

victim is over 100

Red Cross
Charles G. ...

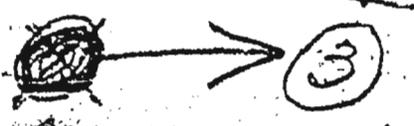
Primer Council Technique

This is a mandate. The origin and authority of you will remain secret. You will not take (4 days) away, the sum of \$500,000.00 in U.S. Agency as follows: \$100,000 in 100 bills, \$2,000 in 20 bills, \$10,000 in 100 bills, \$100,000 in 100 bills.

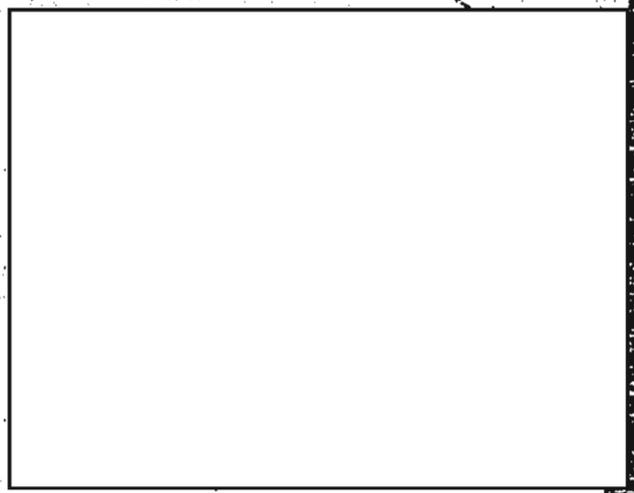
You will signify your compliance with this mandate by inserting in the Personal Column of the N.Y. Times, for 3 days, starting (date) as follows: George H. Helms leads to you, P.C.T. b7c

Further instructions will therefore be mailed you. Any effort to communicate with any law enforcement agency or to hinder the successful carrying out of the order of this mandate will meet with instant retribution. Any attempt to cause the arrest of the person contacting you or your agent will in no way embarrass us but will result in the immediate liquidation of you. Dear one abroad, who is still being illegally taken care of

X



b7C



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK

NY FILE NO. 9-48 MFB

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK	DATE WHEN MADE 4/16/42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 3/28/42	REPORT MADE BY <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 15px; width: 100%;"></div>
TITLE FRITZ NUHN; <div style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 100px; height: 15px;"></div> CHARLES WESLEY HARMAN; HELENA RUBINSTEIN, Victim		CHARACTER OF CASE EXTORTION	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subject HELENA RUBINSTEIN, 300 Park Ave., New York City, states she has a sister, Poland, that she has not corresponded with her for eight months or more, and received a post card from her about three weeks ago; that she never paid a cent of money to anyone in either Poland or Germany for the aid of her sister; that there never was any attempt made to extort money from her, and that she never paid any money to anyone in 1938 or any other time. Description of victim set out.

b7C

- C -

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent dated at New York, March 9, 1942.

DETAILS:

MISS HELENA RUBINSTEIN was interviewed at her apartment on the fourteenth floor of 300 Park Avenue, New York City, on March 26, 1942, in the presence of her attorney, MR. HAROLD WEILL, of the law firm, Leon and Weill, 15 East 26 Street, New York City. She stated that she has a sister, Poland when she last heard from her. This territory is now under the domination of Germany. She stated that she has not corresponded with her sister for over eight months, and was at a loss to know where her sister was located until three weeks ago when she received a post card from her at Poland. She stated she has never at any time sent any funds to anyone in either Poland or Germany for the aid of her sister, and there was never any demand or attempt made to extort funds from her under that pretext. She stated

APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>J. E. Foxworth</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
COPIES OF THIS REPORT		9-48997-1
3 - Bureau 3 - New York		COPY IN FILE

9-885

There never was any attempt made to secure funds from her under threat of harm to her sister in 1938 or any other time, and at that time, the year 1938, Poland was not under the domination of Germany.

MISS RUBINSTEIN stated that in 1938, prior to the time Poland was taken by Germany, she was in Poland and other foreign countries of Europe, and after Germany took Poland, she returned to the United States. She stated that her sister [redacted] had a Mexican passport, but was not allowed to leave Poland.

b7C

MISS RUBINSTEIN stated that she has never received any letters or notes of an extortion nature demanding any funds from her, and that should she receive such, she will immediately notify the New York Field Division office by telephone. She was furnished with cellophane envelopes for the purpose of preserving any notes or extortion letters she might receive.

The following is a description of MISS HELENA RUBINSTEIN:-

Age	67
Height	About 5'
Weight	133 lbs.
Hair	Black
Eyes	Brown
Complexion	Dark
Nationality	Polish Jewish descent
Citizenship	Naturalized United States Citizen
Residence	300 Park Avenue, New York City
Occupation	Cosmetic manufacturer

As there have been no extortion letters of any nature receive by MISS HELENA RUBINSTEIN, this matter is being closed subject to be reopened should further information be received.

- C L O S E D -

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Report

April 2, 1942

JCC:MAC

RECORDED File 9-8993-2 ✓

Re: Fritz Kuhn [redacted]
Charles Wesley Harman;
Helena Rubinstein - victim;
Extortion.

Lab 23631

b7C

Examination requested by: New York

Reference: Letter J-7-42

Examination requested: Document

Specimens: [redacted]

9-8993-2 K1. One sheet bearing the known handwriting of CHARLES WESLEY
HARMAN beginning "This is a mandate. The origin and..."

Result of Examination:

A search was made in the Anonymous Letter File in an attempt to find other writings containing the same handwriting characteristics which appear on specimen K1 but none was found. A suitable photographic copy is being added to this file and in the event of any future identification your office will be notified.

The original evidence, specimen K1, is being retained in the files of the Laboratory.

Mr. Tolson _____ 2 - Laboratory
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____ 2 - New York
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____

Mr. Quinn _____
Mr. Nease _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Gurnea _____
Mr. Egan _____
Miss Gandy _____

RECORDED
★ APR 2 - 1942 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

22 APR 7 1942

Bo
cc

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

FEB 28 1942

TELETYPE

b7C

Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. E. A. Tamm	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Ladd	.....
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Rosen	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Mr. Carson	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Hendon	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Nease	.....
Mr. Gurnea	.....

FBI NEW YORK CITY 2-28-42 7-55 PM WRS

DIRECTOR

FRITZ KUHN, [redacted] CHARLES WESLEY HARMAN. EXTORTION
HELENA RUBINSTEIN, VICTIM. INFORMATION RECEIVED FEBRUARY [redacted]

INSTANT FROM CHARLES HARMAN OF CONTEMPLATED EXTORTION FROM HELENA RUBINSTEIN, NYC HARMAN RECENTLY RELEASED FROM CLINTON PRISON, NY WHERE INCARCERATED WITH KUHN [redacted] PLAN PROMULGATED TO EXTORT FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS FROM VICTIM BY ~~SWASTIKA~~ USE OF SWASTIKA DECORATED THREATENING LETTER THROUGH MAILS. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH REQUEST WOULD RESULT IN LIQUIDATION OF VICTIMS CLOSE RELATIVE IN GERMANY. HARMAN WAS TO HANDLE ALL PLANS AND ACT AS MAIN SUBJECT BUT DESIRES TO GO STRAIGHT AND COOPERATE WITH BUREAU. INFORMANT ADMITS LONG CRIMINAL RECORD. HARMAN STATES KUHN IN POSSESSION OF INFORMATION ABOUT VICTIM WHICH WOULD INDUCE HER TO COMPLY WITH DEMAND. NEW YORK OFFICE CONTEMPLATES INSTRUCTING INFORMANT TO DROP PLAN. AGENTS WILL INTERVIEW VICTIME AND INSTRUCT HER TO ADVISE NEW YORK OFFICE IMMEDIATELY IN EVENT SHE RECEIVES THREATENING LETTER. ABOVE PLANS TO BE EFFECTED UNLESS CONTRARY INSTRUCTIONS RECEIVED. HARMAN WILL BE FURTHER VIGOROUSLY QUESTIONED TO ASCERTAIN ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. LETTER FOLLOWS.

FOXWORTH

END

RECORDED BY FBI N.Y. 323
9 MAR 1942

*Added to queue as
3-1-42*

7-897
MAR 17 1942
[Signature]

104 3 8 16 11 15

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
New York, New York

3-11

JLS:TFK
9-485

March 7, 1942

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

b7C

Attention: Technical Laboratory

Re: FRITZ KUH; [redacted]
CHARLES WESLEY HARMAN;
HELENA RUBINSTEIN - Victim;
EXTORTION

Dear Sir:

There is enclosed herewith a sample of the contents of a proposed extortion letter, which was supposed to have been sent to HELENA RUBINSTEIN in New York City. This paper is an 8" by 13" white sheet of note book paper and is the known handwriting of CHARLES WESLEY HARMAN, who has furnished information to the New York office in this case.

It should be noted that the writing is that of HARMAN, and that the note was written in the presence of Special Agent [redacted] of the New York Field office.

It is desired that this exhibit be maintained in the files of the Technical Laboratory for future reference. It is further suggested that it be compared with unidentified handwriting contained in the anonymous letter file of the Bureau Technical Laboratory.

B
Encl. in file
3-13-42

Copy and Specimens Retained in Laboratory
3-14-42 RSL

Very truly yours,

P. E. Orth
P. E. ORTH
Assistant Director

Enc. 1

8 MAR 17 1942

RECORDED

Director
8973
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
17 MAR 9
[Handwritten initials]

FJH'ESP

9-8993-1

March 24, 1942

b7C

Special Agent in Charge
New York, New York

RE: FRITZ KUHN; [redacted]
CHARLES WESLEY HARMAN;
HELENA ROBERSTEIN, Victim;
EXTORTION

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated March 9, 1942, at New York City in the above captioned case.

The Bureau desires that the alleged victim in this case, Mrs. Helena Rubenstein, 715 Fifth Avenue, New York, be interviewed at the earliest possible moment and that the results of same be submitted to the Bureau in report form immediately thereafter.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

- Mr. Tolson _____
- Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
- Mr. Clegg _____
- Mr. Glavin _____
- Mr. Ladd _____
- Mr. Nichols _____
- Mr. Rosen _____
- Mr. Tracy _____
- Mr. Carson _____
- Mr. Egan _____
- Mr. Gurnea _____
- Mr. Hendon _____
- Mr. Pennington _____
- Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
- Mr. Nease _____
- Miss Gandy _____

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
 MAILED 7
 * MAR 26 1942 P.M.
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
 U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

8 APR 3 1942

Handwritten initials and signatures, including "R.A." and "P.G.K."

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

NEW YORK, N.Y.

NY FILE NO. 9-885 EFT

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK CITY	DATE WHEN MADE 3/9/42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 2/27, 28/42; 3/2/42	REPORT MADE BY <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 15px; width: 100%;"></div>
TITLE FRITZ KUHN; <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 15px;"></div>		CHARACTER OF CASE EXTORTION	
CHARLES WESLEY HARMAN HELENA RUBINSTEIN - Victim			

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

CHARLES HARMAN voluntarily furnished New York office, 2/27/42 with details of possible extortion plot against HELENA RUBINSTEIN, wealthy toilet preparations owner, N.Y.C. HARMAN released from Clinton Prison, Dannemora, N.Y., 2/25/42 where FRITZ KUHN, ex-Bund leader [redacted] presently incarcerated. [redacted] furnished all instructions to HARMAN, although KUHN believed instigator of plot to extort \$500,000.00 from victim on threats to harm victim's sister in Germany. Sample of proposed letter which is to be sent through mails by HARMAN set forth. HARMAN who is to direct all plans instructed to hold all action in abeyance. Victim to be interviewed.

b7C

Int

REFERENCE:

Teletype from the New York field office to the Bureau, dated February 28, 1942

DETAILS:

This investigation is predicated upon information furnished by CHARLES WESLEY HARMAN, who voluntarily appeared in the

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

[Signature]

COPIES OF THIS REPORT

2 Bureau

MAR 11 1942

COPY IN FILE

New York Field office on February 27, 1942 at 10:00 a.m.

HARMAN stated that he had been released from Clinton Prison, Dannemora, New York on February 25, 1942, where he had completed serving a ten year sentence for forgery. HARMAN also related that he had been sentenced to serve this term, in General Sessions Court, New York City sometime during 1932. He admitted serving approximately two years in the Federal Penitentiary at Atlanta for conspiracy in a confidence game, and also that he had served approximately two years in the Nebraska State Penitentiary during 1921 through 1924 on the charge of forgery.

HARMAN informed the writer that he had in his possession, facts revolving around a plan to extort from HELENA RUBINSTEIN the amount of \$500,000.00, based upon a threat to injure the victim's sister, who presumably presently resides in Berlin, Germany. HARMAN stated that during the years he spent in Clinton Prison, he became intimately acquainted

[redacted] b7C
He stated that when FRITZ KUHN, former Bund leader entered Clinton Prison approximately three years ago, KUHN became very intimate with [redacted] HARMAN said that during the three months prior to his release, a plan had been promulgated whereby HELENA RUBINSTEIN, wealthy toilet preparations owner, is to be the victim of a "shake-down" to the extent of \$500,000.00. HARMAN states that he knows for a fact that KUHN is the instigator of this plan, [redacted] He added that this plan is the result of a three months careful planning of KUHN [redacted] HARMAN also stated that he doubted whether KUHN is aware of the fact that he, HARMAN, is the individual who was to carry out the proposed extortion plan.

[redacted]
the plans, as soon as HARMAN arrived in New York City, he was to prepare and mail a letter and send it through the United States mails to the victim, addressed to HELENA RUBINSTEIN, 36-14 30th Avenue, Long Island City, New York, or to HELENA RUBINSTEIN, INC., 715 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

HARMAN prepared in his own handwriting a duplicate of the extortion letter, which is to be sent to the victim, this

9-885

being done in the presence of the writer. The contents of this letter are quoted as follows:

"PRINCESS COURTELLI TCHONIA:

"This is a mandate. The origin and authority you will immediately recognize. You will not later than (4 days) amass the sum of \$500,000.00 ready for instant delivery, in U.S. Currency as follows: \$100,000.00 in \$100 bills, \$100,000.00 in \$50 bills, \$100,000.00 in \$20 bills, \$100,000.00 in \$10 bills, and \$100,000.00 in \$5 bills.

"You will signify your compliance with this mandate by inserting in the Personal Column of the N.Y. Times, for 3 days, Starting (date) as follows: 'George H. Helen wants to see you. P.C.T.'

"Further instructions will therupon be mailed you. Any effort to communicate with any law enforcement agency or to hinder the successful carrying out of the order of this mandate will meet with instant reprisals. Any attempt to cause the arrest of the person contacting you or your agent will in no way embarrass us but will result in the immediate liquidation of your Dear One Abroad, who is still being adequately taken care of."

It should be noted that HARMAN wrote the contents of this letter in the presence of the writer without any hesitation as though it had been memorized. He stated that there were no instructions in writing and that everything was carried in his memory. HARMAN related that the letter is to be written on bluish paper with red crayon, and that the writing is to be very rough. HARMAN further stated that the insignia of the Nazi swastika is to be drawn through the contents of the extortion letter, and that through each of the squares created by the swastika are to be written the following letters: "C. O. G. H." HARMAN stated that these letters signify, "ORDERS OF GENERAL HEADQUARTERS". The form which HARMAN states is to be used and which is to be written through the extortion letter is indicated by the following drawing:

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After HARMAN sends the above quoted letter, he is to use his best judgment as to the manner in which the pay-off is to take place, and also as to how the money will eventually be handled. HARMAN indicated, however, [redacted] discussed in detail the best possible plan in which the extortion pay-off is to be handled. He indicated that he is to receive further instructions from [redacted] after the preliminary plans have been instituted, by writing to [redacted]

[redacted] insisted that [redacted] is not at all aware of any of the plans between KUBEN, [redacted] HARMAN, but that she is to be instructed merely to have all letters which she receives dated on odd-number days, turned over to HARMAN, since these are the letters which will contain instructions to HARMAN. HARMAN stated that [redacted] would use secret writing to convey the instructions to him, by the use of a pen point wetted with saliva, and he said that this writing could be brought out merely by pouring diluted ink over the writing.

When questioned concerning the plan for the pay-off as discussed with [redacted] HARMAN stated that he is to be the manager of the entire plan, and that he is to contact one [redacted] who is to be the contact man. At this point [redacted] stated that [redacted]

[redacted] He added that [redacted] At this point [redacted] informed the writer that he had contacted [redacted] on the evening of January 26, 1942, and found that [redacted] was quite unable to any [redacted] which HARMAN might have in store for him. [redacted] apparently is to obtain the services of a No. 2 man, with [redacted]

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turn is to obtain the services of a No. 3 man. No. 3 man is to be quite uneducated, and after several days of picking up and delivering bundles to No. 2 man, he, No. 3, will obtain the extortion package from the victim and take it to some designated place. At this point, No. 2 man will pick up the extortion package, and place it in the custody of [redacted] or one of his assistants. At this point, the plans are that No. 2 man will be "eliminated", thereby breaking the sequence and preventing either [redacted] HARMAN from being identified.

[redacted] also stated that one [redacted] attorney, in New York City and a member of the defense counsels at a spy trial in New York City, is a very close friend of KUHN'S, and he feels that [redacted] will enter the picture before the plan is completed, or at least after the money has been obtained from the victim. HARMAN indicated that in the event Mrs. RUDENSTEIN ignores the note, other notes will be sent and no results are forthcoming, plans are to be effected whereby the victim's husband or her son-in-law, who is manager of the victim's corporation, will be kidnapped. HARMAN stated that his cut in this plan is to be fifty per cent or \$250,000.00, and that the remainder of the money is to be split between KUHN [redacted]. He stated that he had been trying to fathom the motive for sending this note, and stated that he concluded that KUHN might expect to be able to be released from prison in the event he had sufficient cash to work with. HARMAN also stated that he had considered the possibility that KUHN might have, by some unknown means, tipped off the victim in this case, with the hopes that in this manner, he might receive some consideration when he came up for parole at the Clinton Prison. HARMAN stated that he came directly to the New York Field Office because he felt that he would attempt to be of service to his country at this time, and further that he felt that he was in possession of information, which had great ramifications, and further that some individual's life might be endangered. HARMAN placed a great amount of emphasis on the manner in which the extortion letter is to be prepared, indicating that [redacted] insists that the Nazi swastika with the letters "OOHR" will have a great effect upon the victim. [redacted] stated that KUHN knows that the victim is sending large sums of money abroad to Germany to protect a sister of hers who is in the custody of officials in Berlin, Germany. He stated that he did

b7C

9-885

not know the name of Mrs. RUBINSTEIN'S sister. HARMAN related that HELENA RUBINSTEIN is also known as Princess COURTELLI TCHKONIA, and that is the reason why she is addressed in this manner on the extortion note.

At this time, HARMAN stated that [] told him that in 1938 HELENA RUBINSTEIN was the victim of a shake-down in the amount of \$135,000.00, apparently by the use of some similar plan. [] told HARMAN that he received his information from FRITZ KUHN. [] stated that the victim on that occasion had paid off the money to whom ever demanded it, but that it is not believed that KUHN received the money. HARMAN stated that apparently some other organization or party was responsible for the prior shake-down. HARMAN informed the writer that he would not take any further steps in connection with this plan until he had received instructions from the New York office. HARMAN indicated his desire to cooperate completely with this office in every respect, and that if it was the desire of the Bureau that the entire matter be dropped, he would very willingly agree to this. He further indicated that if it was desired that the preliminaries of the plan be completed, he would likewise be willing to commence whatever action this office desired. HARMAN was instructed to refrain from any action and another interview was arranged for HARMAN on the following day, February 28, 1942. b7C

It should be noted that HARMAN had in his possession a letter from the New York office of the Curtis Wright Airplane Corporation, indicating that the General Manager was personally interested in HARMAN, and that efforts would be made to obtain him a job upon his release from Clinton Prison. At a later date, HARMAN advised that he had gone to the plant located in Paterson, New Jersey for an interview, and that after completing a questionnaire, he was to return to Paterson, New Jersey sometime during the week ending March 14, 1942, at which time he would be advised whether or not he would be given employment. HARMAN stated that in the mean time he could be reached at the Sloan House in New York City.

On February 28, 1942 HARMAN again appeared in the New York Field office, at which time he was instructed to re-

appear in this office on March 2, 1942, at which time the matter would again be discussed with him. Also on February 28, 1942, a teletype was transmitted to the Bureau setting forth briefly the above information, advising the Bureau that it was the plan of this office to interview HELENA RUDASTEDT, and that it was contemplated that instructions would be given to HARMAN not to take any further action in connection with the extortion plan.

On March 2, 1942, HARMAN again appeared in the New York Field office, at which time he was interviewed by Special Agent [redacted] and the writer. At this time, HARMAN was again questioned thoroughly concerning the information in his possession, and he repeated the same facts without any deviation, as he had related to the writer on February 27, 1942. It was ascertained at this time that HARMAN had served in the United States Army during the last World War as a private attached to Company "G", 23rd Engineers, United States Army, and that he was discharged on February 19, 1918, the reason being for disability. He had in his possession honorable discharge papers, which indicated that he was classified as possessing good character.

The sample of the extortion letter which is to be sent to the victim and was prepared in the presence of the writer by HARMAN, is being transmitted to the Technical Laboratory for maintenance in the files.

It should be noted that HARMAN has agreed to telephonically contact the New York Field office at various intervals during the coming two weeks. He indicated that it would be impossible for him to give any address as he did not know where he was going to reside, but that he was planning to visit with friends in New Rochelle, New York. He stated that it was also possible that he could be contacted through the Curtis Wright plant at Paterson, New Jersey. He was instructed to refrain from taking any further steps in connection with this matter.

The following description was obtained of HARMAN as a result of personal observation and interview:

Name
Age
Birthplace

CHARLES WESLEY HARMAN
52 years
New Rochelle, New York

9-885

Height	5'8"
Weight	150 pounds
Hair	Grey, mostly bald
Eyes	Blue, grey
Build	Slender, stooped
Complexion	Medium
Education	8th grade
Marital status	Divorced
Parents	Deceased
Clinton Prison	#22614

CORRECTION

**THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN
REPHOTOGRAPHED TO ASSURE
LEGIBILITY**

9-885

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION

AT NEW YORK CITY

Will discreetly interview Mrs. HELEA RUBINSTEIN, 715 Fifth Avenue, and question her concerning any knowledge she may have of proposed extortion plan and also whether she has a sister in Berlin, Germany. Victim should also be questioned relative to authenticity of information furnished by HARMAN regarding prior shake-down in 1938 in the amount of \$135,000.00. Mrs. RUBINSTEIN should also be appropriately instructed to advise the New York Field office immediately upon receipt of any threatening letters. A description of the victim should be obtained.

Will vigorously re-interview CHARLES HARMAN to ascertain if instant plot is a figment of his imagination; also from the possibility that persons other than FRITZ KUHN and [redacted] may have instigated plot for unknown reasons.

Description of all subjects involved should be obtained.

Upon the completion of the foregoing leads, will state appropriate action as deemed advisable from facts disclosed by above investigation.

- P E N D I N G -

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