

FEDERAL BUREAU OF  
INVESTIGATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

This case originated at NEW YORK, N. Y.

NY File No. 100-25776 els

Report made at  NEW YORK, N. Y.	Date made  10/-/44	Period  9/9, 11, 21, 22, 25, 26/44	Report made by  [REDACTED] (4/7/44)
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Title  LANGSTON HUGHES	Character  INTERNAL SECURITY - C [REDACTED] (280)
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Synopsis of facts:

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Autobiography of subject set forth. First became active Workers Movement 1930. Member INTERNATIONAL UNION REVOLUTIONARY WRITERS 1933. On National Committee of AMERICAN LEAGUE AGAINST WAR & FASCISM 1934. Contributing Editor "Labor Defender" 1937. Member American Committee for Technical Aid to Spain 1937. Attended INTERNATIONAL WRITERS CONGRESS at Madrid, Spain, 1937. Supported verdict in Soviet Purge Trials 1938. Member AMERICAN PEACE MOBILIZATION COMMITTEE 1940. Member LEAGUE AMERICAN WRITERS, 1941. On Editorial Council, SRT PUBLICATIONS, INC., 1941. Listed as lecturer, SCHOOL FOR DEMOCRACY, 1942. Signed Second Front Call 1942. On Editorial Board, magazine "Common Ground", 1942. Speaker meeting held by COUNCIL FOR PAN AMERICAN DEMOCRACY, 1943. Subject's drama, "For this We Fight", presented at NEGRO FREEDOM RALLY, Madison Square Garden, 1943. On Committee, NATIONAL COUNCIL OF AMERICAN SOVIET FRIENDSHIP, 1943. Sponsor of AMERICAN YOUTH FOR DEMOCRACY, 1944. Member National Committee for People's Rights. Subject believed to be residing 634 St. Nicholas Avenue, New York.

CLASSIFIED BY 3832

DATE OF DECLASSIFICATION INDEFINITE 7/20/78 LLS/gul/SEN/RENTING SLIP(S) OF CLASSIFICATION DATE 7-27-78

REFERENCE:

Bureau File 100-15139.  
Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated February 19, 1944, at New York, N. Y.

Approved & forwarded  [Signature]	SAC	Do not write in these spaces
Copies of this report		100-15139-13
5 - Bureau (enclosure)		190-25477-2
2 - Chicago		
2 - Baltimore		
2 - Los Angeles		
2 - Washington		

ENCLOSURE

RECORDED & INDEXED  
193

PIES DESTROYED 5/1/59

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DETAILS:

The subject of this case is carried as a key figure in the New York Field Division.

"The Big Sea", published by A. A. KNOFF, in 1940, is an autobiography of LANGSTON HUGHES, and is summarized as follows:

HUGHES was born February 1, 1902 at Joplin, Missouri. His early youth was spent in Lawrence, Kansas. In 1916, he moved to Cleveland with his mother, where he remained until he had completed his high school education at Central High. In 1920, he visited his father, who was living in Mexico, and stayed with him for approximately a year. In September of 1921, he enrolled at Columbia University in New York, where he completed a one year's course. During this same year, he found time to attend the Rand School in New York under the guidance of LUDWIG LE ISORN and HEYWOOD BROWN.

At the end of the school year, he went to sea, and from that time until 1926, he drifted about in various countries of Europe, including Italy, France, and Spain. He had begun to write poetry prior to his going to sea. As a result of his talent in this field, he was given a scholarship to attend Lincoln University in Pennsylvania. He began his studies at this school in 1926, and completed his course there in three years.

A review of the files of the New York Field Division was made, and the following information was reflected:

Confidential Informant T-1 advised that subject first became active in the Workers Movement and interested in social conditions in 1930; that he had visited Russia in 1933; and that he was a correspondent in Madrid, Spain, during the Spanish Civil War.

Confidential Informant T-2 advised that one SONYA CROLL, with the alias JUNE CROLL, a white person, married LANGSTON HUGHES sometime in 1932, and they had a child.

In the Daily Worker, edition dated September 1, 1933, on page 5, the subject is stated to have written an article entitled "Moscow and Me", in which he describes his trip to Moscow for the purpose of filming a picture "Black and White". He stated that he admired the Soviet system for its non race prejudice, and he stated that all places were open to him as he possessed credentials of the INTERNATIONAL UNION OF REVOLUTIONARY WRITERS.

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In the Call to the Second United States Congress Against War and Fascism on September 28, 1934 at Chicago, Illinois, it was reflected that LANGSTON HUGHES was on the NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE AMERICAN LEAGUE AGAINST WAR AND FASCISM.

The February, 1937 issue of the "Labor Defender" reflected that LANGSTON HUGHES was a Contributing Editor of this magazine, which is published by the INTERNATIONAL LABOR DEFENSE, 8 East 11th Street, New York City.

In the Daily Worker, published March 29, 1937, on page 4, he wrote that the participation of Negroes in the Spanish War on the side of the Loyalist Government shows that the Negroes are growing in international consciousness. This article also reflected that he is a member of the AMERICAN COMMITTEE FOR TECHNICAL AID TO SPAIN.

An article in the Daily Worker, dated September 7, 1937, reflected that LANGSTON HUGHES, "the Negro poet", made a broadcast from Madrid, and that several weeks before he had attended the INTERNATIONAL WRITERS CONGRESS at Madrid, Spain.

According to the Daily Worker of January 22, 1938, on page 2, the subject was interviewed on his return from Spain after spending six months there. It is reported that HUGHES told of the heroic work of the many Negroes from the United States in Spain's fight against General Franco, and that he was convinced of a Loyalist victory.

An article in the Daily Worker, dated April 28, 1938, reflected that LANGSTON HUGHES was one of 150 prominent American artists, writers, and composers, who issued a statement in support of the verdicts of the recent Moscow Trials of the Trotskyite-Bukharinite Traitors.

The 1938 International Workers Order Convention proceedings reflect that EMANUEL LEVIN, National Education Work Director, distributed ten thousand copies of the collected poems of LANGSTON HUGHES.

In the Daily Worker, dated August 14, 1939, it was reflected that LANGSTON HUGHES was one of 400 leading figures in education who released a manifesto denying the fantastic falsehood that the U.S.S.R. and the Totalitarian States are basically alike.

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The Daily Worker issue of September 3, 1940 reflected a list of officers elected by the EMERGENCY PEACE MOBILIZATION COMMITTEE Convention held September 2, 1940, in which LANGSTON HUGHES is carried as a member.

In the "New Leader", dated November 11, 1940, an article appeared which read as follows:

"Two new fronts have been added by the Comrades to the long and tiring list of networks swung by the Comintern through the professions. One is the Lawyers Committee to Keep the United States Out of War. The other is the Negro Playwrights, sponsored by Stalin stooges, PAUL ROBESON, NICHARD WRIGHT, MAX YERGAN, BEN DAVIS, LANGSTON HUGHES, and all the lads."

In an article published in the Daily Worker, dated April 5, 1941, it was reflected that LANGSTON HUGHES was one of more than one hundred leading American writers who signed the Call of the Fourth Congress of the LEAGUE OF AMERICAN WRITERS to be held June 6-8, 1941.

Confidential Informant A, whose identity is known to the Bureau, advised the plenary session, of the COMMUNIST PARTY, U.S.A., was held in New York City from June 28, 1941 to June 29, 1941, and that among the persons attending was JUNE CROLL (formerly SONYA CROLL), wife of LANGSTON HUGHES, Negro poet.

Confidential Informant T-2 advised in October, 1941, that LANGSTON HUGHES is on the Editorial Council of the SOVIET RUSSIA TODAY PUBLICATIONS, INC., 114 East 32nd Street, New York City.

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Confidential Informant T-3, in a report dated January 7, 1942, advised that LANGSTON HUGHES was one of those listed as being instructors and a guest lecturer at the SCHOOL FOR DEMOCRACY, 13 Astor Place, New York City.

An article appearing in the Daily Worker dated September 22, 1942, page 7, column 3, reflected that HUGHES was one of 500 American writers who signed a Second-Front Call in a letter to the President.

Confidential Informant [redacted] whose identity is known to the Bureau, advised that as of November 27, 1942, LANGSTON HUGHES was on the Editorial Board of the "Common Ground", a magazine published by the COMMON COUNCIL FOR AMERICAN UNITY, 222 Fourth Avenue, New York City.

In an article in the Daily Worker dated December 23, 1942, page 7, column 7, it was reflected that LANGSTON HUGHES headed a list of writers who will lecture at the SCHOOL FOR DEMOCRACY during the winter term beginning January 4, 1943, and that he will speak on the life and culture of the Negro people.

Confidential National Defense Informant [redacted] reported that LANGSTON HUGHES was a speaker at a meeting held at the Martin Beck Theater on February 14, 1943, "Night of the Americas", to further cultural ties between Latin America and the United States. This meeting was put on by the COUNCIL FOR PAN AMERICAN DEMOCRACY.

Confidential Informant T-8 reported that DOROTHY K. FUNN of the NEGRO LABOR COMMITTEE advised FERDINAND SMITH that LANGSTON HUGHES was one of the individuals present at a meeting held February 24, 1943. The same informant further advised that on May 19, 1943, Miss DOROTHY FUNN and FERDINAND SMITH had a conference in which SMITH told Miss FUNN that the publicity setup in the Daily Worker should be used in the promotion of LANGSTON HUGHES' play. (S) u

In the Daily Worker, dated May 19, 1943, page 7, column 2, the following information was related:

LANGSTON HUGHES' drama, "For this we fight", will be presented at Madison Square Garden June 7th in connection with a Negro Freedom Rally. Concluding a lecture tour, which took

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him to several midwestern universities and Army camps during the winter, including a government radio broadcast from Toronto, the poet will speak May 26th at the Tom Paine Forum in Philadelphia.

In an article appearing in the Daily Worker, dated May 24, 1943, page 1, column 5, it was reflected that LANGSTON HUGHES was one of 220 prominent Americans who addressed an open letter to the President urging an immediate severance of diplomatic relations with Finland, and a declaration of war.

Confidential Informant T-9 reported a conference between BEN DAVIS and GIL GREEN, which took place on May 28, 1943. BEN DAVIS complained of the lack of cooperation of the Daily Worker in publicizing a meeting (probably the Negro Freedom Rally in which LANGSTON HUGHES presents his drama "For this We Fight"). GREEN wanted to know if the Daily Worker was getting enough material, and DAVIS replied that they were getting more than they could use. GREEN is reported to have said that there should be some real material on the cultural aspects on ROBINSON, on what the LANGSTON HUGHES thing is, and, of course, the main thing is the political importance of the meeting.

In an article occurring in the Daily Worker dated September 16, 1943, it was reflected that a meeting of writers was held under the auspices of the NATIONAL COUNCIL OF AMERICAN SOVIET FRIENDSHIP for the purpose of a nationwide collection of books to restore the libraries of the Soviet Union. LANGSTON HUGHES is noted as being on the committee.

Confidential Informant A, whose identity is known to the Bureau, advised that LANGSTON HUGHES sponsored and attended a Citizens Emergency Conference for International Unity at Hunter College, Park Avenue and 69th Street, New York City, on September 25, 1943, and that one of the panel discussions was devoted to the problem of discrimination in the Armed Forces.

An article appearing in the Daily Worker dated October 1, 1943, page 8, column 6, reflected that the I.O has called a Cultural Conference for Sunday, October 10, 1943, at Helin Studios, 135 West 134th Street, New York, to deal with the problems of the drama, music, dance, and instrumental groups working in the field of folk art, and that LANGSTON HUGHES will make the main speech on folk art and the war.

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Confidential Informant A, whose identity is known to the Bureau, advised that on October 10, 1943, LANGSTON HUGHES made the keynote speech of the Cultural Conference held by the New York District of the I.O.

An advertisement appearing in the New York Times dated December 22, 1943, reflected that LANGSTON HUGHES was a signer of a declaration put forth by the Reichstag Fire Trial Anniversary Committee, which was an advertisement commemorating "The fire that has been burning for ten years". Many other well known Communists were joint signers.

An article appearing in the Daily Worker issue dated January 30, 1944, page 3, column 4, reflected that EMIL BROWDER, LANGSTON HUGHES, and others will speak and pay tribute to the memory of ART YOUNG, Editor of NEW MASSES, on January 27, 1944 at Manhattan Center.

An article appearing in "The People's Voice", dated February 17, 1944, reflected that LANGSTON HUGHES participated in a radio debate on the race question on America's Town Meeting of the Air. The article further reflected that HUGHES advocated an over-all Federal program protecting the rights of minorities and that he stated that Democracy does not lose by sharing its privileges, but that it loses by denying them.

Confidential Informant T-4 advised that LANGSTON HUGHES was one of the National Sponsors of the AMERICAN YOUTH FOR DEMOCRACY as of February 18, 1944.

An article appearing in the "People's Voice", dated March 18, 1944 reflected that LANGSTON HUGHES made a spring cross-country tour following his recent appearance on the Town Meeting of the Air, and that he read his poems to the men of Fort Reiley as a guest of the 18th and Madison USO Clubs, Junction City, Kansas. His campus programs included the University of West Virginia, the University of Kansas, Wiley College, San Houston College, and Prairie View State College in Texas.

Confidential Informant T-3 advised in a report dated June 7, 1944 that LANGSTON HUGHES was affiliated with the FRIENDS OF THE SOVIET UNION, and in this report he is listed as a COMMUNIST PARTY member.

In an article appearing in the Daily Worker dated July 8, 1944, page 8, column 3, it was reflected that LANGSTON HUGHES was one of the seven poets who met in a discussion group at the Jefferson School of Social Science, 575 Sixth Avenue.

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An undated pamphlet entitled "National Committee for People's Rights", 100 Fifth Avenue, New York City, listed LANGSTON HUGHES as being a member.

Confidential Informant T-5 advised that his records reflected that the subject still resided at 634 St. Nicholas Avenue, New York. It reflected further that HUGHES was a newspaper reporter for the AFRO AMERICAN at Baltimore in 1938 and 1939, and that he was in Los Angeles, California, during the period 1939 to 1940, where he was the author of an RKO film "Play Down South", and where he was a dramatist at the Federal Theater, Los Angeles. It further reflected that in January, 1941, he had a temporary address at the Good Shepherd Community Center, 5220 South Parkway, Chicago, Illinois.

A check of the mail box at 634 St. Nicholas Avenue reflected that the name of HARPER and HUGHES appeared on the mail box of apartment 1-D.

[redacted] of the apartment house located at 634 St. Nicholas Avenue, New York, was contacted under a suitable pretext. He advised that the subject's aunt, TOY HARPER, resides in apartment 1-D, and that LANGSTON HUGHES receives his mail there. [redacted] also related that HUGHES has a studio somewhere in the 400 or 500 block on West 141st Street. [redacted] advised that his son [redacted] had formerly worked for the subject in doing odd jobs in the studio and running errands for him. [redacted] stated that he would secure the address of this studio for the writer. He also stated that TOY HARPER and her husband, EMERSON HARPER, were presently in Denver, Colorado, and that they were traveling about the country with an orchestra. [redacted] also advised that he had been formerly connected with Company L of the New York City Patrol, and that he had resigned because he was unable to secure help in the [redacted]. He also advised that he was the [redacted] of Local 32H, Building Service Union, AFL. (b)(7)(D)

[redacted] New York City. [redacted] of the building at 634 St. Nicholas Avenue, advised that [redacted] had worked for him as a [redacted] for a number of years, and that he considered him entirely reliable. [redacted] made the lease of apartment 1-D available, which reflected only the names of EMERSON and TOY HARPER. [redacted] advised that they were excellent tenants [redacted] since the building was constructed fifteen years ago.

Confidential Informant T-6 made the records of his office available which did not reflect a LANGSTON HUGHES residing in the 400 or 500 block on West 141st Street, New York.

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Confidential Informant T-7 made the records of his office available which reflected that LANGSTON HUGHES still receives mail at 634 St. Nicholas Avenue, New York.

The files of the New York Field Division were checked for the names of [REDACTED] with negative results.

5/14/70 [REDACTED] was telephonically contacted, and he advised that LANGSTON HUGHES had given up his studio on West 141st Street approximately a year ago.

[REDACTED] He now is of the opinion that HUGHES is living at 634 St. Nicholas Avenue, and he will advise the writer if this is true. (b)(1)

Confidential Informant [REDACTED] whose identity is known to the Bureau, was contacted for any information concerning the activities of LANGSTON HUGHES, and he made the following report:

LANGSTON HUGHES has spoken for years to various COMMUNIST PARTY gatherings. He is used more as a front, generally contacted through the IWO, and usually through LOUISE THOMPSON, and WILLIAM PATTERSON, both former National Committee members of the IWO and COMMUNIST PARTY. They are husband and wife, now living in Chicago. He is generally near LOUISE THOMPSON. Was sent to Spain by Party during Civil War period. He believed HUGHES to be in Chicago, and that he was a writer on the Chicago Defender.. He described HUGHES as being forty-two years of age, 5'8" tall, medium build, brown eyes, having

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[REDACTED] of the apartment house located at 634 St. Nicholas Avenue, New York, was contacted under a suitable pretext. He advised that the subject's aunt, TOY HARPER, resides in apartment 1-D, and that LANGSTON HUGHES receives his mail there. [REDACTED] also related that HUGHES has a studio somewhere in the 400 or 500 block on West 141st Street. [REDACTED] advised that his son [REDACTED] had formerly worked for the subject in doing odd jobs in the studio and running errands for him. [REDACTED] stated that he would secure the address of this studio for the writer. He also stated that TOY HARPER and her husband, EMERSON HARPER, were presently in Denver, Colorado, and that they were traveling about the country with an orchestra. [REDACTED] also advised that he had been formerly connected with Company L of the New York City Patrol, and that he had resigned because he was unable to secure help in the [REDACTED]. He also advised that he was the [REDACTED] of Local 328, Building Service Union, AFL. (b)(6)

[REDACTED] New York City. [REDACTED] of the building at 634 St. Nicholas Avenue, advised that [REDACTED] had worked for him as a [REDACTED] for a number of years, and that he considered him entirely reliable. [REDACTED] made the lease of apartment 1-D available, which reflected only the names of EMERSON and TOY HARPER. [REDACTED] advised that they were excellent tenants [REDACTED] since the building was constructed fifteen years ago.

Confidential Informant T-6 made the records of his office available which did not reflect a LANGSTON HUGHES residing in the 400 or 500 block on West 141st Street, New York.

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Confidential Informant T-7 made the records of his office available which reflected that LANGSTON HUGHES still receives mail at 634 St. Nicholas Avenue, New York.

The files of the New York Field Division were checked for the names of [REDACTED] with negative results.

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[REDACTED] was telephonically contacted, and he advised that LANGSTON HUGHES had given up his studio on West 141st Street approximately a year ago.

[REDACTED] He now is of the opinion that HUGHES is living at 634 St. Nicholas Avenue, and he will advise the writer if this is true. (b)(1)

Confidential Informant [REDACTED] whose identity is known to the Bureau, was contacted for any information concerning the activities of LANGSTON HUGHES, and he made the following report:

LANGSTON HUGHES has spoken for years to various COMMUNIST PARTY gatherings. He is used more as a front, generally contacted through the [REDACTED], and usually through LOUISE THOMPSON, and WILLIAM PATTERSON, both former National Committee members of the [REDACTED] and COMMUNIST PARTY. They are husband and wife, now living in Chicago. He is generally near LOUISE THOMPSON. Was sent to Spain by Party during Civil War period. He believed HUGHES to be in Chicago, and that he was a writer on the Chicago Defender.. He described HUGHES as being forty-two years of age, 5'8" tall, medium build, brown eyes, having

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a mustache and marital status - unknown.

A more recent picture of LANGSTON HUGHES appearing in the Daily Worker dated October 1, 1943, page 8, column 6, was obtained, and a copy of this picture is being submitted as an enclosure with this report.

ENCLOSURE:-----BUREAU (1)

Photograph of subject

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NY 100-25776

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

CHICAGO FIELD DIVISION

AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS:

Will review the files of the Office and report any information concerning the activities of the subject not set forth in instant report.

Will contact Confidential Informants of the Office for any information concerning the activities of the subject. It is known that HUGHES has been a writer on the Chicago Defender and that he is a close friend of LOUISE THOMPSON and WILLIAM PATTERSON.

BALTIMORE FIELD DIVISION

AT BALTIMORE, MARYLAND:

Will review the files of the office and report any information concerning the activities of the subject, who was a news reporter for the AFRO AMERICAN, 1938-9.

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA:

Will report the activities of the subject for the period 1939-40. Subject was connected with the Federal Theater and was the author of an RKO film entitled "Way Down South".

WASHINGTON FIELD DIVISION

AT WASHINGTON, D. C.:

Will check with the State Department to determine if the subject obtained a passport to leave the country as stated sometime in 1932 or 1933 to go to Russia and whether he obtained a passport sometime in 1937 when he is alleged to have spent the latter six months in Spain.

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NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION

AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK:

Will obtain handwriting specimens of the subject at Local Board 58, 138th Street and Broadway.

(7/10) Will recontact [REDACTED] for the purpose of developing him as a confidential informant.

Will continue to check and report further Communist activities of the subject.

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NY 100-25776

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

The confidential informants mentioned in the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated 10/4/44 at New York, New York, are identified as follows:

T-1 is an unrevealed informant in the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated July 20, 1942 at New York.

T-2 is an unrevealed informant in the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated August 8, 1941, at Pittsburgh.

T-3 is records of [REDACTED]

T-4 is a mimeographed list of National Sponsors found in Room 717, Steinway Hall, 113 West 57th Street, New York City.

T-5 is Local Board 58, 138th Street & Broadway, New York.

T-6 is [REDACTED] of Hamilton Grains Station Post Office, 523 West 146th Street, New York.

T-7 - College Station Post Office, 217 West 140th Street.

T-8 is Confidential Informant [REDACTED] whose identity is known to the Bureau.

T-9 is Confidential Informant [REDACTED] whose identity is known to the Bureau

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID  
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300.

1 Enclosures for BUREAU Office

Re: NEW YORK FILE NO. 100-25776

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3-3-81 BY SP-1 BJA/ML

of the heaviest weapons used in the  
against the people.

interest of sharpening this weapon  
hat the International Workers Order  
stural Conference for Sunday, Oct.

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LANGSTON HUGHES

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK**

NY FILE NO. **100-25776 CEM**

REPORT MADE AT <b>NEW YORK</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>NOV 26 1945</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>10/9, 30; 11/11-16/45</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>[REDACTED] (b)(6)</b>
TITLE <b>JAMES LANGSTON HUGHES, with alias, Langston Hughes</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>SECURITY MATTER - C</b>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

(u)  
AGENCY 100-451A  
REQ. REC'D 5-6-54  
REP'T. FORM 5-7-54  
BY JJP-R-9mt  
(ent-7)

Subject is a sponsor of the Spanish Refugee Appeal of the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee; Contributing Editor to SPOT LIGHT, former AYD publication affiliated with National Negro Congress, Negro Labor Victory Committee, Peoples Voice, and IWO; on lecture tour of high schools in New York metropolitan area for the Common Council of American Unity; resides with Aunt, TOY HARPER, at 634 St. Nicholas Ave., Apartment 1-D, NYC. (u)

C AGENCY 100-C1A  
REQ. REC'D 9-9-58  
REP'T. FORM 9-18-58  
BY Turn lid

AGENCY 100-826 (Pre)  
REQ. REC'D 5-22-54  
REP'T. FORM 6-2-54  
BY HDS (b)(6)

**REFERENCE:**

Report of Special Agent [REDACTED]  
New York, 1/8/45. (u)

CLASSIFIED BY [REDACTED]  
EXEMPT FROM GDS  
DATE OF DECLASSIFICATION [REDACTED]

**DETAILS:**

The character of this case is being changed from INTERNAL SECURITY - C to SECURITY MATTER - C. (u)

Confidential informant T-1 advised that the subject sent a letter to one EUGENE KONECKY, Communist and Editor of FRATERNAL OUTLOOK, addressed to this individual's office at 80 5th Avenue, New York City, on December 11, 1944. (u)

In the January 6, 1945, issue of the NEW YORK AGE, an editorial was written reflecting that the subject was being sent on a good-will tour of high schools in the New York metropolitan area on behalf of the (u)

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	WRITE IN THESE SPACES <b>100-15139-24</b>	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT		COPY IN FILE	RECORDED
5 - Bureau 1 - Col. S.V. CONSTANT, D of I, 2 SC 10 - New York 20 <u>CC D R</u> 12-4-45		25 NOV 28 1945 <del>[REDACTED]</del>	INDEXED

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Common Council for American Unity at 222 Fourth Avenue, New York City, in an effort to widen group understanding. (u)

It is to be noted that during October, November, and December of 1944, the subject allegedly spent one day in each of twenty five schools giving speeches and reading poetry to the various classes. (u)

This article further stated that in most schools his visit climaxed or was integrated with various projects of study — poetry, discussions of race relations and the extension of democracy, local problems such as housing, the history of the Reconstruction, et cetera. It is also noted that his tour began in mid-October, with a week spent in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, at the express invitation of this Board of Education, which allegedly was attempting to institute a new program of bettering inter-cultural and interracial understanding. It is to be noted further that several New Jersey schools were included in the tour subsequent to that by the subject, at which he gave speeches. (u)

The article concludes stating that it was the hope of the Common Council to send the subject to many schools during the year of 1945, and that during the latter part of January, it was expected that he would go on a lecture tour through the Middle West and the South. (u)

An article appearing in the "Daily Worker" issue of January 29, 1945, page 11, column 2, reflected that the subject was one of the judges for the \$150 cultural award which was sponsored by the Lincoln Steffens Lodge 500 of the IWO, as a part of the celebration of Negro History Week, February 11 through the 18th, 1945. This prize was to be presented to a young Negro whose work was considered to be an outstanding contribution to American culture, and the presentation was to be made at the Lodge's annual dance on February 3, 1945, at Manhattan Center, New York City. (u)

In the Pittsburgh Courier dated May 1, 1943, an article was written entitled "UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH GROUP HEARS LANGSTON HUGHES." This article stated that the subject spoke before a class of the School of Applied Social Science in the Group Work studio on Wednesday at the Cathedral of Learning at the University of Pittsburgh, where he gave a sociological explanation of his various works to remove the stigma of the color touch. During this speech, he read several of his poems and following the speech, the subject was the honored guest at a dinner of the Loendi Club, R. MAURICE MOSS, executive secretary of the Urban League sponsoring the poet's appearance in Pittsburgh. (u)

The May 20, 1944, issue of the Pittsburgh Courier carried an article which was captioned "LANGSTON HUGHES CLOSES MUSIC WEEK PROGRAM AT 'Y'." Under this caption, it was reflected that LANGSTON HUGHES, a poet and author, closed a successful music week program at the Centre Avenue YMCA, Thursday May 11. The theme of this program was "Music for Fellowship." It was noted further that the February 10, 1945, issue of the Pittsburgh Courier carried a photograph of the subject, indicating that he was the most popular living negro poet, novelist, playwright, columnist, and contributor to leading national magazines. It further stated that he had won the HARMON AWARD for literature in 1931. (u)

The "Daily Worker" issue of March 6, 1945, page 11, column 2, carried an article captioned "ASCH RECORDS POETRY OF LANGSTON HUGHES." This article reflected that an album of the poems written by LANGSTON HUGHES was being released by ASCH RECORDINGS. It is noted that these recordings were to include several varieties of blues, lyrical verse, work ballads, epic poems and rhymes. Among these recorded poems are: "Harlem Sweeties," "Little Lyric Wake," "Merry-go-Round," "Klu Klux Klan," "Good Morning Stalingrad," "Worry Blues," "In Time of Silver Rain," and a number of additional previously published poems. (u)

It is to be noted that at a dinner given by the Spanish Refugee Appeal of the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee that the subject was listed on the dinner invitation for the date of March 22, 1945, as one of the sponsors of that particular occasion. It is to be noted also that the subject was listed as Contributing Editor to "SPOTLIGHT", the former American Youth for Democracy publication which was discontinued around May 1945. It is to be noted from the literature distributed that the subject was a guest lecturer at the George Washington-Carver School. (u)

Confidential Informant T-2 advised that the subject was listed as a contact for JESSICA SMITH, Editor of "Soviet Russia Today" and was listed as being affiliated with the National Negro Congress, Negro Labor Victory Committee, and the People's Voice. (u)

(710) Confidential informant [redacted] whose identity is known to the Bureau, advised that a meeting of the Negro Freedom Rally was held at Madison Square Garden, New York City, June 25, 1945, and that a pageant was presented entitled "Carry on America, Victory is What You Make It." It is to be noted that the subject, along with NORMAN CORWIN and HOWARD FAST, Communists, wrote the aforementioned pageant. (u)



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Confidential informant T-3 advised on October 30, 1945, that the subject traveled throughout the country a great deal, but that he was presently in the City of New York at that time and was residing with his Aunt TOY HARPER at 634 St. Nicholas Avenue, Apartment 1-D, New York City. (u)

In view of the fact that the subject's Communist activities do not seem to be of sufficient importance to warrant further investigation, this matter is being closed upon the authority of the Special Agent in Charge. (u)

- C L O S E D -

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CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

The confidential informants mentioned in the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] at New York City, November 26, 1945, are as follows: (u)

T-1

[REDACTED] (u)

T-2

[REDACTED] (c)

T-3

[REDACTED] (u)

(u)  
(c)  
(c)  
(c)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

124-1

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK**

NY FILE NO. 100-25776 ADV

REPORT MADE AT <b>NEW YORK</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>5/13/49</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>1/25, 26, 31; 2/12; 4/4/49</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>[REDACTED] (7K)</b>
TITLE <b>JAMES LANGSTON HUGHES, wa: Langston Hughes</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>SECURITY MATTER - C</b>
<p>CLASSIFIED DECISIONS FINALIZED BY DEPARTMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE (DRC) DATE: <b>7-30-81</b></p>			
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:		<p>Subject now residing at 20 East 127th Street, NYC. Articles in the "Daily Worker" and other publications reflect subject still active as a negro poet, playwright and lecturer. Informant advises subject was suggested as a candidate in 1936 and 1938 on the Communist Party election ticket and turned down by the National Committee of the Communist Party because he was considered more valuable to the CP as a writer and lecturer. Informant advises that a 1945 New Year's greeting from MIKHAIL APLETON, Foreign Commission of Soviet Writers, Moscow to the National Council of American Soviet Friendship, was relayed on to the subject.</p>	
<p><i>fed</i></p> <p><b>C</b> AGENCY <u>1cc-CIA</u> REQ. REC'D <u>9-9-58</u> REP'T FORW. <u>9-17-58</u> BY <u>Gunn</u></p> <p><b>C</b> AGENCY <u>1cc-CIA</u> REQ. REC'D <u>5-6-51</u> REP'T FORW. <u>5-7-51</u> BY <u>J. D. Galt</u></p>		<p><b>U</b> 76382 <b>7-30-91</b></p>	
<p>DECLASSIFIED BY <b>3832</b></p> <p>DATE OF DECLASSIFICATION <b>7/2/78</b></p>		<p>DECLASSIFIED BY <b>76382</b></p> <p>DATE OF DECLASSIFICATION <b>7-30-91</b></p>	
REFERENCE:		<p>Bureau File 100-15139 Bureau letter 12/7/48</p>	
<p><del>APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY SLIP OF COPIES OF THIS REPORT</del></p> <p><b>At New York City</b></p>		<p>AGENCY <u>1cc-Ste</u> (Pres. R. G. ...) REQ. REC'D <u>5-27-58</u> REP'T FORW. <u>6-6-58</u> BY <u>ADS-iss</u></p>	
<p>Investigation reflected that the subject has moved from 634 St. Nicholas Avenue, New York City to 20 East 127th Street, New York City and that his unlisted phone number is SA 2-1968. (u)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>F B I</b></p> <p>Under a suitable pretext, the subject was contacted by phone, and he advised that 20 East 127th Street was now his permanent. (u)</p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
<p><i>Edward Scheidt</i></p>		<p><b>100-25776-9 + 51</b></p>	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT		<p><b>3 MAY 16 1949</b></p>	
<p>5 Bureau 3 New York</p>		<p><b>RECORDED INDEXED</b></p>	
<p><b>57 JUN 13 1949</b></p>		<p><b>STAT</b></p>	

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address and that though he was available for lectures, he planned to remain in New York indefinitely to work on a play which he was writing. (u)

The records of Local Board number 58, 138th Street and Broadway, New York City, reflected that the subject, a negro, was born on February 1, 1902 at Joplin, Missouri, and is a citizen of the United States. (u)

The May 15, 1946 issue of the "Daily Worker" carried an article entitled "Yugoslav Medical Aid Campaign Opens Today." The article reflected that a three-day tag drive for Yugoslav relief would be opened with a noon-day rally on the steps of the sub-treasury building. Among the names of persons listed as endorsing the campaign was "JAMES LANGSTON HUGHES, negro poet and author." (u)

The November 9, 1946 issue of the "Daily Worker" carried an article entitled "2000 Notables Attend USSR Celebration." Under this caption it was reflected that a reception was held at the Soviet Embassy, Washington, D.C. in celebration of the 29th anniversary of the October Revolution. Listed among the guests was "LANGSTON HUGHES, negro poet." (u)

The January 28, 1947 issue of the "Daily Worker" carried an article entitled "An Impressive Musical Drama of Tenement Life." Under this caption, it was stated that LANGSTON HUGHES, whose picture was also carried, wrote the lyrics to "Street Scene" a play written by ELINOR RICE. (u)

The February 11, 1947 issue of the "Daily Worker" carried an article entitled "First 'Mainstream' Off the Press." Under this caption, it was stated that "Mainstream" a literary quarterly, which "invites the participation of both Marxists and non-Marxists progressive writers," was going on sale. Among the list of contributors was "LANGSTON HUGHES, the great negro poet." (u)

The April 7, 1947 issue of the "Daily Worker" carried an article entitled "Langston Hughes Has a New Book." Under this caption, it was stated that LANGSTON HUGHES would have a new book of poems, "Fields of Wonder" published by ALFRED A. KNOPF. (u)

[REDACTED SECTION]

The September 27, 1947 issue of the "Daily Worker" carried an article (u)

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entitled "Writing Out Loud Session Features Langston Hughes." Under this caption, it was stated that the subject's poem, "Chicago, South Side" would be presented. It was further stated that this affair was produced by the Literature Chapter of the Cultural Division of the National Negro Congress. (u)

The April 12, 1948 issue of the "Post" and "Home News" carried an article entitled "Rescind Invitation to Negro Poet." Under this caption, it was stated that a scheduled appearance of the subject at Vallejo, California, on April 13, 1948, had been cancelled by the Vallejo Council for Civic Unity on the grounds of "unpleasant notoriety connected with the rumor that he is a Communist." (u) (b)(7)(D)

On December 3, 1948, Confidential Informant [redacted] advised that he recalled that in 1936 and again in 1938 LANGSTON HUGHES was suggested as a candidate on the Party Election ticket. The same informant said that on both occasions the National Committee of the Communist Party discussed the suggestions of the State Committee and both times vetoed the idea, claiming that HUGHES was more valuable to the Party interests in his capacity as a writer and lecturer. The informant added that he had no doubt as to the subject's membership in the Communist Party. (u)

The September 13, 1947, issue of the "Pittsburgh Courier" carried an article entitled "Prominent Names on House List." The article stated that the House Committee on Un-American Activities had released a list of prominent negro leaders saying that they were "Communists" or "Communist sympathizers" as sponsors of the Civil Rights Congress. The list included the name of the subject. (u)

Confidential Informant T-1 advised that at the 4th Session of the National Committee plenum of the Communist Party, United States of America, attended by seventy Communist Party officials from all over the United States and held at New York City February 4, 1948, WILLIAM L. PATTERSON of Illinois, in urging the Party not to abandon the negro press, stated that columnists such as LANGSTON HUGHES, who advocate and advance the 3rd party, were available. (u)

A memo dated June 7, 1947, concerning Communist Party activities in the New York area which was furnished by an unknown outside source, advised that the subject was one of a "few well-known, highbrow intellectual Reds who were backing DON WEST, a Communist preacher in Georgia." (u)

Confidential Informant T-2 furnished a booklet entitled "Ella Reeve Bloor - 85th Anniversary" which was distributed June 20, 1947, at a (u)

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banquet held in honor of mother BLOOR which contained the name of LANGSTON HUGHES as one of its sponsors. (u)

Confidential Informant [redacted] furnished a letterhead, dated March 26, 1947, of the American Society for Cultural Relations with Italy. On the reverse side of this stationery, under the heading of "Friends of Italian Democracy" was a list of names which included the name of the subject. The same informant on September 4, 1947, furnished a booklet entitled "Manual on Peace Education" issued by the Junior Section, International Workers Order, 80 5th Avenue, New York City, which carried a poem entitled "The Black Soldier" which was written by the subject. (u)

The July - September, 1948 issue of the "Trends and Tides" Milford, New Jersey, carried an article entitled "Are You a Communist" written by the subject in which he explains that racial equality has succeeded in Communist Soviet. (u)

6/10  
Confidential Informant T-3 advised that a group of persons had received invitations to attend the Congress of Intellectuals For Peace to be held in Warsaw, Poland, August 25 to 28, 1948. Among the list of persons who were to receive invitations was the name of the subject. (u)

Confidential Informant T-4 advised that she attended a meeting of the National Council of Arts, Science and Professions held at Ridgely Hall, Baltimore, Maryland, May 2, 1948. She furnished a leaflet which set forth the officers of the organization. This leaflet included the name of the subject as a member-at-large. (u)

Confidential Informant [redacted] advised that the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship received a communication expressing best wishes for the New Year from MIKHAIL APLETON, Foreign Commission of Soviet Writers, Moscow, dated December 31, 1945. This same informant advised that this message was relayed on to the subject. (u) u

The January 28, 1946, issue of the "Daily Worker" carried an article on page eight column four entitled "Writers Pledge Strike Support." Under this caption, it was stated that fifty outstanding writers, in a statement released by the Literature Division of the Independent Citizens Committee of the Arts, Science and Professions, had signed a pledge in support of strikes by organized labor. Included in the list was the name of the subject. (u)

Confidential Informant [redacted] (u)

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[REDACTED] as well as records of New York Police Department were checked with negative results for information concerning subject's current activities. (u)

A description of subject obtained from Selective Service records is as follows:

Sex	Male
Race	Negro
Height	5'8"
Eyes	Brown
Hair	Black
Build	Medium
Birth	February 1, 1902
Birthplace	Joplin, Missouri

(u)

C L O S E D



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-25776

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

The Confidential Informants mentioned in the report of SA [REDACTED] dated May 13, 1949 at New York, New York, are:

T-1

Is [REDACTED] as mentioned in the report of SA [REDACTED] entitled "Communist Party, USA" dated February 27, 1948 at New York

T-2

Is Philadelphia Confidential Informant [REDACTED] as revealed in the letter to the Director from Philadelphia dated July 17, 1947. (u)

T-3

Unrevealed confidential source as mentioned in teletype from Washington Field dated July 26, 1948.

T-4

Is Baltimore Informant [REDACTED] as mentioned in the letter to the Director from Baltimore dated June 2, 1948.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

## Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-3-104)

DATE: May 12, 1960

FROM : SAC, CHICAGO (100-32864)

SUBJECT: COMMUNIST PARTY, USA  
COUNTERINTELLIGENCE PROGRAM  
IS - C

Remylets dated 3/14/60 and 4/14/60 which dealt in part with a situation which the Chicago Office believed suitable for exploitation in the Afro-American Heritage Association (A-AHA) in Chicago.

Disruption of Communist Activities  
in Mass Organizations

As previously stated, AAHA is one of those organizations chosen by the Illinois CP for concentration in the implementation of the Party's mass organization program in the Negro field. [REDACTED] of A-AHA and has recently been named to the [REDACTED] of the Illinois Communist Party.

[REDACTED] also made a recent trip to New York City in which he had a discussion with New York and National CP leaders in exploration of the possibilities of establishing A-AHA branches in New York and other cities.

A review of available information indicates that there has been criticism of the manner in which [REDACTED] has handled the funds of the A-AHA and of his failure to furnish a satisfactory accounting when questioned about certain financial transactions. On more than one occasion, the Board of A-AHA has challenged [REDACTED] concerning reports given by him over his expenditures in connection with mass meetings and other activities of the organization in Chicago. One such instance took place in connection with the appearance of Dr. W. E. B. DU BOIS in Chicago under A-AHA sponsorship. Another question arose when [REDACTED] attempted to explain expenditures connected with a Negro History Week meeting at which LANGSTON HUGHES was the principal speaker.

2 - Bureau (RM)

2 - Chicago

1 - 100-35579 (COMINFIL, A-AHA)

JJF:mcg

64 JUN 6 1960

5-24-60

31

DE-5 REC-54

100-3-104-1677

24 MAY 19 1960

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(4/11)

[REDACTED]

As indicated in referenced letter of April 14, 1960, the Chicago Office is recommending the preparation of an anonymous mailing regarding this situation which would be directed to the Illinois office of "The Worker". It is noted that the Illinois CP shares the same office space with the paper.

In addition, copies of this letter would be furnished at the same time to leading members of A-AHA with the explanation that this matter was brought to the attention of "The Worker" in the belief that that paper would do something about it. Recipients of the copies of the letter would include a few CP members and some non-members of the Party. To lend to the authenticity of the mailing, one or two people could be chosen who are not openly opposed to [REDACTED] (b)(6)

Accordingly, there is set forth below the text of the proposed anonymous mailing by this office to "The Worker" and the text of the accompanying note to be sent to A-AHA members:

"Worker"  
36 W. Randolph  
Chicago, Ill.

"Dear Sirs:

We are sending this because your paper has a good record fighting for working people and equal rights and exposed bad conditions which exist. And you gave good reports on our group, the Afro-American Heritage Association.

Many people on the South Side have paid good money to the fine aims of this organization but don't have

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any luck finding out what is done with it. Cash raised by rallies is not reported on. Members can't tell what is going on.

6/12 [REDACTED] It has been more than once that people have asked [REDACTED] to back up expenses, checks, etc., which he does not explain. Like the meeting for Mr. DuBois and the meeting when Mr. Hughes spoke for Negro History Week.

We want our money to go for the good cause which AAHA stands for. The great heritage and culture of Negro people has got to be advertised and brought to the attention of all people. Your paper has helped along with Defender and others.

But this man does not satisfy when questions are asked. Does some money go into his personal account? This has got to be checked.

Maybe your paper can help dig up facts to straighten this out. Thanks for any help you give.

Committee to save AAHA"

The text of the note is set forth as follows:

"Dear Friend:

This was sent to The Worker because that paper helps people in trouble. Maybe this mess can be straightened out and AAHA put on the right track. The Board says nobody should get fat on the aspirations of the Negro people and that is right. Ask your friends in AAHA to help for the best interest of the whole group.

Committee to save AAHA"

There are set forth below the identities of some of the individuals to whom this office intends to direct mailings of the copies of the letter to "The Worker". However, Bureau authority is requested to add one or two names to this list in the event that further information is developed indicating that there may be a few additional logical recipients:

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
Non-CommunistsCP Members

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] (whose current status  
in the Party is unclear  
but he has opposed  
[REDACTED] in the past)

As indicated in referenced letter the object of this particular plan is to create pressure within the Illinois CP AGAINST and, at the same time, create pressure against him from inside the A-AHA. Receipt of this letter might prompt some non-Communist A-AHA members to contact "The Worker" and ask whether the paper intends to take action in this matter.

Bureau authority is also requested to use [REDACTED]

(X/D) [REDACTED] to place a telephone call to "The Worker" office posing as a person who has received a copy of this letter and ask whether the paper intends to launch an investigation. Since this informant has been [REDACTED] it is not believed that his voice would be recognized by an individual answering the phone at the office of "The Worker". (X)

If Bureau authority is granted, the usual necessary precautions will be taken in the preparation of this material, including the use of commercially purchased paper and envelopes. Further, the Bureau will be promptly advised of any tangible results arising from this activity, if authority is granted.