is only beginning.

Persell admitted exhibitor response has been hands-off in a number of cases but said the legal actions were not the primary reason. Reason, he said, is objection to the capital punishment theme itself, a point that sells it elsewhere.

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. Mohr
- Mr. Parsons
- Mr. Belmont
- Mr. DeLoach
- Mr. Casper
- Mr. Callahan
- Mr. Malone
- Mr. McGuire
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tamm
- Mr. Trotter
- Mr. W.C. Sullivan
- Tele. Room
- Mr. Ingram
- Miss Gandy

*Send copy to a. g. 9*

REC- 93

4/6/59 59

DAILY VARIETY  
HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA  
MAY 12, 1960

12 MAY 25 1960

ENCLOSURE

REC-4

EX-100

The Attorney General

Director, FBI

CARYL CHESSMAN

May 18, 1960

2-1

In connection with the captioned individual and the widespread publicity given to this case, I thought you might be interested in the attached news story which indicates that the movie, "Justice and Caryl Chessman," expects to make a net profit of \$210,000.

Enclosure

1 - Mr. Lawrence E. Walsh - Enclosure  
Deputy Attorney General

1 - Mr. Luther A. Huston - Enclosure  
Director of Public Information

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MAILED 19  
MAY 18 1960  
COMM-FBI

NOTE: In regard to this news story, the Director noted, "Send copy to A. G."

DGH:sfc  
(7)

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Parsons \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Callahan \_\_\_\_\_
- DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_
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- Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Ingram \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

ENCLOSURE

*[Handwritten signatures and initials]*

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57 MAY 26 1960 ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

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(Classification)

Page 2 of  
Encl. No. 1314  
Desp. No. Mexico, DF  
From

MAY 20 1960

the judicial officers of the United States acted in full conscience and without sentimentality in the enforcement of the law.

Novedades, used a Chessman quote in an 8-column headline on page one: "I am being executed without being guilty." It also reproduced a drawing of the scene of the execution done by a newspaperman, who was present. In its review of Mexican reactions, Novedades quoted several lawyers and judges, most of whom were highly critical of the execution on the grounds that there must have been something wrong in a process of law that permitted so many postponements. Some of the critics were reported as having expressed the opinion that the United States should make revisions in its judicial process and adapt its legal procedures to the progress that has been made in modern juridical science. The Novedades editorial stated that the many reviews of the case and stays of execution indicated that doubts must have existed as to Chessman's guilt. The public conscience, which is almost always right, was not satisfied, it claimed. Enforcement of the law should have a healthy influence but in this case it had the adverse effect. The editorial saw a need for revision of the administration of law in the United States, if justice is to be respected as the protector of man and of his rights.

The tabloid-sized La Prensa of May 3 had a big headline which read "Chessman was Killed Like This." The rest of the front page consisted of a drawing of the convict in the execution chair being overcome by gas. La Prensa felt that reactions in Mexico varied from violent criticism of California's judicial system to approval of the execution as a necessary example to stop crime. Church authorities were reported deeply moved by the execution. The Archbishop of Mexico, Miguel Dario MIRANDA y Gomez, refused to make any comment other than to lower his head as if in prayer. The Attorney General for the Federal District, Lic. Fernando ROMAN Lugo, an opponent of capital punishment, said that without passing on the merits of the case he believed it would serve as an example to those who tried to be heroes through delinquency. Many of the reactions reported by La Prensa criticized the execution as unnecessary punishment for the crimes committed. Some other observers, however, said that no country should criticize the judicial acts of another. La Prensa's editorial, after reviewing the reasons that motivated a worldwide clamor on behalf of the commutation of Chessman's sentence, concludes, "But a society cannot subordinate its justice to circumstances. Its application must be general and unbending in order that it may be respected, and that it may fulfill and guarantee its role in the permanent interest of society."

El Universal made no mention of Chessman's execution in its first section but full coverage appeared in the second section in the form of foreign press despatches. El Universal did not

UNCLASSIFIED

editorialize on the Chessman case, nor did it reproduce any other local comment.

El Popular carried an 8-column front-page headline which read: "The Death of Chessman is Cruelty." It carried no comment other than news reports of the execution.

El Nacional carried extensive news accounts but not editorial or other comment. The afternoon papers of May 3, Ultimas Noticias de Excelsior and El Universal Grafico, carried extensive reports from all corners of the world on foreign reaction to Chessman's execution. El Universal Grafico's editorial laments "the blindness of judicial and political officials of the United States, who have not understood the harm that they have done to their country by imposing the death sentence on Chessman and carrying it out by the same means as those used by the Nazis against the Jews."

The Embassy has noted that Chessman's execution was not preceded by a concerted campaign in Mexico to save his life, such as preceded his last stay of execution. In the six weeks prior to the execution, the Embassy had received only three letters and two telegrams from Mexican nationals asking for the commutation of Chessman's death sentence.

On May 3, the Embassy received three almost identical telegrams from individuals in Mexico City characterizing Chessman's death as a crime by American justice. In Mexico City, a cardboard bearing derogatory statements against the United States was found affixed to the glass doors of the Reforma Avenue entrance to the Embassy by the guards at 6:30 a.m. The Consulate at Veracruz has also reported that on the morning of May 3 it discovered during the night someone had painted insulting remarks in red on its front door. In the afternoon of May 3, on indication of the Embassy, the Mexican police arrested an individual who a few days earlier had told a receptionist that he would kill the Ambassador if Chessman died. A telephone call was received at the Embassy after the execution, from an unidentified individual, presumed to be the same person who had spoken to the receptionist earlier, stating that he was ready to carry out his threat. When arrested in the neighborhood of the Embassy residence he was found to be unarmed and it is believed that he is mentally deranged. There have been no public demonstrations in Mexico City protesting the execution.

For the Ambassador:

Joseph J. Montllor  
First Secretary of Embassy

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## Justice and Chessman

WHEN Caryl Chessman finally was executed yesterday, it had been 12 years (less 19 days) since a jury, which had an option in deciding his penalty, voted the death sentence. Meanwhile, he had been granted seven court stays and reprieve.

"No case in modern history," said Gov. Edmund G. Brown, "has received more careful scrutiny by both state and federal judiciary."

The Governor, a vehement opponent of capital punishment, personally examined every phase of the case and reported:

"The record shows a deliberate career of robberies and kidnappings, followed by sexual assaults and acts of perversion, accomplished at the point of a loaded gun."

Chessman's criminal record dated back to 1937. His 1948 conviction embraced 17 different crimes, within 20 days. Included were four kidnappings, an attempted rape and two cases in which women were forcibly compelled to commit acts of perversion.

His second victim, a 17-year-old girl, is still hopelessly confined in a mental hospital—possibly doomed for life.

The question is not whether Chessman was guilty. There is no reasonable doubt about that, despite his denials.

Neither is there doubt that he was justly tried. Nor is there any doubt that in any other country in the world would Chessman and his attorneys have received from a judicial system so many opportunities of review and appeal.

Indeed, his attorneys used this scrupulous judicial attention to their own delaying tactics—which took 12 years—to claim that their delays constituted punishment enough.

The question is not justice for Chessman. The question is whether or not the state—any state—should inflict capital punishment for anything.

If there were some way that monsters like Chessman could be kept safely under lock and key, society would probably be more ready to abolish capital punishment.

In California, a life prisoner is eligible for parole in seven years. A glib man like Chessman probably would have been freed, and by now would have committed several additional heinous attacks.

When the duration of a jail term more nearly approaches the sentence handed down, and when a life term means just that, the abolition of capital punishment will be more readily obtained. The basic point is not punishment or revenge; the basic point is the protection of society.

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 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

The Washington Post and Times Herald \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Washington Daily News \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Evening Star \_\_\_\_\_  
 New York Herald Tribune \_\_\_\_\_  
 New York Journal-American \_\_\_\_\_  
 New York Mirror \_\_\_\_\_  
 New York Daily News \_\_\_\_\_  
 New York Post \_\_\_\_\_  
 The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Worker \_\_\_\_\_  
 The New Leader \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_

50 JUN 8 1960

67 MAY 18 1960

MAY 3 1960

## Chessman—and Victim

There are two grounds upon which valid objection might be raised to the execution of Caryl Chessman.

One would be that there was a substantial doubt as to his guilt, a doubt which we do not think was present in his case. The other, of course, would be a conscientious objection to capital punishment—an objection which would apply equally to all cases no matter how clear the guilt or how heinous the crime.

Neither of these considerations has been stressed in most of the mawkish nonsense written about the Chessman case. For example, the foreign press, possibly with an eye to the sale of papers, has harped on the 12 years of "indescribable mental agony" to which Chessman has been subjected. What is never mentioned is the fact that Chessman and his resourceful lawyers were responsible for this 12-year delay. They availed themselves of every opportunity, every technicality, for appeals and stays of execution. Of course they were within their rights in doing this. But why should American justice be damned by critics at home and abroad because it gives a condemned man every opportunity under the law to plead his case? We cannot help but think that most of the criticism has been the product either of a monumental ignorance of the facts or of a sinister readiness to seize upon any propaganda weapon if it can be used to belabor the United States.

Finally, why has so little been written about the victims of this man's perverted crimes; why so much concern for Caryl Chessman, so little for the people whose lives he ruined? In all of the frenzied chatter in Chessman's behalf, we have seen not one word of compassion for the girl, 17 at the time, who was one of his victims. As a result of her dreadful experience she has spent 12 years in a mental institution, and she may spend the rest of her life there.

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Malone \_\_\_\_\_  
McGuire \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Ingram \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

The Washington Post and Times Herald \_\_\_\_\_  
The Washington Daily News \_\_\_\_\_  
The Evening Star \_\_\_\_\_  
New York Herald Tribune \_\_\_\_\_  
New York Journal-American \_\_\_\_\_  
New York Mirror \_\_\_\_\_  
New York Daily News \_\_\_\_\_  
New York Post \_\_\_\_\_  
The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_  
The Worker \_\_\_\_\_  
The New Leader \_\_\_\_\_  
The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_  
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