FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION COVER SHEET

SUBJECT: KATHERINE OPPENHEIMER FILE 100-309633

LW:GEA:ELC Lieutenant Colonel John Langdale Office of the Chief of Engineers War Department Rashington, DAC. J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation DECLASSIFIED BY SPECIAL Subject: KATHERINE OPPSWHEIMEN I thought you would be interested in the following information from the files of this Bureau relative to the activities of Katharine Oppenheimer, the present wife of Professor Julius Robert Oppenheimer. It is noted that li-information has been developed concerning Entherine Oppenheimer's sotivities It is noted that little during the period from 1934 to 1936. In fact, between December, 1933, and the time when she met her third husband, Richard Stewart Harrison, in Engineed during 1937, nothing was developed regarding her activities although it was indicated that she might have been in Germany during a portion of that period. Eatherine Oppenheiser was allegedly married to one Joe Dallett, a Comminist organizer reportedly killed in Spain during the Spanish Civil Mar. In July, 1930, Joe Dallett was a member of the Executive Committee of the Matignal Council of Unemployed of the Trade Union Unity League. Also on this Committee was one Steve Welson of Chicago, Illinois. In the summer of 1930 Joe Deliett lived at 1004 East 62nd Street, Chicago, Illinois, with one Barbary Ramo. During this at 1014 East 62nd Street, Chicago, Illinois, with one Barbare Kand. Foring period he was Secretary of Matriot Sumber 8 of the Metal Workers Industrial League of the Trade Union Unity League in Chicago, Illinois . In either December, 1932, or James, 1933, he went to Youngstown, Ohio, and it is known that Barbara Rand was living with him in Youngstown as late me March, 1933.4 Dallett was active in Youngstown, Chio, in the Communist Party during 1934, 1935 and 1936 and was Section Literature Agent for the Youngstown Section of the Party in December/1934. During this sales period he was District Secretary of the Steel and Metal Forkers December and Union of the Frade Union City League 1100= in Youngsteen, Ohio. prominent in Toung town in The Street of Investigation One Kitty Dallatt been in February, 1935, when she taught a class in English a WAhe Committee Party Workers School in Youngstown. During the susser of 1936 the way platersory Against of the Youngstown Section of the Communist Party. I She was replaced, nomever, in August of 1935 by one Benny Moore, a woman Communist Party agitator of long standing and experience because the Section Buro of the Party was dissatisfied with Kitty Dalr. Tolsor presumbly because of her comparative inexperience. 8 However, Kitty coffe the presumbly because of her government Does Secretary for the by this Megrob of 1996 was known to be Special Does Secretary for the getoen, Chio, Section of the Communist Party and Joseph Dallett, her getoen, this is Erginizer for the EPA, also a member of the Section Committee and, sak is Erginizer for the EPA, also a member of the Section Committee Nichol and Martin Surp of the Commist Parky in Youngstown. Munfor K)-61-76-6-191 Quinn Tamm FEDERAL BAR 22170-22 THE POST OF SUSTICE √5)-61-79-229 16)-61-79-221 77)-61-79-248

It has also been reported that Joseph Dallett is carried in the records of the Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade as baying died October 13, 1937, in Fuertes, Spain. His wife was shown as Kitty Dallett, 206 South A3rd Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. You will recall that 206 South A3rd Street, Philadelphia, is a receing home in which Eatherine Pusning (Katherine Oppenheiser) resided from January, 1938, until January 1939. There would seem to be no doubt as to the identity of Kitty Dallett and Katherine Oppenheiser.

(100-7060-215)

64MAY 21 1952

Lether to Revers

DESCRI SECURIT + 1

CONFINENTIAL

70026

1961, MELDON stated that he Cornerly was very inticate with J. BORER! OFFENDENESS not easy through Farty liaison but also through a personal relationship; that Crysles has wife was formuly the wife of one of his, NELACS, best friends who was killed in Spains (FCC);

interview by Agents of the San Presented Office, OPPENETIES informed that he was acquainteed with HELFOL and explained that this acquaintement that he was acquainteed with HELFOL and explained that this acquaintementing was brought about thereugh the association of his wife, ETTY OPPENETIES, with HELFOL, OPPENETIES, stated his wife was presidently married to a security was not well while flighting with the Spanish Myellet Forces and that HELFOL broadly this flighting with the Spanish Myellet Forces and that HELFOL broadly as president with the Spanish Myellet Forces and the Paris, France, Associate to Description, Minimal and ELFOT by Minimal Paris, or saily 1811 france to the parishment and the Description and his facility would be considered from the parishment and the Minimal and his facility would be considered from the parishment and the Minimal and his facility would be considered from the parishment and the Minimal and his facility would be considered from the parishment and the Minimal and his facility would be considered from the parishment and the Minimal and his facility would be considered from the parishment and the Minimal and his facility would be considered from the parishment and the parishmen

It is believed that the information contained in this letter suggests possible leads sulses the beings of New York Office has already contained have in province investigations not made known to the Delivate Socialists

CONFIDENTIAL.

LESHFIDENTH

SEAST

SAC. Nework

Harles of Fresh

August 7, 1951

Director, FBI

-Declarations ONUR

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED BENZIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

KITTY HARRIS, was. INTERNAL SECURITY - R

KATHERINE

PUENING OFFENHEIMER

SUMMARY

Re New York letter July 3, last, requesting Newark to determine whether subject is possibly identical with the wife of Julius Robert Oppenheimer. Bureau files reflect the following information regarding the wife of Julius Robert Oppenheimer, who is known as Katherine Puening Oppenheimer.

OPPENHEIMER, KATHERINE PUENING RAMSEVER DALLET HARRISON Katherine Puening Oppenheimer, according to records of

Katherine Fuening Oppenheimer, according to records of the Manhattan Engineering District, was born August 8. 1910. at Recklinghausen, Germany. Her father, Franz Puening, was born March 16. 1881, at Muenster, Germany, and her mother, Kaethe Vissering Puening, was born May 25, 1882, at Norden, Germany. Ketherine Oppenheimer claims derivative citizenship through the naturalization of her father February 17, 1922, in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania. Katherine Oppenheimer entered the United States May 14, 1913, at New York City aboard the SS Kaiser Wilhelm Der Grosse. She attended Aspenwald High School, Pittsburgh, Pa., 1924 to 1928; the University of Munich, in Munich, Germany, in 1929; the University of Pittsburgh, University of Wisconsin, and University of Pennsylvania between 1930 and 1933; and the University of California at Los Angeles from 1937 to 1939.

Katherine Oppenheimer married Frank W. Ramsever. Jr. at Boston in 1933. This marriage was subsequently annulled in Superior Court, I the state of Wisconsin on December 20, 1933.

Oppenheimer, advised MID agents that she was formerly the common law wife of one Joseph Dallet, a Communist from Pittsburgh, Pa. Joseph Dallet was active in the CP in Youngstown, Ohio, in 1935, and 1936.

In February, 1935, Katherine Oppenheimer, then known as Kitty Dallet, reportedly taught an English Class at a CP worker's school in Youngstown, Ohio. During the summer of 1935 she was leterary agent for the Youngstown section of the CP. In March, 1936 she was special dues secretary for the Youngstown, Ohio, section of the CP, and her husband was an organizer for the WPA. Joseph Dallet reportedly fought for the

100-287723

CONFIDENTIANEXED

NOT RECORDED

Washingto CLASSIFFED BY SPECIAL DECLASSIFY ON: 25X

393 970 81184

5 I MAY 20 1952

SEPRET

SHAPPING.

SECRET

Spanish Loyalists, and records of the Vererans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade indicate he died October 13, 1937, in Fuentes, Spain. His wife was listed in the records as Kitty Dallet, 208 South 13rd Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

Dr. Stewart Harrison advised that after Dallet's death Katherine Oppenheimer was contacted by Steve Nelson in Paris, France, and Nelson arranged for her to return to the U.S. In 1938 she married Dr. Stewart Harrison, a member of the faculty of the California Institute of Technology. She obtained a divorce from Harrison at Virginia City, Nevada, on November 1, 1940.

A review of available facts pertaining to the subject Kitty Harris shows that she was born May 24, 1889, or May 24, 1899, at San Francisco, according to records of the Department of State. Her father was listed as Nathan Harrison. Several informants advise that an individual by the name of Kitty Harris, possibly identical with the subject, resided with Earl Browder at Chicago, Illinois, during the early 1920's.

The above facts indicate that Katherine Oppenheimer is apparently not identical with the subject and no active

The above facts indicate that Katherine Oppenheimer is apparently not identical with the subject and no active investigation, particularly on a college campus, is warranted to reslove any questions regarding such identity. Newark is requested to confine its activity along these lines to a review of all available facts and report any pertinent facts which appear to merit attention for consideration in further clarifying this matter.

Washington Field is requested to conduct a check of the passport records of the State Department and ascertain whether the subject was born May 24, 1889, or May 24, 1899, according to records of the Department of State. The Bureau copies of the Washington Field Office report reflecting a review of the records of the Department of State show that two dates were reported and that the matter should be clarified.





A. H. Belmont

May 6, 1952

W. A. Branigan mo DR. J. ROBERT OPPENHEIMER INTERNAL SECURITY -

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNKLASSIPIED

PURPOSE:

Katherine Oppenheimer, wife of subject, admitted. during an interview with Bureau agents that she was formerly an active Communist Party member in Youngstown, Ohio, from about 1934 to 1936. She could name only six publicly known CP functionaries as her former Communist associates. She professed an anti-Communist belief at the present time and stated that she would welcome any additional inquiries or a reinterview if desired.

It is recommended that Katherine Oppenheimer be reinterviewed and wxhibitied photographs of Communist Party members reported to have associated with her and her husband in Salifornia during the period 1940-1947.

DETAILS:

On April 23, 1952, the results of an interview with Ketherine Oppenheimer, wife of Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, were submitted by the Newark Office. She was interviewed in her husband presence.

PALLET THE PLANT OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PRO

View that she married Joseph Dallet about 1934, and he was killed in Spain in 1937 while Fighting with the International Brigade. She stated that Dallet was a Communist Party trade union organizer in Youngstown, Ohio, during the time they were married and that she also was an active Communist Party member from about 1934 to 1936. She professed to be anti-Communist at the present time and rationalized her former CP membership as being due to her love for Joseph Dallet.

Katherine Oppenheimer named as acquaintances in the CP during 1934-1936, Steve Nelson, John Gates, John Steuben, Gus Hall, John Williamson, and Sarl Browder.

All of the above are, or were, nublicly known CP members. Katherine Oppenheimer stated she could not recall any other CP members. She did not furnish any information of substantial value.

WAY 2 1 1952

NOT RECORDED

136 MAY 10-1952 0820

Ratherine Uppenheimer also advised the sale heather come to the EBI to volunteer information as she did not desire to do an injustice to persons known to her as CP members during the 1930's who may now be entirely alienated from the CP. She stated she has tried to forget her "CP experiences," and she has not been connected with any CP activity since Joseph Dallet's death:

She informed that she was hazy as to dates, names, and places and that it wad difficutl for her to recall any of the persons in the CP with whom she formerly associated.

At the conclusion of the interview, both Dr. and Mrs. Oppenheimer stated that they would welcome any edditional inquiriew that the Bureau wish to make and that they would be available for reinterview if desired.

Newark has requested Bureau authority to peinterview Katherine Oppenheimer and to exhibit photographs of various Communist Party members in the California area whose names have previously arisen in connection with the investication of Dr. J. Roberts Oppenheimer during the period 1910-

RECOMM ENDATION:

It is recommended that hatherine Oppenheimer be reinterviewed and exhibited photographs of Communist Party members in California for possible identification is accordance with Newark's suggestion.

If you agree, there is attached for your approval approval approval to the Newark and San Francisco.

DIRECTORS: NOTATION:

"O.K." H.

to the same of the same of the same of

(9)	P	

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED Director, FBI Received 11/20/69 Form 79 Prepared X Enclosed is the following material relative to the captioned case: □ SF-85 SF-57 DI 35 (2) | IN 35 IN 34 (2) | OF 49 SF-57A SF-79 for WFO only XX Form 364 (3) Conduct a investigation preliminary inquiry. conduct a PI to: Determine whether captioned person is identical with the individual mentioned in Bufiles; if so, convert. Determine whether captioned person is identical with the individual mentioned in Bufiles. If identical, ascertain whether sufficient information is available to warrant an FFI; if so, convert. Determine whether sufficient information exists to warrant an FFI; if so, convert. Each PI should be sufficiently complete to resolve the question of loyalty. If converted, advise Bureau and auxiliary offices, specifyin, 21-day Buded. If FFI conducted, AX ☐ Baltimore St. Louis WFO will check appropriate records in their district. will report be sis for impestigation. 1969 100-309633 ORIGINAL FILED IN 100-38060 Oppenheimer) (See Cleveland to Gale momo dated

Letter to Newark

67C

61C

This investigation is being conducted at the specific request of the Civil Service Commission (CSC), the basis being information alleging communist affiliations on the part of the Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer.

Bufiles indicate that FBI conducted as AEA-A investigation concerning Dr. J. Bobert Oppenheimer in 1947 the results of which were farmished to the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC). He was also the subject of an IS-R investigation by this Enream, the results of which have also been furnished to AEC. The results of investigations disclosed information indicating that in the early 1940s, Dr. Oppenheimer contributed large sums of money to communist Party (CP) difficials and was regarded by many Crassabers in his activities in the suspectated with many prominent CP Officials, At least five of whom were later found to be involved in communist activities and/or Soviet espionage activities discribed ignized the Emited States. It is noted that in connection with his association with CP front groups, Oppenheight in his appearance before the AEC Personnel Security Board in 1954; described himself as a "Sellew traveler" or as one who accepts part of the public program of the CP, was willing to work with and associate with communists. But was not a member of the party."

period of 1848-16, Opposite our Wireless that during the period of 1848-16, Opposite our was Mirector of the Los Alamos Laboratory, Esphattan Engineering District, Los Alamos, New Mexico. During this period he was centacted for the purpose of furnishing secret largementation re stemic research to representatives of the Soviet Government. Although there is no indication he furnished such information, he did delay for at least six months in reporting this contact to a proper official and he then told this official a manher of lies concerning this indident, and stated that wille he was not opposed to the Soviet Union getting these data, reals shiper to its being fore in a classestime manner. Der Lavastgation also disclass that oppositions opposed the developest of the hydrogen bust by the U.S., and that he refused to suggest the Department of the Air Porce long range detection profor determining atomic explosions in the Soviet Union. It was also reported that he was less than candid in neveral instances in his testimony before the aforementioned Personnel Security Board. Complete details relative to his testimony before this Security Secretary to forms in the AEC publication entitled " In the matter ST J. School (symmetries, transport) of hearing before Personnel Security Emering Secret, Emphisyton D. C. 4/12/64 through 5/8/64. In connection with this information, WFO refer its files 116-93-5 and 100-12253. HK refer its files 116-92 and 100-33168. characterise Dr. J. Bobert Oppenheimer./(116-2717) (100-17828)

2-

Letter to Newark

ыс

MK refer to the results of the interview conducted with Katherine Oppenheimer, wife of Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer which took place on 4/23/53. The MK file number in this matter is not readily available at the Eureau.

During this interview, Entherine Oppenheimer admitted that she was formerly an active CP member in Youngstown, Chic, from about 1934 to 1936. She said she married Joseph Dallet in about 1934 and that he was killed in Spain in 1937 while fighting in the International Brigade. She said that Dallet was a CP trade union organizer in the Youngstown, Chic, area during the time they were married. She also maned as CP acquaintances during 1934-36, such individuals as Steve Melson, John Stueben, Gus Hall, John Fiblianson, and Earl Respict. All of these Individuals were publicly well-known CP sembers. Mr therecteries Katherine Oppenheimer and these nequalitances. (190-309633)

the CP from 1937 through 1941.

be less admitted being a member of appears to be identical with the

(100-237735)

parties reveal that makes beautiful dealor, burn 2014/000, was the subject of in applicable type investigation conducted by the FBI in 1947. Starbusty person, wife of applicable towards was possessly the secretary fur Dr. J. Robert Oppenheiser at Los Alamos Laboratory, New Mexico.

Internal Security - R investigation conducted re her and her husband. If review its files for information re Robert (116-7681) (100-344099)

AI check CIA records for information concerning the employee.

WFO check passport and Peace Corps records concerning the employee.

Copies of enclosed CSC reports should be carefully reviewed and information therein utilized in accordance with instructions contained in Manual of Instructions, Volume II, Section 16.8.3.t.

This investigation should be assigned to mature and experienced agests to insure that inquiries are conducted in a careful, discreet, and accurate manner so as to avoid any possible embarrassment to the Bureau.

SEE PAGE 4 FOR FURTHER SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS.

b1C



Letter to Neverk

You are authorized to conduct necessary investigation involving persons connected with educational institutions unless your office is aware of a possible problem at a particular school. No such contacts are to be made on campuses except as provided in SAC Letter 67-29. Should a problem exist or should it be felt any other interview on a campus is necessary, furnish the Bureau full details together with your recommendation for specific Bureau authority. It is incumbent upon each office to insure that any such investigation involving persons connected with educational institutions are handled by mature personnel to avoid possible embarrassment to the Bureau. All persons interviewed must be advised that the Bureau is conducting a background investigation of the captioned individual who is an applicant or employee of the Federal Government to preclude any assumption that the investigation is of a criminal or security type.

NOTE: Delay in opening this case was due to the necessity of requesting additional files relating to the amployee's the same and her merapence, Robert Serbert

b7C

Files 116-7681 and 100-344099 presently unavailable. Upon receipt and review of same pertinent information abould be forwarded to interested field offices.



Mr. Cale

Movember 28, 1969

r. V. Cleveland

462,282

MEN YORK, HEN YORK LOYALTY OF MOLOYELD OF

AND OTHER PURLIC INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The Civil Service Commission (CSC) has requested investigation of employee under Executive Order (EO) 10422 Loyalty Program) based on alleged communist affiliations on the part of in the well-known former Atomic Energy Commission (ARC) physicist, who assisted in the development of the stonic bomb. His security clearance was denied by AEC in 1984 based on his disregard of security requirements. In his appearance before ABC Personnel Security Board in 1954, Dr. Oppenheimer described himself as a "fellow traveler" or as "one who accepts part of the public program of the CP, was willing to work with and associate with communists, but who was not a member of the Party." In early 1940's while Director of the Los Alamos Laboratory, Minhattan Engineering District, Los Alamos, New Mexico. Dr. Oppenhelmer was contacted for the surpose of furnishing secret data re literic research to representatives of Soviet Covernment. No indication he furnished information, but he did delay for at least six months in reporting this contact to a proper official. When he did report same he told a number of lies concerning the incident. It was also determined he was less than candid in several instances in his testimony before aforementioned Security Roard.

Eatherine Oppenheimer, formerly married to Joseph Dallet who was killed in Spain in 1937 while fighting with the and Joseph Dallet active International Brigade. Bother Of members during mid 1830's in Toungstern, Oldebeth CP -bara 1837-41. Bufiles contain no information identifiable with the emploree.

ACTION: Full field investigation being initiated.

- Mr. DeLouch

1 = 15: Bilivan 100-309633-- Mr. Bishop

1 - Mr. Cleveland 13 5 46 DEC 4 1969

HCP: max : 1969-

1- H.C. Phillips

① - 100-309633 (Katherine Oppenheimer)

T - 100-380608

BEST COTY MIELPELE

61C

	4-22a (R	NUMERO	OUS REFERE ARCH SLIP	. (J.	•		<u>.</u>	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	Subj: .		anon our		A commence		1	
	Superv	isor		Room			-1	\$°
	R	Date	3/19	Searci Initial	her 394	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	670	
	Prog.							
		FILE NUMBE	R	SE	RIAL		d v	
	-						14. 14. 14. 14. 14. 14. 14. 14. 14. 14. 14.	:
	W.	143-99)	- 14	7-50		9°		
**	MK	101.30	30-12		••	2.** 		. •
							2	
	eg.			· 	4.		*	
Nev.	,				·			
				4 <u>- 48</u> 1.			<i>y</i> *	l mg.
			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	······································				8
					se.			
κ. }				·				
**** **					***************************************			
,				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	***************************************			
ş*	***************************************	2			***************************************			
10 10 10 10	***************************************			····				
4. \$.				<u></u>				
					,	÷ w	*	
				,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	 			
. *				·		v		
			····		·		3 '	
538. 247 - A 4.27								5.
				<u></u>	······································			
.1		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				<u> </u>	.5_0.0 + 15	
*i					/	BEST (NIA YTO	LABLE
		٧						

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INV **TGATION** , 1970 Mr. Tolson Mr. D.J. Brennan Mr. DeLoach Mr. Day Mr. Mohr Mr. Bermingham Mr. Bishop Mr. Cassidy Mr. Callahan Mr. Dix Mr. Casper Mr. Fitzgerald Mr. Conrad Mr. Felt Mr. Flemister Mr. Haynes Mr. Gale Mr. Hengemuhle Mr. Rosen Mr. Marion Mr. Sullivan Mr. McDonnell Mr. Tavel Mr. Papich Mr. Waiters Mr. Rachner Mr. Sizoo Mr. Rose Mr. Moore Mr. Schwartz Mr. Donahoe Mr. Branigan Mr. C.D. Brennan Mrs. Misiorek Mr. R.D. Cotter Miss Costas Miss Dodds Mr. Gray Mr. G.C. Moore Mrs. Liskey Mr. Wannall Mr Cleveland Mrs. Schwab Miss Trotter Mr. Malmfeldt Mr. Knickrehm Foreign Liaison Mr. Scatterday, 6113 IB 1004 9 & D Domestic Liaison Miss Holmes 1018 9 & D Mr. See Me Please Room Call Me Please Records Per Call Bouring Unit Lent Division Please Handle ame Searching, 6527 Note Status and Return File Review, 1321 IB Mail Room, 5531 Please Note and Return Reading Room, 5533 Place on Record Teletype Room, 5646 and Return Post in File and Courier Service, 1522 Expedite Processing Destroy 0-1 or FD-205 Send File UTD Rm. 1012 9 & D

67C

X-505

Liaison Section

