

FBIHQ FILE  
100-12304

SECTION: 14

PAUL ROBESON, SR.

F B I

Date: 4/26/57

Transmit the following message via

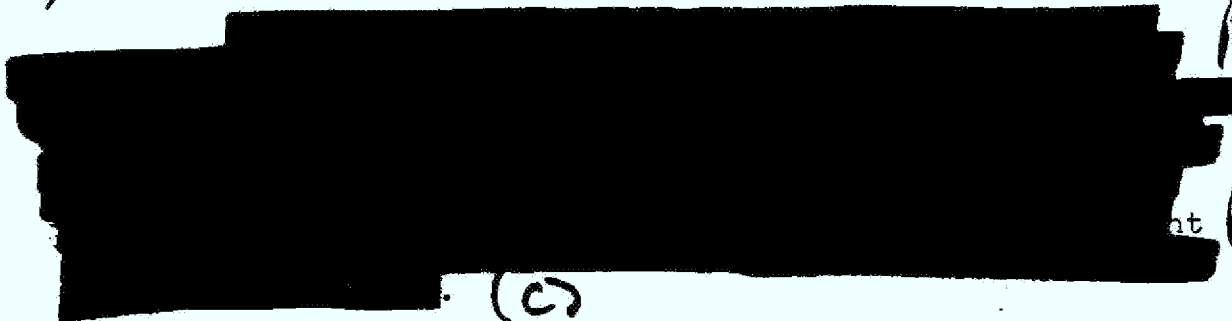
AIRTEL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Boardman	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Parsons	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tamm	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Holloman	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

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

*b1*  
  
*(C)*

Informant from this source, if used in a report, must be carefully paraphrased in order to protect the source. Under no circumstances should the subject or any unauthorized individual become aware we have knowledge of the foregoing information.

Submitted for information. *(u)* *(u)*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
 OTHERWISE

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
 AND FIELD OFFICES  
 ADVISED BY ROUTING  
 SLIP(S) OF THIS  
 DATE *4/27/57*

KELLY

Classified by *2650 JER 243*  
 Exempt from GDS, Category *243*  
 Date of Declassification Indefinite  
 MAY 21 1977

Mr. Belmont

CLASS. & EXT. BY *SP-5 RSC/CLM*  
 REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2 *12-3*  
 DATE OF REVIEW *12/29/96*

100-12304-395

- 3 - Bureau (RM)  
 1 - New York (65-14825 Sub B)  
 1 - New York (100-25857)

JGD:aja (#17-1) 1957/11  
 (6) 1 3 1957/11

Approved: *[Signature]*  
 Special Agent in Charge

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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

SUBV CONTROL

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. L. V. BOARDMAN

DATE: April 18, 1957

FROM : MR. A. H. BELMONT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SUBJECT: ADMIRAL MOUNTBATTEN  
ALLEGATIONS OF HOMOSEXUALITY

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

Reference memorandum Belmont to Boardman 4/18/57.  
Additional information concerning captioned matter and the allegation of an affair between Mountbatten's wife and Paul Robeson has been located in Bufiles and is as follows: (u)

In February, 1944, [redacted]

[redacted] advised the New York Office that Lord Louis Mountbatten was known in British circles to be a homosexual with a perversion for young boys; and, further, that his wife, Lady (Edwina) Mountbatten, took Paul Robeson on a 6-week caravan into the Sahara Desert a few years before the war began and they were unchaperoned. [redacted] added that Lady Mountbatten has a huge naked statue of Paul Robeson in her home. (u)

There is no indication that any of the above information has been disseminated outside this Bureau. (u)

Concerning [redacted] a confidential informant, [redacted] advised in March, 1954, that [redacted]

[redacted] stated a story was circulating that [redacted] was a lady's man and that he had to marry a young girl. (Not further explained.) (u)

1 - Mr. Boardman  
Mr. Belmont  
Mr. J.W. Brown  
Liaison Section  
Mr. Shubatt

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 RSC/CLW/60-12304  
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW 12/31/89  
4-18-89  
NOT RECORDED  
170 JUN 26 1957

WFS:aml

(6)

Classified by 2650 YER  
Exempt from GDS, Category 1  
Date of Declassification Indefinite

FOR INSTRUCTIONS AS  
TO DISSEMINATION  
SEE FILE 105-12189-1235

55 JUN 28 1957

MAY 21 1977

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

10 JUN 26 1957  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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OTHERWISE

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN

CONFIDENTIAL

Memorandum Mr. Belmont to Mr. Boardman  
RE: ANTHONY EDEN  
ADMIRAL MOUNTBATTEN  
ALLEGATIONS OF HOMOSEXUALITY

[REDACTED] believed that [REDACTED] had caught [REDACTED] sleeping with his [REDACTED] wife; that [REDACTED] had complained to Churchill who had quieted [REDACTED] down. This information was contained in an investigative report which was disseminated to the Department of Justice on 11/1/56. (b7C; 100-202315-1812, page 29) (u)

ACTION:

For the Director's information. (u)

CONFIDENTIAL



Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
 Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

FBI

Date: 4/30/57

Transmit the following in PLAIN TEXT  
 (Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL CONFIDENTIAL  
 (Priority or Method of Mailing)

FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (100-25857)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)

PAUL LEROY ROBESON  
 IS-C

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

[REDACTED] (C)

[REDACTED] (C)

Information from this source, if used in a report must be most carefully paraphrased in order to protect the source. Under no circumstances should the subject or any unauthorized individual become aware of the fact that we have knowledge of the above information. (u)

The above is submitted for information. (u)

Att. State - Bailey  
 5/6/57  
 BCR

Classified by 2650 JKR  
 Exempt from GDS, Category 2+3  
 Date of Declassification Indefinite  
 J. Belmont MAY 21 1977 KELLY

3-Bureau (100-12304) (RM)  
 1-New York (100-25857)

RLS:FCG (#17-1)

(5)

RECORDED-41 100-12304-396  
 CLASS. & EXT. BY 2650 JKR  
 REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
 DATE OF REVIEW 12/29/90

Approved: JJKelly  
 Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M  
 CONFIDENTIAL

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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 EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
 OTHERWISE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

1 - Liaison  
1 - Mr. Rachner

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

100-12304 - 316

RECORDED-41  
EX-108

Date: May 6, 1957

BY COURIER SERVICE

To: Mr. E. Tomlin Bailey  
Director  
Office of Security  
Department of State  
515 22nd Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C.

From: John Edgar Hoover, Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: PAUL LEROY ROBESON  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 RSE/CUN  
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2 23  
DATE OF REVIEW 12/29/90

Reference is made to reports pertaining to Robeson which were previously furnished to your Department. (u)

[REDACTED] b1  
(c)

The above is furnished for your confidential information and should not be disseminated to unauthorized individuals. (u)

YELLOW: Subject in Security Index. Subject has been attempting to secure U.S. passport for some time for purpose of travel to Moscow and other Iron Curtain countries. [REDACTED] b1

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

BCR:plb  
(5)

58 MAY 14 1957

Mail Room

MAY 3 8 23 AM '57  
39 MAY - 7  
FBI - PHOENIX

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : L. V. Boardman *LB*

DATE: May 7, 1957

FROM : A. H. Belmont *AB*

SUBJECT: PRAYER PILGRIMAGE FOR FREEDOM,  
also known as March on Washington  
MAY 17, 1957

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

Information has been received that Mrs. Paul Robeson has made reservations for a room at the Charles Hotel, 1338 R Street, Northwest, Washington, D. C., which caters to both whites and Negroes, for May 15, to May 18, 1957. She probably will be accompanied by her husband, Paul Robeson, a loyal Communist Party (CP) sympathizer who is playing a prominent role in the CP's actions in connection with the march on Washington.

In connection with Robeson's attendance and the possible attendance of other CP leaders at this demonstration, consideration has been given to the use of technical equipment to provide coverage of their activities in Washington. However, inasmuch as we have received no definite information concerning who the other CP leaders are who may attend, have no information showing they will hold meetings after arrival or that there are any plans for violent activities, we do not plan to put on any technical coverage. If information is received that the CP has designated a hotel room or meeting place for the purpose of holding caucuses we will consider technical coverage on that location.

## ACTION:

We will continue to follow this matter closely and if there are indications that the Bureau can benefit by instituting technical coverage on CP members in connection with the march on Washington we will recommend same.

62-101087

cc Mr. Boardman  
cc Mr. Belmont  
cc Mr. Williams

CFW:dl

(4)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 12/14/80 BY SP5 KBT/CML

100-12304-1  
NOT RECORDED  
140 MAY 13 1957

63 MAY 15 1957

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN

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XXXXXX  
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.



Deleted under exemption(s) (b)(7)(D) with no segregable material available for release to you.



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



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



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

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

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



The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

FBI Headquarters file 100-12304 - Not Recorded dated  
May 17, 1957.

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
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\_\_\_\_\_ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):  
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☐ For your information: \_\_\_\_\_  
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☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:  
FBI Headquarters File 100-12304- Not Recorded dated  
May 22, 1957,

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):  
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☐ For your information: \_\_\_\_\_  
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☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:  
FBI Headquarters file 100-12304-397 (page 1)

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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.

- ☒ Deleted under exemption(s) (b)(1); (b)(7)(D) with no segregable material available for release to you.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
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\_\_\_\_\_ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); \_\_\_\_\_ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

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

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

☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:  
FBI Headquarters file 100-12304-397 (page 2)

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET6

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- ☐ Deleted under exemption(s) \_\_\_\_\_ with no segregable material available for release to you.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☒ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) \_\_\_\_\_, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):  
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☐ For your information: \_\_\_\_\_  
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☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

FBI Headquarters file 100-12304-398

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET2

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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- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☐ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) \_\_\_\_\_, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

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

Above

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

Information contained in these two pages referred to another government agency for their review and direct response to you.

☐ For your information: \_\_\_\_\_

☒

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

FBI Headquarters File 100-12304-398

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET2

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



Deleted under exemption(s) (b)(7)(D) with no segregable material available for release to you.



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



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



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

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

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



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



The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

FBI Headquarters file 100-12304-399

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XXXXXX  
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET2

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



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



The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

FBI Headquarters file 100-12304-490

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 X FOR THIS PAGE X  
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1 - Liaison  
1 - Mr. Bachner

100-12304-400

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RECORDED-79  
EX-126

Date: May 28, 1957

BY COURIER SERVICE

To: Mr. E. Tomlin Bailey  
Director  
Office of Security  
Department of State  
515 22nd Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

From: John Edgar Hoover, Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: PAUL LEROY ROBESON  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 RAB/CM  
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2 2  
DATE OF REVIEW 12/29/90

Reference is made to communications previously  
furnished to you regarding the captioned subject.

The May 20, 1957, issue of the London "Daily  
Worker," a communist publication in England, contained  
an article entitled "Robeson song will span sea," which  
stated that Paul Robeson would sing by transatlantic  
hookup to an audience in St. Pancras Town Hall, London,  
England, on Sunday, May 26, 1957. The article stated  
that Robeson would be heard following a conference  
organized by the London Paul Robeson Committee as part  
of a campaign to insure that Robeson gets back the passport  
which has been denied him by the United States State  
Department. The article also named several public figures  
who planned to be at the conference.

[REDACTED]

2 - New York (100-25857) (See note page 2)  
2 - London (See note page 2)  
1 - Assistant Attorney General (By O-6, same date)  
William F. Tompkins  
1 - Foreign Liaison Unit (Route through for review.)  
1 - Bufile 100-365659 [REDACTED]  
See note on yellow page 3.  
Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

BCR:ef:pla  
(12)

BY COURIER SVC.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ 29  
COMM - FBI

MAIL ROOM ☐ 55 JUN 5 1957

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 100-12304-400

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Mr. E. Tomlin Bailey

[REDACTED] b7/D  
On May 27, 1957, [REDACTED] advised that  
the above-described broadcast was made as scheduled.

[REDACTED] b1  
The foregoing is for your information. Any  
additional pertinent information received regarding this  
matter will be promptly transmitted to you.

ATTENTION SAC, NEW YORK, AND LEGAL ATTACHE, LONDON:

As previously instructed in Bureau letter to  
the State Department dated May 22, 1957, promptly advise  
the Bureau of any additional information concerning this  
matter which would be of interest to the State Department.  
The results of your investigation in this matter should be  
submitted in report form suitable for dissemination.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Mr. E. Tomlin Bailey

NOTE ON YELLOW:

[REDACTED]

Above London "Daily Worker" article as well as above-noted information substantiates presumption this broadcast is part of the campaign of "let Paul Robeson Sing" committees and national Paul Robeson committee which were previously organized in England to persuade U.S. to grant Robeson a passport. State Department has previously been furnished all information in this matter. ASAC McCabe, NYC, telephonically advised Mr. F.J. Baumgardner 5/28/57 that [REDACTED] had advised on 5/27/57 that broadcast took place as scheduled.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

F B I

Date: 5/27/57

Transmit the following message via \_\_\_\_\_

AIRTEL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (100-25857)

SUBJECT: PAUL LE ROY ROBESON  
IS - C

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Boardman	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Winterrowd	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tamm	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Holloman	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

no further investigation re this matter is being conducted by the NYO. Any additional information, however, will be promptly furnished the Bureau.

RECORDED-29

KELLY

100-12304-401

3 - BUREAU (100-12304)  
1 - NEW YORK (100-25857)

BPM:EMD, #12-16  
(4)

EX-117

MAY 28 1957  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 12/29/80 BY SP5 KSC/DM

Mr. Belmont

C.C. Kachner

Handled  
SEE BULBT TO  
STATE DEPT  
5/28/57  
RFE

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

63 JUN 6 1957

Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_

M

Per \_\_\_\_\_

18



## Office Memorandum UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. R. R. ROACH

DATE: May 28, 1957

FROM : MR. J. M. FITZGERALD *gm4*SUBJECT: PAUL ROBESON  
SECURITY MATTER - C

Tolson	_____
Nichols	_____
Boardman	_____
Belmont	_____
Mason	_____
Mohr	_____
Parsons	_____
Rosen	_____
Tamm	_____
Nease	_____
Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holloman	_____
Gandy	_____

At 2:30 P.M., on May 28, 1957, [REDACTED] Passport Division, State, called on the telephone and said that Robeson is to be given an informal hearing tomorrow morning at 9:30 A.M. in connection with his application for a passport. [REDACTED] said that the hearing would be held in Room 319, 1717 H Street, N.W., and will not be open to the public. He said that Robeson will be represented by Leonard B. Boudin, a New York City attorney.

[REDACTED] added that Boudin is also acting as attorney for Otto Nathan, who is being sentenced in Washington, D. C., tomorrow morning and, therefore, the hearing will probably recess at 11:00 A.M. so Boudin can attend the sentencing of Nathan.

[REDACTED] went on to state that he is pretty sure Robeson is not going to answer any questions as to prior or present membership in the Communist Party. He said that Robeson has not answered such questions in his passport application.

ACTION:

For information.

JMF:jlh *1/12*  
(4)  
1 - Mr. Baumgardner  
1 - Liaison Section  
1 - Mr. Fitzgerald

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 12/29/00 BY SP5-RSC/KML

RECORDED - 52 100-12304-402

17 JUN 4 1957

67 JUN 6 1957

F-97

File 100-12304  
5. PR

Sue Rant

19

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. A. H. Belmont

DATE: May 29, 1957

FROM : Mr. R. R. Roach

SUBJECT: PAUL ROBESON  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 12/24/82 BY 95 256 KIM  
Brid

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mason \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

Re memorandum Fitzgerald to Roach 5/28/57 indicating that Robeson was to be given an informal hearing on 5/29/57 in connection with his application for a passport. At 3:45 p. on 5/29/57, [redacted] Passport Division, State, advised telephonically that the hearing of Robeson began at 9:30 a.m., recessed at 10:40 a.m., reconvened at 12:05 p.m. and concluded at approximately 3:00 p.m. He said that Robeson was accompanied by his lawyer, Leonard Boudin, and Mrs. Robeson. He said that he gathered from remarks he heard that the Robesons had come directly to Washington from New York City and were returning to New York tonight by train.

[redacted] said that the hearing was presided over by William A. Duggan of the Passport Division and that a lawyer and two stenographers attached to the Passport Division were present. He said there was no press coverage and he did not see any press representatives around the building at the time Robeson left after the hearing was finished. He said that the hearing was a "wash out" inasmuch as Robeson did not admit any communist connections or activities. He refused to answer questions regarding communism and his activities in connection with the communist movement on constitutional grounds. Johnson said that he "threw the book" at Robeson and used as bases for interrogating him material from House Committee hearings, newspaper material, and information furnished by the Bureau concerning Robeson. At the conclusion of the hearing, Mrs. Robeson remarked [redacted] "What a research job you did on my husband."

[redacted] said that Robeson waxed somewhat oratorical toward the end of the hearing in trying to justify his conduct and said that he merely wanted to go to England to fulfill some concert engagements and to play in Shakespeare's "Othello."

[redacted] said that he will send to the Bureau a copy of the Passport Division's letter of 5/27/57 tentatively refusing Robeson a passport. [redacted] said that all the information used against Robeson in the hearing was outlined in this letter. [redacted] said that Robeson's conduct at the hearing will not improve his chances of getting a passport. [redacted] said that a complete transcript of the

JMF:bjt  
(6)

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Roachner
- 1 - Mr. Bland
- 1 - Liaison Section
- 1 - Mr. Fitzgerald

RECORDED - 80

INDEXED - 80

100 - 12304-403

JUN 4 1957

File 100-14904  
5-68

Subj

20

Memorandum Mr. Roach to Mr. Belmont

RE: PAUL ROBESON  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

proceedings will be typed up and should be ready about the middle of next week. He said that a copy would be sent to the Bureau. b7

The foregoing summary account of the Paul Robeson hearing as given by [REDACTED] was related telephonically to the Subversive Control Section immediately after [REDACTED] call. c

ACTION:

For information.

MB  
JTB

MB

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET6

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

- ☐ Deleted under exemption(s) \_\_\_\_\_ with no segregable material available for release to you.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☒ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) Department of State, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

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

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

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

☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

FBI Headquarters File 100-12304-404

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXX
 XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
 X DELETED PAGE(S) X  
 X NO DUPLICATION FEE X  
 X FOR THIS PAGE X  
 XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

 JJ  
 FBI/DOJ



Orig & 2 - New York  
1 - McHerney  
1 - Mr. Bachner

SAC, New York (100-25857)

June 18, 1957

RECORDED-38

Director, FBI (100-12304) (62-65252)

PAUL ROBESON  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

RECORDED-38

Serial 6-6-57 captioned as above.

For your guidance in this matter, you should not initiate any further contact with [REDACTED] however, should [REDACTED] again contact your office in regard to his proposal to enlist the cooperation of Robeson with your office, it should be made unmistakably clear to him that his actions in this connection would be his own responsibility. [REDACTED] should be advised, of course, that this Bureau would not desire to have Robeson appear at the New York Office should he desire to volunteer information of value to the United States Government.

In the event Robeson should contact your office, he should be interviewed by thoroughly experienced Agents. Extreme caution should be exercised in such an interview so as to preclude any possibility of embarrassment to the Bureau. In addition, should such an interview develop, the Bureau feels it desirable that the interview be conducted away from the presence of [REDACTED] unless the exigencies of the situation dictate otherwise.

Although the enlistment of Robeson's cooperation seems somewhat remote in view of his past activities, you should remain constantly alert to the possibilities presented by this situation inasmuch as the defection of Robeson would undoubtedly have great effect on communist prestige. Keep the Bureau promptly advised of any further developments in this matter.

NOTE ON YELLOW: See Page 2.

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

BCR:sfc:rjl  
(7)



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DATE 12/29/80 BY SP-5 RCK/MIL

MAIL ROOM  
JUN 28 1957

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN



Letter to SAC, New York  
RE: PAUL ROBESON

100-12304  
62-65252

b7c/b7D

**NOTE ON YELLOW:**

Robeson is noted Negro singer and key figure of NYO. He was reported to be concealed communist during 1940's. He has constantly supported and entertained at CP and Leftist functions and has publicly praised the Soviet Union. Bufile 62-65252 reflects that three letters, two in 1940 and one in 1950, were directed to [REDACTED]

by Bureau and bore the salvation incoming letters concerned his desire to see the Director, his desire to discuss race problems with the Director and a request for authority to use Director's name in conjunction with [redacted]

reported that Bessie appeared at NYO 6-6-57. b6, c7

There is no indication Robeson might defect, although [redacted] appears to have great influence among members of his race. On a previous occasion, [redacted] advised of friendship with Robeson and belief Robeson would defect. Attempts to develop Riley in this regard proved unproductive. Only possible derogatory information regarding [redacted] concerns [redacted]

~~b7c~~  
~~b7D~~

24

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (100-12304)

DATE: May 29, 1957

FROM : Legal Attache, London (100-1182)

CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: PAUL LEROY ROBESON  
IS - C

ReBulet 5/22/57.

There are attached copies of news items which appeared in the local press indicating that subject ROBESON sang to 1,100 fans in the St. Pancras Town Hall via transatlantic telephone on 5/26/57. (u)

[REDACTED] (c)

b1 [REDACTED] (c)

[REDACTED] (c)

Enclosures (3) *33 N*JAC:ic  
-RUC-  
(6)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 RAG/CHM  
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW 12/29/80

RECORDED - 33  
INDEXED - 33

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

MAY 21 1957

AGENCY  
REQ. REC'D  
DATE FORW.  
HOW FORW.

NYO by R/S

JUN 12 1957

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OTHERWISE

CONFIDENTIAL

SUBV. CONTROL  
[Signature]  
25

# MILLION TO SPEAK FOR ROBESON

Daily Worker Reporter

**S**POKESMAN for a million people in the London area meet tomorrow at 10.30 a.m. in the St. Pancras Town Hall, aiming to help win Paul Robeson freedom to travel and sing throughout the world.

Two Labour M.P.s, Dr. Barnett Stross and Mr. Emrys Hughes will speak, along with Mr. Arthur Horner and Mr. Joseph Murumbi, secretary of the Movement for Colonial Freedom.

By a transatlantic hook-up the audience will hear Robeson sing direct from the United States during a concert in the evening.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 12/29/80 BY SP5 RSC/KJM

"DAILY WORKER"  
LONDON, ENGLAND  
5/25/57

Re: PAUL LEROY ROBESON, IS-C (Bufile 100-12304)

OFFICE COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES  
ANALYSIS SECTION  
LONDON, ENGLAND.

100-12304-406  
ENCLOSURE

26

# **Robeson sings to UK by phone 6-year silence**

**Reynolds News Reporter**

**PAUL ROBESON** will sing to more than a thousand of his fans in London to-day—over 3,000 miles of transatlantic cable.

It will be the first time he has broadcast for six years. Robeson, now 59, has been blacklisted in America for his Left-wing views.

The U.S. Government have refused him permission to leave the country, and revoked his passport. He cannot get work.

This afternoon, from a private studio in New York, Robeson will greet London and sing some of the Negro spirituals that made him famous.

At the other end of the transatlantic phone line—St. Pancras Town Hall—1,100 fans, including MPs and members of the London Paul Robeson Committee, will listen.

## **Petitions**

Then they will send out petitions to the American Government, asking them to restore Robeson's passport—"so that he may travel the world with his art."

Earlier, in the same hall, members of the London Paul Robeson Committee, including representatives of trades councils, unions and Co-operative societies, will meet in conference.

There are nearly 200 delegates, representing a total of 1½ million people. And for nearly five hours they will discuss Robeson's no-passport ban.

Mr. Gerald Gardiner, QC, will tell them of the singer's legal position. Then, delegates will prepare petitions. The U.S. Embassy declined an invitation to attend and put America's case.

After the broadcast—it will cost the committee over £80—a tape recording will be sent to Robeson.

RE: PAUL LEROY ROBESON  
IS - C (Bufile 100-12304)

REYNOLDS NEWS  
MAY 26, 1957  
LONDON, ENGLAND

OFFICE OF THE LEGAL ATTACHE  
AMERICAN EMBASSY  
LONDON, ENGLAND.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

12/29/62 SP-5 RSB/CUH

100-12304-406  
27  
ENCLOSURE

# FREE ROBESON (SAY MILLIONS)

'Europe wants to hear him'

Daily Worker Reporter

**R**EPRESENTATIVES of 1,750,000 Londoners yesterday urged the American Government to let Paul Robeson have a passport so that he could come and sing in Europe.

The "Let Paul Robeson Sing" conference was chaired by Mr. Will Griffiths, Labour M.P. for Manchester Exchange, and addressed by two other Labour M.P.s, a famous actress, a Q.C., and the miners' leader Mr. Arthur Horner.

But the day's most thrilling minutes came after the meeting when Robeson's own voice sang out in a live transmission across the Atlantic telephone cable from New York.

In a darkened auditorium the resonance of Robeson's "My Curly Headed Baby" and other songs thrilled the audience.

Several speeches at the conference referred to our own incipient witch-hunting—and the facts revealed by Lord Chorley on M.I.3 requests for snooping in the universities.

Mr. Horner also drew attention to discrimination against British artists on account of their political views—to voices seldom heard at Covent Garden, where they should be.

## Not anti-American

Paul Robeson was an expression of the freedom of culture everywhere, said Mr. Horner. He was a

My eyes filled with tears," said Miss Burke.

She recalled Robeson's charm and his feeling for his fellow men, whom he regarded as "All God's children."

Dr. Barnett Stross, M.P., pleaded with the American people to "free this great songbird from his cage and let him sing wherever he feels like it."

A great tradition of freedom from oppression had attracted millions to America's shores. Now there was an hysteria encouraged by McCarthyism. It aimed to create the feeling among the people that they were in danger.

"The truth is that all that is nonsense. The scientists now tell us that the only thing that was secret about the atom bomb was that it had been made—and that was divulged by it being exploded."

The strides nuclear development had taken here was due to the comparative freedom allowed our scientists. But now there were the disquieting revelations that university professors were being asked to spy on students.

Concluded Dr. Stross: "As Senator McCarthy has at last left us, the time has come to bury McCarthyism, so deeply and firmly that if anyone is asked to come and sing for us he will be given every opportunity to come and do so."

Mr. Joseph Murumbi of the Movement for Colonial Freedom said we must tell the Americans that their attitude was not Christian. It was impossible to apply one sort of values to black people and a different sort to white.

Dr. David Pitt, prospective Parliamentary Labour candidate for Hampstead, himself of African descent, said Communism was always used as an excuse for suppressing freedom, as was being done in South Africa today.

## S African bar

The ban against Robeson was tantamount to a denial of the right to work. But the anti-freedom movement was invading this country first with the witch-hunt among Civil servants and now with the attempt to silence university workers. The way it started in America.

Mr. Gerald Gardiner, Q.C., revealed that a barrister who wanted to visit South Africa as an observer at the "treason" trial of the 156 had been told he need not expect a renewal of his passport if he was going there for the defence.

Robeson's last application for a passport had been refused on principle because he had "failed to exhaust all administrative remedies," quoted Dr. Gardiner.

"But we are not in a position to throw stones," he said. In a reference to the university professors, he called upon to give information, he added: "I don't think we should have any great trust in professors as politicians."

In the afternoon a tape-recorded message made by Paul was played to the conference. He quoted the words of the Chilean poet Pablo Neruda: "I would come to pound the table with love. I will come to sing and for you to sing with me."

And then followed Paul's own inimitable bass, as resonant as ever, singing three songs, including Blake's "Jerusalem."

In the evening a concert, which included the choir of Welsh servants and now with the attempt to silence university workers, the way it started in America.

"DAILY WORKER"  
LONDON, ENGLAND  
5/29/57

Re: PAUL LEROY ROBESON, IS-C (Bufile 100-12304)

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
AMERICAN JUSTICE  
LONDON, ENGLAND

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

12/29/60

SP-5 RSC/UM

100-12304-406

ENCLOSURE

28



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

1 - Liaison Section  
1 - Mr. Rachner

RECORDED - 33

100-12304 - 406

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Date: June 10, 1957

To: Mr. E. Tomlin Bailey  
Director  
Office of Security  
Department of State  
515 22nd Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C.

BY COURIER SERVICE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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OTHERWISE.

From: John Edgar Hoover, Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: PAUL LEROY ROBESON  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 RSE/14W  
REASON FCIM II, 1-2.4.2 13  
DATE OF REVIEW 12/29/80

Reference is made to communications previously  
furnished to you regarding captioned individual's trans-  
atlantic broadcast to an audience in St. Pancras Town  
Hall, London, England, on May 26, 1957, following a con-  
ference organized by the London Paul Robeson Committee.

[REDACTED]

The above is for your information. Any additional  
pertinent information received regarding this matter will be  
promptly transmitted to you.

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

1 - New York (100-25857) (See Note Page 2) (For Information)

1 - AAG Tompkins (By Form 0-6, same date)

NOTE ON YELLOW: See Page 2

BCR:ajc  
JUN 17 1957

BY COURIER SVC.  
87 JUN 11  
CONFIDENTIAL

MAIL ROOM ☐

29



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Mr. E. Tomlin Bailey

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ATTENTION SAC, NEW YORK:

The above is for your information.

For your additional information, on May 29, 1957, a representative of the State Department advised of a hearing which had been afforded Robeson at Washington, D. C., on the same date in connection with his recent application for a passport. Robeson was represented by Leonard Boudin, a New York attorney who is a Security Index subject of your office. Throughout the hearing, Robeson refused to answer all questions regarding communism and his activities on constitutional grounds.

Robeson reportedly attempted to justify his past conduct and explained that he merely wanted to go to England to fulfill some concert engagements. The State Department representative confidentially advised further that Robeson's conduct at the hearing would not improve his chances for obtaining a passport.

A transcript of the proceedings of the above-noted hearing will be furnished to you upon receipt by the Bureau.

NOTE ON YELLOW:

b7c/b7D Subject, a noted singer, is a key figure of New York Office. He has been reported by [redacted] to have been a concealed communist during 1940's. He has constantly supported and entertained at CP functions and has often publicly praised the Soviet Union. Subject has for sometime been attempting to obtain passport for foreign travel but in each instance passport has been refused. Within the last several months a campaign has developed in England under the sponsorship of various Paul Robeson committees for the purpose of attempting to persuade the U.S. State Department to grant Robeson a passport. All information concerning this matter has previously been furnished to the State Department and the Department. The above-mentioned information regarding the passport hearing afforded subject was reported in memorandum from Roach to Belmont dated 5-29-57.

b1 [redacted] Source and nature of information justify classification as confidential.

(c)

- 2 -  
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (100-12304)

DATE: 6/17/57

FROM : SAC, New York (100-25857)

CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: PAUL ROBESON,  
IS - C

Reference is made to the report of SA [REDACTED] dated 6/14/57 at New York. (u) b7c

[REDACTED] b1

Information from the above source, if used in a report, must be carefully paraphrased in order to protect this source. Under no circumstances should the subject or any unauthorized individual become aware we have knowledge of the above information. (u)

Los Angeles is requested to ascertain the identity of the subscriber to the above telephone number and furnish New York with any subversive information re subscriber. Los Angeles is further requested to furnish New York with any information that may be available as to length of subject's stay in that division, as well as activities therein. (u)

BPM:

12/29/80  
CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 RSG/TJM  
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2 2, 3  
DATE OF REVIEW 12/29/90

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1-New York (65-114825-Sub B)

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100-12304-407

12 JUN 18 1957

(6) Classified by 2650 YEA MAY 21 1977  
Exempt from GDS, Category 2, 3  
Date of Declassification Indefinite  
EX-121

CONFIDENTIAL

57 JUN 24 1957

SUBV CONTROL

Calderone  
D. B. B. 131

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

# CONFIDENTIAL

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

*lost track of  
get 7/24*

REPORTING OFFICE <b>NEW YORK</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>NEW YORK</b>	DATE <b>6/14/57</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>5/9, 17, 21, 23, 27; 6/7, 10, 12/57</b>
TITLE OF CASE  <b>PAUL LE ROY ROBESON</b>		REPORT MADE BY <b>[REDACTED]</b>	TYPED BY <b>PCS</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE  <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - C</b>	

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OTHERWISE.

**SYNOPSIS:**

PAUL ROBESON resides 16 Jamel Terrace, New York City and is a self-employed concert singer.

[REDACTED] a radio broadcast from New York City, to London, England. [REDACTED] was made by PAUL ROBESON on 5/26/57 from Associated Recording Studios, New York City.

- P\* -

**DETAILS:**

Residence and Employment

On May 9, 1957, [REDACTED] who was in a position to furnished reliable information, advised that as of that

APPROVED  COPIES MADE: <b>4- Bureau (100-12304) (RM)</b> <b>3- New York (100-25857)</b>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE  <b>[Signature]</b>	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW  <b>100-12304-408</b>  <b>RECORDED - 12</b> <b>INDEXED - 12</b> <b>EX-111</b>  <b>12/29/50</b> <b>13 JUN 18 1957</b> <b>SP-5 RSE/UM</b> <b>2/2/53</b> <b>12/2/50</b> <b>6-14-87</b>
CLASS & EXT. P REASON-FCIM II. DATE OF REVIEW		

CONFIDENTIAL

**SUBV CONTROL**

PROPERTY OF FBI—This report is loaned to you by the FBI, and neither it nor its contents are to be distributed outside the agency to which loaned.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-25857

date, PAUL ROBESON resided at 16 Jumel Terrace, New York City. b7D  
[REDACTED] further advised that PAUL ROBESON is presently engaged in the furtherance of his career as a concert singer through lectures, personal appearances, concert engagements and recordings.

Information Concerning PAUL ROBESON's  
Broadcast to England on May 26, 1957

[REDACTED]

b1  
b7E

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised that on May 26, 1957, the PAUL ROBESON broadcast to London, England had taken place from 4:15 p.m. to 4:38 p.m. from the Associated Recording Studios, New York City.

[REDACTED]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-25857

APPENDIX

SECTION

National Paul Robeson Committee

(b1) [REDACTED] (c)

[REDACTED] (c)

JOHN WILLIAMSON was convicted on October 14, 1949 in the United States District Court, Southern District of New York for violation of the Smith Act of 1940. On October 21, 1949, he was sentenced to five years imprisonment and fined ten thousand dollars by Federal Judge HAROLD R. MEDINA. He was released from Federal prison on March 1, 1955. WILLIAMSON was granted permission to leave the United States voluntarily under warrant for deportation and departed from the United States for England on May 4, 1955.

- P\* -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

34

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-25857

INFORMANTS

Identity of Source	Date of Activity and/or Description of Information	Date Received	Agent to Whom Furnished	File Number Where Located
--------------------	--	---------------	-------------------------	---------------------------

T-1

T-2

(By request)

T-3

100-25887-2941

100-25857-2925  
100-25857-2942  
100-25857-2945

Careful consideration has been given to each source concealed and T symbols were utilized only in those instances where the identities of the sources must be concealed.

ADMINISTRATIVE

The subject is a key figure and is carried on the SI of the NYO. Subject's SI cards are current and correct.

A suitable photograph of PAUL ROBESON is available to the NYO.

This case has been re-evaluated in the light of the SI criteria and still fits these criteria.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-25857

Subject's wife ESLANDA GOODE ROBESON (New York file 100-56680; Bufile 100-12304) is carried on the SI of the NYO. //

REFERENCE

Bulets to Mr. E. TOMLIN BAILEY, Director of Security Department of State dated 5/22 and 5/28/57 with cc's to New York.

New York airtels to Bureau 5/17, 21, 23, 25/57.

San Francisco airtel to Bureau 5/9/57

Report of SA [REDACTED] dated 3/25/57 at New York City. b7c

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE CONT'D

- 5 -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

36

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)

DATE: 6/27/57

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (100-25857)

**CONFIDENTIAL**

SUBJECT: PAUL ROBESON  
IS-C

~~CONFIDENTIAL - SECURITY~~

~~ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED~~

15-00000

END 15/02

Re NY letter, 6/17/54

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EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

# Index: Proc.

Information from this source, if used in a report, must be most carefully paraphrased in order to protect the source. Under no

② Bureau (100-12304) (RM)  
1-Los Angeles (100-25861) (Info) (RM)  
1-New York 65-14825 Sub. B  
1-New York 100-25857

INDEXED

JUN 28 1951

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP5 R. J. [illegible]

REASON-ECIM II, 1-2.4.2

DATE OF REVIEW 14/2/77

Exempt from GDS, Category 2  
Date of Declassification Indefinite

MAY 21 1977

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DATE OF REVIEW: 12/29/71  
SUBV. CONTROL: [Signature]  
[Signature]

JGD:1bj  
(5)

F330

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET2

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



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

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Above

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

To protect the identity of a third party who provided information under an implied promise of confidentiality.

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X NO DUPLICATION FEE X  
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

75137

NY 100-25857

circumstances should any unauthorized individual or the subject become aware we have knowledge of the above information. (u)

Submitted for information. (u)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

- 2 -

39

FBI

Date: 7/26/57

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plain text or code)Via AIR TEL ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (100-25857)

PAUL LE ROY ROBESON  
IS - C

[REDACTED] (C)

[REDACTED] (C)

Information from this source, if used in a report, must be most carefully paraphrased in order to protect the source. Under no circumstances should the subject or any unauthorized individual become aware we have knowledge of this information. (u)

Submitted for information. (u)

KELLY

- 3 - Bureau (100-12304) (RM)
- 1 - San Francisco (Info) (RM)
- 1 - New York (65-14825 - Sub B)
- 1 - New York (100-25857)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP5 RSE/STW  
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2, 2.3  
DATE OF REVIEW 12/29/90

RECORDED - 77

JGD:cl  
(7)

100-12304-410

Classified by 2650 Yka  
Exempt from GDS, Category 2+3  
Date of Declassification Indefinite  
MAY 21 1977

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

SOV. PATROL

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING  
SLIP(S) OF 7/27/57  
DATE 7/27/57

71 JUL 31 1957  
Approved: James J. Kelly  
Special Agent in Charge

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

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Per \_\_\_\_\_

40



# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

REPORTING OFFICE <b>LOS ANGELES</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>NEW YORK</b>	DATE <b>8/1/57</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>6/3,18,28;7/8,23,26,29/57</b>
TITLE OF CASE <b>PAUL ROBESON, wa.</b>		REPORT MADE BY <b>[REDACTED] b7C</b>	TYPED BY <b>cey</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - C</b>	

**SYNOPSIS:**

PAUL ROBESON arrived in Los Angeles on 6/2/57 and departed 7/6/57. First Unitarian Church advertised his appearance for 6/14 and 16/57. Entertained at Los Angeles Committee For Protection of Foreign Born Festival 6/23/57; a social function at the home of DALTON TRUMBO on 6/25/57; the Los Angeles Sobell Committee on 6/26/57; another social affair on 6/27/57, and a "People's World" mass meeting on 6/28/57.

**DETAILS:**

**I. ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

PAUL ROBESON arrived at the Los Angeles International Airport at 4:00 PM on June 2, 1957. [REDACTED]

APPROVED <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW	
COPIES MADE:		100-12304-411	RECORDED - 6
4 - Bureau (100-12304)(REGISTERED)			INDEXED - 6
3 - New York (100-25857)(REGISTERED)			
1 - Los Angeles (100-25851)			

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 12/29/80 BY SP-5 [REDACTED]

0-6 0-16  
Lab State  
8-15-57  
BR [REDACTED]

208A [REDACTED]  
DECLASSIFIED BY [REDACTED]  
MAY 21 1977

SUBV CONTROL

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



[REDACTED]

This source advised that on the above dates it had been learned that on July 8, 1957 O'NEIL-CANNON, a CP member, [REDACTED] and FRANKIE-SIMS had taken PAUL ROBESON to the International Airport, Los Angeles, California, on July 6, 1957 in order to board an American Airlines flight to San Francisco and Oakland. During his stay in the Los Angeles area, PAUL ROBESON had resided with FRANKIE and GEORGE-SIMS. This source advised that FRANKIE SIMS was the former treasurer of the Los Angeles Chapter of the National Negro Labor Council (NLC) and that GEORGE SIMS was also a member of the Los Angeles NLC.

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

II. APPEARANCES OF PAUL ROBESON IN THE LOS ANGELES AREA

67D

[REDACTED]

This source advised that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] It was announced by ROSE CHERNIN KUSNITZ that she had received a long distance phone call from the wife of PAUL ROBESON advising that he had accepted the invitation of the LACFPB to sing at their Festival of Nationalities, which would be held on June 23, 1957. It was also announced that ROBESON would give a concert at the First Unitarian Church while in the Los Angeles area.

ROSE CHERNIN KUSNITZ was convicted for violation of the Smith Act of 1940 at Los Angeles, California, on August 5, 1952 and was acquitted by the U. S. Supreme Court on June 17, 1957.

[REDACTED]

This source advised that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was brought out that PAUL ROBESON would be the main attraction at the Festival of Nationalities sponsored by the LACFPB on June 23, 1957. It was hoped that his appearance would draw large numbers of Negroes to the affair.

LA 100-25861

"People's World"  
Saturday, 6/22/57  
Page 3

An article entitled, "ROBESON Concert Sunday", advised that at 10:00 AM, June 23, 1957, the seventh annual Festival of Nationalities would be held at the picnic grounds at the auditorium at 11621 Budlong Avenue, Los Angeles, California. This affair was sponsored by the LACFPB and would feature PAUL ROBESON.

The "Daily People's World" (DPW), now known as the "People's World", became a weekly publication in February, 1957 and is a West Coast Communist newspaper. ←

[REDACTED]

This source made available a printed leaflet advising that PAUL ROBESON "in person" would appear on June 23, 1957 at the seventh annual Festival of Nationalities, sponsored by the LACFPB; admission would be 90¢ and the affair would be held at 11621 Budlong Avenue, Los Angeles, California.

[REDACTED]

This source made available similar material to that of [REDACTED] advising that ROBESON would appear on June 23, 1957 under the auspices of the LACFPB.

[REDACTED]

These sources advised that the seventh annual Festival of Nationalities, sponsored by the LACFPB, was held on June 23, 1957 at 11621 South Budlong Avenue, Los Angeles, California, and that over 5000 persons attended. The featured attraction of the affair was the singing of PAUL ROBESON.

[REDACTED]

On [REDACTED] there was a meeting of the Los Angeles Area Chapter of the Los Angeles Sobell Committee (LASC) held at [REDACTED] Los Angeles, California. At this meeting it was announced that PAUL ROBESON would appear [REDACTED] on June 26, 1957 to sing a number of songs for the benefit of the LASC. It was also announced that the attendance would be limited to 40-45 persons.

LA 100-25861

[REDACTED]

This source advised that on [REDACTED] there was a party given at [REDACTED] Los Angeles. At this affair PAUL ROBESON sang 3 songs and spoke in favor of the "People's World".

The source advised that admission was \$1.50 but could furnish no information regarding the purpose of the fund raising.

The Annual Report of the Committee on Un-American Activities for the year 1952, House Report No. 2516, page 55, reflects that DALTON TRUMBO, a writer, had appeared before the Committee on October 28, 1947, and had refused to affirm or deny CP membership. TRUMBO was identified as a Communist by [REDACTED] on September 19, 1951 and by five other individuals during the period 1951-1952.

b7D

[REDACTED]

This source advised that it had been learned on [REDACTED] that while in the Los Angeles area PAUL ROBESON had been the guest of honor at an affair given at the home of DALTON TRUMBO. The source advised that only writers and artists had been invited to attend this affair.

[REDACTED]

This source advised that on [REDACTED] a social affair in honor of PAUL ROBESON which he attended was given at [REDACTED] Los Angeles, California.

[REDACTED]

On June 28, 1957 there was a mass meeting sponsored by the "People's World" at 1528 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, California. The source advised that over 500 persons were present and that PAUL ROBESON sang a number of songs and spoke briefly, stating that he was resuming "his work" after two years of absence. The source was unable to furnish any information as to the nature of "his work".

"Los Angeles Tribune"  
Wednesday, 6/26/57, page 5

An article entitled, "Reception for PAUL ROBESON, Sunday" (June 30, 1957), reflected that an affair in honor of PAUL ROBESON would be given on June 30, 1957 at 1055½ East 41st Street, Los Angeles, California.

44

LA 100-25861

III. SUPPORT OF PAUL ROBESON'S APPEARANCE  
IN LOS ANGELES BY THE CP AND OTHER GROUPS

[REDACTED]

This source advised that at a meeting of a CP club of [REDACTED] Southern California District, CP, held on [REDACTED] tickets were sold for the LACFPB affair of June 23, 1957 featuring PAUL ROBESON.

[REDACTED]

This source advised that at a meeting of [REDACTED] Southern California District, CP, held [REDACTED], it was announced to the members present that PAUL ROBESON would appear at the LACFPB Festival on June 23, 1957. b7D

[REDACTED]

This source advised that at a combined meeting of [REDACTED] Southern California District, CP, held on [REDACTED] all members were urged to attend the LACFPB Festival of Nationalities featuring PAUL ROBESON, on June 23, 1957.

[REDACTED]

This source advised that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] it was announced that PAUL ROBESON would be in the Los Angeles area and would be available to appear before any group that was interested.

[REDACTED]

At a meeting sponsored by the "National Guardian" [REDACTED] on [REDACTED] it was announced that PAUL ROBESON would give two concerts in the Los Angeles area. He would appear at the First Unitarian Church and also at the seventh annual Festival of Nationalities on June 23, 1957.

[REDACTED]

This source made available a printed leaflet advising that PAUL ROBESON would give a concert at the First Unitarian Church, Los Angeles, California, on Friday, June 14, 1957, and Sunday, June 16, 1957.

45



## APPENDIX

### CITIZENS COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE AMERICAN FREEDOMS

An informant advised on May 7, 1957 that the Citizens Committee to Preserve American Freedoms was organized in Los Angeles, California, in January, 1952, for the announced purpose of supporting a number of individuals from the medical and legal professions who had been subpoenaed to appear before the House Committee on Un-American Activities.

Since its establishment, the Citizens Committee to Preserve American Freedoms, in extending its scope, has worked for the abolition of all Congressional, State and local committees investigating subversive activities and in the latter part of 1954 became very active in opposition to State and Federal legislation directed at the Communist movement.

FRANK WILKINSON, The Executive Secretary of the Citizens Committee to Preserve American Freedoms, is described by the informant as the "brains and energy" behind the organization.

The Citizens Committee to Preserve American Freedoms is not a membership organization. It is an Executive Board with a large mailing list which builds up support behind particular issues rather than behind an organizational program.

Another informant advised on September 17, 1952, that FRANK WILKINSON was a Communist Party member as of September, 1952.

## APPENDIX



LA 100-25861

APPENDIX

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF LOS ANGELES

Eleventh Report of the Senate  
Investigating Committee on  
Education for the 1953 Regular  
Session of the California  
Legislature, page 126

"The First Unitarian Church of Los Angeles has achieved wide influence among college and university faculties and students. It is the customary gathering place for political and religious agitators for social changes among whom proven Communists are welcomed.

"Their financial methods include announced and published admission charges for moving pictures and lectures by educators and others with long records of participation in Communist controlled organizations."

APPENDIX

APPENDIX

LOS ANGELES COMMITTEE FOR PROTECTION OF FOREIGN BORN

[REDACTED] advised on [REDACTED] that the Los Angeles Committee for Protection of Foreign Born was, from its inception, [REDACTED] an adjunct of the American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born.

An informant advised on [REDACTED] that the Los Angeles Committee for Protection of Foreign Born, as of March, 1956, continued to be an adjunct of the American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born.

The American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

APPENDIX

APPENDIX

LOS ANGELES COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE FOR MORTON SOBELL,  
aka, Los Angeles Sobell Committee, Los Angeles Committee  
to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case, Los Angeles  
Rosenberg-Sobell Committee.

---

An informant advised on May 22, 1956, that the Los Angeles Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell, which was formerly known as the Los Angeles Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case and also referred to as the Los Angeles Rosenberg-Sobell Committee, adopted its present name (Los Angeles Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell) about August, 1954. The avowed purpose of this Committee is to have MORTON SOBELL transferred from the Federal Prison on Alcatraz Island and to secure for him a new trial and eventually his complete release.

Both the Los Angeles Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case and the Los Angeles Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell were, from their inception, dominated and controlled by the Los Angeles County Communist Party through the assignment of Communist Party (CP) members to work on the Committees and to direct the activities of the Committees.

In March, 1956, critical discussion by CP members was that the Los Angeles Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell should be reactivated and revitalized in a more aggressive way than it had been in the past and that its activities should be expanded in terms of according maximum mobilization of forces to insure attainment of its objectives.

APPENDIX

APPENDIX

"NATIONAL GUARDIAN";  
WEEKLY GUARDIAN ASSOCIATES, INCORPORATED

The 1949 report of the California Committee on Un-American Activities cited the "National Guardian" as a publication, launched in New York in 1948 aiming at national circulation, which it found to be from its inception notoriously Stalinist in its staff, writers, management and content. (1949 report of the California Senate Fact Finding Committee on Un-American Activities, page 394.)

The masthead of the "National Guardian", issue of May 14, 1956, reflects that it is published weekly by Weekly Guardian Associates, Incorporated, 197 East 4th Street, New York City.

- RUC -

APPENDIX

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)

DATE: August 1, 1957

FROM : SAC, LOS ANGELES (100-25861)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SUBJECT: PAUL ROBESON, wa.

IS - C

OO - NY

Enclosed are copies of the report of SA [REDACTED] dated 8/1/57 at Los Angeles, and letterhead memorandum containing the evaluation of the informants. b7c

This report is prepared in order to cover the activities of PAUL ROBESON during his stay in the Los Angeles area.

[REDACTED] b7D

Careful consideration has been given to each source concealed and T-symbols were utilized only in those instances where identities of sources must be concealed.

This report is classified confidential since it contains security information, the unauthorized disclosure of which would adversely affect the internal security of the United States.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

INFORMANTS

<u>Source</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Location</u>
T-1, [REDACTED] c	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] c b1
T-2, [REDACTED] c	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] c d
T-3, [REDACTED] c	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] c b7D
T-4, [REDACTED] c	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] c

2 - Bureau (ENCLS. 8) (100-12304) (REGISTERED)  
2 - New York (ENCLS. 6) (100-25857) (REGISTERED)  
1 - Los Angeles

WJN:cey  
(5)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 RST/CTM  
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW 12/29/90

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RECORDED - 6  
100-12304-4/26  
12/29/50 7 AUG 6 1957  
CONFIDENTIAL  
51

6 AUG 1957

ENCLOSURE



LA 100-25861

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

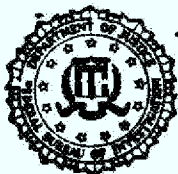
<u>Source</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Location</u>
T-5, [REDACTED] c	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
T-6, [REDACTED] c	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
T-7, [REDACTED] c	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
T-8, [REDACTED] c	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
T-9, [REDACTED] c	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] b1
T-10, [REDACTED] c	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] b7c b7d
T-11, [REDACTED] c	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
T-12, [REDACTED] c	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
T-13, [REDACTED] c	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
T-14, [REDACTED] c	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
T-15, [REDACTED] c	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
T-16, [REDACTED] c	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
T-17, [REDACTED] c	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

DOCUMENTATION OF ORGANIZATIONS

[REDACTED] c [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] c [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] c [REDACTED]

REFERENCE: New York letters to the Bureau, 6/17/57 and 6/27/57.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Los Angeles, California

August 1, 1957

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

*LEROY*  
PAUL ROBESON, wa.

All informants designated by a T-symbol in the  
report of SA [REDACTED] dated August 1, 1957, have  
furnished reliable information in the past.

*photostat CIA by R/S*  
AGENCY *Los Angeles London by*  
REQ. REC'D *cc - [illegible]*  
DATE FORW. *8/29/57*  
HOW FORW. *BCR*  
BY *[illegible]*

*0-6 0-146*  
AGENCY *cc - [illegible]*  
REQ. REC'D  
DATE FORW. *8-15-57*  
HOW FORW. *[illegible]*  
BY *[illegible]*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

12/29/60

SP5 RSC/CUM

100-15444-441  
ENCLOSURE

53

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

FBI Headquarters file 100-12304-413

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X FOR THIS PAGE X  
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34

1 Liaison Section  
1 Mr. Rachner

CONFIDENTIAL

100-12304

Date: August 29, 1957

To: Mr. E. Franklin Bailey  
Director  
Office of Security  
Department of State  
615 22nd Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C.

From: John Edgar Hoover, Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: PAUL LEROY ROBINSON  
SECURITY MATTER - C

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING  
SLIP(S) OF  
DATE 8-29-57

Reference is made to communications  
previously furnished to you concerning captioned  
individual. (u)

[REDACTED]

The above is for your information and  
should not be disseminated to unauthorized individuals. (u)

1 - Director  
Central Intelligence Agency

Attention: Deputy Director, Plans

- 2 - London (100-1182) (Enclosures 5) (See note page 2)
- 2 - New York (100-25857) (See note page 2)
- 1 - San Juan (For Information)

1 - Assistant Attorney General  
William F. Tompkins

(By Form 0-6, same date)

1 - Foreign Liaison Unit (route through for review)

NOTE ON YELLOW: See page 2

BCR:sjc

(14)

MAIL ROOM

RECORDED - 63

EX-102

CONFIDENTIAL

Classified By 2650  
Exempt from GDS, Category 1  
Date of Declassification Indefinite  
MAY 21 1977

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 RSC/LL  
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW 7-29-83

BY COURIER SVC.  
AUG 30 1957  
FBI - WASH.

olson \_\_\_\_\_  
chole \_\_\_\_\_  
ardman \_\_\_\_\_  
lmont \_\_\_\_\_  
shr \_\_\_\_\_  
rsone \_\_\_\_\_  
sen \_\_\_\_\_  
man \_\_\_\_\_  
tler \_\_\_\_\_  
ase \_\_\_\_\_  
la. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
loman \_\_\_\_\_  
dy \_\_\_\_\_

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. E. Tomlin Bailey

ATTENTION LEGAL ATTACHE, LONDON, AND SACS, NEW YORK AND  
SAN JUAN:

[REDACTED] b1  
[REDACTED] (C)  
Enclosed for the information of Legal Attache,  
London, is one copy each of five reports concerning  
captioned subject. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Any  
information coming to your attention concerning this  
matter should be promptly furnished to the Bureau. (u) b7/D

New York Office should closely follow subject's  
activities in an effort to determine whether subject  
contemplates a trip outside the United States. Any infor-  
mation indicating possible travel by subject outside the  
United States should be fully developed with regard to  
duration of travel, itinerary and purpose of travel and  
the Bureau promptly notified. (u)

One copy of this letter is being furnished  
for the information of the San Juan Office [REDACTED] (u) b7/D

NOTE ON YELLOW:

Subject is a key figure of New York Office. He  
is noted Negro singer, who has been reported by sources to  
have been concealed communist during 1940's. He has con-  
stantly supported and entertained at Communist Party (CP)  
and related functions and has often publicly praised both  
the Soviet Union and the CP. Although the State Department  
continues to deny subject a passport, they have recently  
removed restrictions on any travel in the Western Hemisphere  
for which a passport is not generally required. Enclosed  
to Legat, London, are serials 360, 380, 393, 408 and 411.  
This letter is not classified inasmuch as the information  
contained therein, although furnished telephonically by  
[REDACTED] does not warrant classification. b1

- 2 - CONFIDENTIAL



## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. L. V. BOARDMAN

DATE: August 28, 1957

FROM : MR. A. H. BELMONT

CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: PAUL ROBESON  
SECURITY MATTER - C

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
 Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
 Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mason \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
 Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

[REDACTED] (c)

It is noted that Robeson is a noted Negro singer and key figure of the New York Office. He was reported to be a concealed communist during the 1940's. He has constantly supported the Communist Party (CP) and other "progressive" functions and has been open in his praise of the Soviet Union and the CP. (u)

OBSERVATIONS:

[REDACTED] (c)

It may be noted that Robeson is an internationally known and controversial public figure who has received considerable publicity both in the United States and countries abroad. In substance this publicity strongly establishes Robeson's past and present pro-Soviet and procommunist sympathies. It would appear that much of this public source information should be available to [REDACTED] (c)

It is further noted that Bureau file on subject contains voluminous information concerning his past activities. [REDACTED]

(c) 12/24/80 BY SP-5 RSC/AMM  
 Enclosure 155. & ENCL. BY SP-5 RSC/AMM  
 EASON FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
 100-12304 DATE OF REVIEW 12/24/80  
 8-28-87 RECORDED - 30  
 Classified by  
 Exempt from GDS, Category  
 Date of Declassification Indefinite

- 1 - Mr. Boardman  
 1 - Mr. Belmont  
 1 - Central Research Section  
 1 - Mr. Bland  
 1 - Mr. Rachner

BCR:sfc  
 (6)

CONFIDENTIAL

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
 OTHERWISE

AUG 30 1957

100-12304-415

SUBV. CONTROL

57

Memorandum to Mr. Boardman  
Re: Paul Robeson  
100-12304

CONFIDENTIAL

X

→  
D  
[REDACTED] (u)

→ ACTION:  
[REDACTED] (c)  
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

CONFIDENTIAL

X

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CONFIDENTIAL

1 - Mr. Boardman  
1 - Mr. Belmont  
1 - Central Research  
1 - Mr. [REDACTED]  
1 - Mr. [REDACTED]

August 29, 1957

12360

RECORDED - 30

Reference is made to previous communications containing information concerning captioned individual. The following additional data is furnished for your information. (u)

Robeson currently resides at 16 Jamel Terrace, New York City, and is self-employed as a concert singer. His public appearances in the last several years have been confined primarily to the United States in view of the denial of the United States Department of State to grant him a passport for travel abroad. It may be noted, however, that the United States Department of State recently removed the restrictions on any travel Robeson may contemplate to countries in the Western Hemisphere for which a passport is not generally required. (u)

Robeson acted as chairman of the Council on African Affairs, an organization cited by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450, until its dissolution in June, 1955. As of June, 1955, he was acting as chairman of the editorial board of "Freedom." It is noted that a source, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised in 1950 that the editorial board of "Freedom" was composed of Communist Party members and sympathizers. The source also advised that "Freedom" was intended as a replacement for the Harlem edition of "The Worker," the Sunday edition of the "Daily Worker," an east coast communist newspaper. (u)

The July 14, 1949, issue of the "New York Post and Home News," a New York newspaper, contained an article entitled "Robeson Wants To Be a Stalin, Party Backs Him, House Told." This article stated that a self-admitted former member of the Communist Party National Committee had described Paul Robeson as a "member of the CP for many years who was desirous of becoming the black Stalin." The source stated further that Robeson, whose Communist Party membership was kept secret from the rank-and-file communists, had the encouragement of the Communist Party in this regard. It may be noted that another source, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised in 1950 that Robeson was a concealed member of the Communist Party from the 1930's to 1945. (u)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 RSC/CLM  
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW 12/29/97

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: See cover memo Belmont to Boardman, captioned "Paul Robeson, Security Matter," dated 8/28/57; BCR:afc.  
Also see note page 3.

**Paul Leroy Robeson**

In November, 1952, a source, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that earlier in November, 1952, Robeson had stated, "My best friends are communists. I am a communist and proud to be one." (u)

Various sources, who have furnished reliable information in the past, advised during the period 1950 to 1957 that numerous public appearances of Paul Robeson during the same period were either sponsored, guided or influenced by the Communist Party. The motives of the Communist Party in this regard were to use Robeson's public appearances as a medium to promote progressive causes and to raise funds for the Communist Party. (u)

Various publications in the United States and other countries have, through the period 1949 to 1955, published numerous statements reportedly made by Robeson while in the United States and also while on tour in Europe in 1949. Robeson reportedly expressed openly his sympathies or admiration for the Soviet Union as well as the Communist Party, United States of America. (u)

Robeson has also been reported by several sources, who have furnished reliable information in the past, and by various publications to have been active through the years as an officer, sponsor or member of numerous organizations which have been cited by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450. Some of these organizations include the American Peace Crusade, American Youth for Democracy, China Welfare Appeal, Incorporated, Civil Rights Congress, National Negro Labor Council and National Committee to Win Amnesty for Smith Act Victims. In addition, Robeson has been reported to have been active as an officer, sponsor or member of numerous other Communist Party front organizations including such organizations as the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee, Second World Peace Congress and National Council of American-Soviet Friendship. (u)

b1

(c)

- 2 -  
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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**Paul Leroy Robeson**

The December 19, 1952, issue of the "Daily Worker" contained an article entitled "Robeson Wins Stalin Peace Prize, Hailed as Leader of Negro People." The article stated in part that Robeson was one of seven individuals who had been awarded a Stalin Peace Prize on the occasion of Premier Joseph Stalin's seventy-third birthday. (u)

NOTE: This memorandum is classified "Confidential" inasmuch as it contains information furnished by active informants, the disclosure of which, would seriously weaken coverage of Communist Party activities. In addition, the disclosure of the information furnished by these informants would be prejudicial to the defense interests of the United States. (u)



## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO :

DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)

DATE: 9/10/57

FROM :

SAC, WFO (100-19021)

SUBJECT:

PAUL ROBESON  
SM - C  
(OO: NY)

ReWFOlet to New York dated 6/18/57 with no copy to the Bureau.

On 8/28/57 SA [REDACTED] reviewed the subject's file at the Passport Office, Department of State. Only information placed in the files since it was last reviewed by an Agent of the FBI on 3/9/53 is being reported in this communication.

Passport file contained a letter dated 8/19/53 from the Passport Office to PAUL ROBESON, 155 West 136th Street, New York City, advising ROBESON that in reference to his application for a passport made on 7/29/53 the letter was being written and that in view of information received by the Department of State the issuance of a passport to the subject was precluded by the provisions of Section 51.135 of the Passport Regulations because it had been alleged that he was a communist and had manifested a continued and prolonged adherence to the Communist Party line on a variety of issues. He was told that he could appeal his case and submit as part of the appeal an oath or affirmation of the nature outlined in Section 51.142 of the Passport Regulations.

On July 23, 1954, the subject advised the Passport Office by letter that he had applied for a passport on July 2, no year given. On 7/27/54 the Passport Office advised subject that his application for a passport executed on 7/2/54 had been received and the letter again advised him along the same line as the letter dated 8/19/53 from the Passport Office to the subject.

(2) - Bureau  
2 - New York (100-25857) (RM)  
1 - WFO  
HHK:db  
(5)

RECORDED-89

SEP 12 1957

INDEXED-89

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 12/30/80 BY SP-5 RSB/LLM

SUBV. CONTROL

76 SEP 10 1957

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WFO 100-19021

On 11/11/54 subject advised the Passport Office that he was going to seek judicial relief unless a passport was given to him.

On 12/14/54 the Passport Office advised subject that since he had not furnished an affidavit as outlined in the Passport Regulations under Section 51.142, he could still ask for a hearing in regards to his request for a passport.

The file reflected that on 1/13/55 the subject instituted a Civil Action #169-55 in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia against the Secretary of State JOHN FOSTER DULLES in an attempt to obtain permission for the subject to travel in countries of the Western Hemisphere for which no passport was required for American citizens. His attorneys were JAMES T. WRIGHT, 2003 12th Street, N. W., Washington, D. C., and LEONARD B. BOUDIN, 25 Broad Street, New York City.

The file reflected that the case in the U. S. District Court was dismissed at a later date and that a summary judgment for the Secretary of State was granted. The file indicated that on 6/7/56 the U. S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia affirmed the judgment of the District Court. On 11/5/56 the Supreme Court of the United States denied the subject a certiorari.

The passport file reflected a letter dated 5/10/55 from LEONARD B. BOUDIN to the Department of State advising that subject had received numerous requests from all parts of the world to appear in concerts, in films, and in plays and had recently received an invitation to appear in a film version of "Othello" to be produced in the Soviet Union. He asked the Passport Office to advise whether a passport could be issued to the subject in order that he could appear in the film.

By letter dated 5/25/55 the Passport Office advised BOUDIN that if the subject desired the Passport Office to consider the matter of issuing an American passport to the subject, the subject should withdraw the court action and submit an affidavit of the nature outlined in Section 51.142 of the Passport Regulations. He was furthermore advised that subject could request a hearing as provided in the Passport Regulations.

WFO 100-19021

On 10/3/55 BOUDIN by letter requested the Passport Office to issue a passport to the subject in order that the subject could accept an invitation to attend in China, "The Commemoration of Our One Hundredth Anniversary" of the publication of WALT WHITMAN's "Leaves of Grass."

By letter dated 10/11/55 the Passport Office advised BOUDIN that no American citizens were being granted passport facilities to travel to communist China.

On 1/22/57 BOUDIN requested the Passport Office to give a hearing to the subject regarding the subject's application for a passport.

On 2/14/57 the Passport Office requested BOUDIN to advise the subject to submit a new passport application on the application forms in use at that time.

The passport files reflected that a hearing was held for the subject on 5/29/57 at the Passport Office and that a copy of the transcript of the hearing was referred to the Bureau through liaison on 8/16/57.

The passport file reflected that on 8/9/57 a letter was sent to the subject advising him that he could travel in the Western Hemisphere countries for which a passport was not generally required and that any travel to Canada was a matter solely within the province of that country.

The file contained no other pertinent information.  
RUC.

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET2

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

- ☐ Deleted under exemption(s) \_\_\_\_\_ with no segregable material available for release to you.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☒ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) Department of State, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

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

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

☐ For your information: \_\_\_\_\_

☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

FBI Headquarters file 100-12304 - 417

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11/80



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Reporting Office <b>NEW YORK</b>	Office of Origin <b>NEW YORK</b>	Investigative Period <b>8/20, 21, 9/3</b>
Report Made By <b>[REDACTED] b7c</b>		Typed By <b>Jeh</b>
TITLE OF CASE <b>PAUL LE ROY ROBESON, was.</b>		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - C</b>
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.		

**Synopsis:**

PAUL ROBESON resides 16 Sumel Terrace, NYC, and is self-employed concert singer. Subject described as Chairman JCAA 1944-48; spoke at NCDNL Rally, 4/30/57; was given a birthday party 4/6/57, at which two members of CP National Committee were present; subject sang at funeral of EDWARD STRONG. On 5/28/57, subject attended Polish UN Delegation Reception and in the period March-July, 1957, was in contact with Soviet Nationals, publications and/or Satellite Nationals or establishments.

Subject given informal hearing re passport case on 5/29/57, at which he refused to answer questions concerning past or present subversive affiliations. As of 8/9/57, subject notified by Passport Office, that further consideration of his passport was being withheld by United States State Department. Subject

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

Approved <b>EXP/EDM</b>	Special Agent in Charge	Do not write in spaces below	
Copies made:		100-12304-412 RECORDED - 17	
4 - Bureau (100-12304) (RM)		18 SEP 24 1957	
3 - New York (100-25857)		SUBV CONTROL	
AGENCY <b>100-12304</b>			
REQ. BY <b>100-12304</b>			
DATE FORW. <b>10-2-57</b>			
HOW FORW. <b>EXP/EDM</b>			
BY <b>EXP/EDM</b>			

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

CLASS. & EXT. BY **SP-5 REC/CL**  
REASON-FCIM II 1-2.4.2, 2.2  
DATE OF REVIEW **9-20-87**

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

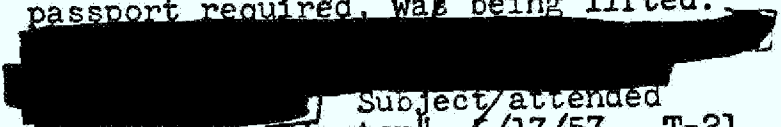


NY 100-25857

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SYNOPSIS (CONT'D)

notified that restriction as to travel in the western hemisphere where no passport required, was being lifted.

 Subject attended "March on Washington", 6/17/57. T-21 advised at meeting of LACFPB, comment was made that subject planned to move to Los Angeles, California during fall, 1957. cb1

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DETAILS:

I. BACKGROUND

A. Residence

In April, 1957, [REDACTED] furnished information which indicated that PAUL ROBESON then resided at 16 Jumel Terrace, New York City. b7/D

In August, 1957, [REDACTED] furnished information which reflected that PAUL ROBESON at that time resided at 16 Jumel Terrace, New York City.

In August, 1957, the records of the Passport Office, United States Department of State, Washington, D. C., reflected that at that time, PAUL ROBESON'S mailing address was 16 Jumel Terrace, New York City.

B. Employment

The "Daily Worker" issue of April 8, 1957, page 2, column 3, contained an article entitled "ROBESON Given Birthday Party." This article noted that PAUL ROBESON was given a surprise party on the occasion of his 59th birthday, and pointed out this party was held shortly before ROBESON planned a concert tour to the west coast.

The "Daily Worker" is an east coast Communist newspaper, the Sunday edition of which is "The Worker".

In June, 1957, [REDACTED] furnished information which reflected PAUL ROBESON had departed for Los Angeles, California on June 18, 1957 and would return to New York near the end of July, 1957. b7/D

On July 28, 1957, [REDACTED] furnished information which reflected PAUL ROBESON had been in excellent voice during a series of concerts in San Francisco, California during that month.

II. AFFILIATIONS WITH THE COMMUNIST MOVEMENT

A. Evidence of Membership in, or Sympathy with, CP Front Organizations

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On May 27, 1957, [REDACTED] who denied past or present CP Membership, but who was employed [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] New York City, [REDACTED] advised SAS [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] that PAUL ROBESON was Chairman of the CAA during that period.

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

The "Daily Worker" issue of April 29, 1957, page 1, column 1, announced that PAUL ROBESON would be a Speaker at the United Mutual Auditorium, 310 Lenox Avenue, New York City, on April 30, 1957. The article pointed out the meeting was to commemorate the Second Anniversary of the Bandung Conference, and would be held under the sponsorship of the National Committee to Defend Negro Leadership.

On [REDACTED] advised that on April 30, 1957, the National Committee to Defend Negro Leadership, held a rally at 310 Lenox Avenue, New York City. [REDACTED] advised the subject was one of the main speakers and commented on the influence of music as a negro heritage. ROBESON stated the conference at Bandung had served to influence the freedom struggles of the darker people and pointed out the Asian-African block is a powerful influence in the United Nations.

On [REDACTED] furnished essentially the same information as set forth above.

#### B. Communist Party Associates

On March 27, 1957, [REDACTED] advised that LOU BURNHAM informed BEN DAVIS, JR., that a birthday party would be held for PAUL ROBESON in the near future. BURNHAM also indicated a move was in progress to give the subject \$10.00 for each of his 59 years.

BENJAMIN J. DAVIS, JR., is characterized in a subsequent paragraph.

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[REDACTED] (c)

On [REDACTED] advised that on April 6, 1957, a birthday party in honor of PAUL ROBESON had been held at Bowman's Bar and Grill, 92nd Street and St. Nicholas Place, New York City. [REDACTED] advised approximately 175 persons attended and during the evening ROBESON was presented with a scroll and a sum of money. [REDACTED] advised the majority of persons in attendance, were those who supported WILLIAM Z. FOSTER in the Communist Party Factional Dispute. During the evening, ROBESON commented that he is not bothering to any great extent with politics and is letting his son handle the political end of the family. According to [REDACTED] BENJAMIN J. DAVIS, JR., and EUGENE DENNIS were sitting with the subject.

The "Daily Worker" issue of February 13, 1957, page 2, column 4, disclosed that on February 12, 1957, BENJAMIN J. DAVIS, JR., EUGENE DENNIS and WILLIAM Z. FOSTER, were elected as members of the New National Committee of the Communist Party during the 16th National Convention of the CP, then being held in New York City.

"The Worker" issue of April 21, 1957, page 4, column 1, contained an article entitled "Communist Party Mourns STRONG." This article concerned the death of EDWARD E. STRONG described by the article as a Communist leader and noted that PAUL ROBESON sang at STRONG'S funeral.

[REDACTED] (c)

C. Miscellaneous Activities

1. Contacts with Soviet or Satellite Officials, Nationals, and/or Establishments in March, 1957.

[REDACTED] advised that PAUL ROBESON was extended an invitation to attend a dinner to be held at the residence of the Bulgarian Ambassador PETAR VOUTOV, 22 East 73rd Street, New York City, at 8:00 PM, on March 13, 1957.

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[REDACTED] (c)

[REDACTED] (c)

[REDACTED] (c)

On [REDACTED] advised that on May 28, 1957 b7E  
PAUL ROBESON attended a reception held by the Polish  
UN Delegation in New York City.

[REDACTED] (c)

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On [REDACTED] advised that PAUL ROBESON on several occasions during July, 1957, had had lunch with two or more Soviets in the delegates' dining room, U. N. Building, New York City. b7D

2. Subjects Activities in, and Subversive Ramifications of, his Passport Case

The "New York World Telegram and Sun" newspaper, issue of April 5, 1957, contained an article entitled, "ROBESON'S Passport Czechmated Again?". This article stated that PAUL ROBESON, holder of a \$25,000.00 Stalin Peace Prize, had made another attempt at obtaining a passport and apparently would be turned down by the United States Department of State. It was pointed out that subject's application for passport had been refused on four previous occasions. This article further stated that subject had a case pending before the United States Tax Court, New York City, concerning the sum of \$9,500.00 in income tax the subject had not paid when he received the \$25,000.00 Stalin Peace Prize in 1953.

The "Daily Worker" issue of May 3, 1957, page 7, column 1, contained an article entitled, "British Actors Union Votes Support For PAUL ROBESON." This article noted that a demand to allow PAUL ROBESON to sing in Britain was passed at the annual meeting of Equity-Organization of British Actors in London on May 2, 1957.

[REDACTED] b1

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On March 28, 1957, [REDACTED] Passport Office, Department of State, Washington, D.C., advised SA [REDACTED] that LEONARD B. BOUDIN, a New York Attorney had recently made inquiries at the Passport Office regarding the travel restrictions against PAUL ROBESON. BOUDIN requested a review of subject's case and further requested he be notified if subject would be permitted to travel outside the United States. b7c

On June 21, 1950, [REDACTED] advised he knew LEONARD B. BOUDIN to be a concealed member of the Communist Party and actively associated with Communist front organizations prior to 1945. b7D

On June 10, 1957, [REDACTED] Passport Legal Division, Passport Office, Department of State, Washington, D.C., advised SA [REDACTED] the Passport Office had recently given a hearing to the subject and his case was still pending. He pointed out that no decision regarding the subject's passport had been reached at that time. b7c




FRANCES G. KNIGHT, Director, Passport Office, United States Department of State, by letter dated August 9, 1957, directed to the subject at 16 Jumel Terrace, New York City, advised him that at an informal hearing on May 29, 1957, the subject had refused to submit an affidavit under current passport regulations, refused to answer questions relating to Communist Party membership, refused to answer questions or to offer an explanation concerning participation in the affairs of Communist Party front organizations in the United States, refused to answer questions concerning close association with Communist functionaries in the United States and abroad and refused to answer questions or offer an explanation of his activities abroad in support of the Communist movement. Subject was notified by this letter that in view of his failure to comply with passport regulations, further consideration of his passport was being withheld until such time as he would be willing to comply with these regulations. The subject was further notified that the restraint on his travel in the western hemisphere in countries for which a passport is not generally required was lifted.




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III. MISCELLANEOUS

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(c)  
On  advised that a rally entitled "March on Washington" was held on that date and consisted of a mass meeting on the grounds of the Lincoln Memorial, Washington, D.C.  advised PAUL ROBESON was present, but took no active part in the proceedings.

The above information was also furnished on the same date by  and  On  furnished substantially the same information set forth above. b7D

On  stated that on July 2, 1957 at a meeting of the Ways and Means Committee of the Los Angeles Committee for Protection of Foreign Born (LACPFB), the comment was made that PAUL ROBESON plans to move to Los Angeles, California for permanent residence some time during the fall of 1957.

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APPENDIX

NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO DEFEND NEGRO LEADERSHIP

On December 31, 1952, an informant advised that the NCDNL was formed to stop attacks against the negro people. On July 17, 1953, this informant advised the NCDNL was at that time highly infiltrated by the Communist Party and had expended its energies on behalf of negroes indicted under the Smith Act of 1940.

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APPENDIX

LOS ANGELES COMMITTEE FOR PROTECTION OF FOREIGN BORN

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED], advised on April 5, 1957 that the Los Angeles Committee for Protection of Foreign Born was, from its inception, until at least March, 1955, an adjunct of the American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born.

An informant advised on April 11, 1957, that the Los Angeles Committee for Protection of Foreign Born, as of March, 1956, continued to be an adjunct of the American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born.

The American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

- P -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
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GIR 1

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)  
 FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (100-25857)  
 SUBJECT: PAUL LE ROY ROBESON, was.  
 INTERNAL SECURITY - C

DATE: 9/20/57

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DB 7-1

Enclosed herewith are originals and three copies each of my report and reliability memorandum, all dated and captioned as above.

INFORMANTS

Identity of Source	Date of Activity And/or Description of Information	Date Received	Agent to whom Furnished	File Number where Located
--------------------	--	---------------	-------------------------	---------------------------

T-1,

cc RAB  
State  
CIA

T-2,

T-3,

T-4,

T-5,

b1  
b7D

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 EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
 OTHERWISE

RECORDED - 17

100-12304-419

2 - Bureau (100-12304) (RM)  
 3 - New York (100-25857)  
 BPM:jeh  
 (5)

ENCLOSURE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SEP 24 1957

AGENCY  
 REQ. REC'D  
 DATE FORV  
 HOW FORV  
 BY

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 RSK/KIM  
 REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
 DATE OF REVIEW 12/30/90

8-20-57

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Identity of Source	Date of Activity And/or Description of Information	Date Received	Agent to whom Furnished	File No. where Located
T-6, [REDACTED] C	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
T-7, [REDACTED] C	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	100-25857-2905
T-8, [REDACTED] C	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	b1 b7C b7E 100-25857-2901
T-9, [REDACTED] C	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
T-10, [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
T-11, [REDACTED] C	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	100-25857-2968
T-12, [REDACTED] C	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
T-13, [REDACTED] C	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	100-25857-2960
T-14, [REDACTED] C (Request)	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
T-15, [REDACTED] C	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	100-25857-3044
T-16, [REDACTED] C	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	100-25857-2956
T-17, [REDACTED] C	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	100-25857-2956
T-18, [REDACTED] C	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	100-25857-2956

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Identity of Source	Date of Activity And/or Description of Information	Date Received	Agent to whom Furnished	File Number where Located
T-19, [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	100-25857-2956
T-20, [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	100-25857-2956
T-21, [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	(LA) 134-38C-5 (NY) 100-25857-304

Careful consideration has been given to each source concealed in this report, and "T" symbols were utilized only in those instances where the identity of the source must be concealed.

Informants used to document organizations in the Appendix Section of referenced report are as follows:

1. National Committee to Defend Negro Leadership [REDACTED]
2. Los Angeles Committee for Protection of Foreign Born. [REDACTED]

ADMINISTRATIVE

On [REDACTED] advised [REDACTED] that PAUL ROBESON had been recruited into the Communist Party by WILLIAM PATTERSON. [REDACTED] did not know [REDACTED] well enough to comment upon the veracity of his remarks, and stated he gave no indication as to when the above event took place. [REDACTED]

For the information of the Bureau, on [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] appeared at the NYO. [REDACTED] stated he had

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known PAUL ROBESON for [REDACTED] and believed ROBESON could help himself and his people by cooperating with the United States Government. [REDACTED]

By letter dated 6/18/57, the Bureau instructed that no further contact be initiated with [REDACTED]. The Bureau pointed out, however, if ROBESON should contact the NYO, he should be interviewed with appropriate care so as to preclude any possibility of embarrassment to this Bureau. To date, ROBESON has made no contact with the NYO.

Information set forth in referenced report relative to the decision of the State Department as a result of the informal hearing given the subject on 5/29/57, was received by the NYO from the Bureau on 9/6/57 along with photographs of the proceedings of the hearing.

As a matter of information, subject's wife ESLANDA GOODE ROBESON, (NY 100-56680, Bufile 100-12304) is now on the SI of the NYO.

This case has been reviewed in the light of SI criteria and still fits this criteria. Subject is a key figure and his SI cards are current and accurate.

A suitable photograph of PAUL ROBESON is available in the NYO case file.

This report is classified confidential inasmuch as it contains information which if disclosed, would be injurious to the National Defense.

#### LEADS

#### NEW YORK

##### At New York, New York

1. Will maintain contact with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] for any additional information which may be received, indicate subject is planning a trip to countries in the western hemisphere where no passport is required.

NY 100-25857

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

LEADS (CONT'D)

2. New York will further be alert for any information to indicate subject is planning to move to California in the near future. //

REFERENCES

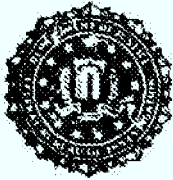
Reports of SA [REDACTED] dated 3/25/57 and 6/14/57.  
Report of SA [REDACTED] dated 8/1/57, at Los Angeles.

b7c

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

81





United States Department of Justice  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
New York, New York  
September 20, 1957

Re: Paul Le Roy Robeson

In the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated and captioned as above, the following evaluation pertains to informants set forth in the details:

1. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were in a position to furnish reliable information.
2. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] have furnished reliable information in the past.
3. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are [REDACTED]

AGENCY  
REQ. REC'D  
DATE FORW.  
HOW FORW.  
BY

6-146 0-142  
10-3-57  
10-3-57  
10-3-57  
10-3-57

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 12/30/80 BY 25256/UC

45 OCT 3 1957

ENCLOSURE

82

F B I

Date: 9/25/57

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Boardman	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Parsons	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tamm	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Holloman	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plain text or code)Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL  
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)  
 FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (100-25861)  
 RE : PAUL ROBESON;  
 ESLANDA ROBESON  
 SM - C

Rebulet to New Haven, cc to New York City,  
 dated 2/16/51, entitled "MORAL REARMAMENT ASSOCIATION,  
 INFO CONCERNING", Bureau file 62-43223. - 172

[REDACTED] advised SA  
 [REDACTED] and confidentially [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] that PAUL ROBESON attended showing morning  
 of 9/21/57 of "Second Phase" MRA play written, staged,  
 and acted by native African Negroes now in USA under  
 MRA auspices, some from New African nations like Ghana.  
 Play depicts need for purity in personal life and honesty  
 in Government. Later back stage Africans sang for  
 ROBESON who replied singing for them.

Same date, group of MRA women at United Nations  
 Center entertained Mrs. ROBESON, who stated "If you want  
 to win my husband, you have to win me first".

- 3 - Bureau (REGISTERED)
- 1 - New York (100-25857) (REGISTERED)
- 3 - Los Angeles
  - (1 - 100-25861, PAUL ROBESON)
  - (1 - 100-New, Mrs. ESLANDA ROBESON)
  - (1 - 61-360, MRA)

TWC:lal/mjg  
 (7)

RECORDED - 82

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 12/30/80 BY SP-5 RSG

Approved: [Signature]  
 Special Agent in Charge

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

100-12304-420  
 KAY  
 SUB CONTROL

LA 100-25861

ROBESON accepted invitation to attend MRA film "Freedom" with all African cast 9/25/57 at Auditorium, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53rd Street, New York City.

[REDACTED] requested discreet use above information, said would furnish Los Angeles further results of MRA attempts to win ROBESONs from other influence. b7c/b7D

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)

DATE: 10/7/57

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (100-25857)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~SUBJECT: PAUL LEROY ROBESON  
IS - C

On 10/2/57, [REDACTED] furnished information concerning a conversation on that date between PAUL ROBESON, JR. and an unidentified female. This information tended to indicate that the subject was to give a concert on Saturday (10/5/57). The concert would be accomplished by means of telephone broadcast and was to originate from Associated Recordings, 723 7th Avenue, NYC, 6th floor. The concert was to be made for the Steadforth (Ph) Festival in Wales. Information furnished by [REDACTED] did not disclose whether the concert was to be transmitted directly to Wales on 10/5/57 via telephone or was being pre-recorded for transmission at a later date.

During above conversation, PAUL ROBESON, JR. remarked that "he", believed to be subject, would be leaving within a week and a half. ROBESON, JR. did not specify the destination but stated, "It makes sense to do it there because it's organized there and it will make just as big an impact there". ROBESON, JR. also stated that a lot of things can be done "here" when "he" gets back. It is believed that ROBESON, JR. is referring to a trip that his father, the subject, contemplates making within the next week and a half.

NYO will remain alert through continued contact with [REDACTED] for any indication that subject may be leaving NYC and will advise Bureau when and if departure is made and will attempt to determine subject's destination.

- ② - Bureau (100-12304) (RM)
- 1 - NY 100-12304-25857
- 1 - NY 100-95550

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

100-12304-421

RECORDED-89

DWW:RH  
(4)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

EX - 107

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 RS6/C/M  
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2 2  
DATE OF REVIEW 12/30/90

SUBV. CONTROL

68 OCT 16 1957

85

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET2

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

- ☐ Deleted under exemption(s) \_\_\_\_\_ with no segregable material available for release to you.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☒ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) Department of the Navy, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

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

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

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

☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:  
FBI Headquarters file 100-12304 Not Recorded (Black date Oct. 11, 1957)

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXX
 XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
 X DELETED PAGE(S) X  
 X NO DUPLICATION FEE X  
 X FOR THIS PAGE X  
 XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

 86  
 FBI/DOJ



F B I

Date: 10/16/57

Transmit the following message via \_\_\_\_\_

AIRTEL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Boardman	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Parsons	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tamm	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Holloman	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (100-25857)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)

SUBJECT: PAUL LEROY ROBESON  
IS - CALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISECLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 RSC/3/11  
REASON-FOUO 11, 1-2.4.2 2  
DATE OF REVIEW 12/30/90

On 10/14/57, [REDACTED] advised that in conversation between PAUL ROBESON, Jr. and subject on that date, subject said he thought he would take a 10:00 night flight tomorrow night (10/15/57) and get "out there" in the morning. Subject stated trip would be "about 5 weeks-most of November" and he intended to "keep it open to shoot back and forth". ROBESON, Jr. said he did not realize subject was leaving so soon and ROBESON, Sr. said he had "this thing" (singing engagement) Friday, (10/18/57). Subject mentioned he "figured, just for the record, to take a couple of weeks maybe down in Jamaica". b1

On 10/15/57, [REDACTED] advised that in conversation between ROBESON, Jr. and BEN DAVIS, Jr., DAVIS inquired if PAUL (ROBESON, Sr.) got away and ROBESON, Jr. said he was going that evening and thought his plane was leaving at 11:00. b1

Passenger lists of flights leaving La Guardia Field and Idlewild International Airport, NYC, for Los Angeles and San Francisco between 9:00 PM and 11:00 PM, 10/15/57, did not reflect subject's name. Subject was not observed boarding any flights during this time, particularly AA and TWA flights leaving Idlewild at 11:00 PM for San Francisco.

Subject's reference to "out there" and leaving in evening and arriving in morning offers possibility that ROBESON's destination was Los Angeles or San Francisco, where he has had singing engagements in past.

RECORDED - 7

- 3 - Bureau (100-12304) (RM)
- 2 - Los Angeles (100-25861) (RM) (AM)
- 2 - San Francisco (RM) (AM)
- 1 - New York (100-95550)
- 1 - New York (100-23825)
- 1 - New York (100-25857)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~DWM:ecb  
Approved: [Signature]

(11)

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

100-12304-422  
[Signature]  
[Stamp: CONTROL]

877

F B I

Date: 10/16/57

Transmit the following message via \_\_\_\_\_

AIRTEL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Los Angeles and San Francisco contact appropriate sources for ROBESON's whereabouts and duration of visit in order to cover activities while away from NYC, and particularly any plans by ROBESON to travel outside US.

E.J. POWERS

- 2 -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

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

88

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)

DATE: 10/18/57

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (100-25857)

SUBJECT: PAUL LEROY ROBESON  
IS - C

Re NYairtel dated 10/16/57.

10/16/57 edition of "Daily Worker" reflects PAUL ROBESON will sing at annual testimonial dinner of LACFPB on October 26 at 6:30 PM, Park Manor, 607 S. Western Avenue, Los Angeles.

- 2 - Bureau (100-12304) (RM)
- 2 - Los Angeles (100-25861) (RM) (AMSD)
- 1 - San Francisco (100- ) (RM) (AMSD)
- 1 - New York (100-25857) (

DWN:ECB  
(6)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 12/30/80 BY SP5 RSK/UM

RECORDED - 1 100-12304-423

EX-137

OCT 21 1957

SUBV. CONTROL

63 OCT 24 1957

89

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)

DATE: 10/29/57

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (100-25857)

CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: PAUL LEROY ROBESON  
IS - CALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

[REDACTED] (c)

[REDACTED] (c)

[REDACTED] (c)

Information from this source, if used in a report, must be most carefully paraphrased in order to protect the source. Under no circumstances should subject or any unauthorized person become aware we have knowledge of the above information. (u)

Submitted for information. (u)

- 2 - Bureau (100-12304) (RM)  
1 - New York (100-25857)  
1 - New York (65-14825-Sub B)  
1 - New York (105-18103)

JGD:msb  
(5)Classified by 2650 yho  
Exempt from GDS, Category 1243  
Date of Declassification Indefinite

RECORDED-42

NOV 1 1957

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 [signature]  
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW 12/30/82

SUBV CONTROL

CONFIDENTIAL

ES [signature]  
100-12304-474  
890

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

~~SECRET~~

Reporting Office <b>NEW YORK</b>	Office of Origin <b>NEW YORK</b>	Date <b>OCT 31 1957</b>	Investigative Period <b>9/18, 19, 20, 23, 27; 10/8, 10, 21, 23/57</b>
TITLE OF CASE  <b>ESLANDA CORDOZO ROBESON, was.</b>		Report made by <b>[REDACTED]</b>	Typed By <b>mxg</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE  <b>SECURITY MATTER - C</b>	

**Synopsis:**

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE.

Subject resides 16 Jumel Terrace, NYC. She is employed by the "New World Review," 23 W. 26th St., NYC, as Editorial Consultant on Negro and Colonial Questions and is the "New World Review" correspondent to the UN. Automobile registered to subject observed at site of the NYC CP Convention, 1/25-27/57. Subject attended funeral of CP leader 6/25/57; was elected as one of two co-chairman of the Committee of Women of the NCASF, 1952; attended NCASF Board of Directors meetings, 1956; was Chairwoman of NCASF Forum, 9/23/57; spoke at TUP meeting, 1/4/57; held one year subscription to "The Worker," 1956. Articles by-lined by subject appeared in April and May, 1957 issues of "Blitz News Magazine," described by [REDACTED] as a pro-Communist Indian newspaper and in May and June, 1957 issues of "New World Review." Subject in contact with Soviet and Satellite establishments in USA, 1956-1957. Informants cognizant of some CP

100  
State  
CIR

67F

Approved <b>EXP/EDM</b>	Special Agent in Charge	Do not write in spaces below	
Copies made:  4-Bureau (100-12304) (RM) 3-New York (100-56680)		<b>100-12304-425</b>	<b>12/30/70</b>
APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP(S) OF [REDACTED] DATE [REDACTED]		CLASS. & EXT. BY <b>SP-5 RSC/CMH</b> REASON-FCIM, II, 1-2.4.2 <b>2</b> DATE OF REVIEW <b>12/30/70</b> <b>16 NOV</b>	REC'D

AGENCY  
REQ. REC'D  
DATE FORW. **11-27-57**  
HOW FORW. **BY**  
~~SECRET~~



~~SECRET~~

NY 100-56680

activity in NY area report no recent or additional information re subject.

- C -

DETAILS:

I. BACKGROUND

A. Residence

In August and September, 1957, [REDACTED] furnished information which reflected that during that time ESLANDA ROBESON resided at 16 Jumel Terrace, New York City.

B. Employment

On September 30, 1957, [REDACTED] made available the October, 1957 issue of "New World Review." This issue listed ESLANDA ROBESON as "Editorial Consultant on Negro and Colonial Questions and United Nations Correspondent."

On October 8, 1957, [REDACTED] advised that ESLANDA ROBESON was, at that time, an accredited correspondent to the United Nations at New York City for the publication, "New World Review," located at 23 West 26th Street, New York City. [REDACTED] stated the subject's accreditation expires on January 14, 1958.

II. AFFILIATION WITH THE COMMUNIST MOVEMENT

A. Evidence of Communist Party (CP) Sympathies

On March 13, 1957, the records of the [REDACTED]

-2-

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~~SECRET~~

[REDACTED] were checked by SA [REDACTED] These records reflected that during the New York State CP Convention held at Chateau Gardens, New York City, from January 25 to January 27, 1957, an automobile bearing New York 1957 license 9-C-6080 was observed receiving or discharging passengers at Chateau Gardens. b7C/b7D

These records further reflected that the above automobile was a 1950 grey Oldsmobile registered to ESLANDA GOODS-ROBESON, 408 West 128th Street, New York City.

On [REDACTED] advised that on June 25, 1957, funeral services for JAMES W. FORD, described by [REDACTED] as a deceased CP leader and organizer, were held at the Renaissance Casino, 138th Street and Seventh Avenue. According to [REDACTED] the subject was one of many persons who attended and delivered eulogies concerning FORD. b7D

On [REDACTED] furnished substantially the same information set forth above regarding subject's attendance at the funeral for JAMES W. FORD on June 25, 1957.

B. Evidence of Membership in or Sympathies  
With CP Front Organizations

The National Committee for American-Soviet Friendship (NCASF).

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

On [REDACTED] furnished information which reflected that approximately one week

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NY 100-56680

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prior to December 9, 1952, ESLANDA GOODE ROBESON had been elected "one of two national co-chairman of the Committee of Women of the NCASF."

On [REDACTED] furnished material which reflected that ESLANDA ROBESON had attended meetings of the Board of Directors of the NCASF on July 26, 1956, and September 20, 1956. [REDACTED] further made available information which reflected that during the meeting on July 26, 1956, the subject was appointed to a committee of three persons who were to make recommendations concerning the appointment of a new National Chairman of the NCASF.

"The Worker" issue of September 15, 1957, page 11, columns one and two, contains an advertisement for a lecture on travel in the Soviet Union to be held on September 23, 1957, at Adelphi Hall, 74 Fifth Avenue, New York City. This advertisement noted that chairman for the evening would be ESLANDA ROBESON and the affair would be sponsored by the Committee of Women of the NCASF.

"The Worker" is the Sunday edition of the "Daily Worker", an Eastcoast Communist newspaper.

On [REDACTED] advised that on September 23, 1957, a Forum of the NCASF was held at Adelphi Hall, 74 Fifth Avenue, New York City, at which a report on a recent visit to the Soviet Union was presented. [REDACTED] advised that ESLANDA ROBESON acted as Chairwoman of the Forum and at the end of the meeting commented on her own travels in the Soviet Union in 1950.

~~X~~

94

NY 100-56680

~~SECRET~~

Teachers Union of Philadelphia (TUP)

On [REDACTED] advised that on January 4, 1957, the subject delivered a lecture before a meeting of the TUP held at the Benjamin Franklin Hotel, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. According to [REDACTED] the subject spoke of her work as a correspondent to the United Nations, then continued with the main topic of her lecture, namely, the role of Africa in current world affairs. The subject pointed out that Africa constitutes the last great land mass under the domination of the colonial powers and its struggling millions would, by sheer weight of numbers, inevitably disintegrate this domination. According to [REDACTED] the subject compared the Soviet actions in Hungary to the British action in Kenya, and asked how could the Soviets be censored for their actions and not the British?

On [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] respectively, furnished essentially the same information relative to subject's lecture at the TUP meeting on January 4, 1957 as set forth above.

C. Miscellaneous Activities

On March 5, 1957, [REDACTED] furnished information which reflected that Mrs. E. G. ROBESON, 408 West 128th Street, New York City, held a one year subscription to "The Worker," which subscription was scheduled to expire on February 27, 1956. According to this information, it was indicated the subscription had been renewed after expiration.

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95

NY 100-56680

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

On May 10, 1957, [REDACTED] made available the May, 1957 issue of "New World Review." This issue on page nine contained an article entitled, "The Changing Face of the UN," by-lined ESLANDA ROBESON. The article concerns the physical make-up of the Eleventh Session of the UN General Assembly and points out that while more darker Nations are now represented the Western powers try to avoid this obvious fact. The article states that domination of the UN by the West is gradually losing ground since it has been challenged by Nations like Russia, India, China and the New Africa.

On June 12, 1957, [REDACTED] made available the June, 1957 issue of "New World Review." This issue on page 15 contained an article entitled, "China and the UN," by-lined ESLANDA ROBESON. This article supports the admission of the Peoples Republic of China into the UN and covers various legal measures practiced in the past by both the East and the West on the China question.

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96



NY 100-56680

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D. Contacts With Soviet and Satellite Establishments  
In the United States

[REDACTED] (S)

[REDACTED] (S)

[REDACTED] (S)

In [REDACTED] furnished information which reflected subject was among persons invited to attend a dinner at the residence of PETAR VOJTCOV, Bulgarian Ambassador, at 22 East 73rd Street, New York City on March 13, 1957.

In April, 1957, [REDACTED] furnished information which reflected arrangements had been made for ESLANDA ROBESON to visit the Soviet UN Delegation in New York City on April 9, 1957.

On [REDACTED] advised that ESLANDA ROBESON and her husband had had lunch with two or more Soviets in the Delegate's Dining Room of the UN Secretariat, New York City, on several occasions in July, 1957.

III. MISCELLANEOUS

Informants cognizant of some Communist Party activity in the New York area were contacted during September and October, 1957, relative to subject and could furnish no recent or additional information concerning her.

~~SECRET~~

97

NY 100-56680

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

APPENDIX PAGE

NEW WORLD REVIEW

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

(Internal Security Subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Handbook for Americans, S. Doc. 117, April 23, 1956, p. 76.)

THE TEACHERS UNION OF PHILADELPHIA

On [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] an informant advised that the TUP had become a weak organization and stated the group at that time was seeking to re-organize under more favorable conditions. This informant further stated the leadership of the TUP continued to be comprised of CP members and sympathizers.

b7D

-8-

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

96

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)

DATE: OCT 31 1957

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (100-56680)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SUBJECT: ESLANDA CORDOZO ROBESON, was.  
SM - C

Enclosed herewith is an original and three copies of the report of SA [REDACTED] and Reliability Memorandum, dated and captioned as above.

## INFORMANTS

Identity of Source	Date of Activity And/or Description of Information	Date Received	Agent to whom Furnished	File No. where Located
T-1	[REDACTED]			
T-2	[REDACTED]			100-6393-1A 100-6393-1A-416 100-6393-1A-415
T-3	[REDACTED]			Instant report
(Request)	[REDACTED]			
T-4	[REDACTED]			
T-5	[REDACTED]			
T-6	[REDACTED]			100-7518-4798

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

BPM:mxg  
(5)

CLASS. & EXT. BY  
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW

RECORDED 61 12/30/60 NOV 1 1957

63 NOV 19 1957

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SUBV. CONTROL

99

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-56680

<u>Identity of Source</u>	<u>Date of Activity And/or Description of Information</u>	<u>Date Received</u>	<u>Agent to whom Furnished</u>	<u>File No. where Located</u>
T-6 [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]			100-7518-4709
T-7 [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]			100-56680-458
T-8 [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]			100-56680-419
T-9 [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]			100-56680-420
T-10 [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]			100-56680-422
T-11 [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]			100-56680
T-11 [REDACTED] USPO, NYC (Request)	[REDACTED]			100-56680-435
T-12 [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]			100-56680-410
T-13 [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]			100-56680-412

b1  
b7C  
b7D

-2-

100-12804-426

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

100

CONFIDENTIAL

NY 100-56680

<u>Identity of Source</u>	<u>Date of Activity and/or Description of Information</u>	<u>Date Received</u>	<u>Agent to whom Furnished</u>	<u>File No. where Located</u>
T-14- [REDACTED] c				
T-15- [REDACTED] c				
T-16- [REDACTED] c				
T-17 [REDACTED] c				

b1

Careful consideration has been given to each source concealed and T symbols were utilized only in those instances where the identity of the sources must be concealed.

Informants cognizant of some CP activity contacted relative to the subject during September and October, 1957, are as follows:

<u>Informant</u>	<u>Date of Contact</u>	<u>Agent</u>	<u>Location</u>
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	SA [REDACTED]	Instant repo
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	SA [REDACTED]	Instant repo
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	SA [REDACTED]	" b1
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	SA [REDACTED]	" b7C
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	SA [REDACTED]	" b7D
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	SA [REDACTED]	"
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	SA [REDACTED]	"

Informant used to document the TUP in the Appendix Section of referenced report was [REDACTED]

b7D

CONFIDENTIAL

101



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-56680

ADMINISTRATIVE

The subject is carried on the SI and her SI cards are current and accurate.

This case has been reviewed in the light of SI criteria and still fits those criteria, inasmuch as subject continues in a leadership capacity of the NCASF.

A suitable photograph of the subject is available to the NYO.

Subject's husband, PAUL Le ROY ROBESON is a key figure of the NYO.

This report is being classified "Secret", inasmuch as it contains information which, if disclosed, would be injurious to national defense and inasmuch as it contains information received from [REDACTED] b7D

REFERENCE

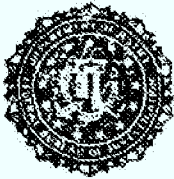
Report of SA [REDACTED] dated 11/28/56, at NYC. b7C

-C-

-4-

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

102



United States Department of Justice  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

New York, New York  
October 31, 1957

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Re: Eslanda Cordozo Robeson, with aliases  
SM - C

Reference is made to the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated and captioned as above at New York. The following is the evaluation of informants contained therein:

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] have furnished reliable information in the past.

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were in a position to furnish reliable information.

[REDACTED] is [REDACTED]

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

12/31/80  
CLASS. & EXT. BY: SP-5 RSC/p/m  
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW 12/30/75

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

07/6 04 07/10  
AGENCY [REDACTED]  
REQ. REC'D [REDACTED]  
DATE FORW. 11-27-87  
HOW FORW. [REDACTED]  
BY [REDACTED]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ENCLOSURE

NOT RECORDED  
10 NOV 25 1957

102



United States Department of Justice  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
New York, New York  
OCT 31 1957

Re: Eslanda Cordozo Robeson, with aliases  
SM - C

Reference is made to the report of  
Special Agent [REDACTED] dated and  
captioned as above at New York. The following is  
the evaluation of informants contained therein:

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] have furnished reliable information in  
the past. b7C

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED]  
were in a position to furnish reliable information. b7D

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

0-7 to NY 11/8/57 ac  
Investigation of [REDACTED] b7D

HOLD DISSEM/ADDITION  
READING ROOM

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 12/30/80 BY SP-5 RSC/CL

12322  
ENCLOSURE

104

Routing Slip  
FD-4 (Rev. 6-14-56)

Date 10/31/57

To

☒ Director RM

FILE # NY 100-56680

Att. ....

☐ SAC .....

Title ESLANDA CORDOZO ROBESON, was  
SM - C  
(Bufile 100-12304)

☐ ASAC .....

☐ Supv. ....

☐ Agent .....

☐ SE .....

☐ CC .....

☐ Steno .....

☐ Clerk .....

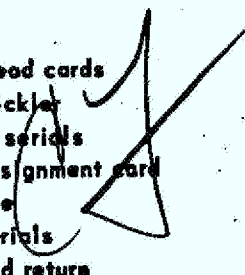
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 12/30/80 BY SP5 RSC/ltm

### ACTION DESIRED

- ☐ Acknowledge
- ☐ Assign ..... Reassign .....
- ☐ Bring file
- ☐ Call me
- ☐ Correct
- ☐ Deadline .....
- ☐ Deadline passed
- ☐ Delinquent
- ☐ Expedite
- ☐ File
- ☐ Initial & return
- ☐ Leads need attention
- ☐ Open Case
- ☐ Return with explanation or notation as to action taken.

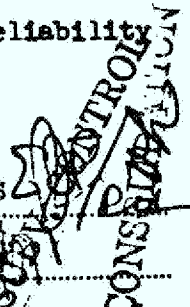
- ☐ Prepare lead cards
- ☐ Prepare tickler
- ☐ Recharge serials
- ☐ Return assignment card
- ☐ Return file
- ☐ Return serials
- ☐ Search and return
- ☐ See me
- ☐ Send Serials .....
- to .....
- ☐ Submit new charge-out
- ☐ Submit report by .....
- ☐ Type

Re Bureau Form 0-17 dated 11/18/57.

Attached are four copies of amended reliability memorandum dated 10/31/57 at New York. 

  
☐ See reverse side

SAC E. J. POWERS  
Office NEW YORK



XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET3

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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- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☒ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) Department of the Navy, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

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

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

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

☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

FBI Headquarters File 100-12304-427

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 X FOR THIS PAGE X  
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106  
FBI/DOJ



F B I

Date: 11/5/57

Transmit the following message via \_\_\_\_\_

AIRTEL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Boardman	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Mr. Parsons	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tamm	_____
Mr. Clayton	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Holloman	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (100-25857)

SUBJECT: PAUL LE ROY ROBESON  
IS - C

ReNYairtel 10/16/57. On 11/4/57 [redacted] advised that PAUL ROBESON would return to New York on 11/5/57 or 11/6/57, would stay one day, and then depart for Washington, D. C.

On this same date, [redacted] advised that on 11/4/57 ESLANDA ROBESON, subject's wife, was in contact with MARILYN ROBESON, subject's daughter-in-law, and informed her subject had returned to New York. ESLANDA stated she and subject would go to Washington, D. C., on Thursday (11/7/57) and, further, subject would take part in "the thing on Sunday" (11/9/57). In connection with this, ESLANDA instructed MARILYN not to mention it to anyone. MARILYN inquired if ROBESON was going "back" (to Los Angeles) to which ESLANDA stated he would return there near the end of the month.

With regard to subject's trip to Washington, D. C., on 11/7/57, it is pointed out that this date is the anniversary of the 40th founding of the USSR and ROBESON may, as he has done in the past, attend a celebration of this event at the Soviet Embassy in that city.

With regard to "the thing on Sunday" mentioned above, it is noted that "The Worker" issue of 11/3/57, page 10, col. 1 & 2, contained an advertisement for an "Annual Rally for Peace" to be held at 8:00 p.m., Sunday, 11/9/57, at Carnegie Hall, NYC, under the auspices of the NCASF. This advertisement stated the rally will be held to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the founding of the Soviet State and the 24th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between the US and the USSR. It further announced that a musical program will be presented and the rally will be attended by the Cultural Attache of the USSR Embassy.

- 3 - BUREAU (100-12304) RM  
1 - LOS ANGELES (100-25861) RM (INFO)  
1 - WASHINGTON FIELD RM (INFO)  
1 - NEW YORK (100-56680) (ESLANDA ROBESON)  
1 - NEW YORK (100-107582) [redacted]  
1 - NEW YORK (100-25857)

BPM:EMD, #12-16  
(8)

RECORDED-45

POWERS

100-12304-428

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CLASS. &amp; EXT. BY 525 RECD CONTROL

REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.22 SUBV

DATE OF REVIEW 12/30/90

Approved: [Signature] Special Agent in Charge

Sent [ ] M Per [ ]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 11-13-83 BY [ ]

EX-100-12304-428

100-12304-428

Approved: [Signature]

Special Agent in Charge

Sent [ ] M Per [ ]

107

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)

DATE: 11/6/57

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (100-25857)

SUBJECT: PAUL LEROY ROBESON  
IS - C

[REDACTED] (c)

[REDACTED] (c)

Information from this source, if used in a report, must be most carefully paraphrased in order to protect the source. Under no circumstances should subject or any unauthorized person become aware we have knowledge of above information. (u)

Submitted for information. (u)

- 2 - Bureau (100-12304) (RM)
- 1 - New York 65-14825-Sub B
- 1 - New York 100-25857

JGD:msb  
(4)

Classified by 2650 YEP  
Exempt from GDS, Category 2+3  
Date of Declassification Indefinite  
MAY 23 1977

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 RSC/CLM  
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2 2, 3  
DATE OF REVIEW 12/31/96

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

RECORDED - 61  
INDEXED - 61

20 NOV 12 1957

SUBV CONTROL

CONFIDENTIAL

108

OFFICE MEMORANDUM UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)

DATE: 11/14/57

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (100-25857)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SUBJECT: PAUL LE ROY ROBESON, was.,  
IS-C

Reference is made to NY Airtel dated 11/5/57.

On 11/6/57, [REDACTED] advised that on that date captioned subject was in contact with his son, PAUL ROBESON, JR. Subject discussed his recent tour of California and commented on various plans for the future.

[REDACTED] advised subject stated that the one important thing to him is that the ministers in the Bay area - San Francisco and Oakland - have a pattern of banding together and this includes minister's councils, Baptist Alliance and interdenominational groups. These people, ROBESON stated, are working to obtain an auditorium for him. He pointed out that during his recent tour he obtained an auditorium in Stockton, California. He also sang in a school and in Sacramento, California, he sang for a minister's union in a Baptist Church.

Subject stated everybody attended his Sacramento concert including the critics from the city's two newspapers. Following the program, these critics came to the stage, greeted ROBESON, and led him to believe they are now behind him in his efforts to obtain an auditorium in Sacramento.

Subject commented he was extremely well received in California and expected to return there near the end of November, 1957. ROBESON stated that GOODRICH (ph) had set things up in Omaha, Nebraska and he, the subject, will stop in Omaha on his way to California later this month. ROBESON stated he expects to keep busy in California where in Los Angeles he has been so well received by SWITCHMAN's (ph) Church and the American Committee For Protection of Foreign Born. His new burst of activity has given him a chance to "shift" around both on the East and West Coast.

COPIES:

RECORDED - 20

100-12304-430

- 3-Bureau (100-12304) (RM) (Encls. 5)
- 2-Los Angeles (100-25861) (RM)
- 2-San Francisco (100- ) (RM)
- 1-Omaha (INFO.) (RM)
- 1-New York (100-25857)
- 1-New York (100-25857)

NOV 15 1957

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

7 2 NOV 26 1957

BPM:edg  
(10)

ENCLOSURE

AGENCY  
REQ. REC'D  
DATE FORW.  
HOW FORW.

EX-13A  
SUBV. CONTROL

V.D. H. [Signature]  
109

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 RSC/clm  
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW 12/30/94

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-25857

In connection with this, he expects to "shift" from California to Mexico City where he will do special performances for the "Mexican Community", described by ROBESON as a very progressive section.

ROBESON stated ~~many~~ of the ministers (in California) have a radio program and on his return have offered him one hour on Sunday morning to sing before a large radio audience. He further stated there is an FM radio station in Berkeley California, which is musically important. He has been interviewed by station officials, and, according to subject, he can go there to sing any Saturday night he feels like it.

Enclosed herewith is an original and four copies of a blank memorandum in the event the Bureau desires to disseminate the information re subject's trip to Mexico City as furnished by [REDACTED] C b1

Los Angeles and San Francisco Divisions should be alert for any indications subject will depart California for Mexico in the near future. Any indications that subject intends to leave or is leaving the United States should immediately be furnished the Bureau.

A copy of this memorandum is being furnished the Omaha Division for purposes of information inasmuch as subject has indicated he will stop in Omaha on his way to California in the latter part of November, 1957.

- 2 -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

110





United States Department of Justice  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
New York, New York  
November 14, 1957

Re: Paul Le Roy Robeson, with aliases.

A source, which has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that on November 8, 1957, Paul Robeson, then in New York City, indicated he would return to California near the end of November, 1957. This source stated Robeson was highly pleased with the recent success of his California concert tour. Robeson indicated that sometime following his return to California, he intended to "shift" to Mexico City where he will do special performances. Source was unable to furnish any additional information re subject's contemplated trip to Mexico.

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

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 12/20/80 BY SP5 RSC/6/12

0-6 0-144 0-146  
AGENCY RAN, CIA, State  
REQ. REC'D  
TE FORM. 11-22-57  
W FORM. 11-22-57  
BY 13R-1111

AGENCY NY Legal Aid City  
REQ. REC'D  
DATE FORM. 11-22-57  
HOW FORM. 11-22-57  
BY 13R-1111

100-12304-430  
ENCLOSURE



**AIRTEL**

INDEXED 73

FBI

Date: 11/26/57

Transmit the following in

**CONFIDENTIAL**

(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL**AIR MAIL - REGISTERED**

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Boardman  
Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Nease  
Mr. Parsons  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Trotter  
Mr. Tele. Room  
Miss Gandy

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES  
RE: PAUL ROBESON  
IS - C

*Chalk*  
[redacted] advised 11/26/57 that JOHN HOWARD LAWSON on 11/20/57 at 800 South Plymouth Boulevard, Los Angeles, in a lecture series on American Culture under his own auspices, stated he has written a play and has discussed it with PAUL ROBESON, having in mind ROBESON playing the lead. This they decided would have to be played for a select audience and ROBESON feels it is not worth the effort.

*2\**  
LAWSON has been identified by numerous former members of the Communist Party (CP) during course of sworn testimonies for House Committee on Un-American Activities as having been a key figure in the CP apparatus in motion picture industry during 1940s.

- ④ Bureau  
(3 - 100-12304) (PAUL ROBESON)  
(1 - 100-370750) [redacted]  
2 - New York  
(1 - 100-25857) (PAUL ROBESON)  
(1 - 100-80918) [redacted]  
3 - Los Angeles  
(1 - 100-25861) (PAUL ROBESON)  
(1 - 100-21198) [redacted]  
(1 - 100-15732) (COMPTON)

TWC:BLH

(9)

**AIRTEL****CONFIDENTIAL**

RECORDED - 73

INDEXED - 73

SUBV. CONTROL

REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW 12/30/90

Approved: *[Signature]*

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

M

Per

OTHERWISE

55 DEC 5 1957

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN

LA 100-25861

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

on 5/22/56, advised SA [REDACTED] that on [REDACTED] attended a special committee meeting of CP members at [REDACTED]. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the formation of a CP educational apparatus in the Los Angeles area.

Above information is furnished as possible indication of ROBESON's defection from CP cause.

*Responsible fails to  
reflect any evidence  
of personal defection  
CP*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET4

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- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☒ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) Department of the Navy, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

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

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

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FBI Headquarters file 100-12304 - Not Recorded (Stamp dated 1-17-58)

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 X FOR THIS PAGE X  
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DIRECTOR, FBI (100-399388)

12/9/57

SAC, NEW YORK (100-95550)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

IS - C

On 12/6/57, [REDACTED] advised that on that date, b1  
[REDACTED], who identified himself as from Ebony  
magazine, contacted [REDACTED] concerning an article  
[REDACTED] was doing. [REDACTED] advised [REDACTED] he had some  
questions to ask him and they agreed to meet on 12/7/57  
at ROBESON'S residence. b7c

On 12/7/57, [REDACTED] advised that in a conversation b1  
between the [REDACTED] and an unidentified female on that  
date, [REDACTED] mentioned she couldn't talk to the  
female earlier because a reporter from "Ebony" was at the  
ROBESON residence taking pictures of "PAUL".

It is believed above-mentioned article in "Ebony"  
may possibly pertain to [REDACTED] PAUL LEROY ROBESON.  
and above is furnished for the information of the Bureau,  
in the event this article materializes.

- 3 - Bureau (100-399388) (RM)
- (1) - 100-12304
- 1 - New York (100-25857)
- 1 - New York (100-95550)

DWW:ecb  
(5)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 [REDACTED] 12/30/90  
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW 12/30/90

100-12304-1  
NOT RECORDED  
29 DEC 11 1957

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EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

76 DEC 13 1957

ORIGINAL FILED IN

115

FBI

Date: 11/26/57

Transmit the following message via \_\_\_\_\_

AIRTEL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (100-25857)

SUBJECT: PAUL LE ROY ROBERSON, was  
IS - C

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Boardman	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Mr. Parsons	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tamm	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Mr. Clayton	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Holloman	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

ReNYlet to Bureau dated 11/14/57.

On 11/25/57, [REDACTED] furnished information which indicated subject departed from New York via airline boarded at Idlewild International Airport, NYC, at approximately 11:00 p.m. on 11/25/57. Informant was unable to furnish any additional details of subject's trip. However, it is believed that subject is on his way to California. Copies are being furnished to interested field divisions for their information.

POWERS

- 3 - BUREAU (100-12304) RM  
 1 - OMAHA (INFO) RM AM  
 1 - SAN FRANCISCO (INFO) RM AM  
 1 - LOS ANGELES (100-25861) (INFO) RM AM  
 1 - NEW YORK (100-25857)

BPM:EMD, #12-16  
(7)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
 OTHERWISE  
 12/30/80

CLASS & EXT. BY SP-5 RSG/KUM  
 REASON FOR EXT. 1-2.4.2  
 DATE OF REVIEW 12/30/90

RECORDED - 53

EX - 132

SUB CONTROL

NOV 27 1957

Approved: E. J. [Signature]  
 64 DEC 5 1957 Special Agent in Charge

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



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XXXXXX  
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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- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
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\_\_\_\_\_ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

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FBI Headquarters file 100-12304-433

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DIRECTOR, FBI (100-3)

12/13/57

SAC, NEW YORK (100-4931)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

COMMUNIST PARTY, USA  
IS-C

ReBulet 11/26/57.

The possibility exists that PAUL ROBESON is the individual to whom [redacted] was referring as one contemplating defecting from the CP. This possibility is pointed up by the following data disclosed by a review of information in the NY file entitled: PAUL LEROY ROBESON:

On 6/6/57, [redacted]

[redacted] appeared in the NYO [redacted] stated he believed ROBESON could help himself and his people by cooperating with the U.S. government. [redacted]

b7C  
b7D

By letter dated 6/18/57 the Bureau instructed that no further contact be initiated with [redacted]. The Bureau pointed out, however, if ROBESON should contact the NYO he be accorded an appropriate interview. To date, ROBESON has made no contact with the NYO.

On 10/30/57, [redacted] advised SA [redacted] that on 10/27/57 he heard PAUL ROBESON speak at the Unitarian Church. From his comments [redacted] stated he believed a change seemed to be taking place in the thinking of ROBESON. He pointed out that he had heard that many old-time Negroes in the CP are dropping out because of disillusion.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

- 2 - Bureau (100-3)(RM)
- 1 - New York 100-25857 (PAUL ROBESON)(12-16)
- 1 - New York 100-4931 (19-1)

JVK:HC  
(4)

100-12304

12/30/57

SP-5 156/241

12/30/57

118

Letter to Director  
NY 100-4931

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

On [redacted] advised that on [redacted] a meeting of [redacted] "People's World" was held at [redacted]. During this meeting [redacted] delivered a report on the "PW" Workshop Committee. She stated she had written Mrs. PAUL ROBESON several times to get PAUL ROBESON for speaking engagements while in California. When no reply was received [redacted] telephoned Mrs. ROBESON who told her to contact PAUL ROBESON while he was in Los Angeles. She did and PAUL told her that he had been identified with the "left" for the past ten years or more and has decided not to be identified with the "left" any longer. He said that on the advice of Negro leaders it was decided to no longer continue his activities in "left" organizations. He stated neither he nor Mrs. ROBESON will appear for affairs sponsored strictly by the "left".

b1  
b7C  
b7D

On 11/8/57, [redacted] advised that on 11/1/57 a reception honoring PAUL ROBESON was held at 236 East 102nd St., Los Angeles, California. According to [redacted] during his speech ROBESON stated that BEN DAVIS, a great friend of his, got into the wrong channel in joining the CP resulting in his being sent to jail. ROBESON stated they were still great friends because every man has a right to his own political thinking.

As a matter of information [redacted] has furnished information on a continuing basis as to activities of [redacted]

[redacted] This informant also furnishes information re subject and his wife, ESLANDA ROBESON. No information has been received from [redacted] to indicate in any way that ROBESON is contemplating or intends to defect from his association with the Communist movement.

[redacted] has furnished continuing information on the activities of BENJAMIN J. DAVIS, JR., CP leader and close friend of ROBESON. No information has been received from this source to indicate in any way that ROBESON intends to defect.

It is further noted that as late as 9/23/57, an article entitled: "Robeson Urges Gov't Defend Constitution Against Racists" by PAUL ROBESON appeared in the "Daily Worker" of that date, page 5, column 2.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
- 2 -

119

Letter to Director  
NY 100-4931

Notwithstanding the foregoing indications of withdrawal from association with the CP, it is believed that the Bureau's instructions of 6/18/57 should be continued in effect with reference to ROBESON. It may be noted that ROBESON is still seeking issuance of a passport and an approach to him might be used to attempt to further his cause.

- 3 -

CONFIDENTIAL

120

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)

DATE: 12/26/57

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (100-25857)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~SUBJECT: PAUL LE ROY ROBESON, was.,  
IS - C

Reference is made to NY Airtel dated 11/26/57 reflecting information that captioned subject departed NY for California on 11/25/57.

On 12/5/57 [redacted] (Conceal) furnished information which indicated that subject intended to return to New York on or about 12/8/57. On 12/9/57 this same informant advised subject had returned to New York and would remain in New York until his next concert in California at the end of January (1958). Informant also stated ROBESON indicated he would like to go to the West Indies but the trip was still in the planning stages. b1

On 12/17/57 [redacted] (Conceal) advised that on that date subject was still in New York City. b1

Copies of this memorandum are being furnished to Los Angeles and San Francisco for information in view of their interest re subject. E

RECORDED-66

2-Bureau (100-12304) (RM)  
1-Los Angeles (100-25861) (Info.) (RM)  
1-San Francisco (Info.) (RM)  
1-New York (100-25857)

15 DEC 27 1957

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

BPM:  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

57 JAN 3 1958

CLASS. & EXT.  
REASON: 1  
DATE OF REVIEW

12/31/80  
SP-5 RSC/CLW

12/31/90

SUBV. CONTROL

121



# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>SAN FRANCISCO</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>NEW YORK</b>	DATE <b>12/19/57</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>12/12,13/57</b>
TITLE OF CASE  <b>PAUL LEROY ROBESON</b>		REPORT MADE BY <b>SA [REDACTED] b7C</b>	TYPED BY <b>lps</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE  <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - C</b>	

SYNOPSIS:

Arrangements for subject's concerts in Sacramento, California, on 10/25/57 reported to have been arranged by NEWELL JOHNSON, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Concerts given by ROBESON on 10/18/57 in Oakland, California, and 10/25/57 in Sacramento, California. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ROBESON's concert tour was being made to determine if ROBESON had enough political following or could secure enough backing to attempt to take over the NAACP on a national scale.

DECLASSIFIED BY **2650 YAO**  
MAY 23 1977

- RUC -

CLASS. & EXT. BY **SP-5 RSC/cmn**  
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW **12/31/90**

APPROVED  <b>[Signature]</b>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW	
COPIES MADE: 4- Bureau (100-2304) (REG) 3- New York (100-25857) 2- San Francisco (100-6907)		<b>100</b>	<b>12304-435</b>
APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP(S) OF DATE <b>12-23-57</b>		<b>DEC 26 1957</b>	<b>RECORDED-92</b>
6-5 JAN 8 1958		<b>EX-131</b>	
<b>CONFIDENTIAL</b>		<b>CONTROL</b>	
PROPERTY OF FBI—This report is loaned to you by the FBI, and neither the report nor its contents are to be distributed outside the agency to which loaned.		AGENCY <b>San, State, &amp; 8</b> REQ. REC'D DATE FORW. <b>1-14-58</b> HOW FORW. <b>15</b> BY <b>[Signature]</b>	

SF:100-6907  
DAM-lps

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DETAILS

[REDACTED] advised on [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] NEWELL JOHNSON  
of Berkeley, California, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
arranging for a concert to be given by PAUL ROBESON at  
the St. Paul's Baptist Church, 12th Avenue and 40th Street,  
Sacramento, California, under the sponsorship of the Negro  
Baptist Ministers Alliance of Sacramento, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
he felt the Communist Party (CP) members were morally  
weak and the CP was not capable of bringing about any  
constructive changes for society.

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

On September 16, 1957, [REDACTED] advised that BEN  
DAVIS, identified by [REDACTED] as a member of the Sacramento  
County Communist Party, stated when advised of the  
forthcoming ROBESON concert, that he and other CP  
members would support the concert 100% and he and other  
CP members would assist in arrangements if called upon  
to do so in any way.

San Francisco [REDACTED] advised on October 8, 1957,  
that at a meeting of the [REDACTED] Communist  
Party Committee held on [REDACTED] at [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED], it was announced  
that a Communist Party sponsored symposium scheduled  
for October 18, 1957, had been postponed as PAUL  
ROBESON was in town for a concert on that date.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SF:100-6907  
DAM-lps

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

On October 21, 1957, San Francisco [redacted] advised that he attended the concert given by ROBESON at the Saint's Rest Baptist Church, 2723 San Pablo Avenue, Oakland, California, on October 18, 1957. [redacted] advised that after the recital which consisted in the main of religious songs, ROBESON spoke of his travel abroad stating that the Western nations must awake to the fact that the world is about two-thirds colored and the yellow, brown, and black races are not going to sit back and be mistreated any longer. ROBESON stated that these races want the full freedom and rights they are entitled to, no less and no more.

On [redacted] [redacted] advised that he attended the concert given by ROBESON on October 25, 1957, at St. Paul's Baptist Church, 12th Avenue and 40th Street, Sacramento, California. [redacted]

[redacted] the primary purpose of ROBESON's concert tour was to determine if ROBESON had enough political following to attempt to take over the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) on a national scale. [redacted] ROBESON felt that he must have the backing of Negro religious leaders before he could make such an attempt.

[redacted] advised that it was contemplated that ROBESON would return in the Spring of 1958 for another tour.

- RUC -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)

DATE: December 19, 1957

FROM : SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (100-6907)

SUBJECT: PAUL LEROY ROBESON  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Re report of SA [REDACTED] dated 12/19/57 at San Francisco, four copies of which are being forwarded as enclosure to this letter, along with four copies of a letterhead memorandum commenting on the reliability of informants utilized in this report.

Careful consideration has been given to each source concealed and T symbols were used only in those cases where the identity of the source must be concealed.

This report is classified confidential because it contains information, which if disclosed, could injure the national defense of the United States.

SOURCES

Identity of Source	Date of Activity And/or Description of Information	File Number Where Located
--------------------	--	---------------------------

SP T-1:

100-6907-145

100-6907-145

SP T-2:

- 2- Bureau (ENCLS 8) (REG)  
3- New York (ENCLS 6) (REG)  
2- San Francisco (100-6907)

DAM-lps #11  
(7)

DEC 26 1957

RECORDED-92

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SUBV CONTROL

68 JAN 8 1958

EX-131

EX-131

125

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)  
FROM: SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (100-6907)  
SUBJECT: PAUL LEROY ROBESON  
IS - C

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

<u>Identity of Source</u>	<u>Date of Activity And/or Description of Information</u>	<u>File Number Where Located</u>
-------------------------------	---	--------------------------------------

SF T-3:

REFERENCE

New York airtel dated 10/16/57.

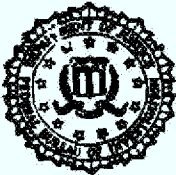
- 2 -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

b1

126





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No. 100-6907

San Francisco, California  
December 19, 1957

All informants used in the report of SA [REDACTED] b7c  
[REDACTED] dated 12/19/57 at San Francisco, entitled  
"PAUL LEROY ROBESON, INTERNAL SECURITY - C", have  
furnished reliable information in the past.

ALL INFORMATION  
HEREIN  
DATE 12/31/80

SP5 REGUM

PROPERTY OF FBI-- This memorandum is loaned to you by  
the FBI, and neither it nor its contents are to be  
distributed outside the agency to which loaned.

AGENCY

REQ. REC'D

DATE FORW.

HOW FORW.

BY

0-6 0-14b 0-14p  
Lab State, CIA  
1-14-58  
[Signature]

100-12304-4-1-  
ENCLOSURE

127

F B I

Date: 12/26/57

Transmit the following message ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

AIRTEL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

CLASS. &amp; EXT.

REASON-FCIM

DATE OF REVIEW 12/31/90

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

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
 OTHERWISE

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

- 3- Bureau (100-12304) (RM)  
 1- New York 65-14825 Sub B  
 1- New York 100-25857

JGD:pcs  
 (6)

RECORDED - 37

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

EX-131

Approved: *Edward J. Powers*

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

M

Per

SUBV CONTROL

b1

100-12304-437

128

Classified by 2650 YLR 203  
 Exempt from GDS, Category 2  
 Date of Declassification Indefinite

MAY 23 1977

F B I

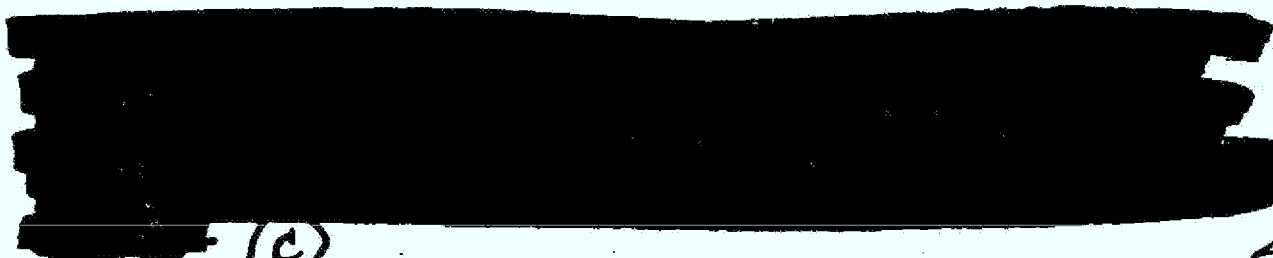

Date: 

Transmit the following message via \_\_\_\_\_

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

NY 100-25857

  b1

(c)  
Information from this source if used in a report must be most carefully paraphrased in order to protect the source. Under no circumstances should the subject or any unauthorized person become aware that we have knowledge of the above information. (u)

Submitted for information. (u)

- 2 -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_

M

Per \_\_\_\_\_

129

F B I

Date: 12/30/37

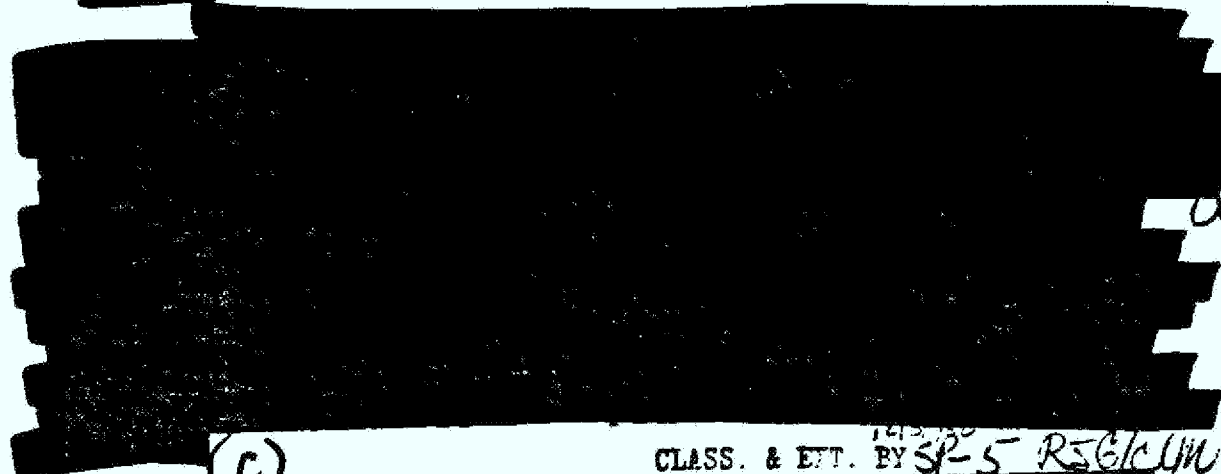
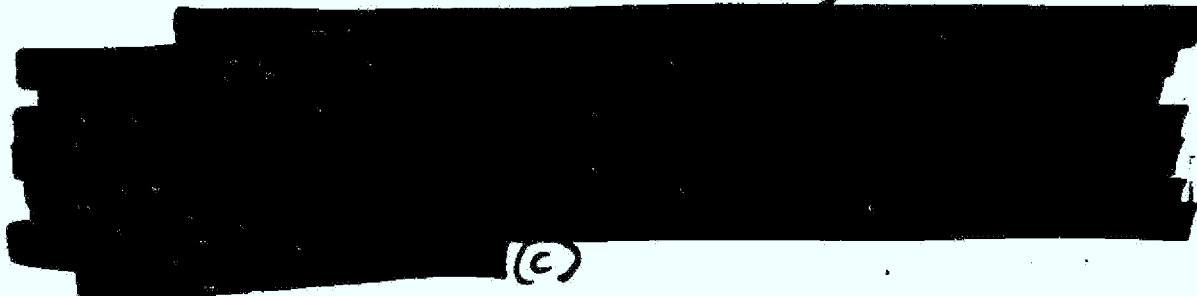
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
AIRTEL

Transmit the following message via \_\_\_\_\_

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)

FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (100 25857)

SUBJECT: PAUL LEROY ROBESON  
IS-CALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISECLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 RSG/CM  
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2 2+3  
DATE OF REVIEW 12/31/90

- (3) - Bureau (100-12304) (RM)  
 1 - New York (65-14825 Sub B)  
 1 - New York (100-25857)

JGD:axm #17

(6)

RECORDED - 48

EX-135

100-12304-438

Classified by 2650 X  
Exempt from GDS, Category 2+3  
Date of Declassification Indefinite

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

60 JAN 7 1958

Special Agent in Charge MAY 23 1977

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

130

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following message via \_\_\_\_\_

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

NY 100-25857

[REDACTED] b1  
(c)  
Information from this source, if used in a report, must be most carefully paraphrased in order to protect the source. Under no circumstances should the subject or any unauthorized person become aware we have knowledge of the above information.

(u)  
Submitted for information. (u)

POWERS.

- 2 -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

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

131



1 - Mr. [redacted]  
1 - Mr. [redacted]  
1 - Mr. Thor [redacted]  
1 - Mr. Rachner

SAC, New York (100-4931)

December 26, 1957

Director, FBI (100-3-4)

COMMUNIST PARTY, USA  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Bureau 12-13-57.

The Bureau believes that your observation that Paul Robeson might be the individual to whom [redacted] was referring is well taken. You should be particularly alert for additional information indicating that Robeson is contemplating defecting from the Communist Party. You should not, however, discount the possibility [redacted] was not referring to Robeson; and, therefore, you should remain alert to exploit any possibility that may arise in this matter.

If [redacted] has not contacted your office in connection with this matter within 45 days from the date of this letter, you are requested to furnish the Bureau your recommendations as to interviewing him.

Keep the Bureau advised of all developments in this case.

1 - New York (100-25257)

① 100-12304 (Paul Leroy Robeson)

NOTE ON YELLOW:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 1-15-81 BY 6481/PLW

During the course of another investigation,

[redacted], advised that a woman, described by him as being a former member of the Communist Party (CP) who has testified before several Congressional Committees handling subversive activities, has informed that a very prominent CP member is contemplating defecting from the CP. According to [redacted] individual has been awarded the Stalin Cross. He advised that according to the information, one of the big deterrents was that the individual might be subpoenaed by some Congressional group in an effort to make that person tell all he knew about CP activities. [redacted]

TAK:ayr  
(9)

(Continued)

Letter to SAC, New York  
Re: Communist Party, USA  
100-3-4

30000

NOTE ON YELLOW, CONTINUED:

[REDACTED] refused to divulge either the source of his information or the identity of the CP member. By letter dated 11-26-57 Bureau requested New York to consider possibilities that [REDACTED] was [REDACTED] and that Paul Robeson or [REDACTED] was individual contemplating defecting. By letter dated 12-13-57, New York furnished information indicating Robeson may be disengaging himself from CP and could be the individual [REDACTED] was referring. Robeson's activities are being closely followed in case on him and New York was instructed in that case on 6-18-57 not to initiate interview with Robeson, but to accept information that he might volunteer. Robeson is currently seeking a passport which has been denied him in past and approach by FBI at this time might be used by him to further his case and to embarrass Bureau. If positive information is developed [REDACTED] was referring to Robeson, consideration will again be given to interview of him by Bureau Agents.

b7C  
b7D

N.R. 100-12304  
12-26-57.

FBI

Date: 12/19/57

Transmit the following message via ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

AIRTEL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)(100-139)  
FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (100-25857)(100-84275)  
SUBJECT: PAUL LEROY ROBESON  
IS-C

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP5 RSC/AM  
REASON FOR EXT. 2511  
DATE OF REVIEW 12/31/92

b7C

[REDACTED]  
IS-C

[REDACTED]  
(c)

[REDACTED]  
(c)

It was then indicated the matter would be further discussed in the next day or so. (u)

Review of NYO files of subjects fails to disclose identity of Jamaica "chap". (u)

MAY 23 1977

- 3-Bureau (100-12304)(100-139) RECORDED-92
- 1-100-84275(19-1)
- 1-New York (100-25857)(100-84275)

JVW:mxh  
(6)

39 POWERS

DEC 20 1957  
31-3-58

EX-131

SUBV CONTROL

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

Approved: [Signature]  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent M Per

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

134

Classified by 2650  
Exempt from GDS, Category 2  
Date of Declassification Indefinite

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

1 - Mr. Boardman  
1 - Mr. Belmont  
1 - Mr. Rachner  
Orig. & 2

December 30, 1957

RECORDED-92

100-12304-439  
RE: PAUL LEROY ROBESON

EX-131

Reference is made to previous communications concerning captioned individuals. (u)

[REDACTED] (c)

[REDACTED] (c)

[REDACTED] (c)

2 - London (100-1182) (100-Patterson)  
100-12304  
100-39

1 - [REDACTED]  
1 - 100-3-81 (CP, USA International Relations)  
1 - Foreign Liaison Unit

BCR:ef  
(13)  
SEE NOTE ON YELLOW PAGE 2

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 RAB/CLM  
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW 12/31/90

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MAIL ROOM  
60 JAN 15 1958

MAILED FROM DIVISION FIVE  
JAN - 2 1958

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~(c) b1~~  
Re: Paul Leroy Robeson

100-12304  
100-39

NOTE ON YELLOW:

Robeson is a key figure of New York Office. He is noted Negro singer who has consistently supported the Communist Party and related front groups and has likewise been outspoken in praise of Russia. Patterson is current chairman of the Communist Party National Civil Liberties Commission. Patterson's wife is a current member of the Communist Party.

This memorandum classified "Confidential" inasmuch as it contains information from an inherently sensitive source and inasmuch as any disclosure of this information to unauthorized source would prejudice national defense interests.

PAUL LEROY ROBESON, IS-C

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
Robeson has had court action pending for some time attempting to force State Department to issue him passport. State Department advised Robeson on 8-9-57 it was lifting the restraint on his travel to countries in Western Hemisphere, but refused him passport.

CLASS. &  
EXASOR-F  
DATE OF RE...

12/31/80  
SP-5 R66C(MU)

12/31/90

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

136



**FBI**

Date: 1/3/58

Transmit the following message via AIRTEL ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

**TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)**

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

PAUL LEROY ROBESON; IS-C

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

Information from this source, if used in a report, must be most carefully paraphrased to protect the source. Under no circumstances should the subject or any unauthorized individual become aware we have knowledge of the above information. (u)

Submitted for information  
POWERS

3 - Bureau (100-12304)(RM)  
1 - New York (100-56680)  
1 - New York (65-14825-Sub  
1 - New York (100-25857)

Classified by APX  
Exempt from GDS, Category 2  
Date of Declassification Indefinite  
MAY 23 1998

12 JAN 1 1958

61 JAN 10 1958 JGD:mak

JGD:mak  
0475107  
Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Agent in Charge

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Per

APPROPRIATE AGENCY  
AND FIELD OFFICE  
ADVISED BY ROUTING  
SLIP(S) ON  
DATE

DIRECTOR, FBI (61-3176)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

1/15/58

SAC, NEW YORK (100-7629)

COMMUNIST INFILTRATION OF THE NATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF  
COLORED PEOPLE (NAACP)  
IS-C

Rebulet dated 1/8/58, concerning information furnished by [REDACTED] that in October, 1957, PAUL LEROY ROBESON conducted a concert in California for the purpose of determining if ROBESON had enough political following to attempt to take over the NAACP on a national scale.

Relet requested the NYO to furnish a memorandum, suitable for dissemination, setting forth information concerning the extent of ROBESON's association with SE activity in the NAACP together with a documented summary of ROBESON's subversive background.

It is noted that ROBESON and the NAACP are subjects of voluminous case files in the NYO and in order to attempt to specify ROBESON's connections with the NAACP it would necessitate an exhaustive file review. It is known that ROBESON's file fails to reflect that in the past several years he was active in or influential in the NAACP. There is no indication from any other source that can corroborate information furnished by [REDACTED]. It is also known that the NAACP investigation has failed to reflect that ROBESON has any control or position of influence in the NAACP.

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who are in a position to furnish information regarding the activities of ROBESON almost on a day-to-day basis have not furnished any information indicative that ROBESON is active in the NAACP or is desirous of becoming influential in the organization.

The NYO from interviews conducted with [REDACTED] and from public statements made by the NAACP is aware of the NAACP policy to deny membership to known members of the CP or other subversive organizations.

- 3 - Bureau (61-3176) (RM)  
(1 - Bureau 100-12304) (PAUL LEROY ROBESON)  
1 - NY 100-25857 (PAUL LEROY ROBESON) (12-15)  
1 - NY 100-7629  
AEC:AJD  
(5)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 RSC/CLM  
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW 12/31/90

100-12304  
NOT RECORDED  
87 JAN 24 1958

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

62 JAN 28 1958

138

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Letter to DIRECTOR, FBI  
NY 100-7629

In the past ROBESON has been publicly associated with the CP, CP functionaries, has made pro-Soviet statements and has been active in and/or officer of approximately 30 CP Front Groups. There has been no specific indication that ROBESON has ceased association with or altered his sympathies towards subversive movements and/or individuals. In view of ROBESON's reputation with these subversive groups and individuals, under the current NAACP policy, ROBESON would not be permitted to become a member or a leader in the NAACP.

ROBESON is under active investigation in the NYO. If any information is developed that ROBESON is active in or is developing a large following within the NAACP, this information will be expeditiously submitted to the Bureau.

b1 In view of the above, the Bureau is requested to advise NY whether it would be necessary to prepare a memorandum setting forth that information furnished by [redacted] together with a documented summary of ROBESON's subversive background. The Bureau is also requested to advise whether the documented summary requested on ROBESON should include all activities or simply the documentation presently used in reports concerning ROBESON.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECODED COPY

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
 Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
 Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Airgram~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ☒ Cablegram

DECODE OF CODED CABLE NUMBER 530 DATED JANUARY 20, 1958 AT LONDON, ENGLAND. RECEIVED VIA STATE DEPARTMENT.

URGENT

PAUL LEROY ROBESON, WAS., INTERNAL SECURITY-C. ADVISE WHETHER SUBJECT HAS NOW BEEN ISSUED PASSPORT TO TRAVEL TO EUROPE. [REDACTED] INQUIRING.

JOHN A. CIMPHERMAN

RECEIVED:

1-20-58

9:08 AM

MVS

SD, ADVISED, PP OFFICE,  
 LIAISON, on 1/21/58 THAT  
 ROBESON HAD NOT BEEN  
 ISSUED PP. BR

SEC. XE  
 RECORDED - 39

100-12304-441

JAN 22 1958

cc: Mr. Belmont  
 cc: Mr. Tamm

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 ROL/CLM  
 REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2 3  
 DATE OF REVIEW 12/31/90

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
 OTHERWISE

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

140



1 - Mr. Burdett  
1 - Mr. Robinson

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

1-21-58

CODE

CABLEGRAM

DEFERRED

12/5/50

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 RSC/H  
REASON-FCIM VI, 1-2.4.2 2  
DATE OF REVIEW 12/3/93

TO LEGAL ATTACHE LONDON (100-1182)

FROM DIRECTOR FBI (100-12304)-441

PAUL LEROY ROBESON, WAS., IS DASH C. REURCABLE JANUARY  
TWENTY, ONE NINE FIVE EIGHT. STATE DEPARTMENT ADVISED  
JANUARY TWENTY, ONE NINE FIVE EIGHT, THAT ROBESON HAD NOT  
BEEN ISSUED A PASSPORT FOR TRAVEL TO EUROPE.

1 - Foreign Liaison Unit (route through for review)  
YELLOW: Subject is key figure of New York Office. He is  
noted Negro concert singer who has for several years supported  
communist and communist front causes. He has on numerous  
occasions spoken openly in praise of the Soviet Union and  
has likewise spoken in derogatory manner concerning United  
States. Subject has consistently been denied passport by  
United States State Department although State recently  
lifted ban on travel by subject to countries in the  
Western Hemisphere where passport is not generally required.

[REDACTED]

As noted above,  
Passport Office, State Department, advised  
Liaison, on 1-20-58 that Robeson had not  
been issued passport and issuance not contemplated.

(c)

This cable being sent through State Department  
facilities at no cost to Bureau.

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

67 JAN 27 1958

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Teletype Room

sent via cable 1/21/58 2:06 PM

*[Handwritten signatures and initials]*  
141



February 3, 1958

Airtel

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

To: SAC, New York (100-25857)

From: Director, FBI (100-12304)

PAUL LEROY ROBESON  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

Reurairtel 1/31/58.

Reairtel contains information furnished by [REDACTED] <sup>761</sup> indicating that a book apparently written by Robeson entitled, "Here I Stand," would be published on "Monday" (presumably 2/3/58). Immediately attempt to determine the background regarding the reported writing and publishing of Robeson's book. Determine specifically the date and place the book was or will be published and, if possible, obtain one copy for transmittal to the Bureau.

1 - [REDACTED] Room 331, Old Post Office Building

NOTE ON YELLOW:

Robeson is key figure of New York Office. He is noted Negro concert singer who has for several years supported communist and communist front causes. He has on numerous occasions spoken openly in praise of the Soviet Union. [REDACTED] <sup>7D</sup>

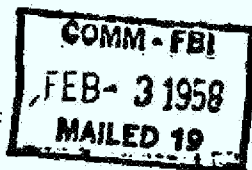
[REDACTED] concerned, among other things, information concerning Robeson's book. It is not clear whether the book will be published in the United States or Russia. There has been indication in past that Robeson was writing a book; however, the specifics concerning the contents and publication data has not been known. New York being requested to determine the circumstances in view of above information and to obtain a copy of the book, if available.

RECORDED - 95

100-12304-442

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

BCR:sfc  
(5)



FEB 4 1958

MAIL ROOM

CONFIDENTIAL

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 RSB/CLW  
REASON: 1.2.2  
DATE OF REVIEW 12/31/90

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

1 - Mr. Rachner  
1 - Liaison Section

100-12304

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

*K*  
Date: February 5, 1958

To: Mr. E. Tomlin Bailey  
Director  
Office of Security  
Department of State  
515 22nd Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C.

12/31/80  
CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 RSG/clk  
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW 12/31/96

From: John Edgar Hoover, Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

2-5-88

Subject: PAUL LEROY ROBESON  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Reference is made to previous  
communications concerning captioned individual. (u)

[REDACTED] (c)

The above is for your information and  
should not be disclosed to unauthorized individuals. (u)

NOTE ON YELLOW:

REC-69

EX-103  
100-12304-43

BY COURIER SVC.

23 FEB - 6

COMM - FBI

Subject is key figure of New York Office. He  
is noted Negro singer who has consistently supported the  
Communist Party and related front groups and has likewise  
been outspoken in praise of Russia.

[REDACTED] It may be noted (c) JTB  
that the ban on Robeson's travel to countries in the  
Western Hemisphere where passports are not required  
was recently lifted by State Department. It may also be  
noted in recent past Robeson received considerable publicity  
concerning his intentions working in various countries outside  
the United States since the lifting of this ban. This letter  
classified "Confidential" inasmuch as [REDACTED] furnishing  
same was so classified.

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

61 FEB 10 1958

MAIL ROOM

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

BCR:atm (5)

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
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.

- ☒ Deleted under exemption(s) (b)(1) with no segregable material available for release to you.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☐ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) \_\_\_\_\_, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

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

Above

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

To protect information which is currently and properly  
classified pursuant to Executive Order 12065 -

☐ For your information: \_\_\_\_\_

☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

FBI Headquarters file 100-12304-444

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
X DELETED PAGE(S) X  
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X  
X FOR THIS PAGE X  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

1 - Mr. Shaw  
1 - Mr. Rachner

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

REC-99 100-12406-444

12/31/80  
CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 RSC/CUM  
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW 12/31/96  
3/3/11

Date: February 4, 1950

To: [REDACTED]  
Washington, D. C.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

From: John Edgar Hoover, Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: PAUL LEROY ROBISON  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

[REDACTED] (C)

[REDACTED] (C)

[REDACTED] (C)

Enclosures (6)

- 1 - Ottawa (See note page 2)
- 1 - Detroit (See note page 2)
- 1 - New York (100-25857) (See note page 2)
- 1 - Foreign Liaison
- 1 - 100-294372 [REDACTED]

COMM-FBI  
FEB-4 1958  
MAILED 19

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL ROOM  
FEB 11 1950  
BCR:aim (10)  
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NOTE ON YELLOW SEE PG 10/1/50

UNRECORDED COPY SENT TO

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

b7D

36032

ATTENTION Legal Attache, Ottawa, and SACs, Detroit and New York:

NOTE ON YELLOW:

Robeson is key figure of New York Office. He is noted Negro singer who has consistently supported the Communist Party and related front groups and has likewise been outspoken in praise of Russia.

It may be noted that the ban on Robeson's travel to countries in the Western Hemisphere where a passport is not generally required was recently lifted by the State Department. It may be noted further that Robeson has received considerable publicity in recent past regarding his intentions to travel to various countries outside the United States for singing engagements.

This letter classified "Confidential" inasmuch as its enclosures contain information which if disclosed to unauthorized persons would be prejudicial to national defense interests.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~