

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE MEXICO, D. F.	OFFICE OF ORIGIN BUREAU	DATE 1/24/67	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 12/23/66 - 1/17/67
TITLE OF CASE ROBERT JAMES FISCHER		REPORT MADE BY <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div>	TYPED BY ako b6 b7C
		CHARACTER OF CASE IS - CUBA	

SYNOPSIS:

Subject, U. S. chess player, traveled to Havana, Cuba, from Mexico, D.F., 10/23/66 via Cuban Aviation Company, and returned to Mexico, D.F. 11/29/66 in same manner. Subject bearer of U.S. passport G448349.

- RUC -

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Two extra copies have been designated for the Washington Field Office for possible forwarding to the office covering residence of Subject, when identified.

INFORMANTS:

<u>Identity of Source</u>	<u>Location</u>
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T-1 is
T-2 is
T-3 is

APPROVED *[Signature]* SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

COPIES MADE:
14 - Bureau
(1 - Liaison Section)
(4 - Washington Field)
1 - Mexico City (105-5336)

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

105-162044	MCT-33
JAN 31 1967	REC-3

Dissemination Record of Attached Report

Agency		Request Recd.	Copy to: CIA/State/RAO	Date Fwd.	by routing slip for info.	How Fwd.	Date 2/2/67	By PS/PAC
			ONI/OSI/ACSI					

Notations

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR ADV. DISSEMINATION.

4 Copy to SAC WFO
by routing slip for
 info action
date **2/2/67**
by **PS/PAC**

79 FEB 6 - 1967

MEX 105-5836

CLASSIFICATION

Instant report is classified "~~CONFIDENTIAL~~" as it contains information received from sources of continuing value, the unauthorized disclosure of which could affect the national defense.

LEADS:

WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE

At Washington, D. C.

(1) Will review Subject's file at the U. S. Passport Office, passport #G448349, to determine if Cuban travel was authorized.

(2) If travel was not authorized, advise office covering residence of Subject to conduct appropriate investigation.

ADDENDUM:

[redacted] mentioned on page 1 [redacted]
[redacted] believed to have traveled in connection
with the XV Olympiad of Chess [redacted]
[redacted] Travel of [redacted] was
definitely in this connection [redacted]
[redacted]

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B*
COVER PAGE



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

January 24, 1967

ROBERT JAMES FISCHER

This document contains neither
recommendations nor conclusions of
the FBI. It is the property of
the FBI and is loaned to your agency;
it and its contents are not to be
distributed outside your agency.

On December 23, 1966, T-1 furnished information that
the passenger manifest of Cuban Aviation Company flight #465
from Mexico, D.F., to Havana, Cuba, on October 23, 1966, reveals
that among the passengers was ROBERT JAMES FISHER, the bearer
of U. S. passport #G448349. He had a Cuban courtesy visa and
was destined for the Hotel Habana Libre. He carried two pieces
of luggage weighing 26 kilograms (57.2 pounds).

Name

U. S. Passport No.

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On December 23, 1966, T-1 furnished information that
the passenger manifest of Cuban Aviation Company flight #464
from Havana, Cuba, to Mexico, D. F., on November 29, 1966,
listed as passenger #53 ROBERT FISCHER, U. S. passport 448349.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~Group 1~~

~~Excluded from automatic
downgrading and declassification~~

C O N F I D E N T I A L

RE: ROBERT JAMES FISCHER

He was destined for the Insurgentes Hotel and carried two pieces of luggage weighing 43 kilograms (94.6 pounds).

On January 12, 1967, T-2 advised that [redacted]

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[redacted] ROBERT JAMES FISCHER, a 23-year old single male American citizen, arrived in Mexico City from Havana, Cuba, on November 29, 1966. [redacted]

[redacted] His occupation was given as chess player [redacted]

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[redacted] Subject's permanent residence was not indicated.

On December 1, 1966, T-3 learned from [redacted]

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[redacted] that the American chess team had attempted to embarrass the Cuban Government in order to prevent any future world championship from being held in Cuba. The trouble developed when an American team member named FISCHER, who observes Jewish religious practices, was scheduled to play against the Soviet team on a Saturday during the Sabbath. FISCHER did not attend and there was a "hullabaloo" raised in the "New York Times", saying the American team had been discriminated against. In the end, the Soviet team played on another date.

[redacted] felt it unusual that when the team returned to the United States, FISCHER remained on in Cuba. He felt maybe FISCHER wanted to see what the CASTRO regime was accomplishing.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

*In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.*

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

January 24, 1967

ROBERT JAMES FISCHER

This document contains neither
recommendations nor conclusions of
the FBI. It is the property of
the FBI and is loaned to your agency;
it and its contents are not to be
distributed outside your agency.

Reference is made to memorandum, captioned and
dated as above.

Sources T-1 through T-3 mentioned in referenced
memorandum, have furnished reliable information in the past.

~~SECRET~~

EXEMPTED FROM AUTOMATIC
DECLASSIFICATION
AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
EXEMPTION CODE: 50X(1)
DATE 03-30-2015
ADG/J72J82T32

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 2/27/67

FROM : *MKF* LEGAT, MEXICO (105-5781) (RUC)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

SUBJECT: [Redacted] aka.
IS - CUBA

By memorandum [Redacted]

[Redacted] advised as follows:

"1. [Redacted] information has been received of the travel to Havana from Mexico on 23 October of the following U.S. citizens:

- ✓ "A. [Redacted]
- ✓ "B. [Redacted]
- "C. [Redacted]
- ✓ "D. [Redacted]
- ✓ "E. [Redacted]
- ✓ "F. Robert James FISHER, passport 448349. ✓

"2. It is believed that the above named persons travelled to Cuba to participate in the 17th Chess Olympiad.

[Redacted]

File 105-162088 [Redacted]

- 5 - Bureau
 - (1 - Liaison Section)
 - (2 - WFO)
- 1 - Mexico City

RJG:irg
(6)

File 105-162044 (Robert James Fisher)

- 105-162025 [Redacted]
- 105-41257 [Redacted]
- 105-135453 [Redacted]

MAR 14 1967

U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

~~SECRET~~

*Copy to WFO
by routing slip for
date 3-10-67
by [Redacted]*

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(S) b1
b1
b1
ORIGINAL FILED IN 105-162088
MAR 10 1967

WFO (105-162044)
b6
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MAR 27 1967
FBI - MEXICO
b1

MEX 105-5781

On 12/23/66, [redacted] who has furnished reliable information in the past. [redacted]

[redacted]

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On 11/22/66, [redacted]

[redacted]

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b7D

Also aboard this flight [redacted]

[redacted]

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On 2/15/67, [redacted] advised that despite repeated searches, he had been unable to locate the subject's record [redacted] and, therefore, had been unable to determine his true name.

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[redacted]

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LEADS:

WASHINGTON FIELD

At Washington, D. C.

Will review [redacted] to determine the true identity of the subject and his place of origin. If subject's travel to Cuba was not authorized, an appropriate lead should be directed to the office covering residence to conduct appropriate investigation under the provisions of SAC letter 61-42, dated 8/8/61.

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GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM : *[Signature]* SAC, WFO (105-77997) (RUC)

SUBJECT: ^② ROBERT JAMES FISCHER
IS - CUBA

DATE: 3/10/67

D.F. Rerep of SA 1/24/67, at Mexico,

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Enclosed for the Bureau and New York are nine and two copies respectively of an LHM setting forth the results of a review of the Passport Office, USDS, by SE

Copies of the photo appearing on the 1966 passport application will be forwarded to New York by routing slip when processed.

WFO indices contained no info identifiable with the subject in addition to that which is already in possession of the Bureau and New York.

- ② - Bureau (Enc. 9)
- 2 - New York (Enc. 2) (RM)
- 1 - WFO

ENCLOSURE

kkh:
(5)

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Encl

CC TO: *USIA*

RE: *12-2-71*

DEC 14 1967

ANS: *[Signature]*

BY: *[Signature]*

REC-75

10 - 162 0111 - 2

Copy to *Spain Mexico*
by routing slip for
 info action
date 3/20/67
by PFS/PAO

MAR 14 1967

Copy to: CIA/State/RAO
53 ONI/OSI/ACSI
by routing slip for info
MAR 21 1967
by PFS/PAO

LATIN AMERICAN





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

March 10, 1967

ROBERT JAMES FISCHER
INTERNAL SECURITY - CUBA

The files of the Passport Office, United States Department of State (USDS), Washington, D.C. (WDC), reviewed by a representative of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) on March 3, 1967, disclosed that Robert James Fischer was first issued Passport Number 573920 at WDC on June 13, 1957, for proposed travel during summer vacation to Iceland, and probably England and France, for the purpose of playing chess in international tournaments. In his application dated June 7, 1957, at New York, New York, he stated his intention to depart from New York by air in July, 1957. This passport was valid for two years travel to all countries except Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary and those portions of China, Korea and Vietnam under communist control.

Fischer stated that he was born on March 9, 1943, at Chicago, Illinois. He gave his permanent residence as 560 Lincoln Place, Brooklyn 38, New York. He listed his parents as Gerard Fischer, born in September, 1909 in Germany, residing in Chile, not an American citizen, and Regina Wenden Fischer, born March 31, 1913 in Switzerland, residing at 560 Lincoln Place, Brooklyn, New York. He indicated that his mother is an American citizen and has resided in the United States (U.S.) from 1914 to 1932 and from 1939 to date of this application. He indicated that he had never been married. *born Gerard Fischer*

On June 11, 1959, at the Consulate General of the U.S., at Zurich, Switzerland, Fischer filed an application for renewal of Passport Number 573920, issued June 13, 1957, at WDC. This application reflects that the passport was renewed to be valid to June 12, 1961. He indicated that his legal residence was 560 Lincoln Place, Brooklyn, New York, and that he was presently residing at the Hotel Bellerive, Zurich, Switzerland.

The passport file contains an affidavit executed by Fischer on May 2, 1960, at the Embassy of the U.S., Buenos Aires, Argentina, in which he set forth the details of the loss of

ENCLOSURE 105-11-2014 - 2

RE: ROBERT JAMES FISCHER

Passport Number 573920, issued June 13, 1957, at WDC. He stated that he had stayed at the Constitution Palace Hotel in Buenos Aires and had placed his passport in a drawer in his room there. He had gone to Mar del Plata, Argentina, to participate in an international chess tournament the following day, and, upon his return to Buenos Aires, had discovered that his passport was missing and could not be found. Accordingly, he was issued Passport Number 277397 on May 3, 1960, at Buenos Aires, Argentina, for the purpose of returning to the U.S. In his application dated May 2, 1960, at Buenos Aires, Argentina, he stated that he was then residing at the Hotel Bristol, Carlos Pellegrini 284, Buenos Aires, in care of Argentine Chess Association, Viamonte 1366, 6th Floor, Buenos Aires, Argentina. This application reflects that he was a participant in chess tournaments in Europe, Russia and Yugoslavia from June, 1958 to September, 1958; in Argentina, Yugoslavia and Switzerland from March, 1959 to October, 1959; and in Argentina from March, 1960 to May 2, 1960. The file contains a memorandum from the American Embassy, Buenos Aires, Argentina, dated October 19, 1960, to Department of State, WDC, advising that Fischer's Passport Number 573920, reported lost, had been recovered, cancelled and returned to him at his U.S. address.

The file contains a certified copy of a Certificate of Birth issued April 17, 1956, by the City of Chicago, and showing Fischer's date of birth as March 9, 1943. This certificate indicated that his father's occupation was that of physicist and that his mother's residence was 2940 South Lake Park, Chicago, Illinois.

A letter from "Saturday Review", dated April 15, 1965, addressed to "Whom It May Concern", advised that Fischer was to go to Cuba in the Summer of 1965, for a master's chess tournament and had an assignment to do an article about Cuba for the "Saturday Review". A letter from the U.S. Chess Federation, dated April 20, 1965, addressed to the USDS, Bureau of Security and Consular Affairs, advised that Fischer had received an invitation to play in the "IVth Capablanca Memorial Tournament", to be held in Havana, Cuba from August 25 through September 25, 1965. This letter went into detail regarding his fame and skill as a chess player and pointed out that he would also be covering the tournament for "Chess Life", the official organ of the U.S. Chess Federation. The file contained a third letter from the Law Offices of Harold Davis, 76 Beaver Street, New York, New York, dated June 29, 1965, addressed to the USDS, Bureau of Security and Consular Affairs, which advised of the coming tournament in Cuba, Fischer's invitation to participate in this tournament and concluded with the hope that the USDS would permit Fischer to play in the tournament.

RE: ROBERT JAMES FISCHER

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The file contains a memorandum from the Office of the Coordinator of Cuban Affairs to the Office of Security and Consular Affairs, which advises that Cuban travel criteria make no provision for validation for the purpose of participating in chess competitions. It was pointed out that any journalistic activity would be secondary to the competition and it was also doubted that Fischer would qualify as a bona fide journalist. It was recommended that his application be refused. A memorandum from Security and Consular Affairs to the Passport Office, dated July 22, 1965, advised that the validation for Fischer's passport for travel to Cuba was not authorized, since he did not fall within the USDS's established criteria. A letter from the Passport Office, dated July 26, 1965, to [redacted] New York, New York, made reference to his letter of June 29, 1965, which requested permission for Fischer to Travel to Cuba, and advised that validation for such travel could not be given, since he did not fall within the Department's established criteria. The file contains a letter from [redacted] dated August 5, 1965, to the Passport Office requesting that this decision be reviewed and Fischer's travel to Cuba be validated. The file does not contain any information which would indicate that this validation was ever given.

The file contains a passport application dated May 9, 1966, at New York, New York, which discloses he was issued Passport Number G 448349, on May 10, 1966, at New York, New York, not valid for travel to Albania, Cuba, and those portions of China, Korea and Vietnam under communist control, for proposed travel to Israel for three weeks to participate in international chess tournaments. He listed [redacted] New York, New York, as the person to be notified in the event of death or accident. He indicated his permanent residence as 560 Lincoln Place, Brooklyn, New York.

Appearing in the passport file was a USDS Validation Worksheet dated October 20, 1966, which contains a handwritten note from Fischer, requesting that his Passport Number G 448349, issued May 10, 1966, be validated for entry into Cuba. A memorandum from Security and Consular Affairs to the Passport Office dated October 20, 1966, advised that they concurred in validating the passport for one round-trip to Cuba. Accordingly, the Passport Office, by letter dated October 20, 1966, advised Fischer, at 560 Lincoln Place, Brooklyn, New York, that his passport was validated for one round-trip to and in Cuba.

RE: ROBERT JAMES FISCHER

The following description appears in the file:

Height:	6'2"
Eyes:	Hazel
Hair:	Brown
Occupation:	Chess player

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