

FBIHQ FILE

100-12304

SECTION : 16

PAUL ROBESON, SR.

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET2

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CONFIDENTIAL

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)

DATE: 5/7/58

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (100-56680)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISESUBJECT: ESIANDA CORDOZO ROBESON, was.,  
SM - C

Reference is made to NY Airtel 4/1/58 concerning subject's contemplated trip to the West Indies.

On 4/26/58 [REDACTED] furnished information that on that date subject was then on a trip to the West Indies and was expected to return to New York on or about 4/30/58.

On 5/1/58 [REDACTED] furnished information which indicated that subject had returned to her residence at 16 Jumel Terrace, NYC.

On 5/3/58 [REDACTED] furnished information that during her trip to the West Indies, subject had visited Jamaica, Trinidad and the city of Port Au Prince. Informant stated that subject indicated she enjoyed the trip very much and during same had appeared on the radio several times. Informant was unable to elaborate on the information indicating subject had made radio broadcasts while on her trip.

Inasmuch as no outstanding leads remain in this matter, this case is being placed in a closed status.

Subject is carried on the SI of the NYO and her SI cards are current and accurate.

②-Bureau (100-12304) (RM)  
1-New York (100-56680)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
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OTHERWISE  
BPM:

State + CIA + RAB  
REC-62 previously addressed  
EX-117  
100-12304-488

MAY 9 1958

1-15-81

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 R/LJ  
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW 5-7-97

F012 Release

SUBV. CONTROL

CONFIDENTIAL

66 MAY 15 1958

F31



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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
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4/15/53

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-103)

FROM: SAC, CHICAGO (61-367)

IS - C; SMITH ACT OF 1940

On 4/14/53

[REDACTED] advised that [REDACTED] CLAUDE LIGHTFOOT [REDACTED] was to meet with PAUL ROBESON and his, ROBESON's, attorney [REDACTED] they are contemplating placing [REDACTED] case before the United Nations Committee on Human Relations. The informant was unable to furnish any additional information on this point.

AUERBACH

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 1-15-81 BY SP-5 RJS/HW

- 3- Bureau (REGISTERED)
  - 1- New York (REGISTERED)
  - 100-25357 (PAUL LEROY ROBESON)
  - 4- Chicago
  - 1- [REDACTED]
  - 1- 100-13960 (CP, USA, Illinois District, United Nations Organization)
  - 1- 100-22692 (PAUL ROBESON)
- GHB/njb  
(3)

100-12304-1  
NOT RECORDED  
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DATE 1-15-81 BY SP-5RLg/Hw

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304) ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ DATE: 5/6/58

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (100-25857)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 RJL/1W  
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2 2  
DATE OF REVIEW 1-15-91SUBJECT: PAUL LE ROY ROBESON  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C1-15-81  
Field Release

Reference is made to Bureau letter, dated 3/27/58, requesting that any information indicating that subject's current concert tour is controlled, sponsored, guided or influenced by the CP, be furnished the Bureau. Reference is further made to NY letter to Bureau, dated 4/24/58, captioned, "CP, USA - Organization; IS-C", (Bufile 100-3-69; NY 100-80641). (u)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- 2- Bureau (100-12304) (RM)  
1- Los Angeles (100-25861) (Info) (RM)  
1- San Francisco (100-6907) (Info) (RM)  
1- Portland (Info) (RM)  
1- New York (100-25857)

BPM:gao  
(6)

MAY 15 1958

14 MAY 12 1958

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

FBI

MAY 12

CONFIDENTIAL

SUBV CONTROL



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-25857

[REDACTED]

(c)  
Appropriate sources and informants in the NYO Office are being contacted for any information they may be able to furnish as to the attitude of CP leaders regarding ROBESON's present concert tour. (u)

Copies of this letter are being furnished to the Los Angeles, San Francisco and Portland Divisions, in view of the comments of [REDACTED] indicating that the West Coast CP has possibly had influence in ROBESON's current concert tour. (u)

b7c

- 2 -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

9



## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)

DATE: 5/9/58

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (100-25857)

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

On 4/28/58, [REDACTED]<sup>(c)</sup> furnished the following information concerning the subject's itinerary: b1

ROBESON indicated he has an important concert on 5/15/58 in Los Angeles and also "something" on the 16th and 18th (May, 1958).

Source indicated subject will stay at residence of CHARLOTTA BASS while in Los Angeles.

Following concerts in Los Angeles, ROBESON indicated he has to make an important speech on Negro history in Oakland, California on the 25th (May, 1958).

Above for information of the Bureau and interested offices.

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 RLS/JSW  
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW 1-15-91

- ③ - Bureau (100-12304) (RM)  
     ( 1 - 100-297187)  
 2 - Los Angeles (100-25861) (Info.) (RM) (AM)  
     ( 1 - 100-20874)  
 1 - San Francisco (100-6907) (Info.) (RM) (AM)  
 1 - New York (100-80824)  
 1 - New York (100-25857)

DWW:dw  
(8)

REC-57 100-12304-492

EX-101

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60 MAY 21 1958

REC'D RT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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F B I

Date: 5/9/58

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PLAIN TEXT

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_

(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
 FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (100-25857)  
 SUBJECT: PAUL ROBESON  
 SM-C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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 EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
 OTHERWISE

*Raffner*  
 100-9-1

that [REDACTED] (C) advised SA [REDACTED] on [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] a flyer which lauds PAUL ROBESON and urges the purchase of his book, "Here I Stand." The flyer also states that COLLINS will lecture on "Paul Robeson-Great American" on 5/15/58 at Adelphi Hall, NYC, and it welcomes the public to "an evening of films and recordings-US-USSR Cultural Exchange" on 5/11/58, featuring recordings of DAVID OISTRAKH, The MOISEYEVs, and PETE SEEGER, also to be held at Adelphi Hall.

[REDACTED] (C)  
 ROBESON is to give a concert at Carnegie Hall, 5/9/58.

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 RJL/JW 1-15-81  
 REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2 2 POWERS  
 DATE OF REVIEW 1-15-91

REC-1

EX. - 123

3-Bureau (RM)

1-New York

1-New York (100-60640)

1-New York (100-81675)

1-New York (100-25857)

(CP, USA, PAMPHLETS AND PUBLICATIONS) (7-5)  
 (12-15)

JAH:azn  
 (8)

SUBV. CONTROL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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

Sent \_\_\_\_\_

M

Per \_\_\_\_\_

70 MAY 15 1958 Special Agent in Charge

- Mr. Thornton  
- Mr. Jones  
- Mr. Rachner

5-12-58

Airtel

To: SAC, New York (100-25857)

From: Director, FBI (100-12304)

PAUL LEROY ROBESON  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 1-13-81 BY SP5 Rlg/HW

Reurairtel 5-7-58 captioned "Arthur Joshua  
Dlugoff, Security Matter - C," (Bufile 100-397122;  
your file 100-111682).

Immediate investigation should be conducted  
to identify the sponsor of Robeson's Carnegie Hall con-  
cert which was scheduled to be held on 5-9-58. In this  
regard, refer to reairtel which reflected that [REDACTED] was  
possibly connected with the sponsorship of the concert.  
Any information indicating Communist Party control or  
guidance of the sponsorship of the concert by [REDACTED] or  
any other person or organization should be fully resolved  
and the Bureau promptly advised.

In addition, refer to your letter dated 5-1-58  
captioned "Communist Party, USA, Pamphlets and Publications,  
Internal Security - C," (Bufile 100-3-86; your file 100-81675),  
which enclosed a copy of a letter from James Jackson to all  
Communist Party National Committee members and Communist  
Party district organizers wherein Jackson urged the entire  
Communist Party organization to campaign on behalf of  
Robeson's book "Here I Stand." In view of previous  
exploitation of Robeson by the Communist Party for political  
and financial advantage, you should immediately conduct  
necessary investigation to establish the motives behind  
this campaign. Attempt to determine whether the Communist  
Party will benefit financially as a result of the campaign;

1 - 100-397122 [REDACTED]

BCR:ef  
(7)

SEE NOTE ON YELLOW PAGE 2

MAIL ROOM

REC-67

MAILED 11

MAY 12 1958

COMM - FBI

23 MAY 13 1958

12 MAY 16 1958

F31



Airtel to New York  
Re: Paul Leroy Robeson  
100-12304

whether Robeson concurs with the action of the Communist Party; whether Robeson has been directly or indirectly responsible for the initiation of the campaign; and whether Robeson contemplates any financial contribution to the Communist Party as a result of the sale of his book or as a result of his current concert appearances.

In view of the State Department's current interest in Robeson's passport case, as well as the extensive publicity currently being afforded Robeson throughout the world, you should continue to closely follow Robeson's activities and to keep the Bureau advised of all pertinent developments. Any information bearing upon Robeson's pro-Soviet and procommunist sympathies, as well as any information indicating Communist Party control, guidance, support or influence of Robeson's activities, should be fully resolved.

NOTE ON YELLOW:

Robeson is noted Negro concert singer who has long supported the Communist Party and related front groups and has frequently been outspoken in praise of the Soviet Union. He is a current key figure of New York Office. In recent past, Robeson has been extremely active in concert appearances throughout the United States and has again filed suit against State Department for passport for travel abroad. He has likewise written a book which is being supported by the Communist Party and front organizations. New York is being instructed to continue their close coverage of Robeson's activities.

5/19/58

AIRTEL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-3-72)  
FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (100-79717)  
SUBJECT: CPUSA-POLITICAL ACTIVITIES  
IS-C

PAUL ROBESON  
IS-C

CINAL

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 RLS/dw  
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW 1-15-97  
*For Release*

[REDACTED] reported on 5/18/58, LLOYD BROWN and BENJAMIN J. DAVIS, JR., both members of the National Committee, CPUSA, conferred briefly at [REDACTED]

Evidently referring to PAUL ROBESON and ROBESON's book, BROWN said next week in both "The Courier" and "Afro" that "we" will have another of "our" ads. He said he had a new heading, that being "Ike says later, Paul now." DAVIS indicated this was a very good heading.

BROWN said someone had told him that the "Negro Summit Conference" was inspired by "this thing". DAVIS said this shows "that when we begin to move, even though we don't participate, it forces others to move."

BROWN stated that in the "New York Age" that week, (A. PHILLIP) RANDOLPH's speech is reported and the speech is right out of the book (ROBESON's ?) on the subject of white allies. BROWN said he (RANDOLPH) says there is only one place where Negro leadership is to be responsible to the Negro masses and "our fate is in our own hands." BROWN commented that the procedure seems to be to take over the ideas of the left. DAVIS replied, "We're very happy for them to do that."

- 4 BUREAU (100-3-72)(RM)  
(1 - 100-12304)(PAUL ROBESON)  
1 - NY 100-23825 [REDACTED] (7-5)  
1 - NY 100-24616 [REDACTED] (7-5)  
1 - NY 100-25857 (PAUL ROBESON)(7-5)  
1 - NY 100-79717 (7-5)

RER:HC (7-5)  
(9)

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100-12304  
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168 MAY 22 1958

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

INITIALS ON ORIGINAL

67 MAY 26 1958

14

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE TWO

NY 100-79717

BROWN went on to say that "even old ADAM (CLAYTON POWELL)" has come out with some statements. DAVIS, in referring to POWELL, said he is red-baiting less and less and that this is very important. DAVIS continued that POWELL has stated in the papers that "next to the Communists, he is the most persecuted person" and that POWELL has also said "whether these demonstrations in South America were Communist inspired or not...." DAVIS commented that these things are very important.

Continuing, DAVIS said he felt some more of "that stuff" came out of the book (ROBESON's) and that the book is going to be like TOM PAYNE's "Common Sense" as far as Negroes are concerned. DAVIS said he would like to get a couple of special spots for the book--one involves PAUL sending an autographed copy; the other is how "they" can get books from "our people".

POWERS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

15



FBI

Date: 5/20/58

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~Transmit the following message via AIRTEL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)  
 TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)  
 FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (100-25857)  
 SUBJECT: PAUL LEROY ROBESON  
 IS-C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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 OTHERWISE

ReBulet to New York, 3/27/58.

ReBulet reflects that [REDACTED] rendered his opinion that ROBESON may be one of the real leaders behind the FOSTER-DAVIS faction of the CP. Informant further advised that he felt strongly that ROBESON was not in California for reasons of a strictly non-political nature but that he may have come to the area for the purpose of influencing "right" elements of the CP to sway the left. Los Angeles is requested to exhaustively interview [REDACTED] to determine the basis for his opinion as set forth above.

[REDACTED] said that PAUL ROBESON said in his book that he is not a Communist but that the Party understands him 'and we know him better than anyone else'. [REDACTED] said this in a manner that indicates that the Communist Party does know PAUL to be a CP member. Baltimore is requested also to exhaustively interview [REDACTED] to ascertain if it can be definitely ascertained that ROBESON is or is not a member of the CPUSA.

Los Angeles and Baltimore are also requested to remain alert for any information which indicates that receipts from

- 3 - BUREAU (100-12304)(RM)  
 2 - BALTIMORE (RM)  
 2 - LOS ANGELES (100-25861)(AM, RM) 128  
 1 - NEW YORK (100-25857)(7-5)

JDW:HC (7-5)  
 (9)

REC-69

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 RJS/1W 1-15-81  
 REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
 DATE OF REVIEW 1-15-91

100-12304-495

63 MAY 27 1958

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

Sent \_\_\_\_\_

SUBV. CONTROL

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F B I

Date:

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

PAGE TWO

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-25857

ROBESON's book "Here I Stand" are in any instance being used for the benefit of the CPUSA. The attention of Los Angeles and Baltimore is directed to Buairtel to New York 5/12/58, captioned as above, in which it is stated that in view of the State Department's current interest in ROBESON's passport case as well as the extensive publicity currently being afforded throughout the world ~~country~~, his activities should be closely followed and the Bureau advised of all pertinent developments. The Bureau further states that any information bearing upon ROBESON's pro-Soviet and pro-Communist sympathies as well as any information indicating Communist Party control, guidance, support or influence of ROBESON's activities, should be fully resolved.

POWERS

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

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

17

F B I

Date: 5/22/58

Transmit the following message via AIRTEL

CONFIDENTIAL

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	_____

(Priority or Method of Mailing)  
 TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)  
 FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (100-25857)  
 SUBJECT: PAUL LEROY ROBESON  
 IS-C

ReBuairtel 5/12/58.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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 OTHERWISE

ReBuairtel reflects immediate investigation should be conducted to identify the sponsor of ROBESON's Carnegie Hall concert which was held on 5/9/58. The Bureau advised that any information indicating Communist Party control or guidance of the sponsorship of the concert or by any other person or organization should be fully resolved and the Bureau promptly advised.

(C) [redacted] advised on 4/21/58 that on 4/11/58 the Third Annual Memorial Meeting of the Katherine Van Orden Fund For Freedom was held at the Hotel Carlton, 24 East Park St. Newark, New Jersey. Informant advised the chairman of this meeting was MORTON STAVIS. STAVIS announced there would be a concert by PAUL ROBESON at Carnegie Hall, New York City, on Friday 5/9/58. According to the informant, the concert was being sponsored by the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee and the Young Peoples Democratic For Action Committee.

In view of the above, Newark is requested to exhaustively re-interview the informant and resolve whether or not the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee and the Young Peoples Democratic For Action Committee were directly involved in the sponsorship of ROBESON's concert.

REC-83

100-12304-476  
POWERS

18 MAY 27 1958

3 - BUREAU (100-12304)(RM)  
 2 - NEWARK (RM)  
 1 - NEW YORK 100-25857 (7-5)

EX-101

JDW:HC (7-5)  
(7)

57 MAY 29 1958

Approved: [Signature]  
 Special Agent in Charge

Sent

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 Rtg/llw  
 REASON-FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2  
 DATE OF REVIEW 1-15-91  
 Per [Signature]

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
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FBI Headquarters file 100-12304-497

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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 \_\_\_\_\_

PAUL ROBESON v. JOHN FOSTER DULLES

The summons and complaint was served on the Attorney General on March 3, 1958. Plaintiff seeks a declaratory judgment and other equitable relief to declare that the Passport Regulations of the Secretary of State (22 C.F.R. 51.135 et seq.) as applied to the plaintiff, are unauthorized, unlawful and invalid. Plaintiff further prays that the defendant be enjoined from interfering with plaintiff's travel outside the U.S., from continuing to refuse to grant a passport to the plaintiff, and to direct the defendant to issue a passport to the plaintiff forthwith. Defendant refused to grant a passport to plaintiff based on his refusal to answer questions concerning present and past membership in the Communist Party which are contained in the passport application form. On April 28, 1958, an Answer to Complaint was filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. On the same day, defendant filed a Motion for Security for Costs, together with a memorandum of points and authorities in support thereof.

Information included in Internal Security Division  
 Monthly Status Report for April, 1958.

100-12304-  
 NOT RECORDED  
 7 JUN 3 1958

*W.C. Sullivan (info)*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 1-15-81 BY SP-5 RLS/HW 100-12304

*File 5-R*

63 JUN 4 1958

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)  
(100- ) (100- ) DATE: MAY 27 1958

FROM : SAC, LOS ANGELES (100-25861)(100-55725)

SUBJECT: PAUL ROBESON  
SM-C;  
ESLANDA ROBESON  
SM-C;  
PAUL ROBESON, JR.  
SM-C

Remyairtel to Bureau, cc New York, captioned "PAUL ROBESON, SM-C; ESLANDA ROBESON, SM-C", dated 9/25/57, showing overtures made in New York City toward the ROBESONS by representatives of the Moral Rearmament movement there toward defecting PAUL ROBESON from his communist interests.

[REDACTED] has requested his identity be covered, furnished the following information which he said he had gained [REDACTED] from persons in the Moral Rearmament group at Detroit where PAUL ROBESON had recently appeared:

[REDACTED] attended a PAUL ROBESON song recital at Hartford Avenue Baptist Church about April 28, 1958.

- 7 - Bureau (1 - 62-43223 - MRA) (REGISTERED)
  - 4 - Detroit (1 - MRA) (REGISTERED)
  - 1 - [REDACTED]
  - 1 - [REDACTED]
  - 5 - New York (REGISTERED)
    - 1 - 100-25857 - PAUL ROBESON
    - 1 - ESLANDA ROBESON
    - 1 - PAUL ROBESON, JR.)
    - 1 - 62-640 - MRA
    - 1 - COMMUNIST PARTY FUNDS)
  - 4 - Los Angeles (1 - 61-360 - MRA) (1 - 23488 - COMMUNIST PARTY FUNDS)
- TWC:nib  
(20)

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 1-15-81 BY SP5R19JW

59 JUN 10 1958

REC-28

67 JUL 1 - 1958

EX-101

G. K. Kaine

7 MAY 29 1958

SUBV. CONTROL

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21



LA 100-25861

Mrs. CHARLES HILL, the wife of the pastor of this church, whose congregation is predominantly Negro [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] recognized [REDACTED] and introduced him privately to PAUL ROBESON [REDACTED] the MRA-produced feature documentary film, "Freedom." This film, [REDACTED] was produced by MRA to create understanding between all people and to show that spiritual change is needed on the part of both black and white alike. PAUL ROBESON expressed his desire to view this film. During the same concert, Mrs. HILL gave an invitation to [REDACTED] to a special luncheon being tendered ROBESON the next day.

At this luncheon, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] had no opportunity to talk again to ROBESON. Present were about 30 people, including seven Negro clergy. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] at the luncheon were CARL WINTER and Mrs. CARL WINTER, CARL WINTER being known [REDACTED] as Secretary of the Michigan State Communist Party (CP). Also recognized [REDACTED] at the luncheon was CARL HAESSLER, known [REDACTED] as sometime editor of the Federated Press. There were [REDACTED] individuals who gave the appearance of being of Jewish descent, otherwise unidentifiable to [REDACTED]

PAUL ROBESON addressed the instant luncheon group speaking of his son and what ROBESON saw for America. PAUL's son is an engineer, age 30, who translates from Russian for some technical magazines in America. The son had at one point lived in Gstaad, Switzerland, for four years, where he learned Swiss-German. PAUL stated that he, himself, was in Moscow from 1934 to 1935, then in London to 1941.

ROBESON was observed at one point personally speaking to two unidentified persons of apparent Jewish descent. ROBESON was overheard to tell them to carry on "the program", arranging occasions for PAUL ROBESON to speak and sing since apparently all the money was on hand that was needed for the program. PAUL, during the instant luncheon period, conveyed that he wanted to sing and speak to millions in Mexico. PAUL stated that his wife was taking care of things in Jamaica.

LA 100-25861

Relative to ROBESON's above-expressed interest to view a private showing of "Freedom" [REDACTED] related the following further information:

On May 2, 1958, Mrs. HILL, wife of the pastor of the Hartford Avenue Baptist Church, [REDACTED] b7c b7D  
[REDACTED] said it was not possible to have "Freedom" shown to PAUL ROBESON or his friends as PAUL and his friends' program was full and she, Mrs. HILL, herself, was going out of town. It was apparent to PRATT, [REDACTED] that what PAUL ROBESON personally feels relative to any solution of international and domestic racial tensions is not quite clear. PRATT concluded from the foregoing that ROBESON seems to be under domination of the CP or under CP discipline.

1 Mr. Rachner

SAC, New York (100-25857)

May 28, 1958

Director, FBI (100-12304)-499

ESLANDA GOODE ROBESON  
SECURITY MATTER - C

For completion of your files, the following information which was classified "Secret" was furnished on [REDACTED] by [REDACTED] (u)

NOTE ON YELLOW:

Subject in Security Index. Subject recently traveled to the British West Indies with a group from the United Nations, it being noted that subject is an accredited correspondent at the United Nations for the publication "New World Review." [REDACTED]

BCR:aym  
(4)

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING  
SLIP(S) OF  
DATE 1/4/84

Classified by 2650 YAR/1  
Exempt from GDS Category 1  
Date of Declassification Indefinite  
MAY 24 1977

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 RJG/dw  
REASON: 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW 1-15-81

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

59 JUN 6 1958

MAY 27 1958  
COMM - FBI

67 JUL 1 1958

SECRET

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OTHERWISE

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET1

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 100-12304-499 (Enclosure)

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FBI

Date: 5/26/58

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~Transmit the following message via AIRTEL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)

FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (100-25877)

PAUL LEROY ROBESON  
IS-C  
CINALALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

[REDACTED] advised on 5/25/58 BEN DAVIS was in contact with ESLANDER ROBESON, at which time he asked to speak to PAUL ROBESON. During the ensuing conversation between DAVIS and PAUL ROBESON, DAVIS congratulated ROBESON on his second concert (Carnegie Hall, 5/23/58), and stated he was sorry that he could not have been there. ROBESON said the second concert was much better than the first and that he was "in excellent voice." ROBESON added that "PAULIE's (PAUL ROBESON, JR.) man" completely revamped acoustics in Carnegie Hall and that the results were magnificent. ROBESON remarked that he is astounded at the success of the concert and that it opens up entire new vistas for him. He said that he put <sup>the</sup> Negro up on an intellectual plane.

PAUL ROBESON also stated, "This is the answer to Peekskill and everything that went before." He commented that he plans to engage a theatre for a week or so in the fall and put on a "one-man show." ROBESON also stated that he is astounded at his reviews and reception in trade papers like "Variety" and "Downbeat."

- 4 - Bureau (100-12304) (RM)  
 (1 - 100-149163 [REDACTED])  
 1 - New York (100-95550) (PAUL ROBESON, JR.) (#12-15)  
 1 - New York (100-80640) (CP, USA-NEGRO QUESTION) (#7-5)  
 1 - New York (100-56680) (ESLANDER ROBESON) (#12-15)  
 1 - New York (100-23825) [REDACTED] (#7-5)  
 1 - New York (100-25877) [REDACTED]

JDW:mak  
(9)

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89 SEP 28 1973

REC-117 100-12304-500  
 CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 RJG/lw 1-15-81  
 REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2 2 12 MAY 27 1958  
 DATE OF REVIEW 1-15-91

Approved: [Signature]

Special Agent in Charge

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Sent

Per [Signature]

67 JUL 1 - 1958

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN

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Date:

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

NY 100-25877)

DAVIS stated the whole thing is wonderful and terrific. He said that ROBESON overcame his big obstacle in performing again in NYC. ROBESON agreed with this statement.

BEN DAVIS enthusiastically told ROBESON of the wonderful impressions that he has made and the fact that he (ROBESON) is proving that the Negro is an intellectual and showing the wonders of African music.

DAVIS made arrangements to meet with ROBESON at ROBESON's residence the next day, 5/26/58. Informant was not able to furnish the reason for DAVIS wanting to meet with ROBESON.

POWERS.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

-2-

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

27



FBI

Date: 5/20/58

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Transmit the following message via

AIRTEL

(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  
OTHERWISE

60 515/46,871

1-16-81

JUNE

CLASS. &amp; EXT. BY 51-581/10

REASON-FORM 1-5.4.2 2

DATE OF REVIEW 1-16-91

ROBESON is a Key Figure of the NYO. He is currently engaged in a nationwide concert tour, is a well-known singer, actor and writer. ROBESON has been described as a concealed member of the CPUSA prior to 1945. In the past he has served as officer, leader, sponsor, or sympathizer of numerous CP front organizations. He has openly expressed his admiration for the Soviet Union. He is in frequent contact with representatives and/or nationals of the Soviet Union and other satellite countries. ROBESON's book, "Here I Stand", was described BEN DAVIS, JR. as a "brilliant piece of writing and application of Marxism"; and by CLAUDE LIGHTFOOT as an "instrument to the movement, a consolidation to the left".

In [redacted] expressed his opinion that ROBESON may be one of the real leaders behind the FOSTER-DAVIS faction in the CP. [redacted] advised on [redacted] that [redacted] had recently expressed the opinion that the CP knows ROBESON better than anybody else and the informant stated that in the manner in which [redacted] spoke he indicated that the Communist Party does know ROBESON to be a CP member.

Buairtel to NY 5/12/58 stated that in view of the State Department's current interest in ROBESON's passport case as well as the extensive publicity currently being afforded him throughout the world, ROBESON's activities should be followed closely and the Bureau advised of all pertinent developments. Any information bearing upon ROBESON's pro-Soviet and pro-Communist sympathies as well as any information indicating Communist Party control, guidance, support or influence of ROBESON's activities, should be fully resolved.

3 - BUREAU (100-12304)(RM)  
1 - NEW YORK (100-25857)(7-5)

JDW:HC (7-5)  
(5)

REC-79

100-12304-501  
10 6-3  
12 MAY 22 1958

Sent

CONTROL

28

FBI

Date:

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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

PAGE TWO

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

NY 100-25857

Bureau authority is requested to conduct a survey for installation of a tesur on ROBESON's residence, 16 Jumel Terrace, New York City. ROBESON's telephone number is WA 7-7754.

POWERS.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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Mr. Bachner

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SAC, New York (100-25857)

May 26, 1958

Director, FBI (100-12304) - 501

REC-79

JUNE

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OTHERWISE

PAUL LEROY ROBESON  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Reurairtel 5/20/58.

The Bureau does not feel that a survey for installation of a tesur on Robeson's residence is warranted at this time. In view of Robeson's extensive travel in the recent past and indications he will continue his concert appearances throughout the U.S. and possibly abroad, it does not appear that such an investigative technique would afford sufficient day-to-day coverage of Robeson's activities to justify its installation. In addition, [REDACTED] and b1 b7D

[REDACTED] appear to afford reasonable coverage of Robeson's activities. You should, however, remain alert to any situation which would lend itself to the utilization of the above investigative technique at which time consideration may again be given to a survey.

The denial of authority to conduct the above-requested survey should in no way minimize the importance of closely following Robeson's activities pursuant to previous instructions.

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 R/LW  
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW 1-16-91

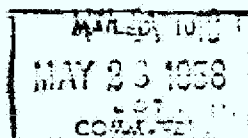
BCR:mpp:sln (4)

NOTE: Robeson is a key figure of NYO. He is noted Negro concert singer who has consistently supported the CP and related front groups and has likewise been outspoken in his praise of Russia. Robeson is currently receiving considerable international coverage in both the legitimate and progressive press, in view of his extensive concert appearances, his book "Here I Stand," and his suit against the State Department for a passport. As a result the CP, as in the past, is taking advantage of Robeson's prominence and is obviously exploiting him in an effort to enhance the CP position. NYO has previously been

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

MAIL ROOM ☒

JUN 4 1958



NOTE CONTINUED PAGE TWO

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Letter to SAC, New York  
RE: PAUL LEROY ROBESON  
100-12304

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

**CONTINUATION OF NOTE:**

instructed to closely follow Robeson's current activities in an effort to establish the extent of CP control, support, guidance or influence over these activities. Although NYO request for above survey was possibly prompted by these instructions, it is not believed, for the reasons set forth above, that such coverage would be justified at this time.

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Reporting Office <b>PORTLAND</b>	Office of Origin <b>NEW YORK</b>	Date <b>5/28/58</b>	Investigative Period <b>5/19, 22, 23/58</b>
TITLE OF CASE <b>PAUL LEROY ROBESON</b>		Report made by <b>SA [REDACTED] b7c</b>	Typed By: <b>emm</b>
<p><b>ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.</b></p>		<p><b>INTERNAL SECURITY - C</b></p> <p><b>ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.</b></p>	

Synopsis:

ROBESON arrived, Portland, 3/16/58, for concert at Botsford Auditorium, Reed College, 3/18/58, arranged for and sponsored by Focus Club, a non-affiliated college group, membership in which comprised of Reed College students. ROBESON described in press as "here as an artist"; stayed at residence of Reed College professor, known in past as CP member. Subject entertained by Focus Club members. One prominent CP member complained that admission price to concern was prohibitive while another stated that few people were invited to attend gatherings for subject held by Focus Club members.

- RUC -

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP5 RJG/dw  
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2 2  
DATE OF REVIEW 1-16-91

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING  
SLIP(S) OF [REDACTED]  
DATE 1-16-91

Approved <i>[Signature]</i> Special Agent in Charge	Do not write in spaces below	
Copies made:  4 Bureau (100-12304) (RM) 3 New York (100-25857) (RM) 1 Portland (100-8472)	<p><b>100-12304-508</b></p> <p><b>23 JUN 3 1958</b></p> <p><b>REC-99</b></p> <p><b>EX-123</b></p>	

AGENCY Lab, CIA, State  
REQ. REC'D 6/16/58  
DATE FORW. 6/16/58  
HOW FORW. BY  
BY [Signature]

CONFIDENTIAL

*[Signature: J. A. Jackson]*  
*[Signature: Portland mail]*  
CONFIDENTIAL

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DETAILS:

AT PORTLAND, OREGON

Arrangements for a Concert Appearance of Subject

[REDACTED] on [REDACTED] reported that on [REDACTED] a meeting was held at [REDACTED] for the purpose of making plans for a concert to be given by PAUL ROBESON under the sponsorship of the Focus Club of Reed College on March 18, 1958, to be held on the college campus. Informant identified VIRGINIA MALBIN as among those in attendance at this meeting. A Reed College student in attendance explained to those present that the president of Reed College whom he had consulted, had advised him that while Reed College would not assist in any way either in sponsoring or participating in the advertising for a concert by ROBESON, it would permit the Focus Club to sponsor the affair. One of the persons present at the meeting, according to [REDACTED] was requested to contact various negro clergymen in Portland to determine their reaction to ROBESON's appearance, both as a person and as an artist. He was delegated to attempt to arrange through the clergy with some negro family where ROBESON could stay while in Portland. During the meeting some copies of ROBESON's new book "Here I Stand" were given to some of the persons present. The Focus Club has been publicly described as an organization of Reed College students which has no official connection with Reed College and which has from time to time sponsored the appearance of various out-of-town speakers, singers, and entertainers.

In early May, 1958, ELIZABETH GURLEY FLYNN, member of the National Committee, CP, USA, spoke at Reed College under the auspices of the Focus Club.

The Communist Party (CP), has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

[REDACTED] as of 1949, was known to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] as a Portland Confidential Informant [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] as a member of the CP since which time she has been known to the above informants as one who has taken an active part in various Communist front organizations.

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[REDACTED] during the period 1948-1949, was known to [REDACTED] as one who had attended CP meetings during that period. Since 1949, [REDACTED] has been reported by [REDACTED] as one of those in attendance at CP front group meetings.

b7c  
b7D

[REDACTED]

(c)

b1

[REDACTED]

(c)

[REDACTED]

(c)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

[REDACTED] on [REDACTED] reported that at a meeting of the Committee for the Protection of Oregon's Foreign Born, at Portland, on February 25, 1958, an announcement was made concerning the scheduled appearance of PAUL ROBESON at a concert to be given at Reed College on about March 14, 1958.

[REDACTED] on [REDACTED] reported that at a meeting of the Oregon Federation for Social Action (OFSA) on [REDACTED] at Portland, an announcement was made by an OFSA member concerning the concert by PAUL ROBESON at Reed College on March 18, 1958, under the sponsorship of the Focus Club of Reed College. [REDACTED] reported on [REDACTED] at the meeting of the same organization held [REDACTED] Rev. MARK CHAMBERLIN, the chairman of the OFSA had announced the scheduled appearance of the subject. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] on [REDACTED] reported that on the evening of March 18, 1958, at ROBESON's concert, Mrs. EDNA SMITH, who is known to [REDACTED] as an OFSA executive board member and program committee member while in conversation with the subject, discussed with him the possibility of subject giving a program in Portland for the Committee for the Protection of Oregon's Foreign Born (CPOFB), to which subject replied that he was always willing to cooperate with the Foreign Born Committees. ROBESON provided his address to Mrs. SMITH and plans were tentatively made for his appearance in Portland in the fall of 1958 under the sponsorship of the CPOFB.

#### News Publicity Concerning Subject's Appearance

The Oregonian, Portland daily newspaper, on March 6, 1958, contained an article entitled "PAUL ROBESON to Sing Here", which announced the scheduled appearance of subject in his first Portland concert in ten years on March 18, 1958. The article referred to ROBESON as a "political controversial

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figure in the last decade because of squabbles with the State Department over alleged Communist sympathies", and indicated he would present a vocal program of his own under the sponsorship of the Focus Club a student group of about 40 members, at Botsford Auditorium, at Reed College, at 8:00 p.m.

The Oregonian, on Monday, March 17, 1958, contained three photographs of the subject. The caption above one photograph "I am Here as an artist" and contained a statement below the photograph referring to ROBESON as having arrived at the Reed College campus on Sunday. Below another photograph of ROBESON appeared "ROBESON recalled political controversy over his alleged sympathies with Russia, declared 'my political position is precisely now as it has always been.'"

An article captioned "ROBESON says English T.V., concert stage engagements, hinge on getting U.S. Passport," with byline of HERB PENNY, staff writer, The Oregonian, appearing in The Oregonian, March 17, 1958, reflected the results of an interview with the subject on Sunday (March 16, 1958). The article referred to ROBESON as having stated that he thought it was "unlikely" he would be permitted to leave the country to accept singing and acting engagements in England. The article pointed out that since 1950 ROBESON had been unable to obtain a passport because of "squabbles with the State Department over alleged Communist sympathies," and further pointed out that he had filed suit this month in an effort to obtain a passport before the English engagements in June. The article quoted ROBESON as stating: "It is unlikely that I'll will make it at this time although this whole thing is getting pretty absurd in the light of our cultural relations abroad. But if the case came up in time there is no doubt that I'd win because the State Department is interfering with my livelihood." The news article noted that ROBESON spoke informally on the Reed College campus. It further noted that ROBESON had commented to the effect that he believed it important for people to know that he was getting invitations from abroad because it reflected how necessary a passport was for him. The article continued "in his Portland visit, he emphathized 'I'm here as an artistxxxx'" The article continued that "the fact that

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PD 100-8472

he now, apparently, has much more to say about music than about politics does not mean that he has changed his opinions. 'My political position is precisely now as it has always been' he declared." The article referred to the subject's most recent appearance as having been under the sponsorship of negro groups with many recitals in negro churches. It pointed out that no political message would be given with his concert.

The Oregon Journal, Portland daily newspaper, on March 17, 1958, contained an article captioned "PAUL ROBESON, 'here as artist'; discussion on politics avoided" under the byline of MARTIN CLARK, Journal music editor, which pertained to a press conference by ROBESON on Sunday afternoon (March 16, 1958). The article quoted ROBESON as saying "I'm here as an artist" and referred to his scheduled concert on Tuesday evening March 18, 1958, at Botsford Auditorium on the Reed College campus, which it was noted was being sponsored by the "Focus Club, a group of Reed College students which has no official connection with the college."

The article stated in part, including the phrase set out in parenthesis, that subject "has been accused of many things (including extreme left wing views and pro-Communist opinions), but new of a lack of sincerity. This was evident in all his answers." It further noted that subject was willing to answer political questions but he had made it clear that on this visit he wanted to be considered purely as an artist. It noted that subject had commented that should he return to Portland to give a lecture then he "would be happy to go into all such questions", the latter statement being indicated as prompted by a question concerning his feelings on the Hungarian revolt.

The article quoted subject in continuing "but I will say this, we here in the United States can get awfully excited about what's happening to people in other countries while paying little attention to the injustices to my people here in this country." Subject was referred to as having stated that since 1950, he had been concertising mainly in churches. He noted he was scheduled to sing in Carnegie Hall this year under the sponsorship of the AME Zion Church in New York in which his brother is pastor. He remarked it was his feeling that the U.S. Supreme Court

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PD 100-8472

will pass favorably soon on an application to have his passport, which was cancelled in 1950, reinstated and if that action is forthcoming, he will accept invitations from such British composers as RALPH VAUGHN WILLIAMS and BENJAMIN BRITTEN to concertise extensively in Great Britain. An article which appeared in the Oregon Journal on March 19, 1958, under the byline of MARTIN CLARK, Journal music editor, was captioned "Botsford Auditorium jammed for ROBESON." The article referred to a spokesman for the Focus Club, the organization of Reed students which had sponsored PAUL ROBESON's appearance, as having stated it was the largest audience attending a concert in the auditorium, there being more than 1,000 in attendance. The article noted that the subject's "warm outgoing nature obviously struck a responsive chord in the hearts of his listeners", further noting that "ROBESON's request to be recognized purely as an artist apparently has been completely granted."

Communist Party Reaction to Subject's Appearance

on [REDACTED] reported that in [REDACTED] GAYLORD GINTHER, in referring to the scheduled appearance of PAUL ROBESON, commented to the effect that he was sorry to hear that the Focus Club was charging \$2 for admission to the concert, that he (GINTHER) felt that the price was too high, noting that neither he nor his wife could afford to attend at that admission fee. He further indicated that he was going to see some members of the Focus Club, the organization sponsoring the concert, and tell them they were charging too much. ✓ I

GAYLORD GINTHER is known to informants [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] as state secretary of the CP of Oregon.

[REDACTED] who attended the subject's concert on the evening of March 18, 1958, reported on [REDACTED] that ROBESON was most enthusiastically received by the entire audience. According to the informant [REDACTED] attended the concert, commented that subject was staying at the home of LLOYD REYNOLDS, Reed College professor. ✓

[REDACTED] as of March, 1958, were known to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] as current CP members. [REDACTED] ✓ C 671



CONFIDENTIAL

have been known to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] as longtime CP members who in recent years have played a prominent role in the CP leadership.

On June 19, 1954, ROBERT WISHART CANON, a self-confessed CP member, from 1947 to 1948, in testimony at Portland, Oregon, before the Committee on Un-American Activities, House of Representatives, testified that LLOYD REYNOLDS, professor of Graphic Arts, at Reed College, and his wife, were known to CANON in 1948 as members of the professional club of the CP, a group comprised of seven persons whose interests and livelihood were centered around Reed College.

On June 19, 1954, LLOYD J. REYNOLDS, 7423 S.E. 31st Avenue, Portland, while appearing as a witness under subpoena before the Committee on Un-American Activities, House of Representatives, identified himself as a professor of art at Reed College. He invoked the protection of the Constitution of the United States and particularly the 5th Amendment in declining to answer whether he was ever a member of the CP on the grounds his answers might tend to incriminate.

[REDACTED] on [REDACTED] reported that on March 18, 1958, a social affair was held at a private home following subject's concert in honor of the subject. According to [REDACTED] no expressions of political views were heard, the topics of conversation being with reference to music of countries visited by the subject. [REDACTED] reported that the subject was pleased with the response given to his Portland concert and that subject indicated it would pave the way for him to give concerts in other cities. The subject commented that he had had offers from Seattle and Spokane, Washington, for future appearances. [REDACTED] orally advised on [REDACTED] that about 45 students were present at the above described social affair.

[REDACTED] on [REDACTED] further reported that on March 19, 1958, a buffet supper was held for the subject at which the membership was limited to Focus Club members and certain other invited guests. After the supper, according to [REDACTED] the group, including the subject, went to the Reed College coffee shop, where students were square

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dancing, thus affording the students an opportunity to talk to the subject. After about an hour ROBESON left with one of the Focus Club members to return to the residence of Professor LLOYD REYNOLDS where he was staying.

[REDACTED] orally advised on [REDACTED] that during the gathering on the evening of March 19, 1958, in the subject's honor, the latter discussed at length his music and the background of some of the music in the countries he had given concerts.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION OF OREGON'S FOREIGN BORN

According to Portland Confidential Informants, the COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION OF OREGON'S FOREIGN BORN, known in its earlier stages as the CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR A CIVIL RIGHTS ORDINANCE and as COMMITTEE TO DEFEND FOUR OF OREGON'S FOREIGN BORN, has been dominated during its entire existence, August, 1949, to date by past and present COMMUNIST PARTY members.

A Portland Confidential Informant reported that a letter dated April 9, 1957, by COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION OF OREGON'S FOREIGN BORN secretary, MARTINA CURL, described the organization "as an independent defense committee organized about seven years ago to help those in Oregon, who, when arrested and facing deportation for exercising the very rights they came to the United States seeking, were confused and financially unable to defend themselves." Portland Confidential Informants have advised the COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION OF OREGON'S FOREIGN BORN is currently active in Portland, Oregon, holding regular meetings and has sponsored a number of fund raising affairs during the past year.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~PORTLAND CHAPTER, METHODIST FEDERATION FOR SOCIAL ACTION

Portland Confidential Informants have advised that the PORTLAND CHAPTER, METHODIST FEDERATION FOR SOCIAL ACTION, aka OREGON CHAPTER, METHODIST FEDERATION FOR SOCIAL ACTION and OREGON FEDERATION FOR SOCIAL ACTION is heavily infiltrated by persons known to them as past or present COMMUNIST PARTY members and sympathizers who take an active part in its affairs and activities.

METHODIST FEDERATION FOR SOCIAL ACTION

The METHODIST FEDERATION FOR SOCIAL ACTION has been cited by the California Committee on Un-American Activities in its 1948 report as "among the more conspicuous fronts for Communist activity in the field of relief, assistance, and welfare work and dealing with the problems of the unemployed and underprivileged."

- RUC -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)

DATE: 5/28/58

FROM : SAC, PORTLAND (100-8472)

SUBJECT: PAUL LEROY ROBESON  
IS-CALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISERerep of SA [REDACTED] Portland, dated  
and captioned as above, enclosed herewith. Also enclosed  
is dissemination memo.REFERENCE

Bureau let to New York, 3/27/58.

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 RJG/dw  
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW 1-16-91

Per Foia Release

ADMINISTRATIVEFor the information of the Bureau, and for the  
Office of Origin, [REDACTED] on [REDACTED] reported [REDACTED]Because of the nature of the information reported  
and the fact that disclosure of the above facts might  
expose informant, the above remarks were not included  
in the body of instant report for dissemination.INFORMANTS

Identity of Source	Date of Activity or Description of Information	Date Received	Agent to whom Furnished	File No. where Located
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T-1 [REDACTED]

(c)

2-Bureau (Enc. 8) (RM)  
3 New York (Enc. 6) (100-25857) (RM)  
4 Portland

67 JUL 16 1958

66 JUN 16 1958

EX-123

REQ 88 23

EX-123

100-12304-523  
oral 100-8472-14  
23 JUN 2 1958

SUB CONTROL

A. J. [REDACTED]  
CONFIDENTIAL



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PD 100-8472

Identity of Source	Date of Activity or Description of Information	Date Received	Agent to whom furnished	File No where Located
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	100-8472-32
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] (C)
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	oral	100-8472-32
T-2 is [REDACTED] (C)	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	b1
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	b7C
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	b7D
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] C
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
T-3 is [REDACTED] (C)	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] C
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PD 100-8472

Identity of Source	Date of Activity or Description of Information	Date Received	Agent to whom Furnished	File No. where Located
T-4 is [redacted] (c)	[redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]		oral	100-8472-25 b) b7C b7D
T-5 is [redacted] (c)	[redacted] [redacted]			[redacted] (c)
T-6 is [redacted] (c)	[redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]			[redacted] (c) [redacted] (c)
T-7 is [redacted] (c)	[redacted]			[redacted] (c)

PD 100-8472

Identity of Source	Date of Activity or Description of Information	Date Received	Agent to whom Furnished	File no. where Located
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T-7 cont.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (c)

T-8

[REDACTED] (c) [REDACTED]

b1  
b7D

T-9

[REDACTED] (c) [REDACTED]

~~X~~ 46

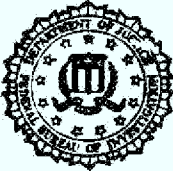
CONFIDENTIAL

FD 100-8472

1. ☒ Subject's name is included in the Security Index.
2. ☐ The data appearing on the Security Index card are current.
3. ☐ Changes on the Security Index card are necessary and Form FD-122 has been submitted to the Bureau.
4. ☐ A suitable photograph ☐ is ☐ is not available.
5. ☒ 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.
6. ☐ Subject is employed in a key facility and is charged with security responsibility. Interested agencies are \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☒ This report is classified confidential because (state reason) it contains information, the unauthorized disclosure of which could be prejudicial to the defense interests of the nation.
8. ☐ Subject was not reinterviewed because (state reason) \_\_\_\_\_
9. ☐ This case no longer meets the Security Index criteria and a letter has been directed to the Bureau recommending cancellation of the Security Index card.
10. ☐ This case has been re-evaluated in the light of the Security Index criteria and it continues to fall within such criteria because (state reason) \_\_\_\_\_

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Portland, Oregon  
May 28, 1958

RE: PAUL LEROY ROBESON  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Reference is made to report of Special Agent  
[REDACTED] at Portland, dated and captioned  
as above. b7c

All informants referred to in the above  
report are sources, who in the past have provided  
reliable information.

This information is loaned to you by the FBI  
and neither it nor its contents are to be distributed  
outside the agency to which loaned.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 1-16-81 BY SP-5 RJS/dw

0-6 0-147 0-146  
AGENCY Lab, CI, A, State  
REG. REC'D 6-10-58  
DATE FORW. 6-10-58  
HOW FORW. BY [Signature]  
BY [Signature]

100-12304-505

ENCLOSURE

48

SAC, New York (100-25857)

~~SECRET~~

June 3, 1958

EX-101

Director, FBI (100-12304) - 504

REC-76

ESLANDA CORDOZO ROBESON  
SECURITY MATTER - C

ReBulet 5-28-58.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 RJG/dw  
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2 P. 2  
DATE OF REVIEW 6-3-88

NOTE ON YELLOW:

Subject in Security Index. She recently  
traveled to British West Indies with a group from  
the United Nations, it being noted that subject is  
an accredited correspondent at the United Nations  
for the publication "New World Review."

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

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

BCR:ef  
(4)

MAILED 10  
JUN 10 1958  
COMM-FBI

Classified by 2658 YR  
Exempt from GDS, Category 1  
Date of Declassification Indefinite  
MAY 24 1977

67 JUL 1 - 1958

59 JUN 9 - 1958

~~SECRET~~

49

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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

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

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

*100-12304*  
*5-PR*

**PAUL ROBESON v. JOHN FOSTER DULLES**

The summons and complaint were served on the Attorney General on Mar. 3, 1958. Plaintiff seeks a declaratory judgment and other equitable relief to declare that the Passport Regulations of the Secretary of State (22 C.F.R. 51.135 et seq.) as applied to the plaintiff, are unauthorized, unlawful and invalid. Plaintiff further prays that the defendant be enjoined from interfering with plaintiff's travel outside the U.S., from continuing to refuse to grant a passport to the plaintiff, and to direct the defendant to issue a passport to the plaintiff forthwith. Defendant refused to grant a passport to plaintiff based on his refusal to answer questions concerning present and past membership in the Communist Party which are contained in the passport application form. On April 28, 1958, an Answer to Complaint was filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. On the same day, defendant filed a Motion for Security for Costs, together with a memorandum of points and authorities in support thereof. On May 22, 1958, Judge James Morris granted defendant's motion for security for costs and further ordered that plaintiff post such security within 30 days from the date of the Order.

Information included in Internal Security Division  
 Monthly Status Report for May, 1958.

*100-12304*  
 NOT RECORDED

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

60 JUL 11 1958

DATE 1-16-81 BY SP-5 RJS/HW

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

OFFICE MEMORANDUM . UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)

DATE: 6/8/58

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

SUBJECT: PAUL LE ROY ROBESON,  
INTERNAL SECURITY-C

*HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE*

Reference is made to NY letter dated 5/8/58, and to  
Bulet 3/27/58.

In accordance with instructions set forth in reBulet,  
the following informants of the NYO were contacted to  
determine if they had any information indicating that  
subject's current concert tour is controlled, sponsored,  
guided or influenced by the CP.

Date of Contact	Agent	Results
[REDACTED]	SA [REDACTED]	Negative
[REDACTED]	SA [REDACTED]	Negative
[REDACTED]	SA [REDACTED]	Negative
[REDACTED]	SA [REDACTED]	Negative
[REDACTED]	SA [REDACTED]	Negative
[REDACTED]	SA [REDACTED]	Negative
[REDACTED]	SA [REDACTED]	Negative
[REDACTED]	SA [REDACTED]	Negative
[REDACTED]	SA [REDACTED]	Negative
[REDACTED]	SA [REDACTED]	Negative

*b1  
b7C  
b7D*

On [REDACTED] advised SA [REDACTED]  
that in the past it was general knowledge in the CP that CP  
members should attend the concerts of PAUL ROBESON. Informant  
was unable to provide any specific information regarding  
subject's current concert tour and CP influence in same.

On [REDACTED] advised SA [REDACTED]  
that the CP has always backed the various ventures of PAUL  
ROBESON by selling tickets, advertising the affair and  
through attendance. Informant pointed out that in his  
opinion the CP will do everything possible to assure success  
of any ROBESON venture. Informant advised that presently the  
CP is pushing sales of ROBESON'S book, "Here I Stand," urging  
all members to purchase the book and advertising the book

- 2-Bureau (100-12304) (RM)
- 2-Los Angeles (100-25861) (RM)
- 2-Portland (RM)
- 2-San Francisco (100-6907) (RM)
- 1-New York (100-56680) (ESLANDA ROBESON)
- 1-New York (100-95550) (PAUL ROBESON, JR.)
- 1-New York (100-25857) (PAUL LE ROY ROBESON)

21 JUN 4 1958

REC-79

100-12304-505

67 JUL 1-1958

66 JUN 12-1958

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
SUBV CONTROL

NY 100-25857

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

whenever the opportunity arises. Informant was unable to furnish any specific information as to the control or guidance by the CP of subject's current concert tour.

On 5/10/58, [REDACTED] advised that on that date one MARY ELLEN was in contact with PAUL ROBESON, JR., via long distance telephone. She stated there were certain things she desired to discuss with him with particular reference to having his father and mother appear on a TV-Radio panel covering Trade Unionism, Negro Culture and other related topics, the program itself to be sponsored by "the Negro Ministers." She stated the time and date is entirely up to the ROBESON family. ELLEN further explained that her organization of women will sponsor the subject as long as he includes her on the program. ELLEN requested that she be advised as to how ROBESON is doing with his concerts and other activity inasmuch as "we got him started." ROBESON, JR., commented that he knew his father is in good hands "out there."

It is believed that the above contact with PAUL ROBESON, JR., originated from California and that MARY ELLEN is possibly a subject in the Los Angeles or San Francisco divisions. It is requested that Los Angeles, San Francisco and Portland attempt to identify ELLEN and furnished the NYO with any pertinent information concerning her.

*Jackson, et al*  
*Robeson*  
*Anti-Comm*  
*May 1958*  
*Confer*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
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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.

\_\_\_\_\_ 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.

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

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## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

CONFIDENTIAL

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)

DATE: June 12, 1958

FROM : SAC, BALTIMORE (100-20853)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP5 RJJ/1J  
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW 1-16-98SUBJECT: PAUL LEROY ROBESON  
IS - C  
OO: New YorkALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

Re New York airtel, dated May 20, 1958.

Referenced airtel requested Baltimore to reinterview [redacted] concerning his opinion of a statement recently made by [redacted] with respect to ROBESON's affiliation with the CP.

It is recalled that [redacted] (c) stated that [redacted] in speaking of ROBESON, had said, "We know him better than anyone else." Informant then commented, in his report, [redacted] made the remark in a manner which indicated that the CP does know ROBESON to be a CP member.

During recontact with [redacted] (c) informant said that when [redacted] made this statement, the tone of voice [redacted] used and the knowing laugh which accompanied the remark, led informant to conclude that ROBESON was more than a fellow traveler, a sympathizer or a Communist.

Informant stated that this is merely his opinion based on his knowledge of [redacted] personality, as well as all his many years associating with Party members. Informant also stated that he doubts that he would ever get any stronger statement from [redacted] if it is true that ROBESON is a Party member. He stated, however, that he would remain constantly on the alert for any such evidence. SA [redacted] recontacted [redacted] on 5/26/58.

The Baltimore Office has alerted all other informants who are in a position to obtain any such evidence against ROBESON, as well as to obtain any other information which would indicate that the CP might benefit in any way from proceeds of the sale of ROBESON's book "Here I Stand".  
RUC.

- 2 - Bureau (Regis. Mail)
- 2 - New York (100-25857) (Regis. Mail)
- 2 - Baltimore (cc 134-3A)

JCP:ef

REC-1

100-12304-507  
23 JUN 18 1958

SUB CONTROL

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66 JUN 19 1958

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
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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.

\_\_\_\_\_ 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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## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)

DATE: 6/18/58

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (100-25857)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISESUBJECT: PAUL LEROY ROBESON  
IS - C

ReBuairtel, 5/12/58.

Set forth below is a review of information concerning the activity in regard to ROBESON's concerts and the sale of his book, "Here I Stand."

On 5/19/58, [REDACTED] Carnegie Hall, 57th Street and Seventh Avenue, NYC, advised SA [REDACTED] that Art D'Lugoff, Festival Presentations, Incorporated, 319 W. 11th Street, NYC, arranged the concerts for ROBESON on 5/9 and 23/58. [REDACTED] noted this was not an unusual action on the part of D'LUGOFF, inasmuch as his business directly pertains to arranging such affairs for artists.

ReBuairtel stated that attempts should be made to determine whether the CP would benefit financially as a result of the campaign by the CP on behalf of the sale of ROBESON's book.

Investigation in this regard is set forth as follows:

(c) [REDACTED] a source close to [REDACTED], is contacted on a continuing basis and has furnished no information which indicates that the CP has benefited financially by the sale of ROBESON's book, "Here I Stand."

(c) [REDACTED] a source close to [REDACTED] is contacted on a continuing basis and has furnished no information which indicates that the CP has benefited financially from the sale of ROBESON's book.

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

JDW:plk  
(3)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 R/L/HW 1-16-81  
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW 1-16-91

REC-95

JUN 20 1958

SUBV. CONTROL

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NY 100-25857

(c) [redacted] and (c) [redacted] sources close to financial records maintained by the National and the New York State Offices, CP, USA, 23 W. 26th Street, NYC, are contacted on a continuing basis, also furnished no information which indicates the CP has benefited financially from the sale of ROBESON's book. b1

It is noted that ROBESON's book was published by Othello Associates.

[redacted] Further, a review of [redacted] reflected the following officers of Othello Associates, Incorporated:

PAUL ROBESON, JR.  
President

L. BROWN  
Secretary

Concerning Othello Associates, it may be documented as follows:

The records of the New York County Clerk's Office, State Supreme Court Building, Foley Square, NYC, revealed that on 10/23/52, a Certificate of Incorporation was filed for the Othello Recording Corporation, 53 W. 125th St., NYC. On [redacted] b7D b1 [redacted] advised that the Othello Recording Corporation was formed to make records for PAUL ROBESON and persons of the progressive movement who found it difficult to secure opportunities through other recording companies in putting their talent on wax.

On 4/21/58, records of the New York County Clerk's Office, under file number 59906, revealed that on 12/19/57, a Certificate of Change of Name of Othello Recording Corporation to Othello Associates, Incorporated, was filed by PAUL ROBESON, JR. President, and LLOYD L. BROWN, Secretary.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 92-25857

Concerning PAUL ROBESON, JR.

The following is a review of information received from informants concerning activity on the part of the CP in regard to ROBESON's concerts and the sale of his book:

(c) [redacted] advised on [redacted], he had learned that although the CP is attempting to initiate a ROBESON engagement in Baltimore, that the Party's connection with this movement should be as indirect as possible in order to facilitate the greatest possible degree of success. Also, the Party would like ROBESON to be sponsored by the membership within the Negro community and that the only way to obtain this is through the creation of a seemingly spontaneous group with a desire to hear ROBESON.

(c) [redacted] advised on 4/9/58, that BEN DAVIS indicated that some comrades were charging that "We" were trying to substitute the ROBESON book for the Party's line (The informant was not able to adequately <sup>explain</sup> the nature of this statement.)

(c) [redacted] advised on [redacted] that on 4/13/58, at an affair held in Chicago, Ill., PAUL ROBESON spoke and reaffirmed his intention of continuing the fight for his people and for his passport. He urged all present to fight for their rights as individuals despite the fact that many fighters for Negro rights were falsely labelled Communists. ROBESON stated he looked forward to the time when people like CLAUDE LIGHTFOOT

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could walk the streets as a free man. He said that LIGHTFOOT and his followers were not trying to overthrow the government, but were simply struggling for the rights of the Negro people.

(C) [redacted] reported on [redacted] LLOYD BROWN and BENJAMIN J. DAVIS, JR., conferred briefly on that date at DAVIS' residence. Evidently referring to PAUL ROBESON and ROBESON's book, BROWN said that the following week, in both "The Courier" and "Afro", that "We" will have another of "our" ads. He said he had a new heading, that being, "Ike Says Later, Paul Now." DAVIS indicated that that was a very good heading.

(C) [redacted] advised on [redacted] that the May Day Celebration in Newark, New Jersey, was held on 5/2/58.

PAT TOOHEY, a member of the National Committee of the CP, USA, spoke at the meeting. TOOHEY mentioned PAUL ROBESON's book, "Here I Stand" and urged everyone to buy a copy as soon as available.

(C) [redacted] advised on [redacted] that [redacted] informant advised that BEN DAVIS spoke at length on PAUL ROBESON's book, "Here I Stand", which he said clearly outlines a complete program in mass work. He said that ROBESON's book should be accepted as Party policy. [redacted] He said that there were 100,000 copies of this book in print and that 25,000 were to be distributed in the New York area. He said it was the duty of each club and section to take as many of these books and see that they were sold and distributed widely.

PEARL ALLEN, a leading Negro CP member of the New York State CP, spoke during the discussion which followed DAVIS' report, and said she could not accept it. She said that ROBESON's book was a good book, but could not be accepted as Party policy since ROBESON is not a Party member. She said the CP should formulate its own policy as a Communist Party.

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(c)  
[redacted] advised on [redacted] that DAVIS was in contact with ROBESON on that date. During the ensuing conversation between DAVIS and ROBESON, DAVIS congratulated ROBESON on his second concert at Carnegie Hall, 5/23/58, and stated he was sorry that he could not have been there. ROBESON remarked that he was astounded at the success of the concert and that it opened up entire new vistas for him. He stated that he put the Negro up on an intellectual plane. ROBESON also stated, "This is the answer to Peekskill and everything that went before." DAVIS made arrangements to meet with ROBESON at ROBESON's residence the next day [redacted] (The informant was not able to furnish the reason for DAVIS wanting to meet with ROBESON).

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(c)  
[redacted] advised on [redacted] that WILLIAM Z. FOSTER dictated a letter to his chauffeur-secretary, JACK SHULMAN, to be sent to PAUL ROBESON.

"Dear Paul:

"You must have been very surprised the other day when during our visit I talked to you particularly about the Negro Questions without mentioning your new book.

"The reason for this exceedingly strange conduct on my part was believe it or not, I did not know that you had written a book. This shows the extent of my sickness. I had been cut off from current publications. The fact of the matter was inaudible even now I am catching up on it only in the most desultory manner.

"It so happens that I was not given a copy of your book when it came out or did I read about it in the 'Worker.'

"You may be sure however when I came to hear about the book several days after our talk I was thoroughly embarrassed at my ignorance and I made haste to get a copy of the book and read it without delay.

(Following paragraph added as a corrected piece.)

"Your book 'Here I Stand' is certainly a splendid piece of literature on the subject animated by the true fighting

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spirit of the negro people in this country and throughout the world. It is certainly bound to receive a very wide circulation.

"In these days in our ranks there has been much confusion on the negro question inaudible your book will do a real service.

(Following paragraph a corrected one)

"Your book in its clear fighting spirit will do much to clarify the question. I venture to assert it will do a leading service to the negro people in the fight to light up and make clear the typical road the negro people have to travel in fighting for their own National liberation inaudible gradually working their way to Socialism.

"With all good wishes and again apologizing for my neglect of your fine book.

Bill Foster"

"PS

"This letter was written by my friend JACK SHULMAN as I am unable as yet to write a letter."

Investigation to be conducted as set forth in reBuairtel continuing, and Bureau will be kept advised of developments.

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## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO :

DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)

DATE: 6/28/58

FROM :

SAC, LOS ANGELES (100-25861)

SUBJECT:

PAUL ROBESON  
IS - CCLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5R1g-dw  
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2 2  
DATE OF REVIEW 1-16-91

1-16-91

Reference is made to Los Angeles letter dated 3/20/58, in which it was reported that [REDACTED] felt that PAUL ROBESON was in California for reasons other than his concert tour, namely, to consolidate the left forces in the CP. Further reference is made to New York letters of 5/8/58 and 5/20/58.

This is to advise that informants of the Los Angeles Office who might be in a position to have information concerning PAUL ROBESON and his activities in the Los Angeles area have been contacted. On [REDACTED], [REDACTED] advised SA [REDACTED] that PAUL ROBESON has now returned to New York. However, there has been some talk that he plans to move to Los Angeles to live; however, as yet these plans are somewhat indefinite. This informant advised SA [REDACTED] that PAUL ROBESON and PETTIS PERRY, a member of the National Committee of the CP who now resides in Los Angeles, are very close and see a great deal of each other. This informant stated that PETTIS PERRY has been heard to state that he had met with PAUL ROBESON and had persuaded him to sing at a recent "People's World" newspaper concert held for the benefit of the PW Communist newspaper in Los Angeles. Informant stated that other individuals had tried to persuade ROBESON to sing at such a concert but he had refused to do so until PERRY had talked with him.

Informant stated that he did not know whether ROBESON had had any political meetings with PETTIS PERRY or with other leading CP figures in the Los Angeles area. This informant stated that he had no information to indicate that PAUL ROBESON was actually a member of the CP or was allied with the Foster-Davis faction of the CP.

2- Bureau (REGISTERED)

2- New York (100-25857) (1 - 1-65-14825 sub B) (REGISTERED)

1- Los Angeles

MLP:fet

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However, it very well could be true, according to the informant, because of ROBESON's close relationship with leading CP figures who are of the left faction, particularly PETTIS PERRY.

(C) [redacted] advised further orally to SA [redacted] that ROBESON's book is being pushed in this area by the Communist element and plans are in effect where any group or individual which might sell the book can keep 40% of the proceeds for themselves or for the organization. Informant stated that he was not certain as to whether any of the receipts from the sale of the book have actually gone to the CP, but it is entirely possible, in view of the fact that they might retain 40% of the proceeds of the sale. b1 b7C b7D

(C) On [redacted] [redacted] was reinterviewed by SA [redacted] concerning the above matter. This informant stated orally that in order to evaluate the position which PAUL ROBESON now holds regarding the party crisis in the United States, the following facts should be kept in mind:

I. ROBESON has for many years maintained close personal contact with a number of highly placed Soviet officials. His frequent trips in the past years to the Soviet Union plus his contacts with the Soviet Communist movement during the Spanish Civil War, accounts for part of this personal contact.

II. ROBESON first came into contact, according to his own statement, some years ago in Detroit with Communist ideology as a result of his friendship with WILLIAM PATTERSON, with whom he first toured the Soviet Union and with whom he has maintained close personal relationship for many years. PATTERSON, it should be noted, according to the informant, is one of the key figures in the Ben Davis faction of the CP in the New York area.

III. At the time of the 16th National Convention of the CP in New York in February, 1957, [redacted] b7C b7D

[redacted] reported that she had lunched with WILLIAM PATTERSON and he told her that PAUL ROBESON was the main power behind the theoretical

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LA 100-25861

position of BEN DAVIS and CHARLES LOHMAN. At that time she indicated that while ROBESON was not a delegate to this convention, he was in New York throughout the convention, although the opposite was reported to the convention at the time in explanation for his not being invited to attend. Evidently, in spite of his extreme interest in the factional fight, he is still anxious to maintain some semblance of personal separation from the party, at least for appearance sake.

IV. ROBESON has been on the West Coast for some time. Since his arrival, a number of meetings have been held with key figures in the Negro community of the CP, including FRANK WHITLEY and PETTIS PERRY and CHARLENE MITCHELL, the latter two being members of the National Committee and supporters of the Foster-Davis faction of the CP. FRANK WHITLEY, according to informant, is chairman of the Negro Affairs Commission of the Southern California District of the CP, USA, (SCDCP). This association exists between ROBESON and the above left leaders, according to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] stated that he felt the recent nomination of BILL TAYLOR on 5/9/58 at a district council meeting for National Committee member from Southern California represents support for the roll played by these individuals who have been in contact with PAUL ROBESON. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] stated that BILL TAYLOR is now being considered the leader of the left faction in the SCDCP, which is concentrated in the Moranda Smith Section, in which PETTIS PERRY and PAUL ROBESON reside. [REDACTED] according to informant, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] of the SCDCP, indicated some weeks ago that the Moranda Smith Section of the CP in Los Angeles was completely in the hands of the left faction. There is reason to believe, according to informant, that this left wing body is operating outside of the regular section apparatus in the Moranda Smith Section because they have evidently been in contact with key people outside the section, including such well known left wingers as LILLIAM HASKELL from San Diego.

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V. Informant advised that here in Southern California at the time of the 16th National Convention of the CP following the 20th congress in the Soviet Union, the centerists and those to the right of center were obviously in control and at the 16th National Convention the Southern California delegation, with one or two notable exceptions, were solidly behind the center and right wing position working with FRED FINE, SID STEIN, as well as JOHN GATES in some aspects of the convention work. A small minority of this delegation worked with BEN DAVIS, including CHARLENE MITCHELL, GLENDORA DAWSON and to a lesser degree ANITA ROSTODHA, all Negroes. Since that time the district council in Southern California and the general leadership of the party have followed a position of careful center of the road policy regarding the National Committee question as well as local questions. In the last few months, however, particularly since the visits of LOUIS WEINSTOCK, and the arrival of PETTIS PERRY and the presence of PAUL ROBESON, the complexion of the district council, as well as the general orientation of a number of the district CP leaders has changed noticeably, so that today there has been a decided left swing orientation of the district leadership. While this by no means has been decisive, it marks a trend which can easily lead to the removal of DOROTHY HEALEY, NEMMY SPARKS as well as BEN DOBBS from their positions of authority. It was noted at the last meeting of the SCDCouncil on 5/9/58 that all of the Negro delegates and Negro visitors sat in a body at this meeting and seemed to be working as an organized clique. When the time came for nominations to the National Committee, FRANK WHITLEY, ANITA ROSTODHA and others jumped to their feet to nominate BILL TAYLOR, a Negro, as if by pre-arrangement. While there has been an apparent desire for the most part on the part of PAUL ROBESON to stay away from CP functions as such, he has appeared as the honored guest at a PW newspaper affair and also at the present time his connection still continues to exist locally, in that anyone who sells a prescribed number of subscriptions to the PW newspaper is rewarded with a gift of PAUL ROBESON's book.

there was an indication at  
meeting

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that some kind of a deal is in the wind regarding a general reorganization of the Southern California National Committee delegation. Informant stated that [REDACTED] did not discuss the question freely, he inferred that there may be more than a single replacement in the offing for this National Committee delegation.

(c) [REDACTED] stated that it must be concluded that the Negro left wing leadership of the SCDOP has taken on a much more active roll in recent months, which could only be caused by well organized leadership of the kind which PAUL ROBESON might give. There is reason to believe that PATTIS PERRY and FRANK WHITLEY are acting with the advice, counseling and guidance of PAUL ROBESON on questions of this kind. With the right wing delegate completely destroyed in the New York area, the California party represents the only significant segment which is not directly under the control of the Davis forces. Evidently, this control is a major objective of the left wing groupings in the months ahead.

On [REDACTED] (c) advised SA [REDACTED] orally that [REDACTED] it is his understanding that PAUL ROBESON maintains close contact with PATTIS PERRY and FRANK WHITLEY. This informant stated that he did not know the degree of influence which PAUL ROBESON may have on these individuals. He stated, however, that it was his understanding [REDACTED] that PAUL ROBESON generally has his thinking oriented along left lines.

On [REDACTED] (c) advised SA [REDACTED] orally that he had no information concerning the activities of PAUL ROBESON of a political nature. He added that he could be very active with leadership in this area and it would not have come to his attention.

For the information of the Bureau and New York Office, PAUL ROBESON while in Southern California has been residing with FRANKIE LEE SIMS and GEORGE SIMS, [REDACTED] at 236 East 102nd Street, Los Angeles. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

The Los Angeles Office will continue to be on the alert for any evidence on the part of PAUL ROBESON to participate directly or indirectly in the CP or influencing others in the current crisis.

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Reporting Office <b>PITTSBURGH</b>	Office of Origin <b>NEW YORK</b>	Date <b>JUN 19 1958</b>	Investigative Period <b>4/21, 22, 27, 30; 5/8, 19, 22, 30; 6/4/58</b>
TITLE OF CASE <b>PAUL LEROY ROBESON</b>		Report made by <b>[REDACTED]</b>	Typed By: <b>mz</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - C</b>	

Synopsis:

PAUL ROBESON Concert originally scheduled to be held at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall, Pittsburgh, 4/21/58 but lease for hall cancelled because of ROBESON's political beliefs. Central Baptist Church, Wylie Avenue and Kirkpatrick Street, Pittsburgh, made available for ROBESON's Concert which was sponsored by the Religious Talent Guild. ROBESON's Concert held 4/21/58 at Central Baptist Church at which 1800 persons reportedly were in attendance. Leaders of the Communist Party - USA, Western Pennsylvania District, at Pittsburgh expressed an interest in this concert, assisted in the sale of tickets, and attended the concert.

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

RUC - ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 1-16-81 BY SP-5 RJG/PLW  
100-12304-512

Approved <b>CHW</b>	Special Agent in Charge	Do not write in spaces below	
Copies made: 4 - Bureau (100-382224) (RM) 3 - New York (100-25857) (RM) 2 - Pittsburgh (100-9855)		100-399388-45	REC-7
		JUN 23 1958	
		SUBSTANTIAL EVIDENCE	

AGENCY **Latvia, etc.**  
REQ. REC'D  
DATE FORW. **6-26-58**  
HOW FORW. **BY AIR**  
BY **[Signature]**



DETAILS:

I. EFFORTS OF PROMOTER TO OBTAIN CONCERT  
HALL AT PITTSBURGH, PA. FOR PAUL  
ROBESON CONCERT SCHEDULED APRIL 21,  
1958

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The "Sun-Telegraph," a Pittsburgh, Pa. daily newspaper, March 31, 1958, issue, page three, column four, contained an article entitled, "Paul Robeson 'Steal-in' Foiled Here," which set forth in part that the board of managers of Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall foiled what was described as an attempt to let communist sympathizer PAUL ROBESON "steal" into the hall for a concert; that Superintendent GILBERT C. CLOONAN stated an advertising man had released publicity that ROBESON would sing at the Ushers Alliance program April 21 but that they contacted the Ushers Alliance which advised that they had voted down ROBESON as a singer for their program because of his political affiliations.

"The Pittsburgh Press," a Pittsburgh, Pa. daily newspaper, April 1, 1958, issue, page 17, columns one and two, contained an article entitled, "Use of Hall is Refused to Singer Robeson Here," which set forth that a contract for the use of Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall, Pittsburgh, on Monday, April 21, 1958, for the appearance of PAUL ROBESON had been cancelled the preceding day by GILBERT C. CLOONAN, Superintendent of the building. This article set forth that CLOONAN, in a letter to newspapers, announced that the lease which had been obtained by a private promoter was ordered returned on the grounds that the "facts are not consistent with the memorial character of the building and no mention had been made of Robeson's appearance there."

"The Pittsburgh Press," April 1, 1958, issue, page eight, column one, carried an article entitled, "Robeson Gets Church Offer for Concert," which set forth that Dr. CHARLES R. GORDON, Minister of St. Matthews A.M.E. Zion Church, Sewickley, Pa., extended an invitation to ROBESON to appear at his church. This article set forth that Dr. GORDON emphasized that he is not in agreement with the political views of ROBESON, a staunch admirer of the Soviet Union, but that he respects his rights to be heard as a concert artist.



This article further set forth that GILBERT C. CLOONAN, Superintendent, Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall, Pittsburgh, upon cancelling the lease for Robeson's Concert scheduled April 21, 1958, stated, "We didn't want his type here," and "We didn't think it is right to have a person who won't salute his country's flag."

"The Pittsburgh Courier," a national weekly newspaper published at Pittsburgh, Pa., April 12, 1958, issue, page three, columns one and two, contained an article entitled, "Church Opens Its Doors - Robeson Will Sing at Central Baptist," which set forth, in part, that PAUL ROBESON, labeled by one critic as "the Red bull butterfly of literary teas," but placed high in the heroes gallery of India's Prime Minister Jawaharal Nehru because he has represented and suffered for a cause which should be dear to everyone -- the cause of human dignity -- would sing at Central Baptist Church, April 21, at 8:00 PM, according to an announcement made this week by the Religious Talent Guild of Pittsburgh and vicinity.

The article set forth that ROBESON, who has been most successful in needling white America's conscience because of what he charges is bias against him and the rest of America's least privileged minority, will be presented in concert at the church at the aforementioned time, according to LEE A. MATTHEWS, promotional secretary, and B. H. LOGAN, president of the Guild.

Following an unexpected rebuff by GILBERT C. CLOONAN of the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall, Oakland, where the concert was originally scheduled to be held, application was made by the promoters to two large churches - Wesley Center AME Zion and Central Baptist. Previously an invitation to hold the concert in his church was extended by the Rev. CHARLES R. GORDON, pastor of St. Matthews AME Zion Church in Sewickley, Pa. who made the gesture almost immediately after CLOONAN announced that ROBESON could not sing in the Memorial Hall because of some citizens' and organizations' objections to ROBESON's pro-communist leanings.

The article noted that in most cases halls and auditoriums, both public and private, have been made available to ROBESON and that religious organizations have been his chief sponsors.

II. PAUL ROBESON CONCERT HELD APRIL 21, 1958

"The Pittsburgh Courier," April 28, 1958, issue, page three, entire page, and page four, column two, carried an article entitled, "I Will Continue Fighting to Prove All Men Are Brothers" - Over 1,800 Attend Paul Robeson Concert," which set forth in part that the crowd of more than 1,800 persons, who jammed Central Baptist Church, April 21, 1958 to hear PAUL ROBESON proved that they were not going to be told who could sing to them or where their concerts could be held.

The article set forth that ROBESON who deviated from the scheduled program, in evident appreciation, gave one of those performances rarely heard in great concert halls; that his repertoire included numbers by old and modern masters; folk songs of various countries, including America, Mexico, England, Germany, France, Hungary, Russia, Africa, India and China; recitations, prayers and the "Death Scene" from "Othello"; that he displayed his mastery of languages by singing, in perfect idiom, English, French, German, Spanish, Russian, Hebrew, several African tongues, Persian Sanskrit and Chinese; and on one occasion commented that "Truly, the people of the world are all brothers under the skin."

ROBESON stated that all of his life he had been fighting to prove that all men are brothers; that he was still fighting to prove it; and that he intended to continue fighting to prove it the rest of his life. There was hushed silence for a moment, then a deafening roar of applause, augmented by such vocal encouragement as: "I'm with you, Paul"; "Stand your ground, man"; "There's a real leader," and "There's a real man. I wish there were more like him."

The article noted further that even though brotherhood was the theme of Robeson's Concert, GILBERT C. CLOONAN, Superintendent of Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall, had cancelled the Guild's lease upon learning that ROBESON was to sing there; and that the Rev. CORNELL E. TALLEY, pastor of Central Baptist Church, and his deacon board then came to the rescue of the promoters by offering the use of their church.

It is noted that during the intermission, Rev. CHARLES R. GORDON, pastor of St. Matthews AME Zion Church, Sewickley, Pa., who was the first to offer the use of his church when it was learned that the concert could not be given at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall, told the audience that he and his wife received threats of physical violence, after he offered the use of his church.

This article was concluded with the following statements:

"The mixed audience applauded when it was announced that the State Department had relaxed its restrictions on foreign travel by Paul Robeson.

"The department had informed the singer and actor that he was free to travel in the Western Hemisphere, where no passport is required. But he is still unable to go to Europe or elsewhere because he cannot obtain a passport.

"Mr. Robeson has an offer to play several parts next summer at the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre in Stratford-on-Avon, England. He wants the passport so that he can take the offer, but the State Department has again demanded that he sign a non-Communist affidavit.

"Somewhat different legal questions are raised in another passport case just taken to the United States Court of Appeals in New York--that of Corliss Lamont, lecturer and philosopher.

"In 1956 the State Department included on the regular passport form for the first time three questions about Communist party membership. When Dr. Lamont filled out his application, he left these spaces blank. Although he had previously denied party membership, he said it would violate his principles to answer such questions.

"His lawyer, Leonard B. Boudin of New York, argues that there is no statutory or constitutional authority for a 'general inquisition' into the beliefs of the 600,000 Americans who get passports each year.



"Mr. Boudin also says that some persons have refused to answer the new questions on the passport form for religious reasons and have nonetheless received passports. Not to do the same for Mr. Lamont, he argues, is discrimination.

"Again the audience applauded, when Mr. Robeson informed it that he would return to Pittsburgh in the near future and would give a concert in the Mosque (Syria Mosque). 'I'm still fighting,' he reminded the crowd.

"Alpha Omicron Lambda Chapter of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, of which the distinguished Rutgers graduate is a member, entertained Mr. Robeson at the fraternity house, following the concert."

**III. INTEREST OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY - USA,  
WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA DISTRICT, REGARDING  
PAUL ROBESON CONCERT AT PITTSBURGH**

The Communist Party - USA, hereinafter referred to as the CP, has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

[REDACTED] on [REDACTED] advised that STEVE NELSON on that date at a meeting attended by leaders of this district commented regarding the proposed appearance of PAUL ROBESON at St. Matthews A.M.E. Zion Church, Sewickley, Pa. after ROBESON's lease for appearance at the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall at Pittsburgh had been cancelled. He stated that Sewickley, Pa. was not a good location because it was too far away. NELSON stated that he asked BENJAMIN CAREATHERS to see the person who has a place in town and that possibly they can get a statement to read in church regarding this. NELSON stated that BENJAMIN CAREATHERS can contact "The Pittsburgh Courier" newspaper to see if a public statement could be issued. b7D



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on [REDACTED] advised that [REDACTED] STEVE NELSON had tickets to distribute for the Paul Robeson Concert scheduled April 21, 1958 at Pittsburgh.

on [REDACTED] advised that based upon STEVE NELSON's activities, NELSON as of that date continued to be the chairman of the Communist Party, Western Pennsylvania District.

on [REDACTED] advised that MARGARET NELSON and BENJAMIN CAREATHERS had participated in the distribution of tickets for the Paul Robeson Concert at Pittsburgh, Pa. b7D

It is noted that [REDACTED] on [REDACTED] advised that MARGARET NELSON and BENJAMIN CAREATHERS on [REDACTED] at Pittsburgh, Pa. were in attendance at a meeting composed of leaders of the Communist Party, Western Pennsylvania District.

On April 21, 1958, Special Agents of the FBI observed numerous leaders of the CP Western Pennsylvania District in attendance at the Paul Robeson Concert, Central Baptist Church, Wylie Avenue and Kirkpatrick Street, Pittsburgh, Pa. which included, among others, the following individuals:

STEVE NELSON  
ALLAN D. MC NEIL  
THEODORE LEE ROWLAND  
ALEXANDER STABER  
ALEX STEINBERG.

It is noted that [REDACTED] on [REDACTED] advised that as of that date the above individuals were members of the District Committee, Communist Party, Western Pennsylvania District.

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## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (100-382224)

DATE: JUN 19 1958

FROM : SAC, Pittsburgh (100-9855)

SUBJECT: PAUL LEROY ROBESON  
IS - C  
OO - New YorkALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are four copies of the report of SA [REDACTED] dated JUN 19 1958 at Pittsburgh and four copies of letterhead memorandum of same date, concerning informants designated in said report by T symbols. Enclosed for the New York Office are three copies of the above mentioned report and letterhead memorandum.

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 RJ/HW  
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW 1-16-81

REFERENCE

Pittsburgh airtel to Bureau, 4/2/58, captioned "CP-USA, ORGANIZATION, IS - C."

ADMINISTRATIVE

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

This report has been classified "confidential" because information reported therein was furnished by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] (C) the disclosure of which could be prejudicial to the defense interests of the U. S. pursuant to Executive Order 10501.

On 4/21/58 SAS [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] attended the Paul Robeson Concert at Pittsburgh, Pa. and observed the various members of the District Committee, CP Western Pennsylvania District in attendance.

Informants

Source	Date of Activity and/or Description of Information	Date Received	Location
[REDACTED] (C)	[REDACTED]	4/1/58	[REDACTED]

- 2 - Bureau (Encl 8) (RM)  
3 - New York (100-25857) (Encl 6) (RM)  
2 - Pittsburgh

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ENCLOSURE

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Date of Activity  
and/or Description  
of Information

Location

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

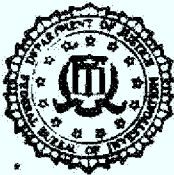
[REDACTED] 26 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No. 100-9855

June 19, 1958

PAUL LEROY ROBESON  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Reference is made to report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated June 19, 1958, at Pittsburgh. b7c

All sources identified by T symbols in referenced report have furnished reliable information in the past.

This memorandum is the property of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and neither it nor its contents should be distributed outside the agency to which loaned.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 1-16-81 BY SP-5 RLS/HW

0-6 0746 0-147  
AGENCY Lab, State, C. 19  
REC. REC'D  
DATE FORM. 6-26-58  
HOW FORM. SP-5  
BY [Signature]

100-12304-513

~~100-397-82-46~~

ENCLOSURE

79



Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Belmont *137*

DATE: June 25, 1958

FROM : R. R. Roach *(1)*

SUBJECT: PAUL ROBESON  
SECURITY MATTER--C

*Blair*  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

*b7C*  
[REDACTED] of the Passport Office, State Department, called at 2:20 p.m., 6/25/58 and advised that the State Department is issuing Passport Number 1145187 to Paul Robeson. He stated that Robeson's application has been pending at the Passport Office since 3/21/57. He intends to travel to Europe for the purpose of singing and acting and intends to visit England and Czechoslovakia. The passport is being mailed to Robeson's attorney Leonard B. Boudin of New York City. Robeson's case pertaining to his passport has been pending in the courts and this final action was taken by the State Department as a result of the recent Supreme Court's decision with regard to the issuance of passports.

ACTION:

None. For information.

1-Mr. Belmont  
1-Mr. Nease  
1-Mr. Bartlett  
1-Mr. Eland  
1-Mr. Philcox  
1-Liaison Section

NWP:mad  
(7)

REC-96 23 JUN 30 1958

EX-136

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 1-16-81 BY SP-5R19/LW

6-26-58

Airtel

To: SAC, New York (100-25857)  
 From: Director, FBI (100-12304) - 514

REC-96

PAUL LEROY ROBESON  
 INTERNAL SECURITY - C

State Department advised Bureau 6-25-58 that Passport Number 1145187 is being issued to Robeson for travel to Europe for the purpose of singing and acting. According to State Department, Robeson intends to visit England and Czechoslovakia. The passport is being mailed to Robeson's attorney, Leonard Boudin, at New York City. This action by State Department was taken as a result of the recent Supreme Court decision with regard to issuance of passports.

Continue to closely follow Robeson's activities. Any information developed bearing upon Robeson's contemplated travel plans and proposed activities abroad should be brought to the Bureau's attention promptly.

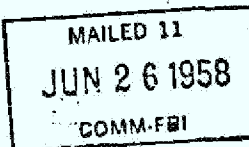
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 1-16-81 BY SP-5R/g/pw

## NOTE ON YELLOW:

Subject is key figure of New York Office. He is noted Negro concert singer who has long supported communist and related causes and has been outspoken in his praise of Russia. He has been fighting for passport since 1950 and as a result of recent Supreme Court decision in another passport case, State Department was required to issue passport to Robeson at this time.

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

BCR:ef  
 (4)

MAIL ROOM ☒

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. A. H. Belmont

DATE: June 21, 1958

FROM : W. C. Sullivan

SUBJECT: PAUL ROBESON  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 1-16-81 BY SP-5 RJS/HW

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

W. C. Sullivan

Yesterday while talking with [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] he gave me some information about Paul Robeson.

According to [REDACTED] Paul Robeson is becoming increasingly effective out on the West Coast among the Negroes and especially among some of the Negro clergymen. [REDACTED] explained that this is how he is increasing his popularity:

Robeson approached the pastor of one of the more important Negro churches in Los Angeles [REDACTED] did not have the name of the church or the pastor) and convinced the pastor to let him sing to his congregation. Robeson explained that the pastor could take up a collection for his church and the entire collection he could keep for his church and his members for he, Robeson, did not want any of it. All he wanted to do was to sing and sing and sing. The pastor agreed and as a result of Paul Robeson's singing he collected over \$1,100. This news spread quickly from pastor to pastor in the Los Angeles area. They saw possibilities in Paul Robeson for raising money for themselves and their churches, and, therefore, he has been receiving invitations to sing which he accepts.

[REDACTED] points out that in all these engagements Robeson gets across one or more points in behalf of communism and Russian viewpoints. [REDACTED] also advised me that Paul Robeson is planning to take a trip into Mexico in the near future and that his wife will go to Jamaica. [REDACTED] said that he had met Paul Robeson and on one occasion in this same connection, Robeson was heard to say to a person arranging for his Mexico trip: "Book me in as many churches in Mexico as possible." I asked [REDACTED] who were the people arranging for Robeson's Mexican trip. He said he did not know the names but believed they were two Jewish promoters."

[REDACTED] recognized that he didn't possess the details and explained [REDACTED] he didn't consider it proper for him to ask any pointed questions or make any specific inquiries, and, therefore, he retains only fragments of this or that conversation which he engages in or overhears.

- WCS:imm (5)  
1 - Mr. Belmont  
1 - Mr. Baumgardner  
1 - Section Tickler  
1 - Mr. Sullivan

COPIES DESTROYED  
SEP 26 1967

JUL 7 1958

REC-62

100-12304-515-4

100-319388-47

SUBV. CONTROL

42



Memorandum to Mr. Belmont  
Re: PAUL ROBESON

In light of the cultural and religious history of Mexico, it is difficult to believe that Robeson would be admitted to many churches in Mexico for the purpose of singing. It may be that he had something else in mind such as singing to outdoor gatherings in church areas, etc.

RECOMMENDATION:

For your information.

DEME

*[Handwritten signature]*

*[Handwritten signature]*

*[Handwritten signature]*

V.

*[Handwritten signature]*



FBI

Date: 6/19/58

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Boardman  
Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Nease  
Mr. Parsons  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Trotter  
Mr. W.C. Sullivan  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Holloman  
Miss Gandy

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_

(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (100-2587)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 Rds/Hat  
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW 1-16-91

SUBJECT: PAUL LEROY ROBESON

IS - C  
CINAL

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

(C) [redacted] advised on 6/18/58 that LLOYD BROWN on that date contacted BEN DAVIS. During the ensuing conversation, BROWN told DAVIS that he had been told by PAULIE (ROBESON, Jr.) that he had been finally able to reach his father (PAUL ROBESON) and "set up a session with him Friday at 1 o'clock and we'd like to have you come." DAVIS commented that he had been trying to reach PAUL ROBESON too but had had no success. To this comment BROWN stated "He must have just cut himself off from the world for a few days."

BROWN and DAVIS then discussed the possibility of PAUL ROBESON obtaining a passport in view of the recent Supreme Court decision pertaining to obtaining passports. DAVIS commented that he thinks ROBESON should immediately get a passport and "get the h out of here. Get to England or somewhere." BROWN indicated that the whole country is interested in what ROBESON will do.

In connection with the Supreme Court decision pertaining to travel to foreign countries and in view of allegations of Communist activity, BROWN and DAVIS jokingly remarked that in view of this decision DAVIS should be able to "go to New Jersey." DAVIS

- 4 - Bureau (100-12304) (RM) EX-124 REC-65  
(1 - 100-149163 BENJ. J. DAVIS, Jr.)  
1 - New York 100-23825 (BENJ. J. DAVIS, Jr.) (7-5)  
1 - New York 100-24616 [redacted] (7-5)  
1 - New York 100-95550 (PAUL ROBESON, Jr.) (12-15)  
1 - New York 100-2587 (7-5)  
100-2587

JDW:ams

(9)

Approved: 333

Sent

Special Agent in Charge

67 JUL 8 - 1958

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RESEARCH  
14 JUL 1958  
84

F B I

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Date:

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

NY 100-2587

indicated he felt that the same principle was involved in his case. In conclusion, BROWN and DAVIS indicated that the meeting for Friday would take place at the residence of PAUL ROBESON at 1 o'clock.

POWERS

- 2 -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

85

FBI

Date: 6/26/58

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

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

89-1  
 ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
 OTHERWISE

CINAL

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 R/L-HW  
 REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2 2  
 DATE OF REVIEW 1-16-91

ReNYairtel 6/19/58.

(C) [redacted] advised on 6/20/58 that BENJAMIN J. DAVIS, Jr.  
 advised his wife he was going to meet with PAUL ROBESON that date  
 at ROBESON's residence.

The "New York Times" issue 6/26/58, page 22, column 4,  
 contains an article captioned "ROBESON To Leave For Britain Soon,"  
 by LOUIS CALTA. Article set forth as follows: "PAUL ROBESON,  
 who for the last eight years has been denied a passport, will be  
 able to leave for London within a fortnight to fulfill stage, con-  
 cert and television commitments there.

"News of the actor-singer's imminent departure was made  
 known yesterday by his lawyer, LEONARD B. BOUDIN. Mr. BOUDIN said  
 that officials of the Passport Office of the State Department in  
 Washington informed him yesterday morning that the document  
 would be issued to Mr. ROBESON as quickly as possible or in about  
 five days."

"Mr. ROBESON's plans include discussions with British  
 producers about a London presentation of 'Othello,' with himself  
 in the title role, and conferences with HAROLD DAVISON, Ltd., a  
 theatrical, band and concert agency. He last appeared on the  
 London stage in 1936 in a play called 'Toussaint L'Ouverture.'"

③ - Bureau (100-12304) (RM)

1 - New York 100-68223 [redacted]

1 - New York 100-23825 (BENJAMIN J. DAVIS, Jr.) (7-5)

1 - New York 100-25857 (7-5)

JDW:mms

(7)

REC- 58

JUN 27 1958

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

Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_

Per \_\_\_\_\_

SUBV CONTROL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

46



F B I

Date:

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

NY 100-25857

"There is a possibility that the performer also will appear at the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre in Stratford-on-Avon. Last February Mr. ROBESON had sought a 'limited' passport to appear at the celebrated theatre as Gower in 'Pericles.'

"However, the State Department refused to process Mr. ROBESON's application. A recent Supreme Court decision voided State Department regulations denying passports to persons of allegedly doubtful loyalty. On Tuesday the State Department announced that the performer, among other rejected applicants, would shortly receive his passport."

Concerning [REDACTED] (c) advised on [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] was a [REDACTED] informant stated that [REDACTED] of the CP through leading CP members, [REDACTED] was identified as a CP member. Informant further stated that he has known [REDACTED] to have been associated with Communist fronts. b1 b7C b7D

Informants and other highly confidential investigative techniques of the NYO have furnished no additional information concerning foreign travel by ROBESON other than that reported in re airtel. Bureau will be advised of developments.

POWERS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

- 2 -

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

87



1 - Liaison Section  
2 - Mr. Rachner

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

100-12304  
REC-58 100-12304-517

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ 1-16-81

62-117  
Date: July 1, 1958  
To: Mr. E. Tomlin Bailey  
Director  
Office of Security  
Department of State  
515 22nd Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C.

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 R/L/H  
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2 2  
DATE OF REVIEW 1-16-91

**From:** John Edgar Hoover, Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

**Subject: PAUL LEROY ROBESON**  
**INTERNAL SECURITY - C**

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

Reference is made to previous communications concerning captioned individual.

[redacted] advised that Robeson was expected to arrive in Mexico City from the United States on or about July 1, 1958. According to the source, efforts were being made by interested parties in Mexico City to avoid any publicity concerning Robeson's trip prior to his arrival in Mexico City. Source added that Robeson would possibly give a concert in Mexico City.

In addition, an article captioned "Robeson To Leave For Britain Soon" appeared in the June 26, 1958, issue of "The New York Times." According to the article, Robeson contemplated travel to London, England, within two weeks to fulfill stage, concert, and television commitments. His plans included discussions with British producers concerning a London presentation of "Othello"; conferences with Harold Davison, Limited, a theatrical, band, and concert agency; and a possible performance at the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre in Stratford-on-Avon.

The above is furnished for your information and should not be disseminated to unauthorized individuals. No investigation is requested; however, it would be appreciated

DECLASSIFIED BY 2652/16 MAY 24 1977

2 - London (See note page 2) MAY 24 1977  
2 - Mexico City (See note page 2) NOTE ON YELLOW: Pages 2 & 3  
2 - New York (100-25857) (See note page 2) CONFIDENTIAL  
1 - Foreign Liaison Unit (through for Review)  
MAIL ROOM  
BCR:mtb:mjt (14) J.D. det Lam

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

BY COURIER SVC.  
32 JUL 2  
BYMAIL - FRI

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Persons **60**  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_

60 JUL 11 1958

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Mr. E. Tomlin Bailey

If you would furnish this Bureau any pertinent information which may come to your attention concerning Robeson's travel plans and proposed activities while abroad.

2 - Director  
Central Intelligence Agency

Attention: Deputy Director, Plans

NOTE TO LEGAL ATTACHES, LONDON AND MEXICO CITY AND SAC, NEW YORK:

ReBuairtel to New York dated 6-26-58, Legal Attache, Mexico City letter to Bureau dated 6-13-58, and Legal Attache, London cablegram dated 6-27-58.

For information of Legal Attaches, London and Mexico City, the State Department advised Bureau on 6-25-58 that Passport No. 1145187 was being issued to Robeson for travel to Europe for the purpose of singing and acting. According to the State Department, Robeson intended to visit England and Czechoslovakia. This action was taken by the State Department as a result of the recent Supreme Court decision with regard to issuance of passports.

New York should continue to closely follow Robeson's activities pursuant to instructions contained in reairtel. Immediately advise Bureau of any information bearing upon Robeson's contemplated travel plans and proposed activities abroad.

Legal Attaches, London and Mexico City should remain alert for additional information concerning Robeson's proposed travel abroad.

Legal Attaches, London and Mexico City should bear in mind that Robeson's appearance abroad will undoubtedly receive considerable publicity in both the legitimate and progressive press.

NOTE ON YELLOW:

Robeson is key figure in New York Office. He is noted Negro concert singer who has long supported communist and  
(continued page 3)

- 2 -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

99

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Mr. E. Tomlin Bailey

Note on Yellow continued:

related causes and has been outspoken in praise of the Soviet Union. In recent past Robeson has received considerable international publicity in connection with his passport fight, his recent publication of a book entitled "Here I Stand," of which he is the author, and his recent concert appearances. It is anticipated that Robeson's travel abroad will receive considerable publicity and that the communist countries, as well as communist-related groups in other countries, will take advantage of Robeson's appearances abroad for propaganda purposes. Robeson's activities have been and will continue to be closely followed. Legal Attaches, London and Mexico City have previously been furnished pertinent background information. Classified "Confidential" inasmuch as information surrounding Robeson's proposed travel to Mexico was furnished by [REDACTED] b1

[REDACTED] (C) The information has not been furnished by any other source and, consequently, disclosure of same might possibly disclose identity of source, AND jeopardize his valuable potential in field of security coverage in Mexico. This would be injurious to national defense.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

90



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

PAUL ROBESON v. JOHN FOSTER DULLES

The summons and complaint were served on the Attorney General on March 3, 1958. Plaintiff seeks a declaratory judgment and other equitable relief to declare that the Passport Regulations of the Secretary of State (22 C.F.R. 51.135 et seq.) as applied to the plaintiff, are unauthorized, unlawful and invalid. Plaintiff further prays that the defendant be enjoined from interfering with plaintiff's travel outside the U.S., from continuing to refuse to grant a passport to the plaintiff, and to direct the defendant to issue a passport to the plaintiff forthwith. Defendant refused to grant a passport to plaintiff based on his refusal to answer questions concerning present and past membership in the Communist Party which are contained in the passport application form. On April 28, 1958, an Answer to Complaint was filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. On the same day, defendant filed a Motion for Security for Costs, together with a memorandum of points and authorities in support thereof. On May 22, 1958, Judge James Morris granted defendant's motion for security for costs and further ordered that plaintiff post such security within 30 days from the date of the Order. On June 25, 1958, the Secretary of State granted a passport to the plaintiff on the basis of the Supreme Court's recent ruling in Brierly v. Dulles and Kent v. Dulles.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 1-16-81 BY SP5R19/HW

Information included in Internal Security Division  
 Monthly Status Report for June, 1958.

57 AUG 7 1958

File 100-12304  
 SBR

Raf

91



[DECODED COPY]

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

☐ Airgram

CONFIDENTIAL

☒ Cablegram

W. C. Sullivan

DECODE OF CODED CABLE NUMBER 608 DATED JUNE 27, 1958, AT LONDON, ENGLAND. RECEIVED VIA THE STATE DEPARTMENT. (RM)

URGENT

[REDACTED]

JOHN A. CIMPAMAN

[RECEIVED: 6-27-58 12:12 PM HJT] (RM)

Classified by 12650  
Exempt from GDS, Category 2  
Date of Declassification Indefinite  
AUG 13 1977

REC-91

100-12304-518

24 JUL 8 1958

EX-120  
CLASS. & EXT. BY SP5 RJ9/JW  
REASON: 1/16/91  
DATE OF REVIEW 1/16/81

70 JUL 11 1958

CONFIDENTIAL

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.

92

FBI

Date: 7/8/58

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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

Via AIRTEL REGISTERED MAIL  
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

To : Director, FBI  
From: SAC, Baltimore (100-20853)  
Re : CP, USA, MARYLAND - D. C. DISTRICT  
BALTIMORE DIVISION  
PAUL ROBESON  
IS - C  
CINAL

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

9-1

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 RJg/HW  
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW 1-16-91

1-16-81

[REDACTED]

b7D

interested in determining whether contacts  
had been made with influential Negroes in Baltimore so  
that eventually PAUL ROBESON might appear at a concert  
in that area. [REDACTED] LLOYD BROWN was  
handling some of ROBESON's affairs, such as sending  
autographed copies of his book because ROBESON had gone  
to England.

A  
b7D

100-12304-  
NOT RECORDED  
158 JUL 11 1958  
Rach...  
SUBP...  
CON.

- 3 - Bureau (REGISTERED MAIL)
- 1 - New York (Info) (REGISTERED MAIL)
- 1 - WFO (Info) (REGISTERED MAIL)
- 3 - Baltimore  
100-20853  
100-19876 CINAL  
134-14A

RCN: [unclear]  
(8)

FBI

18 JUL 9 1958

RESEARCH  
CONFIDENTIAL

66 JUL 15 1958

Approved: [unclear]

ORIGINAL FILED IN 100-3-57-

92

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

July 2, 1958

SAC, New York (100-25857)

Director, FBI (100-12304)

PAUL LEROY ROBESON  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

Re Los Angeles airtels dated 9-25-57 and  
5-27-58 which set out information furnished by [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] concerning overtures  
made toward Robeson by representatives of the NRA  
for the purpose of defecting Robeson from his communist  
interests.

The following additional information was  
furnished in confidence by [REDACTED] (conceal) to a  
Bureau representative on [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Robeson is becoming  
increasingly effective on the West Coast among  
Negroes, especially among some Negro clergymen.  
As an example of his effectiveness, Robeson  
approached a pastor of one of the more important  
Negro churches in Los Angeles and convinced the  
pastor to let him sing to the congregation.  
Robeson explained that the pastor could take up  
a collection and keep the entire collection for  
his church inasmuch as he, Robeson, was not  
interested in the money, only to sing. The pastor  
agreed and as a result of Robeson's singing the pastor  
collected over \$1100. This news spread to other pastors  
in the Los Angeles area who recognized the possibility  
of Robeson raising money for their churches. As a  
result, Robeson received and accepted several  
invitations from pastors to sing in their churches.  
Currie pointed out that in all of these engagements  
Robeson gets across one or more points in behalf of  
communism and the Russian viewpoint.

MAILED 21

JUL 2 - 1958

COMM-FBI

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

- 2 - Los Angeles (100-25861)  
1 - Detroit (100-15889)  
1 - Chicago (100-22692)  
1 - San Francisco (100-6907)  
1 - Pittsburgh

BCR:srk:bkm  
(11)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5RTJ/HW  
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW 1-16-91

SEE NOTE ON YELLOW PAGE 3

59 JUL 15 1958 270

MAIL ROOM ☒

REC-13 100-12304-519

JUL 10 1958

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



Letter to New York  
Re: PAUL LEROY ROBESON  
100-12304

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

[REDACTED] advised further that Robeson is planning to take a trip to Mexico in the near future. [REDACTED] stated that Robeson was heard to tell a person, who was arranging for his Mexican trip, that he wanted to be booked in as many churches in Mexico as possible. [REDACTED] was unable to furnish any additional details in this regard.

b7C  
b7D

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Ben Davis commented that Robeson had appeared at a number of churches on the West Coast and that the money collected had been divided half for Robeson and half for the churches. (Reference Baltimore airtel to Bureau dated 4-3-58 concerning captioned individual.)

b6  
b7C

b1  
b7D

In connection with the above information furnished by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] it does not appear desirable that contact be made with any of the pastors or other religious leaders of churches in which Robeson has appeared for the purpose of eliciting information concerning Robeson's appearances and related financial arrangements. All offices should, however, follow this matter through established informants and sources and keep the Bureau promptly advised of pertinent developments. In addition, any information bearing upon contemplated travel by Robeson outside the United States should be promptly furnished to the Bureau.

For additional information, the Department of State advised the Bureau on 6-25-58 that Robeson is being issued Passport Number 1145187 for travel to Europe for the purpose of singing and acting. This action was taken by the State Department as a result of the recent Supreme Court decision with regard to issuance of passports. Copies of this letter being furnished Los Angeles, Detroit, Chicago, San Francisco and Pittsburgh in view of Robeson's recent appearances in these divisions.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

95



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Letter to New York  
Re: PAUL LEROY ROBESON  
100-12304

NOTE ON YELLOW:

Subject is key figure of New York Office. He is noted Negro concert singer who has long supported communist and related causes and has been outspoken in his praise of Russia. Robeson has been extremely active in recent past in concert appearances throughout the United States. He has been given considerable publicity in this regard and, as noted above, he is being issued passport for travel abroad having been denied same since 1950 in view of failure to comply with passport regulations. (Information above furnished

by [REDACTED] See memo W. C. Sullivan to Belmont 6-21-58)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

96

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)

DATE: 7/3/58

SAC, LOS ANGELES (100-25861)

SUBJECT: PAUL LE ROY ROBESON  
IS - C

OO: NEW YORK

REC-78  
EX-135ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 1-11-80 BY SP-584/dw

Reference is made to New York letter, dated June 3, 1958, in which Los Angeles and San Francisco were requested to endeavor to identify one [REDACTED] believed to be from Los Angeles or San Francisco, who was reported to have been in contact with PAUL ROBESON, JR., stating that her group got PAUL ROBESON started.

The Los Angeles Indices were negative on [REDACTED] on June 11, 1958, [REDACTED] of the "Hollywood Citizen News," furnished to SA [REDACTED] a mimeographed leaflet at the top of which appeared the heading "The Fallout Suit." Co-ordinator: MARYLOUISE ALLEN, 250 Ashbury Street, San Francisco, California; Treasurer: LLOYD M. SMITH, 633 South Shatto Place, Los Angeles, California. The Post Office Box number was shown as 1161, San Francisco, California. The mimeographed leaflet is a circular letter telling of the protests against the production and testing of weapons which menace mankind. The letter solicited assistance.

The committee was listed as follows:

DAVID WALDEN

HALLOCK HOFFMAN (son of  
PAUL G. HOFFMAN)

- 2 - Bureau (REGISTERED)
- 2 - New York (100-25857) (REGISTERED)
  - (1 - 100-95550)
- 2 - San Francisco (100-6907) (REGISTERED)
- 6 - Los Angeles
  - (1 - 100-41391)
  - (1 - 100-39461)
  - (1 - 100-34414)
  - (1 - 105-2566)
  - (1 - 116-56118)

MLP:ba  
(12)

JUL 11 1958

SUBV CONTROL

JUL 29 1958

97

LA 100-25861

HOMER A. JACK *C-11*

PAUL JACOBS

CATHERINE CORY

BOB PICKUS *C-11*

ALAN SIEROTY *C-11*

LLOYD SMITH

The Indices of the Los Angeles Office reflected numerous references on [REDACTED] however, there was no positive identification made, nor will this be undertaken unless so directed by the Bureau.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b7c

The San Francisco Office will endeavor to establish the identity of the [REDACTED] mentioned in referenced New York letter and whether she is identical with the [REDACTED] mentioned in this letter in connection with the "The Fallout Suit."

RUC

FBI

Date: 7/3/58

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_

(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Boardman	✓
Mr. Belmont	✓
Mr. Mohr	✓
Mr. Nease	✓
Mr. Parsons	✓
Mr. Rosen	✓
Mr. Tamm	✓
Mr. Trotter	✓
Mr. W.C. Sullivan	✓
Tele. Room	✓
Mr. Holloman	✓
Miss Gandy	✓

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

Re Bureau airtel 6/26/58.

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

JMK:mms  
 (5)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 RJS/10  
 REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2 2.3  
 DATE OF REVIEW 1-16-91

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

MAY 24 1977

Approved: EJP/mem  
 Special Agent in Charge

Sent 2 M Per \_\_\_\_\_

CONFIDENTIAL

99



Liaison Section  
Mr. Rachner

~~SECRET~~

4  
15  
REC-78

100-12304-52/

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

Date: July 11, 1958

To: Mr. T. Tomlin Bailey  
Director  
Office of Security  
Department of State  
515 Reid 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-5R1g/Hw  
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2 2-3  
DATE OF REVIEW 1-16-91

Reference is made to my letter dated July 1,  
1958, concerning Robeson. (u)

[REDACTED]

The above is for your information and should  
not be furnished to unauthorized persons. No investi-  
gation is requested; however, it would be appreciated if  
you would furnish this Bureau any pertinent information  
which may come to your attention concerning Robeson's  
activities abroad. (u)

1 - Director  
Central Intelligence Agency

Attention: Deputy Director, Plans

1 - Mexico City (For information) 2 - Paris (See note page 2)  
2 - Bonn (See note page 2) 2 - London (See note page 2)  
1 - Foreign Liaison Unit (Route 1 - New York 100-25857) (For  
BCRref (15) through for review) Information)

BY COURIER SVC.  
46 JUL 14  
COMM-FBI

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

MAIL ROOM ☐

6 JUL 18 1958

SEE NOTE ON YELLOW PAGE 2

~~SECRET~~

100

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~SECRET~~

ATTENTION LEGAL ATTACHES, BOMN, PARIS, AND LONDON:

Legal Attaches, Bonn, Paris, and London, should remain alert for any information concerning Robeson's activities abroad. Pertinent information concerning his activities should be furnished the Bureau promptly in form suitable for dissemination. For the information of Legal Attaches, Bonn, and Paris, Robeson is a key figure of the New York Office. He is a noted Negroconcert singer who has long supported communist and related causes and has been outspoken in his praise of the Soviet Union. During the recent past, he has received considerable publicity in connection with his efforts to obtain a passport, his recent publication of a book entitled "Here I Stand," of which he is the author, and his recent concert appearances. As a result of a recent Supreme Court decision, he received his passport. It is anticipated that Robeson's travel abroad will receive considerable publicity and, consequently, any inquiries concerning Robeson should be discreetly handled so as to avoid any possibility of embarrassment to the Government. (u)

NOTE ON YELLOW:

Subject's name included in Security Index. State and Central Intelligence Agency have been kept currently advised of subject's plans to travel abroad. A copy of this letter is being furnished Legal Attache, Mexico, for information inasmuch as previous information indicated possibility of subject traveling to Mexico, of which Legal Attache, Mexico, was advised. This letter classified "Confidential" inasmuch as information set forth above was furnished to

consequently, untimely disclosure of such could adversely affect the national defense. (u)

~~SECRET~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FBI

Date: 7/11/58

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

Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (100-25857)

SUBJECT: PAUL LEROY ROBESON  
IS - C  
SIGNAL

ReNYairtel 7/3/58.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 1-16-81 BY SP-5 RJS/HW

The "New York Times" Late City Edition, Section 1, page 8, column 5, dated 7/11/58, contains the following article captioned "ROBESON Off to Europe After an 8-Year Battle." Article set forth as follows:

"PAUL ROBESON, who had been barred for eight years from leaving the country because he refused to sign a nonCommunist affidavit for a passport, left for London yesterday to start a series of concerts.

"The singer received his passport recently after the Supreme Court had invalidated the State Department's requirement for the affidavit. Departing from New York International Airport at Idlewild, Queens, Mr. ROBESON said he would give concerts in Europe, including Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union.

"Mr. ROBESON was asked if he planned to stay abroad. He replied: 'This is my land. My grandfather and father were born here, too, and I don't plan to leave it.'"

For information.

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

JDW:nms  
(5)

68 JUL 18 1958

REC-3

FOSTER

100-12304-522

JUL 14 1958

Approved: 325 7mm  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent

M

GENERAL RESEARCH  
A. J. [Signature]

102



# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. L. V. Boardman

DATE: July 14, 1958

FROM : Mr. A. H. Belmont

SUBJECT: **PAUL ROBESON**  
**INFORMATION CONCERNING**  
**CENTRAL RESEARCH MATTER**  
**(100-12304)**

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
 Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

I thought you would be interested in the enclosed editorial from The Wall Street Journal. It concerns the action of the Supreme Court decision which enabled Paul Robeson to obtain a passport for travel abroad. It supports this decision, primarily on the basis that it cannot be seen how Robeson would be a danger to this country in foreign travel.

The enclosed editorial is particularly interesting because it shows that even the staid, conservative, and supposedly knowledgeable groups, such as are represented by a newspaper of this nature, entirely miss the point in regard to the issuance of passports to individuals like Robeson. Nowhere in the editorial is there any mention of the fact that such travel offers excellent opportunities for individuals of this nature to engage in espionage and thus to further the objectives of the international communist conspiracy.

When such a stand as this is taken on this vital issue by the well-educated element represented by this particular newspaper, it is understandable why there have been so many adverse reactions in the country today toward efforts to combat communism.

## RECOMMENDATION:

For the information of the Director.

ENCLOSURE

Enclosure

CDB:aml

(9) aml

1 - Section tickler

1 - C.D. Brennan

1 - F.J. Baumgardner

1 - M.A. Jones

1 - Mr. Belmont

1 - Mr. Boardman

1 - Mr. Nease

1 - Mr. Mohr

60 JUL 24 1958

1 auto copy  
 7-18-58

CENTRAL RESEARCH

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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DATE 1-16-81 BY SP5 RJS/dw

REC-59

100-12304-523

JUL 18 1958

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 94-3-4-1573

103



# REVIEW and OUTLOOK

## Mr. Robeson Takes a Trip

Mr. Paul Robeson, whose great gift as a singer is matched by a talent for bitter criticism of his country, is off for a European concert tour after waiting eight years for a passport.

The baritone is on his way because the Supreme Court decided recently that the State Department didn't have the right to deny a man a passport just because the Government didn't like a man's views about this country or about Communism.

We thought the Supreme Court right then, and we think the President is wrong now to ask Congress to pass a law returning that power to the State Department.

Such a law, we think, would be wrong for several reasons. For one thing, we can see no reason why a man free to travel in any of the 48 states should be barred from traveling overseas. If a man is a danger to the country, then the man should be tried and if convicted he should be put in jail. A great many have. But if a man is not a danger within the country, we can't see how he can suddenly endanger the country once outside its borders.

Paul Robeson is a man with whose opinions about this country we completely disagree. But can a radical baritone's voice drown out Mr. Dulles? Can his views threaten N.A.T.O., or nullify all the billions of dollars we've spent on foreign aid to make friends and influence other nations? If so, we have built a foreign policy that is inse-

cure indeed; and we might be the better off for knowing about it.

The fact is that Paul Robeson can't possibly do those things. He will be acclaimed in London, perhaps, for his artistry and acclaimed in Moscow for his political views. But what off-key remarks can Robeson make overseas that he hasn't said right here at home? And what has he said here that hasn't got overseas?

Our Government and private agencies have spent millions upon millions of dollars to strengthen the image of America as the land of the free. But will other people in other places not think of us as the land of the fearful if we deny the right to travel to our own critics? Surely, this is an unbecoming posture for the nation, at best.

And at worst, it could become a dangerous procedure. If the Government is empowered to deny Paul Robeson and others like him a passport because they are disgruntled or critical of our system, what is to stop the Government from broadening that power to include those who disapprove not of the whole system but only of part of it? Is the next step to label critics of, say, foreign aid as too "dangerous" to let abroad and to deny them passports also?

So far as Robeson, the individual, is concerned, it wouldn't matter very much to us if he found life elsewhere so enchanting he decided never to come back here. But so far as all of us are concerned, it should matter very much that even Robeson and his kind shall have the right to go.

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

Wash. Post and Times Herald \_\_\_\_\_  
Wash. News \_\_\_\_\_  
Wash. Star \_\_\_\_\_  
N. Y. Herald Tribune \_\_\_\_\_  
N. Y. Journal-American \_\_\_\_\_  
N. Y. Mirror \_\_\_\_\_  
N. Y. Daily News \_\_\_\_\_  
N. Y. Times \_\_\_\_\_  
Daily Worker \_\_\_\_\_  
The Worker \_\_\_\_\_  
New Leader \_\_\_\_\_  
The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_  
Date 7/14/58

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DATE 1-16-81 BY SP 5R19/HW

1 auto copy / 100-12304-523  
7-18-58  
ENCLOSURE

FBI

Date: 7/14/58

CONFIDENTIAL

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plain text or code)Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority or Method of Mailing)ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)

FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (100-25857)

SUBJECT: PAUL LEROY ROBESON  
IS - C  
CINALCLASS. & EXT. BY SP5 RLS/KW  
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW 1-16-91

                     advised on 7/10/58, that BEN DAVIS was visited on that date at his residence by                      apparently intoxicated, kept shouting, "That Negro got away, he got away".                      evidently referring to trip by PAUL ROBESON to Europe). DAVIS made the statement, "He sure got away from those b..... in Washington."

DAVIS also made the statement, apparently referring to ROBESON, "The Negro from the chain gang made it". Continuing, DAVIS stated, "It was close though, they almost got him. If it had been left with the President they would have gotten him because they would have got him and held him till they got the bill passed". (DAVIS evidently referring to proposed legislation which would restrict foreign travel in view of Communist affiliation. DAVIS commented concerning the President of the US and stated, "That President, he is a first class phony, a corrupt s.. o. a b.... if there ever was one."

Later in the conversation, after more drinking,                      said to DAVIS, "Let them pass the law now". DAVIS told him that in that respect, if they passed the law "they can only get you and me".                      told DAVIS that even if he had the money to go (abroad) and live in peace somewhere.

- 4 - Bureau (100-12304) (RM) REC-95 100-12304-524  
(1 - 100-149163) (BENJAMIN J. DAVIS, JR.)  
1 - New York (100-23825) (BENJAMIN J. DAVIS, JR.) JUL 17 5 1958  
1 - New York (100-24616)                       
1 - New York (100-25857)

JDW:mxc (7-5) 1314  
(7)Approved:                       
Special Agent in Charge

Sent

SUB CONTROL

CENTRAL RESEARCH

CONFIDENTIAL

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105

F B I

Date:

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

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Via \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

NY 100-25857

else that he'd be happiest here, "just messing with these people". DAVIS agreed to this. [REDACTED] retorted, "that is the only joy left to us.... and you can't even go to Jersey." b7c

FOSTER

- 2 -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

106

4  
American Embassy  
Paris 8, France

Date: July 16, 1958  
To: Director, FBI (100-3-81)  
From: Legal Attache, Paris (100-39)  
Subject: COMMUNIST PARTY, USA  
IS - C

Enclosed herewith is an article in French which appeared in the 7/14/58 edition of l'Humanite, Communist daily paper of Paris.

The article reflects an interview with PAUL ROBESON in London. ROBESON indicated that after London, he desired to go to Prague, Czechoslovakia, the USSR and France.

P

Encl (1)

WTB:AM

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 1-16-81 BY SP-5 Rlg/HW

100-12304- ✓  
NOT RECORDED  
141 JUL 29 1958

INITIALS ON ORIGINAL

66 JUL 31 1958

105

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN



TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)

DATE: 7/21/58

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM: SAC, NEWARK (100-33129)

SUBJECT: PAUL LEROY ROBESON  
IS - C  
(OO: New York)

Re New York airtel to the Director dated 5/22/58.

On [REDACTED] was contacted by SA [REDACTED] and SA [REDACTED]. The informant furnished information orally which was reduced to writing by SA [REDACTED] and authenticated by the informant on 6/12/58. This material is being maintained in Newark file [REDACTED].

MORTON STAVIS announced that there would be a concert by PAUL ROBESON at Carnegie Hall, 5/9/58 in New York City. STAVIS made the statement that the PAUL ROBESON Concert was being sponsored by the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee and the Young People's Democratic For Action Committee.

- 2 - Bureau (RM)
- 2 - New York (RM)
  - 1 - 100-25857 (PAUL ROBESON)
  - 1 - 100 (YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC FOR ACTION COMMITTEE)
- 1 - Philadelphia (RM)
  - 1 - 100-34422 [REDACTED]
- 10 - Newark
  - 1 - 100- [REDACTED]
  - 1 - 100-4284-4L-1 (CAMDEN COUNTY) [REDACTED]
  - 1 - 100-30578 [REDACTED]
  - 1 - 100-33460 [REDACTED]
  - 1 - 100-35610 (EMERGENCY CIVIL LIBERTIES COMMITTEE) [REDACTED]
  - 1 - 100-1603 [REDACTED]
  - 1 - 100-43467 [REDACTED]
  - 1 - 100-32783 [REDACTED]
  - 1 - 100-24697 [REDACTED]

PJC:eds  
(15)

63 JUL 28 1958

REC-11

100-12304-525

4 JUL 22 1958

SUBV CONTROL

CONFIDENTIAL

108

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NK 100-33129

[REDACTED] N.Y.  
[REDACTED] a mimeographed sheet  
advertising the PAUL ROBESON Concert on 5/9/58 with a  
heading at the top of the sheet "Emergency Civil Liberties  
Committee, 421 Seventh Avenue, New York 1, New York".

The informant was able to obtain this mimeo-  
graphed sheet which is being maintained in Newark file

(C)

N.Y. b1

(C)

(C)

The informant stated that he is unable to fur-  
nish any further information relative to whether or not the  
Emergency Civil Liberties Committee and the Young People's  
Democratic For Action Committee were directly involved in  
the sponsorship of ROBESON'S concert. - RUC -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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~~SECRET~~

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Reporting Office <b>WASHINGTON FIELD</b>	Office of Origin <b>NEW YORK</b>	Date <b>7/22/58</b>	Investigative Period <b>7/3, 10/58</b>
TITLE OF CASE  <b>PAUL LEROY ROBESON, was.</b>		Report made by <b>[REDACTED]</b>	Typed By: <b>NJF</b>
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.		CHARACTER OF CASE  <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - C</b> CLASS. & EXT. BY <b>SP5 RJG/LW</b> REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2 DATE OF REVIEW <b>1-16-91</b>	

**Synopsis:**

Subject issued passport on 6/25/58, as result of United States Supreme Court ruling on 6/16/58, upholding right of individual to refuse to answer questions in passport application relating to present or past membership in the Communist Party. Subject had executed passport application on 3/21/57, for proposed travel to England and Czechoslovakia for purpose of "to sing and act." In that passport application, subject declined to answer the questions relating to present or past membership in the Communist Party citing his constitutional right and his right to be granted a hearing. On 5/29/57, subject appeared at informal hearing held at the Passport Office and refused to answer questions or offer an explanation relative to Communist Party membership. On 12/10/57, subject's attorney requested Passport Office to issue subject a limited passport to permit subject to appear in a play in England. On 1/17/58, Passport Office ruled that subject must answer the questions with respect to Communist Party membership before consideration could be given toward granting him a passport. On 2/28/58, subject, through his attorney, filed a civil action in United States District Court, Washington, D. C., against the Secretary of State alleging that his constitutional rights had been violated through

Approved <i>Libary</i>	Special Agent In Charge	Do not write in spaces below	
Copies made:  ④ - Bureau (100-12304) 3 - New York (100-25857) (RM) 1 - Washington Field (100-19021)		<b>100-12304-526</b>	REC- 19
		<b>2 JUL 23 1958</b>	

AGENCY *Adm, C-14*  
REQ. REC'D  
DATE FORW. *9-1-58*  
HOW FORW.  
BY *CRP/JS*

MAINTENANCE CONTROL  
REC'D - FBI

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**77 AUG 1 1958**

110

WFO 100-19021

~~SECRET~~

the refusal of the Passport Office to issue him a passport. On 7/2/58, a stipulation was entered in this matter, noting that subject had been issued a passport and in view of this the law suit should be dismissed. On 7/3/58, United States District Court ordered subject's law suit dismissed as moot. On 4/16/58, American Embassy, Prague, reported that the Czechoslovakia press prominently played up reports of subject's 60th birthday, and

[REDACTED] b1

(S)

-RUC-

~~SECRET~~



~~SECRET~~TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page Number
Issuance of passport to subject on 6/25/58.....	4
Subject's passport application of 3/21/57.....	5
Tentative refusal of passport facilities to subject.....	6
Informal hearing held at Passport Office.....	6
Request for limited passport to permit subject to appear in play in England.....	6
Civil Action, United States District Court, Washington, D. C., entitled "PAUL ROBESON, Plaintiff, v. JOHN FOSTER DULLES, Secretary of State, Defendant.....	8
Czechoslovakia press plays up report of subject's 60th birthday,..	9
<div style="background-color: black; height: 1.2em; width: 100%;"></div>	
b1 Description of subject.....	10

~~SECRET~~

112

~~SECRET~~DETAILS: AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

On July 10, 1958, [REDACTED] b7/c  
Passport Office, Department of State, made available to SA [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] the passport file of PAUL ROBESON. A review of  
that file disclosed the following information:

ISSUANCE OF PASSPORT TO SUBJECT ON JUNE 25, 1958

Passport number 1145187 was issued to PAUL ROBESON on June 25, 1958. This passport was marked not valid for travel to the following areas under control of authorities with which the United States does not have diplomatic relations: Albania, Bulgaria, and those portions of China, Korea, and Viet-Nam under communist control. The passport was also marked not valid for travel in Hungary.

Under current passport regulations, an ordinary American passport, such as issued to subject, is valid for a period of two years, at the end of which time it may be renewed for an additional two years, making the maximum period of validity of such a passport four years. At the end of that period, a person must file a new application. It is noted that the regulations permit the use of a passport for lawful travel within the period of its validity whenever and as often as desired without further prior notification to the Department of State.

Memorandum in file dated June 24, 1958, recommends that a passport should be issued to subject pursuant to decision rendered by United States Supreme Court on June 16, 1958, in the cases of "KENT v. DULLES; BRIENL v. DULLES and DAYTON v. DULLES" which involved cases of individuals who had been refused passport facilities due to their failure to answer questions or submit affidavits relating to their present or past membership in the Communist Party.

The opinion of the United States Supreme Court in the aforementioned cases written by Justice WILLIAM O. DOUGLAS states: "We do not reach the question of constitutionality. We only conclude that Congress did not delegate to the Secretary of State the kind of authority exercised here. We deal with beliefs, with associations, with ideological matters. We must remember that we are dealing here with citizens who have neither been accused of crimes nor found guilty. They are being denied their freedom of movement solely because of their refusal to be subjected to inquiry into their belief and associations....."

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113

~~SECRET~~SUBJECT'S PASSPORT APPLICATION OF MARCH 21, 1957

On March 21, 1957, at New York, New York, PAUL ROBESON executed an application for passport. In that application he stated he was born April 9, 1898, at Princeton, New Jersey, and maintained permanent residence at 16 Jumel Terrace, New York, New York. He stated that during the period 1928 to 1939, he had resided in England, and that during the month of May, 1950, he had resided in Europe. He listed his father as WILLIAM DREW ROBESON, born 1843 in North Carolina, and his mother as LOUISA BUSTILL ROBESON, born 1853 in Pennsylvania. He indicated that his parents are deceased. Subject stated he was last married in August, 1921, to ESLANDA GOODE ROBESON, who was born December 15, 1896, at Washington, D. C.

Subject stated his last passport was issued to him on May 8, 1947; that it was subsequently renewed and later revoked by the Department of State.

Regarding his travel plans, subject stated he intended to depart from the United States at the Port of New York, New York, on May 1, 1957, for a proposed length of stay abroad of six months in order to visit England, and Czechoslovakia for the purpose of "to sing and act."

Subject's wife served as the identification witness.

In answer to the questions, "Are you now a member of the Communist Party?" and "Have you ever been a member of the Communist Party?", subject wrote "see rider."

Attached to subject's passport application was a rider consisting of an affidavit sworn to by subject at the Passport Office, New York, New York, on March 21, 1957, which stated:

"I decline to answer the questions as to membership in the Communist Party on the following grounds:

"(1) My constitutional rights and privileges.

"(2) The Department's demand is an attempted evasion of the decision of the Court of Appeals in ROBESON v. DULLES, C. A., D. C., No. 12983, which deferred consideration of the

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114



~~SECRET~~

affidavit demands of the Department and relegated me to a hearing which I have previously requested in vain and which I again request if this application is not to be granted."

#### TENTATIVE REFUSAL OF PASSPORT FACILITIES TO SUBJECT

On May 27, 1957, Passport Office informed subject that his passport application of March 21, 1957, was being tentatively refused under the provisions of Section 51.135 of the Passport Regulations. Subject was informed of his entitlement to an informal hearing at which he could present any relevant information. It was stated that at any rate subject would be expected to subscribe under oath or affirmation to a statement with respect to membership in the Communist Party as provided in the Passport Regulations.

Section 51.135 of the Passport Regulations refers to the limitation on the issuance of passports to persons supporting the communist movement so that persons who support the world communist movement, of which the Communist Party is an integral unit, may not through the use of United States passports further the purposes of that movement.

#### INFORMAL HEARING HELD AT THE PASSPORT OFFICE

On May 29, 1957, pursuant to the passport regulations, an informal hearing was held at the Passport Office with respect to subject's request for passport facilities. Subject was represented at the hearing by his attorney, LEONARD E. BOUDIN. At the hearing, subject refused to submit an affidavit and refused to answer questions relating to Communist Party membership and also refused to answer questions or to offer explanation of varied activities abroad in support of the communist movement.

In view of subject's actions, he was informed that due to his failure to comply with the passport regulation, the Department of State was constrained to withhold further consideration of his request for passport facilities until such time as subject was willing to comply with the regulations.

#### REQUEST FOR LIMITED PASSPORT TO PERMIT SUBJECT TO APPEAR IN PLAY IN ENGLAND

On December 10, 1957, subject's attorney, LEONARD BOUDIN, sent a letter to the Passport Office, making reference to the passport application executed by the subject and also to the

~~SECRET~~ 115



~~SECRET~~

informal hearing held on May 29, 1957. Mr. BOUDIN pointed out that subject had indicated in his passport application that he desired to travel to England, France, Czechoslovakia, Israel, and the Scandinavian countries for the purpose of singing and acting. Mr. BOUDIN stated that the purpose of his sending this letter to the Passport Office is to advise that the subject has recently received an invitation from the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre to act in "Pericles" in England during the 1958 season. Mr. BOUDIN requested that since the matter of the right of an individual to refuse to answer questions in the passport application with respect to matters of past political associations, is one currently before the United States Supreme Court, consideration be given to issuing subject a limited passport restricted to his trip to England for the purpose of rehearsal and playing in "Pericles." Mr. BOUDIN stated it was necessary that subject accept this offer to appear in "Pericles" immediately or else it would have to be rejected, and it was therefore not possible for subject to await the outcome of the United States Supreme Court's decision in related cases.

Enclosed with Mr. BOUDIN's letter, was a letter from GLEN BYAM SHAW, Shakespeare Memorial Theatre, Stratford-on-Avon, England, dated November 22, 1957, offering subject the part of GOWER in "Pericles" and advising subject that he would be expected to start rehearsing in England on June 9, 1958, and to remain in England until the end of the season on November 29, 1958.

On January 17, 1958, the Passport Office replied to Mr. BOUDIN's letter of December 10, 1957, stating that the Department of State deems it necessary that the subject answer the questions with respect to Communist Party membership before consideration could be given to his request for passport facilities.

On January 31, 1958, Mr. BOUDIN sent another letter to the Passport Office, advising that subject had received an offer from the Harold-Davidson, Limited, Theatrical Band and Concert Agency, London, England, offering subject two major television shows, one on April 6, 1958, entitled "Sunday Night at the Palladium," and the other on April 12, 1958, entitled, "The Paul Robeson Show." Mr. BOUDIN again requested that consideration be given toward issuing subject a limited passport.

On February 10, 1958, the Passport Office advised Mr. BOUDIN that the Department of State has reconsidered this matter in light of the facts presented and perceives no reason to modify

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

WFO 100-19021

its previous position until such time as subject is willing to comply with the passport regulations.

CIVIL ACTION, UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, WASHINGTON, D. C.,  
ENTITLED "PAUL ROBESON, PLAINTIFF, V. JOHN FOSTER DULLES,  
SECRETARY OF STATE, DEFENDANT"

On February 28, 1958, subject, through his attorney, DAVID REIN, of the law firm of Forer and Rein, Washington, D. C., filed a complaint in United States District Court for the District of Columbia, in civil action number 513-58, entitled "PAUL ROBESON, 16 Jumel Terrace, New York, New York, Plaintiff, v. JOHN FOSTER DULLES, Secretary of State, Defendant." The complaint states that subject is an artist, specializing in singing and acting for more than a quarter of a century. It states that subject's income in large part has been derived from concerts and appearances in Europe and elsewhere in the world. It was stated that on or about August 1, 1950, the Secretary of State made a public announcement that plaintiff's passport had been revoked, and on January 30, 1953, and thereafter, plaintiff made applications for passport, the last such application having been made on March 21, 1957. It was stated that each of plaintiff's applications for passport were denied by defendant based upon political beliefs and associations and upon plaintiff's refusal to answer questions on those subjects. It was also stated that on May 29, 1957, plaintiff appeared at an informal hearing, defendant was the sole witness and relied upon confidential material, not disclosed to plaintiff, upon testimony of witnesses before congressional hearings and upon newspaper stories. The complaint alleges that the constitutional rights of plaintiff have been violated through the refusal of defendant to issue plaintiff a passport and that this refusal interferes with plaintiff's liberty and was done without due process of law. The complaint contends that the questions in the passport application relating to membership in the Communist Party have no relevance to plaintiffs' request for a passport.

On July 2, 1958, a stipulation was entered by plaintiff's attorney, DAVID REIN, and defendant's attorney, JAMES C. RISE. This stipulation reflects that plaintiff and defendant by their counsels stipulate as follows:

~~SECRET~~

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~~SECRET~~

- "1. Suit was commenced in this matter on February 28, 1958 with plaintiff seeking inter alia declaratory judgment directing defendant to issue a passport to plaintiff in standard form and for standard duration.
- "2. The Secretary of State decided on June 25, 1958 that plaintiff was entitled under the applicable decisions of the United States Supreme Court of June 16, 1958 in KENT and BRIEHL v. DULLES, No. 481, to be granted the requested passport and on that date the defendant issued to the plaintiff the passport of standard form.
- "3. The within action is accordingly discontinued without cost to either party."

On July 3, 1958, United States District Court Judge JAMES W. MORRIS issued an order stating that parties to the lawsuit, by their counsels have entered into a stipulation, that the action should be discontinued, and it is by the Court this 3rd day of July, 1958, ordered that this action be and is hereby dismissed as moot without costs to either party.

#### CZECHOSLOVAKIA PRESS PLAYS UP REPORT OF SUBJECT'S 60TH BIRTHDAY

On April 16, 1958, the American Embassy, Prague, forwarded a communication to the Department of State reflecting that during the preceeding week the Czechoslovakia press had prominently played up reports of the subject's 60th birthday with front page photographs and stories recalling subject's "heroic fight against fascist oppression." It was stated that the Czechoslovakian Committee of Peace Defenders reportedly sent a letter to the Department of State with a demand that subject be granted a passport so that he might appear in the Prague Spring Musical Festival. It was further stated that on April 9, 1958, "Bridge Across the Ocean," a film which subject had a hand in producing, was shown in Prague and the publication, "Prade" of April 10, 1958, reported that the subject had sent a telegram of thanks to the staff of Prague radio and television station responding to their good wishes on his birthday.

~~SECRET~~

118



WFO 100-19021

[REDACTED]

b1

(S)

DESCRIPTION

The following description of subject was contained in his passport application of March 21, 1957:

Height:	6'2½"
Hair:	Dark
Eyes:	Brown
Marks:	Scar over right eye
Occupation:	Singer and actor

-RUC-



-Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)

DATE: 7/22/58

LvB  
FROM :

SAC, WFO (100-19021)

SUBJECT: PAUL LEROY ROBESON, was.  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C  
(OO:NY)

~~Classification~~  
~~DATE 10/24/77 JIP/SS~~

Being forwarded herewith to the Bureau are four copies and to New York three copies of the report of SA [redacted] WFO, dated and captioned as above.

ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

Instant matter was brought to the attention of WFO by the Passport Office.

[redacted]

An evaluation memorandum has not been submitted inasmuch as T-1 has been described in the enclosed report as [redacted] and no further evaluation is deemed necessary.

INFORMANT

DECLASSIFIED BY SP-5 RJG/LW  
ON 1-16-81

IDENTITY

DESCRIPTION OF INFO FURNISHED

LOCATION

T-1

100-19021-230

Careful consideration has been given to the source concealed, and a T symbol was utilized in the report only in that instance where the identity of source must be concealed.

2 - Bureau (Encls-4)

3 - New York (100-25857) (Encls-3) (RM) REC-19 JUL 23 1958

1 - WFO

WGS:NJF  
(6)

77 AUG 1 1958

Classified by 1259  
Exempt from GDS, Category 2, 3  
Date of declassification indefinite

SUB CONTROL

(u) b7C

(u) ←

b7D

(S)(u)

(u)

(S)(u)

(u)

100-12304-527

WFO 100-19021

~~SECRET~~

Instant report has been classified secret inasmuch as the information furnished by T-1 [REDACTED] bears this classification.

11/17/57

~~SECRET~~

121

July 15, 1958.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Public Services Division,

Copy  
TO FEDERAL BUREAU OF  
INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON D. C.

32 ~~EX-121~~ JUL 17 1958 30

Gentlemen:

On May 29th, 1954, 300 pages of materials regarding life under Soviet were given to Paul Robson (through his wife) [REDACTED]

I did not know at the time that Robson is communistically disposed. I arrived to United States on [REDACTED]

If Robson will be permitted to go to the USSR, he can take this materials with him and give it to the communists, - this would be a misfortune.

The materials (in Russian) were sent to the State Department to read through.

If you wish, I can send it to you now as a gift.

Respectfully yours

EX-121 [REDACTED]

REC-36

100-12304-528

20 JUL 17 1958

52 JUL 30 1958

SUB [REDACTED]  
(Re Robson)

B.B.D.

[REDACTED]

122

FBI  
Date: 7/22/58  
PLAIN TEXT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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

Via AIRTEL REGISTERED MAIL  
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

To : Director, FBI *100-3-57*  
From: SAC, Baltimore (100-20853)  
Re : CP, USA, MARYLAND - D. C. DISTRICT  
BALTIMORE DIVISION  
PAUL ROBESON  
IS - C  
CINAL

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

CLASS. & EXT. BY *SP-3 RJG/JW*  
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW *1-16-91*

*(C)*  
Advised

*(C)*  
[REDACTED] explained  
[REDACTED] that no one in New York knew when  
PAUL ROBESON would return to the United States. [REDACTED]  
said that it could be anywhere from three months to two  
years. [REDACTED] added that he felt that ROBESON would try  
to visit all the countries that had been inviting him to  
come for the past 11 years and might go to India, Africa,  
the Soviet Union, Red China, and other countries. [REDACTED]  
said that ROBESON would make these visits even if the  
State Department voided his passport.

*100-12304-*  
NOT RECORDED  
152 JUL 30 1958

2 - Bureau (REGISTERED MAIL)  
1 - New York (Info) (REGISTERED MAIL)  
3 - Baltimore  
100-20853  
*(C)*  
100-19876 CINAL

RCN:am  
(7)

60 AUG 1 1958

Approved: *gfk*  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent *RR* M

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN 100-3-57-131



## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (100-12304)

DATE: July 25, 1958

FROM : Legal Attache, London (100-1182)

SUBJECT: PAUL LEROY ROBESON  
IS - C

ReBulet to State Department, 7/11/58. (u)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 RLS/dm  
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2 1  
DATE OF REVIEW 1-19-885 - Bureau  
1 - London  
JPO:mas  
(6)FBI  
187  
JAN 1959Classified by 2650 YER  
Exempt from GDS, Category 1  
Date of Declassification Indefinite  
MAY 24 1977

EX-124

REC-17

100-12304-529

JUL 31 3 11 PM '58  
RECEIVED COMING  
REC'D - FBIALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE  
16 JUL 29 1958

50 AUG 4 1958

SECRET

THROTTLE (u)

124

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)

DATE: 7/24/58

FROM : SAC, LOS ANGELES (100-25861)

CONFIDENTIAL

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

NYC 00

Reference is made to Bulet to New York dated 7/2/58 in which it was set out that ROBESON had appeared before Negro churches to sing, and made remarks favorable to Communism.

Los Angeles has furnished all information to New York which is available through established sources, concerning ROBESON'S appearances before churches in the Los Angeles area, as follows:

<sup>C</sup> [redacted] furnished a written report on [redacted] to SA [redacted] which set out that on 2/28/58 PAUL ROBESON sang at the St. Peter's Church, 111th and South Main Street, Los Angeles, California. Informant advised that at this affair ROBESON made no speech or remarks.

The Los Angeles Office will be on the alert through established sources of ROBESON'S activities in churches and plans for concerts outside the United States, in order that the Bureau and New York may be appropriately advised.

- RUC -

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 RLS/ltw  
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2 2  
DATE OF REVIEW 1-14-91

- 2 - Bureau (REGISTERED)  
1 - New York (100-25857) (REGISTERED) <sup>14</sup>  
1 - Los Angeles  
MLP:VM  
(4)

100-12304-530

23 JUL 28 1958

EX 105

SEC. 9 - 197

SUBV. CONTROL

52 AUG 1 1958

CONFIDENTIAL

125

FBI

Date: 7/23/58

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_

PLAIN TEXT

(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL

REGISTERED MAIL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Mr. Parsons	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tamm	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Mr. W.C. Sullivan	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Holloman	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

To : Director, FBI

From: SAC, Baltimore (100-20853)

Re : CP, USA, MARYLAND - D. C. DISTRICT  
BALTIMORE DIVISION  
PAUL ROBESON  
IS - C  
CINAL

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

(C) [REDACTED] Othello Associates,  
which is publishing PAUL ROBESON's latest book.

[REDACTED] in asking [REDACTED] about  
the possibility of ROBESON's appearing at a concert in  
Baltimore learned [REDACTED] that ROBESON would only  
appear in concerts sponsored by Negroes. [REDACTED] then  
added that recently ROBESON had learned that a concert  
for ROBESON in Detroit had been sponsored by a white  
progressive and that this white progressive had collected  
most of the proceeds of the concert which had shocked  
ROBESON and had caused him to state that concerts in which  
he appeared in the future would have to be sponsored  
by Negroes. CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 HJW 1-16-81 100-12304

REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2

DATE OF REVIEW 1-16-91 NOT RECORDED

- 3 - Bureau (REGISTERED MAIL) 175 JUL 29 1958  
1 - Detroit (Info) (REGISTERED MAIL)  
1 - New York (Info) (REGISTERED MAIL)  
3 - Baltimore

100-20853

100-19876 CINAL

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

Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_

Per \_\_\_\_\_

RESEARCH  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL



# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Reporting Office <b>WASHINGTON FIELD</b>	Office of Origin <b>NEW YORK</b>	Date <b>7/29/58</b>	Investigative Period <b>7/17, 21/58</b>
TITLE OF CASE  <b>ESLANDA GOODE ROBESON, aka</b>		Report made by <b>[REDACTED]</b>	Typed By: <b>jak</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE  <b>SECURITY MATTER - C</b>	

**Synopsis:** Subject issued passport on July 7, 1958, for proposed travel to England of six months' duration for the purpose of joining her husband. In her application for that passport executed on July 1, 1958, subject refused to answer the questions pertaining to present or past membership in the Communist Party.

- RUC -

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 1-16-81 BY SP5R/g/dw

DETAILS: AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

On July 21, 1958, [REDACTED] Passport office, Department of State, made available to SA [REDACTED] the passport file of ESLANDA GOODE ROBESON. A review of that file disclosed the following information:

Passport number 1104293 was issued to ESLANDA GOODE ROBESON on July 7, 1958. This passport was marked not valid for travel to the following areas under control of authorities with which the United States does not have diplomatic relations:

Approved <b>[Signature]</b>	Special Agent In Charge	Do not write in spaces below	
Copies made:  ④ - Bureau 3 - New York (100-56680) (RM) 1 - Washington Field (100-14994)		<b>100-12304-531</b>	REC-96  EX-101
		<b>21 JUL 30 1958</b>	

AGENCY **Sub, CIA**  
REQ. REC'D  
DATE FORW. **7-29-58**  
HOW FORW.  
BY

AGENCY **Sub, Legat London**  
REQ. REC'D  
DATE FORW. **7-29-58**  
HOW FORW.  
BY

SUBV CONTROL



Albania, Bulgaria, and those portions of China, Korea and Viet-Nam under communist control. The passport was also marked not valid for travel in Hungary.

Under current passport regulations, an ordinary American passport, such as issued to subject, is valid for a period of two years, at the end of which time it may be renewed for an additional two years, making the maximum period of validity of such a passport four years. At the end of that period, a person must file a new passport application. It is noted that current passport regulations permit the use of the passport for lawful travel within the period of its validity whenever and as often as desired without further prior notification to the Department of State.

Passport application dated July 1, 1958, at New York, New York, reflects that ESLANDA GOODE ROBESON was born December 15, 1896, at Washington, D. C., and maintained permanent residence at 16 Jumel Terrace, New York, New York. She listed her father as JOHN J. GOODE, born 1870, in Illinois, and her mother as ESLANDA CARDOZO GOODE, born October 22, 1872, at Columbia, South Carolina. She indicated that her parents are deceased. Subject stated she was last married on August 17, 1921, to PAUL ROBESON, who was born April 9, 1898 at Princeton, New Jersey. She stated that their marriage has not been terminated and that her husband resides with her at the above mentioned New York, New York, address.

Regarding her travel plans, subject stated she intended to depart from the United States on July 10, 1958, at the port of New York, New York, for a proposed length of stay abroad of six months in order to visit England for the purpose of joining her husband. There was a written notation on the application that subject does not intend to fulfill any writing assignments while abroad.

Subject refused to answer the questions in the application, "Are you now a member of the Communist Party?" and "Have you ever been a member of the Communist Party?" Subject stated she does not have to answer questions regarding Communist Party affiliations.

It is noted that a United States Supreme Court decision of June 16, 1958, in the cases involving ROCKWELL KENT,

WFO 100-14994

WALTER BRIEHL and WELDON BRUCE DAYTON, held that under existing statutes governing travel, the Secretary of the State lacks the authority to withhold a passport because of an applicant's present or past membership in or association with the Communist Party.

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

The following description of subject was contained in her passport application:

Date of birth:	December 15, 1896
Place of birth:	Washington, D. C.
Height:	5' 3"
Hair:	Gray and black
Eyes:	Brown
Occupation:	Writer

- RUC -

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 7/29/58

FROM : SAC, WFO (100-14994)

SUBJECT: ESLANDA GOODE ROBESON, aka  
SECURITY MATTER  
(OO:NY)

Being forwarded herewith to the Bureau are four copies and to New York three copies of the report of SA [REDACTED] WFO, dated and captioned as above.

ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

Instant case was referred to WFO by the Passport Office.

Copies of subject's passport application photo will be forwarded to New York via routing slip.

- ② - Bureau (Encls. 4)
- 3 - New York (100-56680) (Encls 3) (RM)
- 1 - WFO

WGS:jak  
(6)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 1-16-81 BY SP5 Rlg/Hw

ENCLOSURE  
REC-96

REC-96 21 JUL 30 1958

EX-101  
SEC. 0 - EBT

EX-101

52 AUG 7 1958

SUBV CONTROL

100-12304-532

13C