

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION  
AND  
PRIVACY ACTS**

*Subject: Oscar Vago*

*File Number: 101- 1988*

*Section: 1 Serial 1-100*



**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

**F.O.I.A.**

**JULIUS ROSENBERG ET AL.**

***FILE DESCRIPTION***

42 VAGO **FILE**

**SUBJECT** Oscar Vago

**FILE NO.** 101-1988

**VOLUME NO.** 1

**SERIALS**

three

100

## **NOTICE**

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File No: 101-1988  
SECT. 3

Re: OSCAR VAGO

Date: 11/86  
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
1	8/1/40	WFO LETTER TO <del>ARMY</del> INTER	1	1	
1X	7/5/41	W/ENC MID-G2 LETTER TO HQ	-	-	Disposition handled by army (33)
2	8/26/41	WFO LETTER TO HQ	1	1	
2	9/20/41	W/ SEARCH SLIPS HQ LETTER TO G2	1/1	1/1	
3	9/27/41	WFO LETTER TO HQ	1	1	
4	11/18/41	MID LETTER TO HQ	-	-	Disposition handled by army (1)
4	12/2/41	HQ LETTER TO WFO	1	1	
5	1/1/42	WFO LETTER TO HQ	2	2	b7c
6	1/15/42	WILLIS MEMO TO LADD	1	1	
7	4/6/44	NY REPT HQ	5	5	b2 b7D
7	4/6/44	NY LETTER TO HQ	1	1	
N/R	5/5/44	HQ LETTER TO NY	1	1	

16 16 34  
Rev Rel Army Repr Resumed Preproc



File No: 101-1988  
SECT. 1

Re: OSCAR VAGO  
MEERDOL V. MEESE

Date: 10/86  
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
8	12/2/44	NY LETTER TO HQ	1	1	
8	12/15/44	HQ LETTER TO NY	1	1	
9	2/13/50	HQ TT to NY	1	1	
10	2/21/50	ENV & ENC NY LETTER TO HQ w/	1/1	1/1	
11	9/12/50	HENNRKH TO BELMONT MEMO	3	3	b1
11	9/12/50	HQ TT TO NY	1	1	
12	9/12/50	HQ LETTER TO AGS	2	2	b1
13	9/18/50	WFO TT to HQ NY, PH	2	2	b1 b7D
13	9/11/50	HQ TT to NY, WFO	1	1	
14	9/14/50	HQ TT to NY	1	1	
15	9/12/50	WFO TT TO HQ, SL, NY	1	1	
16	9/9/50	NY TT TO HQ, WFO, PH	1	1	
17	9/15/50	NY LETTER TO HQ	1	1	

18 18

Rev Rel Deny Refer Presumed Prepare

File No: 101-1988  
SECT. 1

Re: OSCAR VAGO  
MEEROPOL V. MEESE

Date: 10/86  
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
18	9/14/50	NY TT to HQ	1	1	
19	9/18/50	WFO LETTER to HQ, NY, PH	2	2	b1
20	9/18/50	Herrick memo Belmont	3	3	b1
21	9/16/50	NY TT TO HQ,	1	1	
22	9/16/50	NY TT TO HQ	1	1	
23	9/20/50	WFO LETTER TO HQ, NY	1	1	b1
24	9/19/50	HQ TT to NY	1	1	
25	9-18-50	HQ TT NY	1	1	b1
25	9-13-50	NY TT HQ	1	1	b1
26	9/20/50	WFO SL REPT HQ, LA, NY, SF,	3	3	
27	9/14/50	PH TT to HQ, WFO, NY	2	-	See Serd 65-57449-675
27	9/19/50	HQ TT to NY	1	-	"

18 15  
Rev Rel Deny Refer Presumed Preserv

File No: 101-1988  
SECT. 1

Re: OSCAR VAGO  
MEERAPOL V. MEESE

Date: 10/86  
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
28	9/24/50	WFO LETTER TO HQ, NY	1	1	b1
29	9/22/50	WFO TT to HQ, NY, SL	1	1	
30	9/22/50	NY TT to HQ, WFO,	2	2	b1
31	9/20/50	MM, CI, LA, SE, WFO, BS, DN, MN, SE + PH W/ENC NY LETTER TO HQ, BA, CV, XX	3 1/2	3 1/2	b1 b7D b2
32	9/22/50	NK TT to WFO, NY	1	1	
33	9/21/50	NY TT to WFO, NK, CG, LA	2	2	
34	9/20/50	NY TT to HQ, WFO	1	1	
35	9/22/50	NY TT to HQ, WFO, SL	1	1	
36	9/25/50	LA LETTER TO HQ, NY	1	1	
37	9/21/50	NY TT to HQ	1	1	
37	9/22/50	HQ TT to NY	1	1	
38	9/26/50	MM LETTER TO HQ, NY, LA	1	1	

18 18

Rev Rel Dwg Refer Presumed Pres. use

File No: 101-1988  
SECT. 1

Re: OSCAR VAGO  
MEERAPOL V. MEESE

Date: 10/86  
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
39	9/26/50	CG TT to HQ, NY	1	1	
40	9/27/50	NY TT to HQ	2	2	
41	9/28/50	BELMONT MEMO TO LADD	1	1	
42	9/26/50	SL TT to HQ, NY	1	1	
43	9/28/50	BELMONT TO LADD MEMO	2	2	
44	9/27/50	NY R/S TO BELMONT w/ENC	1/15	1/0	b3
45	9/27/50	NY R/S TO BELMONT w/ENC	1/18	1/0	b3
46	9/27/50	BELMONT TO LADD MEMO	4	4	b1
A	9/29/50	NEWS ARTICLE	1	1	
A	9/29/50	NEWS ARTICLE	1	1	
47	10/2/50	PG LETTER TO HQ, NY	1	1	
48	9/28/50	NY TT to HQ	1	1	

52 19 33

Rev Rel Deny Rep Presumed Inqve FBI/DOJ

File No: 101-1988  
SECT.

Re: OSCAR VAGO  
MEEROPOL V. MEESE

Date: 10/86  
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
49	10/4/50	WFO LETTER TO HQ, NY	1	1	
49	10/19/50	HQ LETTER TO WFO	1	1	
50	10/2/50	PH TT to HQ, NY	4	4	
51	10/6/50	WFO LETTER TO HQ	1	1	
52	10/2/50	NY TT to HQ	1	1	
53	10/3/50	HQ TT to NY	1	1	
54	9/29/50	HENRICH TO BELMONT <sup>MEEROPOL</sup>	1	1	
55	9/29/50	NY TT to WFO, PH	1	1	
56	2/3/50	NY TT to HQ	1	1	
57	10/6/50	DN LETTER TO HQ	1	1	
58	10/4/50	DE REPT HQ, NY	4	4	
59	10/3/50	SE LETTER TO HQ	1	1	b2 b7D

18 18  
Rev Rel Dany Refer Presumed Presume FBI/DOJ

File No: 101-1988  
SECT.

Re: OSCAR VAGO  
MEEROPOL V. MEESE

Date: 10/86  
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
60	10/6/50	PH LETTER TO HQ, NY	2	2	
61	10/6/50	BS REPT HQ, NY	4	4	
62	9/28/50	BELMONT MEMO TO GAO	3	3	
63	10/4/50	MN REPT HQ, NY	2	2	
64	10/4/50	HQ LETTER TO AAG	3	3	
65	10/7/50	AT TT TO HQ, NY	1	1	
66	10/10/50	HQ LETTER TO AAG	1	1	
67	10/10/50	HQ LETTER TO NY	1	1	
68	10/10/52	CI REPT HQ, NY	3	3	b7D
69	2/5/50	LA TT TO HQ, NY	1	1	
70	10/5/50	LA PT TO HQ, NY	1	1	b2 b7D
71	10/9/50	NY TT TO HQ, WFO	1	1	

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Rev Rel Deny Repr Presumed Preproc FBI/DOJ

File No: 101-1988  
SECT. 1

Re: OSCAR VAGO  
MEEROPOL V. MEESE

Date: 10/86  
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
72	10/6/50	NY TT to HQ	1	1	
73	10/5/50	BS TT to HQ, NY	2	2	
74	10/4/50	NY TT to HQ, BS, LA	2	2	
75	10/13/50	NY LETTER to HQ	1	1	
76	10/12/50	NY TT to HQ, WFO, PH	1	1	
77	10/11/50	CG REPT to HQ, NY	4	4	
78	10/11/50	SF LETTER to HQ, NY, <sup>LA</sup>	1	1	62 67D
79	10/16/50	NY REPT HQ, LA, SF, WFO	60	47	61 62 67D 67C
79	10/17/50	NY LETTER to HQ	1	1	
80	10/17/50	AT REPT HQ, NY	4	4	
81	10/16/50	BA REPT HQ, NY	1	1	
82	10/10/50	NY TT to HQ	1	1	

79 66 13

Rev Rel Deny Repr Preserved Preserv FBI/DOJ

File No: 101-1988  
SECT. 1

Re: OSCAR VAGO  
MEERAPOL V. MEESE

Date: 10/86  
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
83	10/13/50	CV LETTER TO HQ	1	1	62 b7D
84	10/13/50	WFO PH REPT HQ, NY, LA, SF	7	7	
85	10/20/50	WFO NY LETTER TO HQ, LA, SF	1	1	
86	10/24/50	HQ LETTER TO WFO	1	1	61
87	10/23/50	HQ LETTER TO AAG	1	1	
88	10/23/50	HQ LETTER TO NY	1	1	
89	10/23/50	W/ENCL. & ENC. NY LETTER TO HQ LAB	2 1/8	2 1/8	
89	11/6/50	HQ LAB LETTER TO NY	1	1	
90	10/20/50	LA REPT HQ, NY, WFO, SF	5	5	62 b7C,D
91	10/23/50	NY TTE HQ	1	1	
91	10/26/50	HQ TTE NY	1	1	
92	10/26/50	HQ LETTER TO AAG	1	1	

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Rev Rel Dany Reper Presumed Prepare FBI/DOJ



File No: 101-1988  
SECT. 1

Re: OSCAR VAGO  
MEEROPOL V. MEESE

Date: 10/86  
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
93	10/30/50	DE WFO REPT HQ, LA, NY, SF	15	15	b1 b2 b7C
94	10/31/50	HQ TTEO NY	1	1	
95	10/28/50	HENNRICH MEMO TO BELMONT	2	2	b1 b7D
96	10/27/50	WFO LETTER TO HQ	2	2	b1
97	11/6/50	HQ TTEO NY	1	1	
98	11/1/50	NY TTEO HQ	1	1	
99	11/2/50	LA REPT HQ, NY, SF, WFO	2	2	b2 b7D
100	11/6/50	HQ LETTER TO AAG	1	1	

25 25

Rev Rel Dany Refer Presumed Preserv

Washington Field Division, Room 2266  
Washington, D. C.

August 1, 1940

39210

Lieutenant Colonel James A. Lester  
Office of the Military Intelligence  
War Department  
Washington, D. C.

Re: J. H. SEGAL;  
O. VOGO  
CALPIN  
Espionage

Dear Sir:

On July 29, 1940 Mr. A. B. GROUND, who is employed in the Identification Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, came in person to the Washington Field Office and gave the following information:

Mr. HAINES who is employed in the Procurement Division of the Treasury Department, advised Mr. GROUND that he had formerly had employed under him one J. H. SEGAL, who resides at 1723 DeSales Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. Mr. HAINES also advised that Mr. O. VOGO and one CALPIN had also been employed under him. Mr. HAINES advised Mr. GROUND that these three are members of the communist party; that while employed in the Treasury Department they had attempted to be transferred to the Panama Canal Zone. Mr. HAINES further advised that the Navy Department had refused to employ these men, however, according to Mr. HAINES, they were now employed in the War Department.

The above information is being referred to your office for whatever action you deem necessary.

Very truly yours,

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/24/87 BY 3012 BATT/CM

GOY RUTTEL  
Special Agent in Charge

AFD:JG  
65-0

cc-Bureau

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

CH-21

101-1988-1	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
AUG 29 1941	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
FIVE	FILE

ORIGINAL FILED IN 101-2380-1

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
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- ☐ Deleted under exemption(s) \_\_\_\_\_ with no segregable material available for release to you.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☐ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

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

Disposition handled by Army

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**Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice**

EAM:KAL  
101-1264

Washington, D. C.

August 26, 1941

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Mr. P. E. FOXWORTH

RE: OSCAR VAGO  
INTERNAL SECURITY  
HATCH ACT

Dear Sir:

Please be advised that the files of the Washington Field Division reflect that the above individual is listed on the mailing lists or membership lists of the following organizations:

Washington Committee for Democratic Action - report of Special Agent T. W. DAWSEY, Washington, D. C., dated January 21, 1941, Page 193.

Washington Book Shop, Incorporated - Washington Field Office file No. 100-1618-1A.

American League for Peace and Democracy.

Employed as engineer, Quartermaster General's Office, War Department.

Very truly yours,

S. K. McKEE  
Special Agent in Charge

RECORDED  
101-1988-2  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
1 AUG 28 1941  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
EX-16

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2-24-87 BY 3042 RUT/lem

*Letter to G-2 (info)  
9/20/41  
E.W.T.*

RECORDED

EXT: MAL  
101-1988-2

September 20, 1941

EX-11

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

Brigadier General Sherman Miles  
Assistant Chief of Staff  
G-2  
War Department  
Washington, D. C.

Dear General Miles:

The Washington Field Division of this Bureau has received information from a highly confidential source indicating that the name of Oscar Vago, who is said to be employed as an Engineer in the Quartermaster General's Office, War Department, appears on the active indices of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action. It is further reported that Mr. Vago's name appeared on the indices of the American League for Peace and Democracy when that Organization was in existence.

On August 1, 1940, a letter was forwarded to Lieutenant Colonel James A. Lester, Office of Military Intelligence, War Department, Washington, D. C., by Mr. Gray Mottel, Special Agent in Charge of the Washington Field Division of this Bureau, which contained a reference to one O. Vago, who may be identical with the person referred to above.

These allegations have not been substantiated by investigation and are being furnished for your information.

Sincerely yours,

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/24/87 BY 3042 PWT/SLM

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAILED

★ SEP 20 1941 ★

F. M.  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

23319

TO FILING UNIT:

Send following files

AGO, OSCAR

to

Room number

FILE NUMBER

SERIALS

101-1988-

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From Bureau:

4-45-9-

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From Bureau:

Dec - 4-45-9-

164-1

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7-21-20

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10/1/01 BY 60329 RUC/ML

**Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice**

FEG:KC  
101-1264

Washington, D. C.  
September 27, 1941

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 11/24/87 BY 3042 PVT/10M

ATTENTION: Mr. P. E. FOXWORTH

RE: OSCAR VAGO  
INTERNAL SECURITY  
HATCH ACT

Dear Sir:

This is to advise that Special Agent F. B. GARVEY, while on official business, was informed by Mr. CHARLES W. BARBER, Assistant Chief, Structural Engineering, Procurement Division, U. S. Treasury Department, that he believes OSCAR VAGO might possibly be engaged in subversive activities. He stated that he had no basis for this belief except that while VAGO was in the employ of the Procurement Division, he acted in a strange manner. Mr. BARBER stated that VAGO is now an employee of the War Department in the Engineering Division.

A search of the files of the Washington Field Office disclosed one OSCAR VAGO was listed on the indices of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action, The Washington Bookshop, Inc., and the American League for Peace and Democracy. This information was forwarded to the Bureau by letter dated August 26, 1941. Mr. BARBER stated that VAGO was born in Hungary and was educated at Budapest (CE) from 1916 to 1922, but there is no indication on the employment record maintained by BARBER as to VAGO'S citizenship.

In line with Bureau letter dated September 5, 1941, this information is being submitted to the Bureau and the case is being closed in the Washington Field Office, due to the fact that Subject VAGO is in the employ of the War Department.

RECORDED  
Yours very truly

S. K. McKee  
Special Agent in Charge

101-1988-3  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
SEP 30 1941  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

No action  
need be taken  
in view of  
promise of  
6-2-41  
10-8-41  
see serial 4

EX-6

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
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- ☐ Deleted under exemption(s) \_\_\_\_\_ with no segregable material available for release to you.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☐ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

\_\_\_\_\_ Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

1 Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):  
Disposition handled by army

☐ For your information: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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ONW:KIP

RECORDED

101-1968

December 2, 1941

Special Agent in Charge  
Washington, D. C.

RE: OSCAR J. VAGO  
INTERNAL SECURITY

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter dated September 27, 1941, entitled, "OSCAR VAGO; INTERNAL SECURITY, HATCH ACT," advising that the name of this person, reportedly employed by the War Department, appears in the active indices of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action; further, that he was active in the American League for Peace and Democracy when that organization was in existence.

For your information, the Military Intelligence Division has advised that Oscar J. Vago resigned his position in the War Department on June 26, 1941. In view of this information you are instructed to discreetly determine if Mr. Vago may be presently employed by the Federal Government. In the event such information is obtained, the Bureau should be promptly advised. If, on the other hand, you ascertain that Mr. Vago is not a Government employee and you deem such action warranted, you may open an Internal Security case on this person.

Very truly yours,

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. Holloman

Mr. Quinn Tamm

Mr. Nease

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 9/24/87 BY 3042 RUTCH

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED

★ DEC 3 1941 ★

P. M.  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CH-30<sup>219</sup>

GLT  
G.M.H.

**Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice**

FBG:GMZ  
101-1264

Washington, D. C.  
January 1, 1942

Director,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation,  
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Mr. D. M. LADD

Dear Sir:

Re: OSCAR J. VAGO;  
INTERNAL SECURITY;  
HATCH ACT.

Pursuant to instructions contained in Bureau letter of December 2, 1941 (Bureau File 101-1988) in the above entitled matter, please be advised that Special Agent F. H. GREEN of this office on December 17, 1941, ascertained through [REDACTED] Personnel Division, Civil Service Commission, that the latest information in the files of that Commission indicated that OSCAR J. VAGO was presently employed in the Quartermaster General's Office, War Department, as an excepted employee without Civil Service status; and, [REDACTED] advised that if VAGO had obtained a position through the Civil Service since leaving the War Department, there would be a record of it in her Department.

However, on the same date, FRANCIS P. McMULLEN, Active Files Personnel, War Department, advised that the latest information possessed by that Department on OSCAR J. VAGO was that he had resigned his position with the Quartermaster General's Office in a communication dated May 23, 1941, wherein he stated that important developments in his wife's family, living in New York, compelled him to remove his family to New York, wherefor he tendered his resignation as structural engineer at \$3,200 per annum.

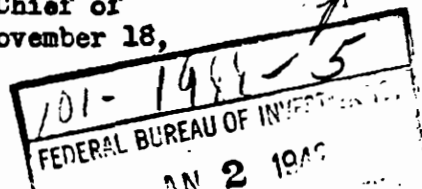
Mr. McMULLEN went on to say that it appeared from a confidential communication addressed from the Quartermaster General's Office to WILLIAM H. McMILLEN, Acting Chief of Investigation, Civil Service Commission, dated November 18,

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4 JAN 24 1942

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DATE 2/24/87 BY 3042 [signature]

RECORDED



EX-16

Letter to Director, 1/1/42  
From Washington Field Office  
Re: Oscar J. Vago.

1941, re re-employment of former employees, that a suggestion was made to the Civil Service Commission that the files of the Quartermaster General's Office be reviewed before re-appointment of OSCAR J. VAGO.

In this connection, as a further check, Miss KAMMER of the United States Information Service was queried, and she advised that the last record in their files as to OSCAR J. VAGO was his employment by the Quartermaster General's Office, which was terminated as of June 26, 1941.

Very truly yours,

*S. K. McKee*  
S. K. McKEE,  
Special Agent in Charge

MR. HOOVER  
DIRECTOR



**Federal Bureau of Investigation**  
**United States Department of Justice**  
**Washington, D. C.**  
January 15, 1942

GNW:ML  
101-1988

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

Re: OSCAR J. VAGO.  
Internal Security.

From information secured from the Washington Field Office, the name of the above-captioned subject appears on the active indices of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action and the Washington Book Shop. He is also reported as having been active with the American League for Peace and Democracy when that organization was in existence.

When this information was first reported, Mr. Vago was allegedly employed in the Quartermaster General's Office in the War Department. Inquiry by the Washington Field Office, however, has developed information that Mr. Vago resigned his position with the War Department effective June 26, 1941, and at that time he indicated he was moving his family to New York City.

As nothing was ascertained to indicate that Mr. Vago is presently an employee of the Federal Government, no investigation is being made concerning him under the provisions of Public Law No. 135, 77th Congress. This is being brought to the attention of the Internal Security Section for such attention as it may deem appropriate.

Respectfully,

*Galen N. Willis*  
Galen N. Willis

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/24/87 BY 3042 RUT/CHM

9 JAN 30 1942

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456 MAR 8 1961

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101-1988-6
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
15 JAN 24 1942
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Neillman \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

*McCarty*

*File - am*

# SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK CITY** NY FILE NO. **100-55242** eg

REPORT MADE AT <b>NEW YORK CITY</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>4/6/44</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>3/10,13,21,28/44</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>J. VAUGHAN BEALE</b>
TITLE <b>OSCAR JOHN VAGO, with alias Oskar Vago</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>SECURITY MATTER - C</b>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

VAGO born Budapest, Hungary 2/27/98. Entered US at NYC 1/12/33. Became a naturalized American citizen 9/29/38 at USDC SDNY. Subject presently resides at 66-07 99th Street, Rego Park, NY with his wife, CLARE, and son, JOHN PAUL. Subject is presently employed as a structural engineer, being formerly employed by Fellheimer & Wagner, NYC and the Federal Works Agency, Washington, D. C. Subject presently classified 4A as of 5/1/43 under Selective Training and Service Act. It was confidentially reported that subject, formerly a member of the C-8 branch of the CP, is now a member of the Queens Branch of the CP, 6th Assembly District, Queens County, NY. No criminal record, NYC. Physical description set out.

**DETAILS:**

This investigation is predicated upon information received from a confidential informant advising that subject is a member of the Communist Party.

**RESIDENCE ADDRESS**

Subject presently resides in apartment 1B at 66-07 99th Street, Rego Park, Queens County, New York, with his wife, CLARE VAGO, and son, JOHN PAUL VAGO.

**BUSINESS ADDRESS**

Subject is presently employed as a structural engineer in room 1606, 114 E. 32nd Street, New York City. The directory located

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>E. E. Conroy</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	ENCLOSURE <b>101-1988-7</b>	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES <b>RECORDED &amp; INDEXED</b> <b>EX-42</b>
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 - Bureau 1 - Capt. W.B. Howe, DIO 3ND 1 - Col. S.V. Constant, D.of I. 28C 3 - New York COPIES DESTROYED 450 MAR 8 1961	<b>33 APR 8 1944</b> SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL	

INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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 DATE 12/1/87 BY 1047/100

NY 100-55242

In the building at 114 E. 32nd Street lists VAGO and MILLER in room 1606 of this building.

#### CITIZENSHIP STATUS

The records of Local Board 251, 95-01 63rd Avenue, Rego Park, New York, indicate that subject was born February 27, 1898 at Budapest, Hungary and that he is a citizen of the United States.

Special Employee Investigator Wade Fuller ascertained on March 21, 1944 from the naturalization records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, 70 Columbus Avenue, that OSCAR JOHN VAGO, born February 27, 1898 in Budapest, Hungary, entered the United States at New York City on January 12, 1933 and became a naturalized American citizen on September 29, 1938 at the United States District Court, Southern District of New York.

#### SELECTIVE SERVICE STATUS

The records of Local Board 251 reflect that subject registered under the Selective Training and Service Act on February 15, 1942; that his serial number is 979, order #11148, and that he has been classified in 4A as of May 1, 1943.

#### NATIONALISTIC TENDENCIES

It was confidentially reported that subject is a member of the Communist Party.

#### RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION

Confidential Informant T1 has advised that a special transfer was issued to OSCAR VAGO, 66-07 99th Street, Rego Park, New York, on October 15, 1943. This informant advised that subject was formerly a member of the C-8 branch of the Communist Party and was now a member of the Queens Branch of the Communist Party, 6th Assembly District, Queens County, New York.

The registration card maintained by Local Board 251 reflects that OSCAR JOHN VAGO, 66-07 99th Street, Rego Park, New York, registered under the Selective Training and Service Act February 15, 1942 at which time he indicated his wife to be CLAIRE VAGO and that he was employed by Fellheimer and Wagner, 155 E. 42nd Street, New York City.

In the selective service questionnaire returned by the subject on June 6, 1942, he stated that his social security number was 090-05-9115; that he had attended eight years of elementary school, four years of high school, and five years civil engineering at a university, name not listed. He advised he was presently employed as a chief engineer



*\*Vago*  
(structural) by Fellheimer and Wagner and had been so employed for a period of a year, receiving a salary of \$80 per week. Subject indicated that he had twenty years of experience in this type of work. He also advised that he was married in Long Island City, New York on March 31, 1928 and that he had a son, age four, JOHN PAUL VAGO. Subject further indicated he had a bank account at the Corn Exchange Bank, address not listed, and that he had five brothers, ROBERT, ERNEST, STEVEN, ARTHUR and BERTHOLD, who are all presently residing in Hungary.

There is a letter addressed to Local Board 251, dated November 3, 1943, a portion of which is being quoted as follows: "Please be advised that my former employment terminated as of October 29, 1943; and that as of November 1, 1943 I am self-employed doing business at 114 E. 32nd Street, New York, N. Y."

At the address of 66-07 99th Street, Rego Park, New York, on the directory in the entrance of this apartment building is listed the name of J. VAGO, apartment 1B.

Special Employee Investigator R. S. Clifford obtained a credit report dated August 6, 1941 from the Credit Bureau of Greater New York, 393 7th Avenue, concerning Mrs. CLAIRE VAGO, husband OSCAR VAGO, residing at 66-07 99th Street, Forest Hills, Long Island. This report indicates that Mr. and Mrs. VAGO formerly resided at 4117 N. 4th Street, Arlington, Virginia and at 6325 Luzon Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C. The report indicates that OSCAR VAGO is employed by Fellheimer and Wagner, 155 E. 42nd Street, New York City; that he has one child, and that he has resided at the Forest Hills, Long Island address since June 10, 1941, leasing apartment 1B. The report also indicates that subject was formerly employed by the Federal Works Agency in Washington, D. C. as a structural engineer from July 25, 1938 at a salary of \$3200 per annum until July 1941. This report also reflects he was sued on one occasion for \$1,000 by GUSSIE PRAGER, INC.

A check of the criminal records of the city of New York was made under the name of the subject with negative results. *62670*

Confidential Informant [redacted] advised he had no record of VAGO and MILLER, 114 E. 32nd Street, New York City.

Special Employee Investigator Wade Fuller secured the following information from the naturalization records, Immigration and Naturalization Bureau, 70 Columbus Avenue:

At the time OSCAR JOHN VAGO filed a petition for naturalization #310521 on May 31, 1938 before the United States District Court, Southern District of New York, he resided at 25 Sickles Street, New York City. The witnesses to this petition were JOSEPH WINKLER, 28-44 58th Street, Woodside, New York, a housewife, and LESLIE MARN, *WINKLER*

# SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL

NY 100-55242

416 Fort Washington Avenue, New York City, employed as a waiter. The declaration of intention was filed by the subject on April 14, 1933 at the Supreme Court of Queens County, Jamaica, New York. It is indicated that subject's last foreign address was Budapest, Hungary and that he emigrated to the United States from Genoa, Italy, entering the United States at New York on January 12, 1933 under the name of OSZKAR VAGO, aboard the SS CONTE DI SAVOIA. He listed the following employment: civil engineer, York Ice Machine Company, March-June 1933, 42nd Street and 2nd Avenue, Brooklyn, New York; CWA and PWA, from January 1934 to October 1936, 70 Columbus Avenue, New York; and the Austin Company, 19 Rector Street, New York City. He advised also that he had a son, JOHN, born May 12, 1938, and he indicated his parents to have been MORRIS VAGO, father, and MATHILDE GOLDSTEIN VAGO, mother.

## PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Name

OSCAR JOHN VAGO, with alias  
OSZKAR VAGO

Born

February 27, 1898, Budapest, Hungary

Citizenship

Naturalized American, 9/29/38,  
U. S. District Court, Southern  
District of New York.

Race

White

Sex

Male

Height

5'6"

Weight

150

Eyes

Brown

Hair

Brown

Complexion

Dark

Scars and marks

Hernia scar

Residence address

Apartment 1B, 66-07 99th Street,  
Rago Park, New York.

- C L O S E D -

# SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL



NY 100-55242

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT

Confidential informant T1 mentioned in the report of  
Special Agent J. Vaughan Beale, dated April 6, 1944 at New York City  
is a highly confidential source of information.

**Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
New York 7, New York**

JVB:EG  
100-55242

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/24/87 BY 3042 PWT/CLM

April 6, 1944

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Director, FBI

Re: OSCAR JOHN VAGO, with alias  
Oszkar Vago  
SECURITY MATTER - C

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the enclosed report of Special Agent J. Vaughan Beale, dated April 6, 1944 at New York City on the above captioned subject.

It is suggested that a security index card be prepared on VAGO and the following information is being submitted:

Name	OSCAR JOHN VAGO, alias OSZKAR VAGO
Residence	Apartment 1B, 66-07 99th Street, Rego Park, Queens County, New York.
Business address	Room 1606, 114 E. 32nd Street, New York City.
Citizenship	Naturalized American
Born	February 27, 1898, Budapest, Hungary;
Entered U. S.	At New York City, January 12, 1933 under the name of OSZKAR VAGO; aboard the SS CONTE DI SAVOIA
Admitted to citizenship	September 29, 1938, U. S. District Court, Southern District of New York.
Nationalistic tendency	Member of Communist Party

Very truly yours,

*E. E. Conroy*  
E. E. CONROY  
SAC

SE 80

RECORDED

EX - 42

104-1918-7  
FBI  
33 APR 8 1944



61 58 APR 22 1944

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. E. A. Tamm	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Coffey	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Ladd	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Carson	_____
Mr. Hendon	_____
Mr. Mumford	_____
Mr. Quinn Tamm	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Miss Gandy	_____
Phone	_____

ENCLOSURE  
3  
16  
P.W.

*and made for*

436

CONFIDENTIAL

101-1988-

May 5, 1944

100-1988

NOT RECORDED  
Special Agent in Charge

New York, New York

RE: SECURITY MATTER

Dear Sir:

Please be advised that a security index card has been prepared at the Bureau, captioned as follows:

VAGO, OSCAR JOHN  
with alias Oskar Vago

NATURALIZED (Hungarian)

COMMUNIST

Apartment 1B  
66-07 - 99th St.,  
Rago Park, Queens County, N.Y. (Res.)

Room 1606  
114 East 32nd St.,  
New York, New York (Bus.)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/24/87 BY 3042 PWT/clm

The above caption should be checked immediately for accuracy against the information contained in your files, and the Bureau should be informed of any discrepancies. You will prepare without delay a 5" x 8" white card captioned as above and reflecting your investigative case file number for filing in your Confidential Security Index Card File. In the event the above caption is not correct, the card you prepare should be correctly captioned, and the Bureau should be informed of the correct caption.

The caption of the card prepared and filed in your Office must be kept current at all times and the Bureau immediately advised of any changes therein in that connection.

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mumford \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Jones \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

MAILED 7

MAY 5 1944 P.M.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

50 MAY 7 1944

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

JMO:M:MBK  
100-55242

TO :

Director, FBI

DATE: December 2, 1944.

FROM :

SAC, New York

SUBJECT:

OSCAR JOHN VAGO, WAS;  
SECURITY MATTER - C

Reference is made to the Security Index Card maintained on the above captioned individual (Bureau file 100-2002).

A review of the file on this individual indicates the only evidence concerning him is that he was a member of the Communist Party. No activity on behalf of the party is noted. Accordingly, it is recommended that the Security Index Card on this individual be cancelled.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/24/87 BY 3042 PWT/clm

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EX-19

DEC 6 1944

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101-1988 -8

RECORDED

To: SAC, New York  
EX - 8

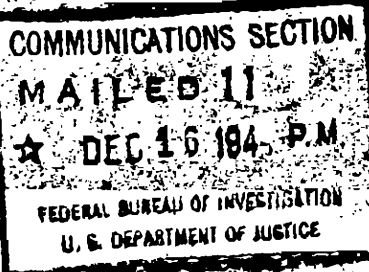
Date: December 15, 1944

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

Subject: OSCAR JOHN YAGO, was  
SECURITY MATTER - S

In reply to your letter of December 2, 1944, you are hereby authorized to remove the subject's Security Index Card from your active indices and place it in his investigative case file.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/24/87 BY 3042 RWT/elm



Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Egan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Pennington \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

76 DEC 21 1944

108

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Lats

Russ



BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CC-128

TO: COMMUNICATIO

February 23, 1950

Transmit the following message to:

SAC, NEW YORK

URGENT

39209

OSCAR JOHN VAGO, WAS., SM-C

ENCLOSE PHOTO OF SUBJECT AND SEND TWO COPIES TO BOSTON, FOUR COPIES TO BUREAU. THIS INDIVIDUAL IS SUSPECT FOR UNSUB IN FOCCASE.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/24/87 BY SP4 GWT/etm

SAC:hs

HOOVER

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 12-10-84 BY SP4 GWT/etm

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

FEB 18 1950

TELETYPE

53 FEB 17 1950

SENT VIA

733 P

Per

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

65-58805-200

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: February 21, 1950

FROM : SAC, New York

SUBJECT: OSCAR JOHN VAGO, Was  
SECURITY MATTER - C

Rebutel 2/13/50.

Enclosed herewith are four copies of photographs of subject referred to in reference teletype as a suspect for unknown subject in FOOCASE.

Two copies of the photograph are being furnished Boston

Enc. to Bureau - 4.

cc - Boston (Enc-2)

RAM:IM

100-55242

cc - 65-15136

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INDEXED 95

100-1988-10  
APR 4 1950  
31

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 11-5-82 BY SP-4 PWT/kbr

U.S. GOVERNMENT  
RECORDED COPY FILED IN



Enclosure to Bureau - 4  
NY 100-55242

2 to Whitem, London  
2-23-50  
rc

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/24/87 BY SP42 RJK/m



## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : A. H. Belmont  
 FROM : C. E. Hennrich  
 SUBJECT: OSCAR JOHN VAGO  
 ESPIONAGE - R

DATE: September 12, 1950

~~TOP SECRET~~

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Egan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Gurnea \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Pennington \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
 Miss Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
 Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

PURPOSE

To set forth a summary of the information concerning Oscar John Vago as a basis for justifying an investigation and surveillance of his present activities.

DETAILS

Oscar John Vago recently came to the attention of the Bureau in connection with the Gold Case by reason of his having been a partner of Abraham Brothman during the period that Brothman was engaged in furnishing information to Harry Gold for transmission to the Soviets. As you will recall, Brothman was referred to (100-365040 Brief, page 11) b1

In May, 1947, when Brothman had received a subpoena to appear before the Federal Grand Jury in New York City, Gold stated that Brothman first told him in the presence of Miriam Moskowitz, Oscar John Vago and several other members of his firm, that he intended to tell the truth to the Federal Grand Jury. According to Gold, both he and Moskowitz immediately endeavored to dissuade Brothman from taking such action. (100-365040 Brief, (u) page 13)

Later, when Gold informed Brothman he had received a red star for his espionage efforts on behalf of the Soviets, Brothman advised some of his employees that he, Brothman, had received such an award. In December, 1949 Vago inquired of Gold whether it was true that Brothman actually had received a red star. According to Gold, he advised Vago on this occasion that at some time the true story would come out. During this conversation with Vago, Vago made mention of the fact that Brothman had informed him that his, Brothman's, work for the Russians had been worth the work of one or two brigades of men. With respect to this statement of Brothman's, Gold advised that he recalled Semen Semenov at the time of the Hotel Lincoln meeting advised Brothman that his work was equal to the efforts of one or two brigades of men. (u) (100-365040 Brief, page 14) 2

RECORDED - 107

Attachment

EFE:jam

INDEXED - 107

Classified By 235 WAB/10  
 Exempt from GDS, Category 1-2 EX - 97  
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 456 MAR 8 1961

101-1988-11  
SEP 14 1950~~TOP SECRET~~

2/24/87  
 Classified by 3041 BUI/KM  
 Declassify on: OADR

~~TOP SECRET~~

Vago has been interviewed on several occasions and has denied any knowledge of Brothman's and Gold's espionage activities. On the date of his last interview in August, 1950, he disclaimed making any of the statements attributed to him by Gold and denied being present in the office of A. Brothman and Associates when any discussion took place concerning Brothman's intended testimony before the Federal Grand Jury. (u) (Ibid; Brief, page 22)

Oscar John Vago was born in Budapest, Hungary, on February 27, 1898. He came to the United States in 1924 and was naturalized as a United States citizen in the Southern District of New York on September 29, 1938. He married Claire Weissman in Long Island City, New York, on May 31, 1928. Vago resided in Washington, D. C., from 1938 to June 26, 1941, during which period he was employed by the Federal Buildings Administration, the Procurement Division of the Treasury Department and the War Department at Fort Myers, Virginia. (u) (101-1988) (u)

While in Washington, D. C., Vago was a member of the Washington Bookshop, the Washington Committee for Democratic Action and the American League for Peace and Democracy. (61-7582-1298) (u)

Vago moved back to New York City in 1941 and became a partner in A. Brothman and Associates in August, 1944. (65-58805-1153) (u)

In May, 1944, Vago was a member of the Executive Committee at Large of the Rego Park Club of the CPA and in July, 1944, he was elected to the Queens County Council of the CPA. He was listed as President of the Trylon Club, Ridgewood Section, Queens County Communist Party, in June, 1949. (100-3-4-3938, page 5; 100-3-4-4498 page 18; 100-3-4-6723 page 17) (u)

Vago resides with his wife and 12 year old son John Paul Vago at 66-07 99th Street, Rego Park, New York. (u)

On September 7, 1950, [REDACTED]

(Washington field teletype 9-8-50)

RECOMMENDATION

In view of the latter mentioned confidential information, as well as the Communist background and associations of Vago, it is believed advisable

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

that an immediate investigation be instituted to determine his present activities, associations and contacts. It is recommended that in connection with the investigation, a complete physical surveillance should be maintained on Vago in order to supplement such information as is developed through the investigation. A teletype has been sent to the New York and Washington Field Divisions instructing that an immediate investigation be instituted as to the activities of Vago along the lines recommended in this memorandum. (u)

There is attached hereto a memorandum to Assistant Attorney General James M. McInerney advising him of the facts concerning Vago's activities. The New York Office is also being instructed by the attached teletype to furnish this information to the United States Attorney in New York City on the possibility he may desire to interrogate Vago before the Federal Grand Jury in the Southern District of New York. (u)

V. J. [Signature]

- 3 -

~~TOP SECRET~~

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CC-152

To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION.

Transmit the following message to:

SEPTEMBER 12, 1950

URGENT

101-1988-11  
RECORDED - 107

SAC, NEW YORK

OSCAR JOHN VAGO, ESP. DASH R. YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO FURNISH THE FACTS

EX - 97

AS DEVELOPED CONCERNING VAGO IN CONNECTION WITH THE BROTHMAN INVESTIGATION  
TOGETHER WITH THE RECENT CONFIDENTIAL INFO AS TO VAGO'S INTENTION TO  
LEAVE COUNTRY TO US ATTORNEY ON POSSIBILITY HE MAY DESIRE TO PLACE VAGO  
UNDER SUBPOENA FOR APPEARANCE BEFORE FEDERAL GRAND JURY IN NYC.

HOOVER

EFE: Jan 10  
101-1988

COPIES DESTROYED  
456 MAR 8 1961

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/24/86 BY 3042 PWT/cl

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

INITIALED  
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

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

SEP 12 1950

52 SEP 20 1950  
SENT VIA TELETYPE

649

Per \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Wid  
Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Eulich

September 12, 1950

OSCAR JOHN VACO  
ESPIONAGE - R

~~SECRET~~  
 SECRET  
 Mess M. McInerney  
 September  
~~SECRET~~  
 CONFIDENTIAL  
 SECRET

In this respect, your attention is invited to my memorandum to the Attorney General on July 17, 1950, wherein it was pointed out that, according to Harry Gold, Vago was present in the office of A. Brothman and Associates at the time Brothman had indicated his intention of disclosing complete information concerning his activities in behalf of the Soviets before the Federal Grand Jury. On this occasion Gold stated that he advised Brothman that such a course would be extremely foolhardy. (u)

With further reference to Vago, it is noted that in my memorandum to the Attorney General on July 26, 1950, it is pointed out that Oscar Vago made an inquiry of Harry Gold in December, 1949, as to whether Brothman had actually received a red star for his activities in behalf of Russia. On this same occasion, according to Gold, Vago made the statement that Brothman had informed him that his, Brothman's, activities in behalf of the Russians had been worth the work of one or two brigades of men. (u) ac

Oscar John Vago has been interviewed on several occasions by Agents of the FBI and has denied any knowledge of Brothman's and Gold's espionage activities. At the time of his recent interview in August, 1950, he disclaimed making any of the statements attributed to him by Gold. He also denied being present in the office of A. Brothman and Associates when the discussion took place concerning Brothman's intended testimony before the Federal Grand Jury. (u)

Classified by 2355 LK3/106  
Exempt from GDS, Category 1  
Date of Declassification Indefinite  
It has recently been learned through a confidential source of  
known reliable information that

Tel. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Class \_\_\_\_\_  
 Grade \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tray \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hair \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tel. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gender \_\_\_\_\_

For your information, Oscar John Vago was born in Budapest, Hungary, on February 27, 1898. He came to the United States in 1924 and was naturalized.

SEP 20 1950  
SEP 12 1950  
COMM - FBI

**SECRET**

# SECRET

RECORDED - 10  
EX - 9

SEP 14 1982  
Classified by 2042 PWT  
Declassify on: OADR

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as a United States citizen in the Southern District of New York on September 29, 1938. He married Claire Weisman in Long Island City, New York, on May 31, 1938, and he presently resides with his wife and family at 66-07 99th Street, Boro Park, New York. (u)

Vago resided in Washington, D. C., from 1938 to June 26, 1941, during which period he was employed by the Federal Works Agency of the Public Buildings Administration, the Procurement Division of the Treasury Department, and the War Department at Fort Myers, Virginia. It was reported that while in Washington, D. C., he was a member of the Washington Bookshop, the Washington Committee for Democratic Action and the American League for Peace and Democracy. (u)

Since his return to New York City in 1941 it has been reported that he served as a member of the Executive Committee at Large of the Boro Park Club of the Communist Political Association in May, 1944, and was elected to the Queens County Council of the Communist Political Association in July, 1944. He was listed as President of the Trylon Club, Ridgewood Section, Queens County Communist Party in June, 1949. (u)

The above is being furnished to you for your information and I have instructed the New York Office to furnish this same information concerning Vago to the United States Attorney in the Southern District of New York on the possibility that he may desire to interrogate Vago before the Federal Grand Jury in the Southern District of New York. (u)

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CC-150

To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION. **SEPTEMBER 11, 1950**

**URGENT**

Transmit the following message to: **SAC, NEW YORK**  
**WASHINGTON FIELD**

**OSCAR JOHN VAGO, ESPIONAGE - R. NEWYOTEL SEPTEMBER EIGHTH.**  
**NEW YORK REQUESTED TO CONDUCT IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION RELATIVE**  
**ACTIVITIES AND ASSOCIATES OF SUBJECT VAGO. AN IMMEDIATE COMPLETE**  
**PHYSICAL SURVEILLANCE SHOULD BE CONDUCTED TO DETERMINE HIS PRESENT**  
**CONTACTS. WASHINGTON FIELD REQUESTED TO CONDUCT INVESTIGATION AS**  
**TO VAGO'S ACTIVITIES AND ASSOCIATES WHILE RESIDING WASHINGTON, D. C.**  
**FROM NINETEEN THIRTY EIGHT TO JUNE TWENTY SIXTH, FORTY ONE DURING**  
**PERIOD OF HIS EMPLOYMENT WITH FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY OF FEDERAL**  
**BUILDING ADMINISTRATION, PROCUREMENT DIVISION OF THE TREASURY**  
**DEPARTMENT AND WAR DEPARTMENT, FORT MYERS, VIRGINIA. BUREAU FILE**  
**INDICATED VAGO'S WASHINGTON RESIDENCE ADDRESS AS SIX THREE TWO**  
**THREE LUZON AVENUE, NORTHWEST. WFO REQUESTED CHECK RECORDS STATE**  
**DEPARTMENT RE VAGO AND PLACE APPROPRIATE STOP.**

**HOOVER**

**cc - Washington Field (By Special Messenger)**

**KFE/mp**

**COPIES DESTROYED**

**456 MAR 8 1961**

**ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED**  
**HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED**  
**DATE 2/25/87 BY 3042 QUT/2**

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

**101-1988 -13**

**RECORDED - 107**

**EX - 97**

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

**SEP 11 1950**

**RECEIVED READING ROOM**

**SEP 11 1950**

**SENT VIA**

**TELETYPE**

**Per**

**SECRET**

**SECRET**

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

WASHINGTON, NEW YORK AND PHILADELPHIA FROM WASH FIELD SEPTEMBER 8, 1950 11:15a

DIRECTOR AND SACs

OSCAR JOHN VAGO, AKA OSCAR VAGO, ESP

OF KNOWN RELIABILITY, ADVISED SA JAMES E. STARTZELL PM SEPTEMBER SEVEN, NINETEEN FIFTY, THAT

[REDACTED]

Classified by 2355 Wm3/18  
Exempt from GDS, Gregory  
Date of Declassification Indefinite  
65 SEP 14 1950  
RECORDED 107  
INDEXED 107  
SER 251950  
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CONFIDENTIAL  
SECRET  
Classified by 30420  
Declassify on: OADR  
13 2/24/87



SECRET

CONFIDENTIAL

SECRET

PAGE TWO

[REDACTED]

NY PLACE LOCAL CUSTOMS STOP AND FURNISH INFO WITH CURRENT PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION IN ORDER THAT NATIONAL CUSTOMS STOP CAN BE PLACED. SUGGEST BUREAU MAY DESIRE TO HAVE PHILADELPHIA RE-INTERVIEW HARRY GOLD CONCERNING OSCAR VARGAS. INS AND PD STATE WILL BE CHECKED FOR CURRENT INFO AND PHOTOS. INFO WILL BUREAU ANY ADDITIONAL PERTINENT INFO RECEIVED FROM [REDACTED]

NEW CASE OPENED ON CAPTIONED HERE

SECRET

SECRET

CONFIDENTIAL

SEPTEMBER 21, 1950

URGENT

SAC, NEW YORK

OSCAR JOHN WARD, ESPIONAGE - R. SUBMIT IMMEDIATELY FOR RECOMMENDATION  
AS TO SECURITY INDEX ON SUBJECT. BUREAU REQUESTS YOUR SURVEILLANCE ON  
WARD TO WARD.

ROOVR

WVR:cmh  
101-1988

RECORDED - 117

EX-105

FEDERAL BUREAU

OF INVESTIGATION

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

St.

TELETYPE

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456 MAR 8 1961

101-1988-14  
SEP 21 1950

FBI

RECEIVED SEATTLE 2000

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/23/87 BY 3040

147  
59 SEP 20 1950



6-554

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Winterrowd	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holloman	
Miss Gandy	

ST. LOUIS  
DIRECTOR AND SAC, ST. LOUIS

OSCAR JOHN WAGO, AKA, OSWALD WAGO, EMP. ST. LOUIS REQUESTED TO  
CHECK UP ON FOR FULL AND COMPLETE INFORMATION AS TO HIS WORK HISTORY  
FOOTNOTES, EMPLOYERS EMPLOYED EMPLOYMENT, EMPLOYER, EMPLOYED AS  
ASSISTANT ENGINEER (STRUCTURAL), OFFICE OF QUARTERMASTER GENERAL,  
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, JANUARY ONE TO ONE FEBRUARY, FOUR FIFTY.

BY ORIGIN, SEND COPIES OF REPORT TO LOS ANGELES, SAN FRANCISCO, AND  
WFO IN ACCORDANCE BUREAU INSTRUCTIONS.

NOTED

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/28/87 BY 3042 PWT/ldm

RECORDED

101-1988-15  
SEP 14 1950

58 SEP 19 1950

NA 150-9/9/50

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

SEP 9 1950

TELETYPE

WASHINGTON 115 WASH FLD AND PHILA 3 8

DIRECTOR AND SACS

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/26/87 BY 3042 BWT/CH

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Ladd	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

OSCAR JOHN VAGO, WA., ESPIONAGE - R. RE WFO TELETYPE SEPTEMBER  
NINETEEN FIFTY. VAGO BORN FEBRUARY TWENTY SEVENTH, EIGHTEEN NINETY  
EIGHT, BUDAPEST, HUNGARY. ENTERED US JANUARY TWENTY FIFTY AND NAT-  
URALIZED SDNY SEPTEMBER NINETEENTH, NINETEEN THIRTY NINE. MARRIED  
CLAIR WEISMAN ~~IN~~ <sup>VAGO</sup> ~~NINETEEN TWENTY EIGHT.~~ <sup>MRS. OSCAR VAGO</sup> SON, JOHN, AGE TWELVE AND  
DAUGHTER, SUSAN, AGE FOUR. FIVE FEET SEVEN INCHES, ONE HUNDRED AND  
SIXTY FIVE LBS., BROWN EYES, BROWN HAIR VERY THIN, BUILD MEDIUM TO  
HEAVY. EMPLOYED AS DRAFTSMAN AT CAROL MANAGEMENT CORP., TWELVE  
EAST FORTY EIGHTH ST., NY. RESIDES SIXTY SIX - NAUGHT SEVEN NINETY  
NINTH ST., REGO PARK, LONG ISLAND, NY. RESIDENCE VERIFIED THIS DATE  
BY PRETEXT TELEPHONE CALL. LOCAL CUSTOMS STOP WILL BE PLACED, BUT  
IT IS POINTED OUT THAT OUTGOING CUSTOMS STOPS OFTEN INEFFECTIVE.  
HARRY GOLD ADVISED NAGO NOT CONNECTED WITH OR COGNIZANT IF HIS  
ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES, BUT INDICATED THAT HE AND VAGO WERE QUITE  
FRIENDLY. IT IS NOTED THAT GOLD HAD DINNER WITH VAGO-S FAMILY IN  
LATE DECEMBER OF NINETEEN FORTY NINE WHILE VISITING IN NY. GOLD  
ALSO ADVISED THAT VAGO HAS FOR SEVERAL YEARS INTERMITTENTLY DESIRED  
TO LEAVE THE US FOR RESIDENCE IN HUNGARY BUT HAS NOT DONE SO BECAUSE  
OF PROTESTS OF WIFE. IN VIEW OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN GOLD AND VAGO  
IT IS SUGGESTED THAT THE PHILA. OFFICE REINTERVIEW GOLD WITH THOUGHT  
THAT GOLD MIGHT HAVE COVERED UP VAGO-S ACTIVITIES.

G.I.R.-2

RECORDED 100

INDEXED 100

1101-1788-16  
SEP 12 1950

59 SEP 21 1950

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TWO COPIES WFO

SCHEIDT

AC

456 MAR 8 1961

cc Mr. Langdon

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: September 15, 1950

FROM : SAC, New York

SUBJECT: OSCAR JOHN VAGO, wa: Oszkar Vago  
Special Section - Espionage Subject

*File in  
Special Section  
10-18-50 AH*

I It is recommended that a Security Index Card be prepared on the above captioned individual.

— The Security Index Card on the captioned individual should be changed as follows: (Specify change only)

NAME OSCAR JOHN VAGO

ALIASES Oszkar Vago

RACE White SEX Male NATIVE BORN            NATURALIZED yes ALIEN           

COMMUNIST yes SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY            INDEPENDENT SOCIALIST LEAGUE           

MISCELLANEOUS (Specify)           

TAB FOR DETCOM            TAB FOR COMSAB           

DATE OF BIRTH February 27, 1898 PLACE OF BIRTH Budapest, Hungary

RESIDENCE ADDRESS Apartment 1-B, 66-07 99th Street, Rego Park, N. Y.

BUSINESS ADDRESS (Show name of employing concern and address)           

Jack Aronow, 12 East 48th Street, New York City

NATURE OF INDUSTRY OR BUSINESS (Specify from Strategic and Vital Industry List)           

JMC:IM  
100-55242

RECORDED - 129

SEP 16 1950

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 9/25/87 BY 3072 PWT/clm

50001-20 1950

*del fl  
A E Leonard*

NA  
9-15-50

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

SEP 14 1950  
TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Ladd	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/25/87 BY 3042 Pottel

Enrich

WASHINGTON 68 FROM NEW YORK 14 1115 P  
DIRECTOR URGENT

G. I. R. -1  
ad-10-1

OSCAR JOHN VAGO, WA, ESP - R. BED TO BED DISCREET SURVEILLANCE OF VAGO  
MAINTAINED SINCE SEPT TWELVE LAST. NO UNUSUAL ACTIVITY NOTED. NO  
CONTACTS OBSERVED. OUTGOING CUSTOMS STOP NOT FEASIBLE. CHECK OF  
BANK ACCOUNT AND EMPLOYMENTS BEING MADE. SURVEILLANCE CONTINUING.

SCHEIDT

RECORDED - 33

5<sup>49</sup> SEP 21 1950

101-1988-18  
SEP 16 1950  
FIVE

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

~~SECRET~~

DATE: September 18, 1950

FROM : SAC GUY HOTTEL, WASHINGTON FIELD

SUBJECT: OSCAR JOHN VAGO, wa.  
Oscar Vago  
ESPIONAGE - R~~SECRET~~

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Winterrowd	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

The following information is being furnished to the Bureau, New York and Philadelphia Offices for informational purposes.

[REDACTED] (b)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Classified by 2755 UN 3/15  
Exempt from GDS, Category 2+3  
Date of Declassification Indefinite

HWB:dm  
65-5598

cc: New York (SD)  
Philadelphia (SD)

RECORDED - 90

INDEXED - 90

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SEP 19 1950

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59 SEP 22 1950 456 MAR 8 1961

~~SECRET~~

Classified by 2125/57  
Declassify on: 3042 PWT/cen OADR

MEMO TO DIRECTOR, FBI  
RE: OSCAR JOHN VAGO, wa.

September 13, 1950

~~SECRET~~

[REDACTED]

(S)

Information in [REDACTED] should be covered by T (u)  
symbol and paraphrased in reports (S)

Investigation continuing in this Office. (u)

HWB:dm  
65-5598

cc: New York (SD)  
Philadelphia (SD)

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~



## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : A. H. BELMONT

FROM : C. E. HENRICH

SUBJECT: OSCAR JOHN VAGO  
ESPIONAGE - R**TOP SECRET**  
JUNE

DATE: September 18, 1950

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_PURPOSE

To refuse the authority requested by the New York Division to conduct an appropriate survey in order to determine the practicability of installing a technical surveillance at subject's residence, Apartment 1-B, 66-07 99th Street, Forest Hills, Long Island, New York.

DETAILS

As you will recall, Oscar John Vago came to the attention of the Bureau in connection with the Gold case by reason of his having been a partner of Abraham Brothman during the period when Brothman was associating with Harry Gold. It might be noted that Brothman was referred to in the information furnished by [REDACTED]

**TOP SECRET**

(100-365045 Brief page 7)

As an indication of the knowledge of Vago concerning Brothman's activities, Harry Gold, subsequent to his confession, furnished information as to two instances wherein it appeared that Vago may have had knowledge concerning Brothman's activities. According to Gold, in May, 1947, after Brothman had received his subpoena to appear before the Federal Grand Jury in New York City, Brothman told him in the presence of Miriam Moskowitz, Vago and several other members of the firm that he, Brothman, intended to tell the truth to the Federal Grand Jury as to his having furnished information to the Russians. Gold further advised that on this occasion he endeavored to point out to Brothman that such action would be very foolish and that Miriam Moskowitz also endeavored to dissuade him from taking such action.

(Ibid Brief page 13)

The second instance referred to by Gold was subsequent to the date when Gold informed Brothman he, Gold, had been honored by the Russians for his espionage efforts by bestowing upon him the Red Star. According to Gold, Brothman after receiving this information apparently advised a number of his employees including Vago that he, Brothman, had received this award. Gold stated that in December, 1949, during a conversation with Vago, the latter inquired of him whether it was true that Brothman had actually received a Red Star from the Russians. On this occasion, Gold indicated that he advised Vago that the true story concerning this Red Star

Attachment  
CC - J.D. Donohue

EFE:hmb:lfc

3/19/87

Classified by 912 PWT/klm  
Declassify on: OADR

(PART 2) RECORDED - 53

SEP 22 1950

Classified by 2355  
Exempt from GDS  
Date of Declassification Indefinite**TOP SECRET**

**TOP SECRET**

would come out sometime in the future. Gold recalled that during the course of this conversation with Vago, Vago made mention of the fact that Brothman had informed him that his work for the Russians had been worth the work of one or two brigades of men. With respect to this statement of Brothman's, Gold advised that he recalled that Semen Semenov at the time of the Hotel Lincoln meeting had advised Brothman that his work was equal to the efforts of one or two brigades of men. (Ibid Brief page 14)

Vago has been interviewed on several occasions and has denied any knowledge of Brothman's and Gold's espionage activities. On the date of his last interview, he disclaimed making any statements attributed to him by Gold and denied being present in the office of Abe Brothman and Associates when any discussion took place concerning Brothman's intended testimony before the Federal Grand Jury. (Ibid Brief page 22)

[REDACTED] b1

(WFO teletype 9-8-50)

Oscar John Vago was born in Budapest, Hungary, on February 27, 1898. He came to the United States in 1924 and was naturalized as a citizen of the United States in the Southern District of New York on September 29, 1938. He married Claire Weissman in Long Island City, New York, on May 31, 1928. Vago resided in Washington, D. C. from 1938 to June 26, 1941, during which period he was employed by the Federal Building Administration, Procurement Division of the Treasury Department and the War Department at Ft. Myer, Virginia. (101-1988)

While in Washington, D. C., Vago was reported as being a member of the Washington Bookshop, the Washington Committee for Democratic Action and the American League for Peace and Democracy. (61-7582-1298)

Vago moved back to New York City in 1941 and became a member of Abe Brothman and Associates in August, 1944. In May, 1944, it was reported that he was a member of the Executive Committee-at-Large of the Regal Park Club of the CPA. In July, 1944, he was elected to the Queens City Council of the CPA. He was listed as President of the Trylon Club, Ridgewood Section, Queens County Communist Party as of June, 1949.

(65-58805-1153; 100-3-4-3938 page 5; 100-3-4-4498 page 18; 100-3-4-6723 page 17)

**TOP SECRET**

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
Classified by 2355 JWE/STW/STW  
Exempt from GDS, Category 3  
Date of Declassification Indefinite

~~TOP SECRET~~

Vago resides with his wife and family at Apartment 1-B, 66-07 99th Street, Forest Hills, Long Island, New York. (u)

It might be noted that Vago has been very friendly with Harry Gold and Gold visited at the Vago residence as late as December, 1949. (u)

A further interview of Gold is being conducted for the purpose of securing all information he may know concerning Vago's activities. Likewise, the New York Office has initiated an investigation and placed Vago under a continuous physical surveillance pursuant to the Bureau instructions of September 11, 1950. (u)

RECOMMENDATION

In view of the confidential information received as to Vago's fear of possible involvement in the atom spy matter and his known association with Harry Gold and Abraham Brothman, it is not believed that authority to make a survey for the installation of a technical surveillance should be granted at this time. It is believed preferable that an effort should be made to determine through the physical surveillance and other investigation presently being conducted, the exact position of Vago with respect to the prosecution of Brothman. Further, in view of Vago's having been subpoenaed to appear before a Grand Jury on September 20, 1950, it is believed advisable to withhold any such authority as requested until such time as he has completed his testimony before the Grand Jury and the U.S. Attorney has given his decision as to the possibility of either using Vago as a Government witness in the Brothman matter or instituting prosecution against him. It is further believed that the installation of a technical surveillance at this time would be premature and might tend to contaminate the evidence in the event of a future prosecution of Vago. A teletype advising the New York Division that their request to conduct a survey for the installation of a technical surveillance on Vago is hereby denied is being attached hereto for your approval.

*OK [Signature]*  
*✓*

~~TOP SECRET~~

He  
ad  
2nd  
4:33pm 9-16-50  
Dew

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

SEP 16 1950

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Ladd	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

WASHINGTON FROM NEW YORK 24 16 12-37AM

DIRECTOR URGENT

G.I.R. 1

Engle  
12-10-1  
B

OSCAR JOHN VAGO, WA., ESP - R. REBUTEL AND MY TEL SEPT. FOURTEEN  
LAST. RECOMMENDATION AS TO SECURITY INDEX ON SUBJECT SUBMITTED BY  
MAIL SEPT. FIFTEEN. SUBPOENA REQUIRING VAGO-S APPEARANCE BEFORE GRAND  
JURY SEPT. TWENTY NEXT, GIVEN TO US MARSHAL WHO STATES IT WILL PROBABLY  
NOT BE SERVED ON VAGO UNTIL SEPT. EIGHTEEN NEXT. SURVEILLANCE CON-  
TINUING WITH NO UNUSUAL ACTIVITY OF VAGO NOTED TO DATE.

SCHEIDT

HOLD PLS

RECORDED - 47

101-1988-21

SEP 19 1950

34

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/25/87 BY 3042 PWT/chm

55 SEP 23 1950

EX-105

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

SEP 16 1950

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Ladd	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

WASHINGTON FROM NEW YORK 41 16 2-37 PM  
DIRECTOR URGENT

OSCAR JOHN VAGO, WA, ESPIONAGE R. SURVEILLANCE TO DATE INDICATES  
VAGO REPORTS FOR WORK BEFORE NINE AM AT TWELVE EAST FORTY EIGHTH  
STREET, REAPPEARS FOR LUNCH, AND LEAVES WORK FIVE THIRTY PM. OTHER-  
WISE HAS NOT LEFT PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT DURING DAY. BEGINNING  
SEPTEMBER EIGHTEEN, UACB, VAGO WILL BE SURVEILLED FROM HOME TO WORK  
IN MORNING, CHECKED IN AND OUT AT NOON, AND FULL SURVEILLANCE WILL  
BE MAINTAINED FROM TIME OF LEAVING WORK. THIS WILL RESULT IN MORE  
DISCREET SURVEILLANCE SINCE TWELVE EAST FORTY EIGHTH STREET IS  
VERY CONGESTED DISTRICT. VAGO TWICE HAS SPENT CONSIDERABLE TIME WIND-  
SHOPPING AT LUGGAGE STORES

RECORDED - 117  
SCHEIDT

EX-105

HOLD  
59 SEP 23 1950

101-1988-22  
SEP 19 1950  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/25/89 BY 3042 RWT/jalm

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

FROM : *Guy* GUY HOTTEL, SAC, Washington Field

SUBJECT: OSCAR JOHN VAGO  
ESPIONAGE - R

DATE: September 20, 1950

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

SECRET

RECORDED &amp; CONFIDENTIAL

Enclosed for the New York Office are photo-  
static copies of [REDACTED]

It is suggested that the New York Office trans-  
late this material and report the pertinent portions thereof.  
Further, in reporting this material, it should be properly  
paraphrased to cover the source.

Classified by *2395 WAB/jf*  
Exempt from GDS Category *2*  
Date of Declassification Indefinite

RECORDED - 4

EX - 83

SEP 21 1950

HWB:cl  
65-5598

SECRET

cc - New York (encls) (Special Delivery)

52 OCT 10 1950

Classified by *3042 PWT/jhm*  
Declassify on: OADR

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

SEP 19 1950

TELETYPE

WASH FROM NEW YORK?

19

2-37 P

DIRECTOR

URGENT

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Mohr	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

OSCAR JOHN VAGO, WAS.. ESPIONAGE-R. SUBPOENA SERVED ON VAGO SEPTEMBER EIGHTEEN LAST CALLING FOR APPEARANCE BEFORE GRAND JURY ON SEPTEMBER TWENTY. ON SEPTEMBER EIGHTEEN VAGO PICKED UP REPAIRED SUITCASE ON WAY HOME FROM WORK WITH INITIALS C. O. V., APPARENTLY THOSE OF HIS WIFE. BED TO BED SURVEILLANCE RE-INSTITUTED THIS DATE. STOPS PLACED WITH OVERSEAS AIRLINES, VAGO-S BUILDING SUPERINTENDENT AND ON HIS BANK ACCOUNT. SURVEILLANCE HAS DISCLOSED NO SIGNIFICANT CONTACTS. ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS OF VAGO OBTAINED SEPTEMBER EIGHTEEN FOR DISPLAY TO INFORMANTS.

SCHEIDT

HOLD

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/23/87 BY 3042 RDT/CLM

RECORDED - 58

SEP 21 1950

EX-89

12

FIVE

51 SEP 28 1950



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CC-150

**CONFIDENTIAL**

To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION.

Transmit the following message to: SEPTEMBER 12, 1950

SAC, NEW YORK

JUNE 61 [REDACTED] (C)

104 100-1558-25  
REAR JIM WAGO, MATTHEW R. BENTLEY, SEPTEMBER TWENTY, AUTHORITY  
TO CURRENTLY BEING TO DETERMINE PRACTICABILITY OF INSTALLING TECHNICAL  
SURVEILLANCE MONITOR AT THIS TIME FINDING A DETERMINATION AS TO THE  
EXACT POSITION OF WAGO IN CONNECTION WITH HIS POSSIBLE FUTURE  
PROSECUTION AND THE FORTHCOMING PROSECUTION OF BENTLEY.

SEP 12 1950  
100-1558

*initials for the Director  
for Mr. Nease*

[REDACTED]

319487  
Classified by 3012 BWT/len  
Declassify on: OADR  
SEP 18 1950  
RECEIVED RECORDS SECTION  
FBI  
SEP 18 8 00 PM '50

TELETYPE

SEP 18 1950

**CONFIDENTIAL**

SENT VIA

1133P

Per

*dy*

*Az*



FBI TELETYPE

TO DIRECTOR

FROM

SAN FRANCISCO

URGENT

RE: [illegible]

ENCLOSURE

10/15/67

CONFIDENTIAL

3119187  
3042 PWT/clm  
Classified by  
Declassify on OADR  
DATE

[Redacted]

(c)

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

FILE NO.

65-1578

REPORT MADE AT <b>ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>9-20-50</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>9-15-50</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>EDWARD E. KACHELHOFFER MH</b>
TITLE <b>OSCAR JOHN VAGO, aka Oszkar Vago</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>ESPIONAGE - R</b>

## SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Records AGO, CPRB, DA, SLMO, reflect OSCAR JOHN VAGO employed as Associate Engineer, Structural, OCMG, Washington, D. C. 12-16-39 to 6-26-41. Born 2-27-98 at Budapest, Hungary. Claims naturalized 9-29-38, USDC, NY., Certificate #4320335. Brother-in-law, EDMUND WINKLER, Woodside, L.I., N.Y., employed U.S.P.O. Background and descriptive information set out.

RUC

## DETAILS:

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI:

A review of the personnel file, Civilian Personnel Records Branch, Adjutant General's Office, Department of the Army, on OSCAR JOHN VAGO indicates that this individual was employed on December 16, 1939, as an associate engineer, structural, Grade P-3 at \$3200 per annum with the War Department, Office of the Quartermaster General at Washington, D. C.

This employment was terminated on June 26, 1941 by reason of resignation. In a letter of resignation dated May 23, 1941, VAGO advised he was submitting his resignation because important developments in his wife's family made it necessary for him to move his family to New York. In an affidavit executed on December 7, 1939, VAGO states his brother-in-law, EDMUND WINKLER, 2844-50th Street, Woodside, Long Island, New York, was employed by the United States Post Office Department as a clerk. No derogatory information was contained in the file.

The following background and descriptive information is contained in the record.

Born	2-27-98 Budapest, Hungary.
Height	5' 6"
Weight	150 lbs.
Race	White.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7/25/87 BY 3042 RWT/CM

APPROVED AND  
FORWARDED:SPECIAL AGENT  
IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

- 5 Bureau COPIES OF THIS REPORT  
2 Los Angeles (INFO)  
3 New York  
2 San Francisco (INFO)  
2 Washington Field (INFO)  
2 St. Louis

SEP 22 1950  
25

RECORDED - 35

INDEXED - 35

EX-14

~~SECURITY INFORMATION~~ ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL~~

**Education** Royal Hungarian Technical University, Budapest, Hungary (1916-22); Hessische Technische Hochschule, Darmstadt, Germany (1920-21)

**Occupation** Professional Engineer and licensed in State of New York.

**Address** 4117 North Fourth Street, Arlington, Virginia.  
25 Sickles Street, New York, N. Y. (1937-38)  
2281-37th Street, Long Island City, N. Y. (1933-34)  
6323 Luzon Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C.

**Employment** Federal Works Agency, Public Buildings, Administration, Washington, D. C. (7-38 to 12-39)  
The Austin Company, 19 Rector Street, New York, N.Y.  
Works Progress Administration, 37 West 65th Street, New York, N. Y.  
White Construction Company, Inc., 95 Madison Ave., New York, New York (4-26 to 2-33).  
J. M. FELSON, 250 West 57th Street, New York, N.Y. (3-25 to 4-26). Mr. + Mrs. Morris VAGO

**Relatives** Father, MORRIS VAGO, Born in Hungary.  
Mother, MATHILDE GOLDSTEIN, Born in Germany.  
Wife, CLAIRE VAGO, 4117 North Fourth Street, Arlington, Virginia.

**Miscellaneous** Claims U. S. naturalization in U. S. District Court, New York, on 9-29-38, Certificate #4320335.

**Supervisors** WILLIAM S. FRICK, Chief Engineer, Office, Quartermaster General, Washington, D. C.  
C. W. BARBER, Assistant Chief Engineer, PBA, FWA, Washington, D. C.  
C. NORNEFFER, District Engineer, The Austin Co., New York, N. Y.  
ARTHUR BARZAGLIN, Chief Engineer, Park Dept., New York, N. Y.  
RENE L. BERTIN, Vice-President, White Construction Company, New York, N. Y.

**Organizations** Buckingham Civic Association, Arlington, Va.  
Group Health Association, 1422 K. Street, N.W., Washington, D. C.  
Committee to Aid China, Washington, D. C.  
Washington Bookshop Association, 916-17th St., N.W., Washington, D. C.

**References** Dr. LUCY SHIMMERLIK, 2257-37th Street, Long Island, City, N.Y. - physician.

Engineer - JOSEPH ZALKIN, 319 N. Thomas Street, Arlington, Va.  
MICHAEL ALEXANDER, 1495 Montgomery Ave., New York, N.Y.

Engineer - SAMUEL L. KAYE, 1434 Somerset Place, N.W., Washington.  
ALVIN R. SCHWAB, 1330 Street, N.W., Washington, D. C.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

~~SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL~~

SL 65-1578

L E A D S

Information copies of this report are designated for Washington Field, Los Angeles, and San Francisco in accordance with instructions in referenced teletype.

REFERENCE: Washington Field teletype dated 9-12-50 to St. Louis and Bureau.

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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

- ☐ Deleted under exemption(s) \_\_\_\_\_ with no segregable material available for release to you.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☐ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

\_\_\_\_\_ Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

3

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

*Disposition of document in Gold  
file US-574409-675*

☐ For your information: \_\_\_\_\_

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

*101-1988-27*

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XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
X DELETED PAGE(S) X  
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X  
X FOR THIS PAGE X  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

FROM : *guy* GUY HOTTEL, SAC, Washington Field

SUBJECT: OSCAR JOHN VAGO, with alias  
ESPIONAGE - R  
(Bufile 101-1988)

**SECRET**

DATE: September 26, 1950

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Ladd	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

Remytels September 22, 1950.

Transmitted herewith for the New York Office, are two photostatic copies of the personnel file of captioned subject which were obtained from Mr. J. R. TURNER, room 501, 1900 E Street, N. W., where the inactive files of General Services Administration are kept.

*2/25/87*  
Classified by *3142 PWT/cm*  
Declassify on: OADR

Classified By *2355 JWA/1*  
Exempt from GDS Category *2*  
Date of Declassification Indefinite

RECORDED - 82

101 1988-38

SEP 26 1950

HNB:cl  
65-5598

EX-26

25

cc - New York (encls)  
(REGISTERED MAIL)  
(SPECIAL DELIVERY)

63 OCT 3 1950

**SECRET**

WFO 101  
65-5596

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Ladd	/
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Winterrowd	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holloman	
Miss Gandy	

WFO WASHINGTON FIELD 11-22-50  
DIRECTOR AND SACS, NY AND ST. LOUIS

OSCAR JOHN VAGO, WA, EMP - R. (BUFILE 151-1905) - SENTINEL SEPT. TWENTY,  
LAST, AND WFOEL SEPT. TWELVE, LAST. FOR INFORMATION ST. LOUIS, VAGO  
APPEARED BEFORE GRAND JURY ON SEPT. TWENTY, LAST. REFUSED TO ANSWER  
NINETEEN QUESTIONS OF Q. DENIED ANY ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES. VAGO TO APPEAR  
BEFORE JURY ON SEPT. TWENTY-NINE, 1950. LOUIS REQUESTED TO OBTAIN  
PHOTOSTATS OF ANY GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT FORMS REFLECTING DENIAL OF  
MEMBERSHIP IN CP OR SUBVERSIVE ORGANIZATIONS, SUCH FORMS AS OATH OF  
OFFICE, AFFIDAVITS, ETC. FORWARD BY AIR.

RECORDED - 58

SEP 26 1950

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 11-11-81 BY 3042 POK

31 OCT 4 1950



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

SEP 22 1950  
*Don*

WASH AND WASH FLD 30 FROM NEW YORK 22 TELETYPE

910 P

DIRECTOR AND SAC URGENT

**SECRET**

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Ladd	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

OSCAR JOHN VAGO, WA, ESP - R. RE WFO LETTER SEPT TWENTY, FIFTY.  
ENCLOSING MATERIAL FROM INFT. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

RECORDED 576 101 1948-30

COPIES DESTROYED

456 MAR 8 1961

END PAGE ONE

63 OCT 6 1950

TWO COPIES WFO

EX-16

**SECRET**

Classified by 2351 WAB/8  
Exempt from GDS, Category 1  
Date of Declassification Indefinite

Classified by 2125/89  
Declassify on: OADR



~~SECRET~~

PAGE TWO

b1

(S)

SURVEILLANCE HAS DISCLOSED NO PERTINENT CONTACTS.

SCHEIDT

4

HLD PLS

~~SECRET~~

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: September 20, 1950

FROM : SAC, New York

**SECRET**SUBJECT: OSCAR JOHN VAGO, wa  
Osskar John Vago  
ESPIONAGE - R

Photographs of VAGO are being enclosed to the offices listed below to assist in their investigation or in any interviews conducted in this case.

Knoxville Office is requested to display the photograph to ALFRED DEAN SLACK for possible identification.

Baltimore Office is requested to display the photograph to WHITTAKER CHAMBERS for possible identification.

Cleveland Office is requested to display the photograph to JOHN and to WILLIAM GARFIELD CUMMINGS for possible identification.

Miami Office is requested to display the photograph to PAUL CROUCH for possible identification.

Cincinnati Office is requested to display the photograph to aka Louis C. Fraina for possible identification.

2 encls.

cc: Knoxville - encl. (1)  
Baltimore - encl. (1)  
Cleveland - encl. (1)  
Miami - encl. (1)  
Cincinnati - encl. (1)  
Los Angeles - encl. (1)  
Seattle - encl. (1)

Washington Field - encl. (1)  
Boston - encl. (1)  
Denver - encl. (1)  
Minneapolis - encl. (1)  
San Francisco - encl. (1)  
Philadelphia - encl. (1)

THZ:APK  
100-55242

52 SEP 29 1950

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456 MAR 8 1961

SL 36

SEP 22 1950

**SECRET**

Classified by 2355 WAB/for  
Exempt from GDS Category 2+3  
Date of Declassification Indefinite

SECRET

Letter to Director  
NY 100-55242

Los Angeles Office is requested to display the photograph to [REDACTED] and to [REDACTED] for possible identification. b7D b2

Seattle Office is requested to display the photograph to [REDACTED] for possible identification. b7D

Washington Field Office is requested to display the photograph to ~~WILLIAM O'DELL~~ NOWELL for possible identification.

Boston Office is requested to display the photograph to ~~PHILBRICK~~ HERBERT for possible identification.

Denver Office is requested to display the photograph to ~~APPLEMAN~~ MORRIS LOUIS for possible identification.

Minneapolis Office is requested to display the photograph to [REDACTED] for possible identification. b7D

San Francisco Office is requested to display the photograph to [REDACTED] for possible identification. b7D

Philadelphia Office is requested to display the photograph to ~~THOMAS~~ BLACK for possible identification. b7D b2

New York will display the photographs to ~~LOUIS F.~~ BUDENZ, ~~FRANK MEYER~~, HEDE, and ~~PAUL~~ MASSING, MAX ~~VERGAN~~, and to ~~JOSEPH~~ ZACK, aka [REDACTED]

Two copies of ~~OSCAR JOHN~~ VAGONS photograph are enclosed for the Bureau.

It is noted that PAUL CROUCH has recently been in Seattle and that Seattle Office is requested to contact him if he is still in that city.

SECRET

Letter to Director  
NY 100-55242

~~SECRET~~

A copy of this letter is being designated for the Miami Office in the event CROUCH has returned to Miami.

The following is a description of OSCAR JOHN VAGO:

Name	OSCAR JOHN VAGO
Present address	6607 99th Street, Forest Hills, Long Island
Sex	Male
Race	White
Birthdate	February 27, 1898
Birthplace	Budapest, Hungary
Height	5'7"
Weight	165 lbs.
Build	Medium to heavy
Hair	Brown, very thin
Eyes	Brown
Occupation	Draftsman
Marital status	Carol Management Corp., 12 East 48th St., NYC
Children	Married, wife, CLAIR WEISMAN
	JOHN CAGE, 12
	SUSAN, 4
Naturalised	Southern District of New York September 18, 1939

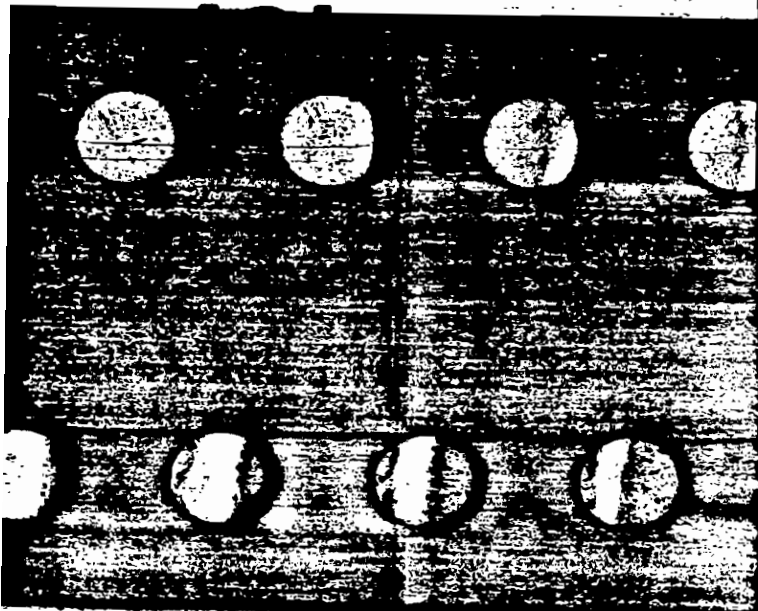
~~SECRET~~



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FEB 15 1961

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DATE 2/27/87 BY 3042 *WJH/m*

ENCLOSURE



2 encls Bureau  
NY 100-55242

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/25/89 BY 3042 *Pat/ckm*



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

SEP 22 1950

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Ladd	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Egan	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

*[Handwritten signatures and initials over the routing slip]*

WASHINGTON 9 AND NEW YORK 4 FROM NEWARK

22 SEP 26 5-35 PM

DIRECTOR AND SAC

U R G E N T

OSCAR JOHN VAGO, WA. ESPIONAGE R. RE NEW YORK TEL TO NEWARK SEPTEMBER TWENTYONE LAST. ROBERT MOORE, PRESIDENT, FLOCKHART FOUNDRY COMPANY, NINETYFOUR POLK STREET, NEWARK, ADVISED RECEIPT OF SINGLE SENTENCE LETTER OF SEPTEMBER TWENTY LAST REQUESTING BUSINESS CATALOGUE ON CASTINGS BY SUBJECT FROM HIS COMPANY. SUBJECT UNKNOWN TO MOORE AND INFORMATION SOUGHT BY SUBJECT AND FORWARDED TO HIM WAS OF NON RESTRICTED NATURE. EARNEST WALTER, PRESIDENT, PORTETE MFG. COMPANY, NORTH ARLINGTON, NJ ADVISED HIS COMPANY WAS NOT IN RECEIPT OF ANY LETTER FROM THE SUBJECT TO HIS KNOWLEDGE. WALTER WILL ADVISE IMMEDIATELY OF RECEIPT OF LETTER FROM SUBJECT IF SAME IS RECEIVED. WALTER STATES HIS COMPANY HAS NO RESTRICTED TYPE CONTRACTS OR INFORMATIONAL DATA AT PRESENT. LETTER FOLLOWS.

MC KEE

CORR-LINE 3 LAST WORD SHLD BE "LETTER"

BOTH HOLD PLS

55 SEP 30 1950

1101-1981-32  
SEP 26 1950

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2-25-87 BY 3048

no action 50  
4-22-50  
1:30 PM  
GJ

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

SEP 21 1950

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Ladd	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Belmont	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Mohr	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/25/87 BY 3042 RIT/fbm

WASH 63 NEWARK 12 CGO 3 LOS ANG 5 FROM NEW YORK 21 1005 P  
DIRECTOR AND SAC URGENT

OSCAR JOHN VAGO, WA., ESP - R. ON SEPT NINETEENTH LAST, VAGO SIMUL-  
TANEOUSLY DIRECTED LETTERS TO FIFTEEN FIRMS. LETTER TO NY FIRM RE-  
QUESTED COPY OF A TECHNICAL ENGINEERING WORK. RETURN ADDRESS OSCAR  
J. VAGO, P. E. SIX SIX NAUGHT SEVEN, NINETY NINE ST., REGO PARK, LI,  
NY. CHICAGO CONTACT U.S. GYPSUM CO., THREE HUNDRED WEST AMSTERDAN ST.,  
CRANE CO., EIGHT THREE SIX SOUTH MICHIGAN AVE., CECO STEEL PRODUCTS  
CORP., FIVE SEVEN NAUGHT ONE WEST TWENTY SIXTH ST., ALL CHICAGO. CIN-  
CINNATI CONTACT FLEXICORE CO., INC., DAYTON, AND PHILIP CAREY MANUFACT-  
URING CO., LOCKLAND CINCINNATI. DETROIT CONTACT DETROIT STEEL PRODUCTS  
CO., TWO TWO FIVE NAUGHT EAST GRAND BOULEVARD, GREAT LAKES STEEL CORP.,  
STRAN-STEEL DIVISION, PENOBSCOT BUILDING, TRUCON LABORATORIES, CEMENT  
TILE DIVISION, ALL DETROIT, AND BRICKCRETE ASSOCIATION, FOUR SIX SIX  
NINE SOUTH DIVISION AVE, GRAND RAPIDS. LA CONTACT DAVIDSON BRICK CO,  
FOUR SEVEN NAUGHT ONE FLORAL DRIVE, LOS ANGELES. NEWARK CONTACT  
PORETE MANUFACTURING CO, NORTH ARLINGTON, FLOCHART FOUNDRY CO, NINETY

END OF PAGE ONE

SEP 30 1950

SEP 25 1950

FIVE

PAGE TWO

FOUR POLK STREET, NEWARK. PITTSBURGH CONTACT CEMENTSTONE CORP, NEVILLE ISLAND, PITTSBURGH. VAGO STRUCTURAL ENGINEER BY PROFESSION. INFORMANT HAS ADVISED VAGO PLANNING TO LEAVE UNITED STATES FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCE IN HUNGARY BECAUSE OF INVOLVEMENT IN "ATOM SPY MATTER". NATURE OF CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE ASCERTAINED WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO ANY INDICATION OF HIS LEAVING UNITED STATES. IF THE LITERATURE REQUESTED, ASCERTAIN IF AT ALL RESTRICTED.

SCHEIDT

CINCINNATI, DETROIT AND PITTSBURGH ADVISED

<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>

CORR LINE THIRTEEN WORD TEN SHOULD BE /BRICK/

END

WA V SM S& J <sup>31</sup>/<sub>12,80</sub>

W

NY J 63 WA LIR W AND RLAY

TU

NK NY R 12 NK CEG

HDISC

9-21-50 1:15 AM  
ad

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

SEP 28 1950

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Ladd	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/25/87 BY SP4 PWT/alm

WASH AND WASH FLD 64 FROM NEW YORK 20 10-37 P  
DIRECTOR AND SAC URGENT

Enfrash  
R 10-1

OSCAR JOHN VAGO, WA., ESP - R. VAGO APPEARED BEFORE G. J., SDNY, THIS DATE FOR APPROX ONE HALF HOUR. QUESTIONED BY SAAG T. J. DONEGAN. REFUSED TO ANSWER WHETHER MEMBER OF C. P. ON GROUNDS OF SELF INCRIMINATION. ADMITTED ACQUAINTSHIP WITH ~~GOLD~~ AND ~~BROTHAMN~~, BUT DENIED BEING PRESENT AT ANY DISCUSSION BETWEEN THEM CONCERNING G. J. TESTIMONY. DENIED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES ON THEIR PART PRIOR TO CURRENT NEWSPAPER PUBLICITY. ALSO DENIED OWN PARTICIPATION IN ANY ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES OR CONTACT WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF ANY FOREIGN POWER. WFO INFT PROTECTED. VAGO NOTIFIED TO REAPPEAR BEFORE G. J. ON SEPT TWENTY SEVEN NEXT. PHOTOSTATIC COPIES OF APPLICATION FORMS SIGNED BY VAGO IN CONNECTION WITH GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT REQUESTED BY DONEGAN WFO PLEASE FURNISH. ALSO INS FORMS MADE OUT BY VAGO IN CONNECTION WITH NATURALIZATION. WFO REQUESTED TO OBTAIN PHOTOSTATS OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT FORMS FOR SEPT TWENTY SEVEN APPEARANCE OF VAGO. INS FORMS WILL BE OBTAINED INS HERE BY NYO. SURVEILLANCE HAS NO PERTINENT ACTIVITIES.

RECORDED - 90  
INDEXED - 40/0

1984-34

SEP 28 1950

63 SEP 30 1950  
HLD PLS

cc: Mr. *Ramphel*

TWO COPIES WFO

NA  
WAB

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

SEP 22 1950

12

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Ladd	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Mr. Gandy	_____

WASH AND WASH FLD 31 ST. LOUIS 2 FROM NEW YORK 22

DIRECTOR AND SACS URGENT

10-1

OSCAR JOHN VAGO, WA., ESP - R. RE WFO TEL THIS DATE. SAAG DONEGAN HAS ADVISED DOCUMENTS PERTAINING ONLY TO NON-COMMUNIST OATH, ETC., INADEQUATE. HAS REQUESTED PHOTOSTATS OF ALL DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED BY VAGO IN CONNECTION WITH GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT.

RECORDED - 58  
SCHEIDT

1101-1988-35  
SEP 26 1950  
37

TWO COPIES WFO  
HLD PLS

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/25/87 BY 3042 RUC/ML FIVE

51 OCT 4 1950

Tham D 16 SL

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

R.B.H.  
FROM : SAC, LOS ANGELES

DATE: September 25, 1950

SUBJECT: OSCAR JOHN VAGO, wa.  
ESPIONAGE - R

39208

Re New York teletype September 21, 1950.

Mr. S. COGGEN, General Manager, Davidson Brick Company, 4701 Floral Drive, Los Angeles, advised that he received a letter from subject instant date, stating, kindly send me a copy of your publication entitled Steeltyd Brick Masonry, and signed OSCAR VAGO. The letter contained no other information and no indication of subject planning to leave the country.

COGGEN advised this publication has been recommended by ALA and that it has to do with structural quality of brick and brick engineering. He advised that they received requests for this book from people all over the country and if a person requesting it seems to be one who has need for the publication, and if the party resides outside of California, he notifies them that upon remittance of \$1.50 he will send them the publication. COGGEN stated this booklet contains no restrictive literature and that any qualified engineer could figure the structural formulas.

COGGEN caused record search to be made of the correspondence file and advised no prior correspondence with the subject.

RUC.

AMSD  
WJW:bla  
65-5125  
cc: New York (AMSD)

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DATE 2/25/87 BY 3042 PWT/elm

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101-1988-36  
SEP 27 1950

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RECEIVED



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

SEP 21 1950

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Ladd	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

WASHINGTON FROM NEW YORK 41 21 9-15P  
DIRECTOR URGENT

OSCAR JOHN VAGO, ESP - R. REBUTEL SEPT. NINETEEN LAST. JACK R. MILLER  
BORN AUG. SEVEN, NINETEEN TEN, CHICAGO, ILL., RESIDES THREE <sup>3</sup> <sup>4</sup> <sup>6</sup> <sup>4</sup> FOUR SIX  
FOUR KNOX PLACE, BRONX, NY. PRESENTLY CONSULTING ENGINEER AT ELEVEN  
WEST FORTYSECOND ST., NYC, WITH PARTNER CHARLES ~~RAMSEYER~~. MILLER CHIEF  
OF ENGINEER UNIT AT HENRY A. BRASSERT AND CO., SIXTY EAST FOUR TWO  
STREET FROM NINETEEN FORTY FOUR TO FIFTY. INDICES NEGATIVE RE RAMSEYER  
ONE JACK R. ~~MILLER~~, NO ADDRESS, ASSOCIATED WITH VALB. JOHN R. ~~MILLER~~,  
<sup>3</sup> <sup>6</sup> <sup>8</sup> THREE NAUGHT EIGHT WEST ONE TWO EIGHT STREET SIGNED CP NOMINATING  
PETITION NINETEEN FORTY NINE. NOT KNOWN IF IDENTICAL IN VIEW OF  
GOLD-S STATEMENT THAT MILLER IS NOW ANTI-COMMUNIST INTERVIEW RECOMMEN-  
DED.

SCHEIDT

56 OCT 3 1950

EX-16

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DATE 2/25/87 BY 3042 PWT

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

CC-150 *6*

To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

39207

Transmit the following message SEPTEMBER 22, 1950

URGENT

SAC, NEW YORK

OSCAR JOHN VACO, ESP DASH R. REURTEL SEPTEMBER TWENTY ONE, LAST. PURSUANT TO YOUR RECOMMENDATION, YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO CONDUCT IMMEDIATE INTERVIEW WITH JACK R. MILLER.

HOOVER

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/25/87 BY 3042 GUT/elm

KFE: Jan

RECORDED - 6 101-1988-37

EX-16

NOTE: No security files on Jack R. Miller located at Bureau.

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456 MAR 8 1961

6 OCT 3 1950

VT VIA

Per *6*

SEP 22 7 02 PM '50  
RECEIVED READING ROOM  
FBI  
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: September 26, 1950

FROM : *HA* SAC, MiamiSUBJECT: OSCAR JOHN VAGO, wa.  
Oszkar John Vago  
ESPIONAGE - RG. I. R. - 1 *Q1*

Relet, New York to Bureau, dated September 20, 1950, requesting photograph of subject be exhibited to PAUL CROUCH.

Files, this office, indicate CROUCH will be in Los Angeles between September 15 and October 1, 1950.

Los Angeles requested to handle.

RUC.

HRA:hw  
65-0

1 cc: New York(100-55242)

2 ccs:Los Angeles (AMSD)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/26/87 BY 3042 ADT/kbn

RECORDED - 129

101-1988-38  
SEP 28 1950

12

EX-13

E. A. M. H.  
ONE

59 OCT 4 1950

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

SEP 26 1950

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Ladd	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

WASH 2, NYC 1 FROM CHICAGO

26

9-05 AM

DIRECTOR AND SAC

DEFERRED

OSCAR JOHN VAGO, WA. ESPIONAGE R. RE NEW YORK TELETYPE SEPTEMBER  
TWENTY-ONE LAST. LETTERS WRITTEN BY SUBJECT TO U. S. GYPSUM  
COMPANY AND CECO STEEL COMPANY LOCATED. SUBJECT-S LETTER TO  
CRANE COMPANY NOT LOCATED. NO REFERENCE IN LETTERS INDICATING  
SUBJECT LEAVING COUNTRY. INFORMATION HE REQUESTED NOT RESTRICTED.  
REPORT FOLLOWS.

INDEXED - 129

SWAIN  
6 OCT 9 1950  
END ACK PLS

RECORDED - 129

110-1986-39  
SEP 28 1950

CG R 2 WA WJR ALSO RELAY WA

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DATE 2/26/87 BY 3042 PAX

Trans to NYC

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

SEP 27 1950

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/26/87 BY 3042 JMT/DM

TELETYPE

WASHINGTON 74 FROM NEW YORK

27

945 P

DIRECTOR

U R G E N T

G. I. R. 1

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Mohr	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

OSCAR JOHN VAGO, WA, ESP - R. ON SEPT TWENTY-SIX LAST INVES AT WHITE CONSTRUCTION CO., NY, DISCLOSED THAT VAGO WORKED THERE CONTINUOUSLY FROM OCT TWENTY-NINE, TWENTY-EIGHT, TO DEC THREE, THIRTY-TWO, AND THAT HE DIDN-T LEAVE THE US DURING THAT PERIOD IN CONNECTION WITH WORK. ABOVE INFO GIVEN TO SAAG DONEGAN FOR UTILIZATION IN CONNECTION WITH APPEARANCE OF VAGO BEFORE GRAND JURY TODAY. A CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE HAS ADVISED THAT ON SEPT TWENTY LAST VAGO TESTIFIED BEFORE THE GRAND JURY THAT HE LEFT US IN TWENTY-NINE FOR HUNGARY AND REMAINED THERE UNTIL THIRTY-THREE. ALSO TESTIFIED THAT HIS WIFE DID NOT ACCOMPANY HIM ON THE TRIP BUT JOINED HIM THERE IN THIRTY-TWO. SAME SOURCE ADVISES THAT ON THIS DATE VAGO INFORMED GRAND JURY AT THE OUTSET OF HIS TESTIMONY AND BEFORE ANY QUESTIONING THAT HE WISHED TO MAKE AN AMENDMENT. HE WAS ADVISED BY DONEGAN THAT HE WAS FIRST TO ANSWER QUESTIONS PUT TO HIM AND THAT HE COULD MAKE A STATEMENT LATER TO THE GJ IF THE AMENDMENT WAS NOT COVERED IN THE QUESTIONING. UNDER QUESTIONING VAGO ADMITTED TO THE GRAND JURY THAT HE WAS ACTUALLY OUT OF US ONLY FROM DEC THIRTY-TWO TO JAN TWELVE, THIRTY-THREE, AND THAT HE TESTIFIED FALSELY ON SEPT TWENTY LAST. INTERPOSED STATEMENT AT THAT POINT THAT THIS WAS WHAT HIS AMENDMENT WAS TO HAVE COVERED. ALSO ADMITTED THAT HIS

51 OCT 10 1950

RECORDED - 71

END PAGE ONE

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456 MAR 9 1961

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OCT 18 1950

FILE 12

PAGE TWO

WIFE ACCOMPANIED HIM ON THE TRIP AND THAT HIS TESTIMONY OF SEPT TWENTY LAST PERTAINING TO HER WAS ALSO FALSE. GJ VOTED TRUE BILL ON PERJURY CHARGE. TENTATIVE INDICTMENT LISTS ABOVE TWO COUNTS. INDICTMENT WILL BE HANDED DOWN ON SEPT TWENTY-EIGHT NEXT AND NYO HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO SERVE EXPECTED BENCH WARRANT ON VAGO SAME DATE. NYO WILL SERVE WARRANT UACB. NO PRESS RELEASE RECOMMENDED SINCE INDICTMEN BASED ON TESTIMONY BEFORE GJ. NYO WILL CONFIRM ARREST.

SCHEIDT

HLD PLS

*cc: Mr Belmont*



## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. D. M. LADD

DATE: September 28, 1950

FROM : MR. A. H. BELMONT

SUBJECT: OSCAR JOHN VAGO  
ESPIONAGE - R  
PERJURY

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

At 1:55 P.M., ASAC Whelan of New York called to advise that Vago had been picked up by Agents on the street during his lunch hour at 18 East 48th Street, New York City, and was being brought into the office.

At 4:40 P.M. Supervisor Granville advised that Vago had been arraigned before U. S. Commissioner Edward McDonald, SDNY, and held on \$50,000 bail. His attorney did not show up at the arraignment and McDonald stated that if the attorney can present good reason why the bail should be reduced, he will consider the reasons. Mr. Saypol argued for the Government and stated that this was connected with the activities of the Brothman case and it was his experience that some of the defendants in this case had fled. Consequently, he argued for \$50,000 bail.

Vago will be brought before a U. S. District Judge on Monday, October 2, 1950, to plead to the indictment.

Mr. Granville advised that Vago would not talk to the Agents and refused to give a waiver of search, stating that he had nothing in his home.

The New York Office is giving out photographs of Vago and is answering press inquiries as to the arrest and Vago's background, but statements to the press as to the charges against him are being made by USA Saypol.

AHB:mer

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/26/87 BY 3042 PW/TCM

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OCT 4 1950

5

FIVE

OCT 7 1950

214 916  
700 p.m.

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

SEP 26 1950

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Ladd	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

WASH 6 AND NYC 2 FROM ST. LOUIS 26 5-26 PM

DIRECTOR AND SAC..... U R G E N T

OSCAR JOHN VAGO, WA., ESP - R. RE NYC TEL SEPT. TWENTYTWO, FIFTY. PHOTO  
STATS OF AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS CONTAINED IN CIVILIAN PERSONNEL FILE BEING  
FORWARDED TO NYC AMSD THIS DATE.

NORRIS

END  
44

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/26/87 BY 3042 PWT/clm

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EX-16  
101-1788-42  
OCT 3 1950  
12

SL R6 AND RELAY TO NYC WA SMS

63 OCT 9 1950

Man of Type  
6/2/50

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. LADD

FROM : A. H. BELMONT

SUBJECT: OSCAR JOHN VAGO  
ESPIONAGE-R.  
PERJURY

DATE: September 28, 1950

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 11/26/87 BY 3042 PWT/jcm

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

On the evening of September 27, 1950, ASAC Whelan of New York advised that investigation had reflected that Vago had made a false statement before the Federal Grand Jury in New York concerning an alleged trip to Europe in 1932. This information was furnished to Mr. Donegan, who is handling the Grand Jury.

On the morning of September 27, 1950, Vago was again called before the Grand Jury. He advised he wanted to amend part of his testimony. However, Donegan refused to let him do so prior to certain questions which concerned this trip to Europe. As a result of questioning, Vago admitted giving false testimony but stated he had meant to amend his testimony and was going to do so had he been allowed to submit his amendments before he was questioned.

Mr. Whelan advised the Grand Jury is going to return an indictment on the morning of September 28, 1950, charging Vago with perjury. He advised that New York Agents had been requested to pick up Vago when the indictment is returned based on a bench warrant. Mr. Whelan was advised that he should make the apprehension in accordance with the request, inasmuch as Vago is a possible subject in connection with the Abraham Brothman case. He was advised that this would give us an opportunity to further question Vago and possibly Vago might furnish information in his possession. Inasmuch as the arrest will be made on the perjury charge based on the indictment, it was not believed that a press release should be made by the Bureau but rather that the New York Office should restrict itself to confirming the arrest upon press inquiry.

A memorandum has been submitted on September 27, 1950, reflecting the background of Vago and the contemplated action by the Grand Jury. E

On the morning of September 28, 1950, Mr. Granville, of New York, called to advise that Mr. Donegan has suggested that a sealed indictment be returned against Vago in order to give the Agents an opportunity to pick him up before publicity. I agreed that this was desirable. Mr. Granville then advised that the question had come up as to whether the Agents should wait until Vago returned to his home from work before apprehending him on the basis that they

63 OCT 9 1950

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1101-1988-43  
OCT 8 1950  
34

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

could make a search incidental to arrest. I advised Mr. Granville that this would be undesirable because we would be delaying the arrest unnecessarily after the return of the indictment, and more important, since any search conducted would probably be considered exploratory, inasmuch as the basis for the arrest is a simple perjury charge before the Grand Jury and is not connected with espionage. I suggested that Vago be picked up at his place of employment and the Agents question him and possibly he would open up and give us information concerning Brothman and his activities. If Vago gives a waiver of search, we will then be on safe ground to go out and search his home.

I advised Mr. McGuire, of the Records and Communications Division, concerning the background of this case and he agreed that we should make no press release but should answer inquiries from the press by confirming the arrest.

ACTION:

None. The New York Office has been instructed to keep us advised of developments.

**ROUTING SLIP**

FD-4  
(2-17-47)  
194

Date 9/27/50

Memo To: Inspector Belmont

SAC [Signature] Title: OSCAR JOHN VAGO  
 ASAC [Signature] wa.  
 Supervisor [Signature] Espionage - R  
 Agent [Signature] N. Y. file 100-55242  
 Steno \_\_\_\_\_  
 Clerk \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief Clerk \_\_\_\_\_ BuFile No. 101-1988

**ACTION DESIRED**

☐ Assign to \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Open Case  
☐ Acknowledge \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Prepare assignment cards  
☐ Bring File \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Prepare Tickler  
☐ Call Me \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Reassign to \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ See Me \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Recharge serials  
☐ Correct \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Search and Return  
☐ Delinquent \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Send serials \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Expedite \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ File \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Submit new charge-out  
☐ Leads need attention \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Submit report by \_\_\_\_\_  
☒ ENCLOSURE ATTACHED ☐ Type \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Underdeveloped leads in your district awaiting attention. ☐ Return Serials \_\_\_\_\_

Attached is a copy of the Grand Jury minutes,  
 pps. 9814 - 9828 inc., covering VAGO'S testimony on  
 9/27/50.  
 This copy was obtained on a confidential basis and  
 is not to be disseminated.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 9/26/87 BY 3042 RWT/CAT  
 S.A.C. SCHEIDT  
 Office \_\_\_\_\_

(In intra office use return this with notation as to action  
 taken or explanation.)

*File*  
*[Signature]*  
*H*

EX-29

101-1988-44  
 OCT 5 1950  
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*enclosure*  
*(fine)*

10 1950



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DATE 2/26/87 BY 3042 RBT/clm



ENCLOSURE



01-1988-44

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET15

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- ☒ Deleted under exemption(s) b3 with no segregable material available for release to you.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☐ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

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☐ For your information:

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

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X FOR THIS PAGE X  
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ROUTING SLIP

FD-4

(2-17-47)

Date 9/27/50

194

Memo To: INSPECTOR MONT

SAC

Title: OSCAR JOHN VAGO, Was

ASAC

ESPIONAGE - R

Supervisor

NY 100-55242

Agent

Steno

Clerk

Chief Clerk

Bureau File No. 101-1988

ACTION DESIRED

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assign to  | <input type="checkbox"/> Open Case                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledge  | <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare assignment cards |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bring File   | <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare Tickler          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Call Me  | <input type="checkbox"/> Reassign to              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> See Me   | <input type="checkbox"/> Recharge serials         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Correct  | <input type="checkbox"/> Search and Return        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Delinquent   | <input type="checkbox"/> Send serials             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Expedite   | <input type="checkbox"/> to                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> File   | <input type="checkbox"/> Submit new charge-out    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leads need attention                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Submit report by         |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Type                     |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Return Serials           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Undeveloped leads in your district awaiting attention. |   |

Enclosed herewith are Grand Jury Minutes, pages 9796 to 9813 inclusive, covering VAGO'S testimony on 9/20/50.

ENCLOSURE ATTACHED

These minutes were obtained on a confidential basis and are not to be disseminated.

EX-29

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/26/81 BY 302 RST/km

S.A.C. Edward Scheidt  
Office NY

EX-29

101-1988-  
OCT 5 1950  
14 RECORDED

(In intra office use return this with notation as to action taken or explanation.)

NO OCT 10 1950

FILE  
ONE

ENCLOSURE TO DIRECTOR  
FOR THE FBI

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 1/1/87 BY SP4 RUT/clm

ENCLOSURE

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET18

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

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

☐ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

\_\_\_\_\_ Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

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

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X NO DUPLICATION FEE X  
X FOR THIS PAGE X  
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## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. D. M. Ladd  
 FROM : A. H. Belmont  
 SUBJECT: OSCAR JOHN VAGO  
 ESPIONAGE - R

DATE: September 27, 1950

Classified by 2/26/82  
 Declassify on: OADR

Tolson  
 Ladd  
 Clegg  
 Glavin  
 Nichols  
 Rosen  
 Tracy  
 Harbo  
 Belmont  
 Mohr  
 Tele. Room  
 Nease  
 Gandy

PURPOSE:

To furnish you with the information that the Federal Grand Jury in New York City has voted a True Bill against Vago and it is contemplated that the indictment will be returned on September 28, 1950, charging Vago with perjury.

DETAILS:

You will recall that by memorandum dated September 12, 1950, Assistant Attorney General James M. McInerney was furnished a memorandum concerning Oscar John Vago. This memorandum pointed out Vago's associations with Abraham Brothman who, according to Harry Gold, a confessed Soviet agent, had furnished information to Gold for transmission to the Soviets. It was pointed out that information had been received by the Bureau through a confidential source [REDACTED]

Mr. McInerney was advised that the information available to the Bureau concerning Vago was being turned over to the United States Attorney in the Southern District of New York on the possibility that he might desire to interrogate Vago before the Federal Grand Jury in the Southern District of New York.

The New York Office has advised today that Vago at the time of his appearance before the Federal Grand Jury in New York on September 20, 1950, made the statement that he had left the United States in 1929 and did not return to this country until 1933. Upon being interrogated again today before the same Grand Jury, Vago made the statement that he had been working continuously for the White Construction Company, General Contractors, 95 Madison Avenue, New York City, between 1926 and 1932. He also testified that he remained in this country continuously during that period and admitted that he had testified falsely concerning this matter before the Grand Jury on a previous occasion.

It might be noted that since September 11, 1950, a complete physical surveillance has been conducted and an investigation has been made as to the activities of Vago. As a result of the investigation, it

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EFE:jam  
 101-1988

Classified by 2835  
 Exempt from GDS Category 2+2  
 Date of 10/1/82

RECORDED - 36

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EX-15

OCT 5 1950

SECRET

58 OCT 7 1950

~~SECRET~~

was determined on the evening of September 26, 1950, through interviews with various persons at the White Construction Company in New York City that the statement made by Vago before the Grand Jury as to his being out of the country from 1929 to 1933 was false in view of the fact that he had been working continuously for that company during that same period. The results of the inquiries made at the White Construction Company were furnished to Special Assistant to the Attorney General Thomas Donegan this morning prior to his interrogation of Vago before the Federal Grand Jury and resulted in Vago's admission of perjurious testimony before that body. (u)

According to the New York Office, confidential advice has been received from Mr. Donegan that the Federal Grand Jury has voted a True Bill against Vago on the basis of this perjury. He has indicated that an indictment is presently being drawn and it is contemplated that same will be officially returned on tomorrow's date. In connection with the preparation of this indictment, Mr. Donegan has mentioned that a second count may be added by reason of Vago's previous testimony that his wife, Claire Vago, had not accompanied him on this trip to Europe whereas today he testified that she did accompany him on a 30-day trip which he made to Europe in December, 1932. (u)

For your information, Vago recently came to the attention of the Bureau in connection with the Gold case by reason of his having been a partner of Abraham Brothman during the period that Brothman was engaged in furnishing information to Harry Gold for transmission to the Soviets. In May, 1947, when Brothman had received a subpoena to appear before the Federal Grand Jury in New York City Gold stated that Brothman first told him in the presence of Miriam Moskowitz, Vago and several other members of his firm that he intended to tell the truth to the Federal Grand Jury. According to Gold, both he and Moskowitz thereupon endeavored to dissuade Brothman from taking such action. (100-365040; Brothman brief, page 13) (u)

Later when Gold informed Brothman that he had received a Red Star for his espionage efforts on behalf of the Soviets Brothman, according to Gold, advised some of his employees that he, Brothman, had received such an award. In December, 1949, Vago inquired of Gold whether it was true that Brothman had received a Red Star from the Soviets. Gold stated that he advised Vago on this occasion that at some time the true story would come out. During this conversation with Vago, Vago made mention of the fact that Brothman had informed him that his, Brothman's, work for the Russians had been worth the work of one or two brigades of men. With respect to this statement of Brothman's, Gold advised that he recalled



Semen Semenov, a known Soviet espionage agent, at the time of the Hotel Lincoln meeting, advised Brothman that his work was equal to the efforts of one or two brigades of men. (100-365040; Brothman brief, page 14) (u)

Vago has been interviewed on several occasions and has denied any knowledge of Brothman's and Gold's espionage activities. On the date of his last interview he denied making any of the statements attributed to him by Gold and denied being present in the office of A. Brothman and Associates when any discussion took place concerning Brothman's intended testimony before the Federal Grand Jury. (Ibid, Brothman brief, page 22) (u)

Oscar John Vago was born in Budapest, Hungary, on February 27, 1898. He came to the United States in 1924 and was naturalized as a United States citizen in the Southern District of New York on September 29, 1938. He married Claire Weissman in Long Island City, New York, on May 31, 1928. Vago resided in Washington, D. C., from 1938 to June 26, 1941, during which period he was employed by the Federal Building Administration, the Procurement Division of the Treasury Department and the War Department at Fort Myers, Virginia. (u)

While in Washington, D. C., Vago was a member of the Washington Bookshop, the Washington Committee for Democratic Action and the American League for Peace and Democracy. (61-7582-1298)

Vago moved back to New York City in 1941 and became a partner in A. Brothman and Associates in August, 1944. (65-58805-1153)

In May, 1944, Vago was a member of the Executive Committee at Large of the Rego Park Club of the CPA and in July, 1944, he was elected to the Queens County Council of the CPA. He was listed as President of the Trylon Club, Ridgewood Section, Queens County Communist Party, in June, 1949. (100-3-4-3938, page 5; 100-3-4-4498, page 18; 100-3-4-6723, page 17) (u)

Vago resides with his wife and 12 year old son John Paul Vago at 66-07 99th Street, Rego Park, New York. (u)

[REDACTED]

~~SECRET~~

Vago at the time of his previous interviews has denied that he was engaged in any espionage activities. He has, however, not been interrogated since the receipt of the aforementioned confidential information [REDACTED] (u) b7D

RECOMMENDATION

The above is being furnished to you for your information as to the background and recent developments in connection with this matter. It is recommended that at such time as the indictment is returned, Vago's arrest be made by Agents of the Bureau in order that they might question him concerning his knowledge of or participation in espionage activities. (u)

*Yes.  
2/28/50  
Handled by NY  
advised  
Q*

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~



Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
 Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
 Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
 Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
 Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
 Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

*Ladd*

## New Yorker Held In Atomic Probe

NEW YORK, Sept. 28 (AP). Hungarian-born Oscar J. Vago, 52, of New York, described as an acquaintance of Harry Gold, confessed atom spy for Russia, was arrested today and charged with perjury. The move was in connection with a grand jury investigation of espionage.

Vago was the 10th person arrested in connection with alleged threats to America's atom bomb security.

U. S. attorney Irving Saypol said Vago was formerly a partner of Abraham Brothman, 36-year-old Cliffwood (N.J.) chemical manufacturer.

Brothman and Miriam Moskowitz, 34, a principal stockholder in Brothman's firm, are awaiting trial on charges of conspiracy to obstruct justice during the grand jury's espionage probe.

G.I.R. 2-10-1

1101-1988-A

82 OCT 3 1950

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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 DATE 2/26/87 BY 3042 P/T/oh

Page

Times-Herald 2  
 5-Star Edition  
 Wash. Post \_\_\_\_\_

Wash. News \_\_\_\_\_

Wash. Star \_\_\_\_\_

N.Y. Mirror \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 9-29-50

52 OCT 10 1950

*File*  
*FILE*

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

*Emm*

*10-1*

## New Yorker Held In Atomic Probe

Gold's Former Boss  
Charged With Perjury

NEW YORK, Sept. 30 (AP). Hungarian-born Oscar J. Vago, 52, of New York, described as an acquaintance of Harry Gold, confessed atom spy for Russia, was arrested today and charged with perjury. The move was in connection with a grand jury investigation of espionage.

Vago was the 10th person arrested in connection with alleged threats to America's atom bomb security.

U. S. attorney Irving Saypol said Vago was formerly a partner of Abraham Brothman, 36-year-old Cliffwood (N.J.) chemical manufacturer.

Brothman and Miriam Moskowitz, 34, a principal stockholder in Brothman's firm, are awaiting trial on charges of conspiracy to obstruct justice during the grand jury's espionage probe.

Saypol said that when Vago was Brothman's partner, Gold was employed by the firm. Vago was arrested by FBI agents in Manhattan after an indictment was handed up earlier in the day.

101-1988-A  
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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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 DATE 21-26-187 BY 3042 RUTELM

52 OCT 10 1950

Page 1  
 Times-Herald \_\_\_\_\_  
 Wash. Post \_\_\_\_\_  
 Wash. News \_\_\_\_\_  
 Wash. Star \_\_\_\_\_  
 N.Y. Mirror \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 9-24-50

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI  
 FROM : SAC, Pittsburgh

DATE: October 2, 1950

SUBJECT: OSCAR JOHN VAGO, wa.  
 ESPIONAGE - R

Re New York teletype, 9/21/50. (u)

Mr. A. C. GRAFFLIN, Vice President and General Manager, of the Cemenstone Corporation, Neville Island, Pittsburgh, Pa., advised on September 25, 1950, that the Cemenstone Corporation has developed a method of pre-cast fireproof concrete - steel construction. He further advised that his company is not working on any contracts that are vital to the Security of the United States. (u)

Mr. GRAFFLIN made available a letter dated September 18, 1950, addressed to the Cemenstone Corporation from the subject. The letter read as follows: "Kindly send me a copy of your catalog of latest edition. Thank you." the letter was signed OSCAR J. VAGO. The return address on this letter was the same as that set out in retel. (u)

Mr. GRAFFLIN made available his answer to the subject's letter. This letter was dated September 21, 1950, and informed the subject that a brochure of the Cemenstone Corporation was being forwarded him. The letter pointed out that this brochure was the same brochure as was distributed for the Cemenstone Corporation through Sweet's Catalog. The subject was requested to advise as to what specifically he had in mind concerning products of the Cemenstone Corporation so that the organization might be of more service to him. (u)

According to Mr. GRAFFLIN, the above mentioned letter was the only letter from the subject that the Cemenstone Corporation has received. He stated that should VAGO ever contact or correspond with the Cemenstone Corporation in the future he would advise the Pittsburgh Office. (u)

cc: New York

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 2/26/81 BY 3042 PWT/elm

65-1104  
 LHM: MJH

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100-1988-47  
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9-29-50  
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

SEP 28 1950

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Clegg	✓
Mr. Glavin	✓
Mr. Nichols	✓
Mr. Rosen	✓
Mr. Tracy	✓
Mr. Harbo	✓
Mr. Belmont	✓
Mr. Mohr	✓
Tele. Room	✓
Mr. Nease	✓
Miss Gandy	✓

WASHINGTON FROM NEW YORK 103 28 1130 P  
DIRECTOR URGENT

Enrich  
47-1  
1021

OSCAR JOHN VAGO, WAS. ESP - R. INDICTMENT CHARGING VIOLATION OF  
TITLE EIGHTEEN, SECTION ONE SIX TWO ONE, US CODE, HANDED DOWN THIS  
DATE AND BENCH WARRANT ISSUED. VAGO ARRESTED ONE FORTY FIVE PM  
TODAY ON STREET AT EIGHTEEN EAST FORTY EIGHT ST. WHILE RETURNING TO  
WORK FROM LUNCH. BROUGHT IMMEDIATELY TO NYO BUT ASKED FOR ATTORNEY  
AT ONCE AND REFUSED TO ANSWER QUESTIONS OR TO GIVE WAIVER OF SEARCH.  
VAGO PERMITTED TO CONTACT ATTORNEY. ADMITTED AT TIME OF FINGERPRINT-  
ING THAT HE USED NAME JOHN MURAY AT WHITE CONSTRUCTION CO. FROM NINE-  
TEEN TWENTY SIX TO TWENTY EIGHT. ARRAIGNED BEFORE USC EDWARD  
MC DONALD, SDNY, FOR PURPOSE OF BAIL. BAIL SET AT FIFTY THOUSAND  
DOLLARS. HEARING IN FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT TO PLEAD TO INDICTMENT  
SET FOR OCT. TWO NEXT.

RECORDED - 58  
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104-1987  
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OCT 3 1950  
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HOLD PHS

68 OCT 9 1950

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/2/87 BY 3017

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

FROM : GUY HOTTEL, SAC, Washington Field

SUBJECT: OSCAR JOHN VAGO, wa  
ESPIONAGE - R  
(Bufile 101-1988)

DATE: October 4, 1950

G. I. R. - 1

ps 10-1

Please be advised that the Army G-2 files have a reference to the name OSCAR J. VAGO, which appears on a list prepared by the F. B. I. containing names of the underground Soviet espionage organization (NKVD) in the agencies of the U. S. Government. The information appears in the G-2 files in the form of a source of information sheet which contains the name of VAGO, as mentioned above. Additional information concerning VAGO was not in the G-2 files with respect to the NKVD.

The G-2 files also contain a letter from the Bureau dated September 20, 1941, directed to Brigadier General SHERMAN MILES, G-2, informing that the Bureau had received the information from a highly confidential source to the effect that the name OSCAR VAGO, said to be an employee in the Quartermaster General's Office, War Department, had appeared in the active indices of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action and in the indices of the American League for Peace and Democracy.

The Bureau is requested to check its files for any information indicating OSCAR J. VAGO is or was a member of the NKVD.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/18/87 BY 3042 Rtk

RECORDED - 113  
EX-100

OCT 5 1950

HWB:cl  
65-5598

CC - New York (100-55242)

Let to WF-0  
cc - NY  
10/19/50  
EFE:Ror

SAC, WASHINGTON FIELD

October 19, 1950

DIRECTOR, FBI

OSCAR JOHN VAGO, wa.  
ESPIONAGE - R  
(Washington Field File 65-5598)

Reference is made to your letter of October 4, 1950, which sets forth the results of a check made by your office of Army G-2 files with reference to Oscar J. Vago.

It is noted that you state in your communication that the G-2 files reflected that Vago's name appeared on a list of names of the underground Soviet espionage organization (NKVD) in the agencies of the United States Government. You requested that a check be made of the Bureau files for the basis of the information appearing at G-2 indicating that Vago is or was a member of the NKVD.

On the basis of the information appearing in your communication, a check has been made of the file in the case entitled "Nathan Gregory Silvermaster, was. et al, Espionage - R," which investigation, as you are aware, covers the activities of various persons associated with United States Government agencies who were indicated as being associated with the underground Soviet espionage organization (NKVD). From a review of this file, it is noted that on March 7, 1946, a copy of the summary memorandum dated February 21, 1946, and entitled "Underground Soviet Espionage Organization (NKVD) in Agencies of the United States Government," was furnished to the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2. While the name of Vago does not appear in this summary as one of the principal subjects, it is noted that on page 158 thereof, his name is reflected therein as a member of the Communist Party in Queens, New York City, and a partner in the firm of A. Brothman and Associates. It is considered that the list of names appearing in G-2 files, which contained the name of Oscar J. Vago, was undoubtedly prepared by G-2 on the basis of information appearing in this summary memorandum.

With regard to the information appearing in the paragraph of referenced letter, it was noted that same was furnished to G-2 by Bureau letter dated September 20, 1941.

(101-1988-2)

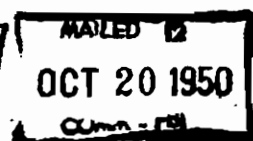
cc New York (100-55242)

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
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Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
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Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

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52 OCT 27 1950

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/28/87 BY 3042 RST/clm

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

OCT 2 1950

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Nease  
Mr. Gandy

WASHINGTON 12 AND NY 3 FROM PHILADELPHIA 10-2-50

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

DIRECTOR AND SAC.. U R G E N T

REIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 11/18/86 BY SP7/clm 8/18/87

OSCAR JOHN VAGO, WAS., ESP. R. RE NY TEL SEPT. TWENTYNINE LAST.

GOLD IN INTERVIEW CONDUCTED TODAY FURNISHED FOLLOWING SIGNED STATE

MENT RE HIS KNOWLEDGE AND ASSOCIATIONS WITH VAGO - QUOTE, I, HARRY

GOLD, MAKE THE FOLLOWING VOLUNTARY STATEMENT TO ROBERT G. JENSEN

AND RALPH J. T. CARTER, JR., WHO HAVE IDENTIFIED THEMSELVES TO

ME AS SPECIAL AGENTS OF THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION.

THREATS OR PROMISES HAVE BEEN MADE TO ME AND I KNOW THAT ANY  
STATEMENT I MAKE CAN BE USED AGAINST ME IN A COURT OF LAW.

I HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF MY RIGHT OF COUNSEL AND I KNOW THAT I DO NOT  
HAVE TO MAKE ANY STATEMENT AT ALL. I FIRST HEARD OF OSCAR JOHN

VAGO IN NINETEEN FORTYTHREE FROM ABRAHAM BROTHMAN, WHO WAS AT THAT  
TIME FURNISHING ME WITH TECHNICAL INFORMATION FOR TRANSMITTAL TO

THE SOVIET UNION. BROTHMAN AT THIS TIME WANTED ME TO GET FINANCIAL

ASSISTANCE FOR HIM FROM SEMEN M. SEMENOV SO THAT HE, BROTHMAN,

COULD HIRE OSCAR JOHN VAGO AND JACK MILLER. VAGO AND MILLER

WERE TO WORK FOR HENRY GOLWYNNE OR RATHER THE CHEMURGY DESIGN CORP.

BROTHMAN WAS A PARTNER WITH ART WEBER AND HENRY GOLWYNNE IN THIS FIRM.

SEMENOV WAS MY RUSSIAN ESPIONAGE SUPERIOR AT THIS TIME. I INFORMED

HIM OF BROTHMAN-S REQUEST WHICH HE REJECTED RATHER VIOLENTLY.

VAGO AND MILLER HAD BEEN DESCRIBED, BY BROTHMAN, TO ME AS SINCERE

END PG ONE

52 OCT 10 1950

RECORDED - 17

INDEXED - 17

OCT 4 1950

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B

FILE



PG TWO

AND CONVINCED COMMUNISTS WHO COULD FORM THE NUCLEUS OF A LATER  
DEVELOPMENT OF A. BROTHMAN ORGANIZATION. THIS ORGANIZATION TO  
PRODUCE AND DESIGN CHEMICAL PROCESSES FOR THE SOVIET UNION.

THIS VENTURE OF BROTHMAN-S WAS ALL TO BE BACKED BY AMTORG OR  
RUSSIAN MONEY. I FIRST MET VAGO IN MAY OF NINETEEN FORTYSIX ON  
THE MORNING I CAME TO WORK FOR A. BROTHMAN ASSOCIATES. HE WAS A  
PARTNER IN THIS FIRM AND WAS ALSO A DESIGN ENGINEER AND THE CHIEF  
DRAFTSMAN. MANY TIMES IN THE ENSUING MONTHS, VAGO WOULD SPEND  
A GREAT DEAL OF TIME IN THE OFFICE ON THIRTYSECOND STREET IN  
DISCUSSING SUCH MATTERS AS WHAT HAD GONE IN HIS OWN PARTICULAR  
"COMMUNIST PARTY CLUB" THE NIGHT BEFORE. HE WOULD ALSO DWELL  
AT SOME LENGTH ON NEWS ITEMS AND EDITORIALS IN THE NEW YORK HERALD  
TRIBUNE AND WOULD EXPOSTULATE ABOUT THE PERFDY OF THE CAPITALIST  
PRESS IN GENERAL. LATER WHEN THE DESIGN OFFICES HAD BEEN MOVED TO  
THE CHATHAN - PHENIX BUILDING IN LONG ISLAND CITY, ON ONE OCCASION  
BROTHMAN BECAME UPSET FOR WE WERE DELAYED IN COMPLETING A REPORT  
FOR THE METTUR CHEMICAL COMPANY OF INDIA, BECAUSE OSCAR VAGO  
WAS AT THAT VERY MOMENT BUSY SELLING A SPECIAL EDITION OF THE  
DAILY WORKER IN QUEENS PLAZA. ON AT LEAST ONE OTHER OCCASION,  
VAGO TOLD ME OF HAVING SOLD THE DAILY WORKER IN BOTH HIS HOME  
NEIGHBORHOOD REGO PARK AND NEARBY QUEENS VILLAGE. SOMETIME IN  
THE SPRING OF NINETEEN FORTYEIGHT, A MIMEOGRAPHED SERIES OF PAMPHLETS  
CRITICISING THE POLICIES OF THE NATIONAL LEADERS OF THE AMERICAN  
COMMUNIST PARTY CAME OUT. THESE PAMPHLETS WERE ISSUED BY  
END PG TWO

PG THREE

AN INDIVIDUAL WHOSE NAME MAY HAVE BEEN "FRANKLIN". TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, THIS "FRANKLIN" BECAME A LEADER OF A FACTIONALIST GROUP IN HARLEM. ABRAHAM BROTHMAN WAS MUCH TAKEN WITH THE ARGUMENTS PRESENTED BY "FRANKLIN". HE AT ONE TIME ARGUED THESE POINTS BEFORE A COMMUNIST PARTY CLUB IN CHELSEA, WHICH IS A SECTION OF MANHATTAN. A FEW DAYS LATER, WHILE I WAS WORKING AT THE ELMHURST LABORATORIES OF A. BROTHMAN ASSOCIATES, VAGO CALLED AND ASKED ME TO COME TO HIS HOME SOME TWO MILES DISTANT. WHILE AT THE VAGO RESIDENCE, OSCAR STATED HIS BELIEF THAT THE CHELSEA COMMUNISTS HAD BEEN PERFECTLY JUSTIFIED IN EJECTING BROTHMAN FROM THEIR MEETING. VAGO ADDED THAT IN HIS OWN REGO PARK CLUB, BROTHMAN WOULD NOT HAVE SUCCEEDED IN EVEN GETTING A FEW WORDS OF CRITICISM OUT. IN LATE MAY OF NINETEEN FORTYEIGHT, BROTHMAN WENT TO SWITZERLAND TO SELL ONE OF THE FIRM-S PROCESSES TO THE LONZA COMPANY OF THAT COUNTRY. AFTER HE HAD LEFT, WE DISCOVERED THAT BROTHMAN WAS PLANNING TO DEPRIVE THE REST OF HIS ASSOCIATES FROM THEIR FAIR SHARE OF ANY FUTURE INCOME OF A. BROTHMAN ASSOCIATES. ON ONE EVENING IN THE WEEK FOLLOWING BROTHMAN-S DEPARTURE FOR SWITZERLAND, PHIL~~X~~LEVINE AND I WERE AT THE VAGO HOME DISCUSSING WHAT PROCEDURE WE SHOULD BEST FOLLOW TO INSURE THAT OUR INTERESTS IN A.~~X~~BROTHMAN COULD BE PROTECTED. AS WE WERE PREPARING TO LEAVE, I MENTIONED THAT I WAS IN NO POSITION TO BE TOO HARSH WITH BROTHMAN. VAGO THEN ADDED, THAT HE TOO DID NOT WISH TO UNDERGO ANY SCRUTINY BY THE FBI INASMUCH AS THERE WAS AN IRREGULARITY INVOLVED IN HIS LEAVING THE UNITED STATES FOR HUNGARY AFTER HIS FIRST STAY IN AMERICA.

END PG THREE

PG FOUR

HE ELABORATED ON THIS ONLY TO THE EXTENT THAT WHILE THE AUTHORITIES THOUGHT OR BELIEVED HE HAD ACTUALLY LEFT FOR HUNGARY, HE WAS IN REALITY STILL IN THE UNITED STATES. PHIL LEVINE WHO WAS PRESENT DURING THIS ENTIRE CONVERSATION WAS A CO-WORKER OF VAGO AND MINE AT ABRAHAM BROTHMAN ASSOCIATES. THE NEXT TIME THIS MATTER OF IRREGULARITIES IN CONNECTION WITH VAGOS ENTRY INTO THE UNITED STATES CAME UP WAS IN DECEMBER OF NINETEEN FORTYNINE. I WAS IN NEW YORK CITY ON A VISIT TO THE NATIONAL EXPOSITION OF CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES AT THE GRAND CENTRAL PALACE. AT FIVE THIRTY OR SIX PM ON THE EVENING OF THE FIRST FRIDAY IN DEC. NINETEEN FORTYNINE, I CALLED VAGO JUST TO SAY HELLO, BUT OSCAR INSISTED I COME OVER TO HIS HOUSE FOR DINNER AND A TALK. <sup>AT THE END</sup> ~~OF~~ OF SEVERAL HOURS OF CONVERSATION, VAGO AGAIN MENTIONED HIS FEAR OF AN INVESTIGATION CONCERNING THE IRREGULARITIES OF HIS MOVEMENTS IN AND OUT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN THE LATE TWENTIES OR EARLY THIRTIES. THIS WAS THE LAST TIME THAT I SAW OR HEARD FROM OSCAR JOHN VAGO. THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT I, HARRY GOLD, HAVE READ THE ABOVE STATEMENT CONSISTING OF THIS AND FOUR OTHER PAGES. I HAVE PLACED MY INITIALS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PRECEDING FOUR PAGES SIGNIFYING THAT I HAVE READ THOSE PAGES. I HAVE ALSO PLACED MY INITIALS AT THE CORRECTIONS INDICATED ON PAGE TWO AND AGAIN ON PAGE FOUR. THE INFORMATION THAT I HAVE FURNISHED ABOVE IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF. UNQUOTE. PHILA. CURRENTLY PREPARING REPORT IN THIS MATTER.

CORNELIUS

END

WA VMTTTTTT

PH

SMS

NYC EMCG

cc: Mr. Belmont  
cc: Mr. Lamphere

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: October 6, 1950

FROM : GUY HOTTEL, SAC, WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE

SUBJECT: OSCAR JOHN VAGO, wa  
ESPIONAGE - R  
Bufile 101-1988

Transmitted herewith for inclusion in the New York file on instant matter are two photographs of CLAIRE VAGO and three photographs of OSCAR JOHN VAGO obtained from the files of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. The photographs of CLAIRE VAGO were taken in 1925 and 1931. The photographs of OSCAR JOHN VAGO were taken in 1932, 1933, and 1938.

HWB:rlr  
65-5598  
enclosures  
CC: New York (100-55242)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/18/87 BY 3242 RUC

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RECORDED - 27  
INDEXED - 27

101-1988-51  
OCT 8 1950  
37

55 OCT 11 1950

*for*  
*up*

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

92-11735

OCT 2 1950

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Ladd	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

*Handwritten signature*

*10-1*

*Edrich*

G.I.R. 1  
2

WASHINGTON FROM NEW YORK 59

820 P

DIRECTOR URGENT

OSCAR JOHN VAGO, WAS., ESP - R. VAGO-S HEARING TO PLEAD TO INDICT-  
MENT POSTPONED TO OCT. THREE NEXT.

RECORDED - 102

SCHMIDT

OCT 4 1950

HOLD PLS

51 OCT 20 1950

EX-81

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/17/87 BY 3442 PW

101-1988-52

*Handwritten initials*

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CC-158

To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION.

Transmit the following message to OCTOBER 3, 1950

URGENT

SAC, NEW YORK

OSCAR JOHN VAGO, ESP DASH R. RE PHILA TEL OCTOBER TWO, LAST. YOU ARE  
AUTHORIZED TO FURNISH THE INFO APPEARING IN INSTANT TEL AS OBTAINED FROM  
HARRY GOLD TO THE USA, SDNY, FOR HIS ASSISTANCE IN PROSECUTION OF THIS  
CASE.

HOOVER

EFE:jam  
101-1988

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/18/87 BY 3042 BWT

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100-1988-53  
OCT 6 1950

COPIES DESTROYED  
456 MAR 9 1961

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

BUREAU OF  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

OCT 3 1950

TELETYPE

55 OCT 16 1950

SENT VIA

Per

AK

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Belmont  
FROM : Mr. Hennrich  
SUBJECT: OSCAR JOHN VAGO  
PERJURY

DATE: September 29, 1950

Time of call 4:50 P.M.

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

Today Supervisor W. A. Branigan took a call from Mr. Edward Macy, Personnel Officer of the Housing and Home Finance Agency, (code 183, extension 2451). Mr. Macy stated that news releases on the apprehension of Vago indicate that he is a former employee of the Federal Housing Administration. Mr. Macy advised that the records of the FHA disclosed that Vago was never employed by that Agency. Mr. Macy inquired as to the basis for the statement, reportedly appearing in the newspaper, stating that it was possible Vago was employed by a local housing administration.

After checking with Mr. John McGuire and the Records Section, Mr. Macy was telephonically advised that the Bureau had issued no press releases and had furnished no information to the press concerning Vago. He was advised that we had received information that Mr. Irving Saypol, the United States Attorney from the Southern District of New York, had given a statement on the Vago arrest to the press. Mr. Macy indicated satisfaction with the Bureau's reply and also indicated that he would probably check with Mr. Saypol for the basis of the statements that appeared in the press.

## ACTION

For your information.

WAB:EHV

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/13/87 BY 3042 PBT/clm

RECORDED - 123

101-1988-59

OCT 5 1950

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52 OCT 16 1950

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RECEIVED - INFORMATION

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

SEP 29 1950

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Ladd	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

WASH 29 PHILA 3 FROM NEW YORK 29 630 P  
DIRECTOR AND SAC, URGENT

OSCAR JOHN VAGO, WAS, ESP-R. RE PHILA TEL SEPT. FOURTEEN LAST  
CAPTIONED HARRY GOLD, WAS, ESP-R. PHILA REQUESTED TO OBTAIN SIGNED  
STATEMENT FROM GOLD SETTING OUT DETAILS OF INTERVIEW CONCERNING  
VAGO, ESPECIALLY PERTAINING TO CP MEMBERSHIP. FOR INFO PHILA, VAGO  
ENTERED US IN NINETEEN TWENTYFIVE AS STUDENT AND REMAINED ILLEGALLY  
UNTIL LATE NINETEEN THIRTYTWO. AT THAT TIME RETURNED TO HUNGARY  
FOR THREE WEEKS VISIT AND REENTERED US ON JAN. TWELVE, NINETEEN  
THIRTYTHREE. ASCERTAIN IF GOLD-S RECOLLECTION REFRESHED BY ABOVE  
DETAILS RE "IRREGULARITY" MENTIONED IN RETEL. PHILA ALSO REQUESTED TO  
SUBMIT REPT IMMED IN VAGO CASE CONCERNING INTERVIEW WITH GOLD.  
PREPARATION OF PROSECUTIVE SUMMARY RPT CONTEMPLATED IN NYO. UACB  
INFO REFLECTING VAGO-S CP MEMBERSHIP AND OTHER CP CONNECTIONS OBTAINED  
FROM CI ND THREE ZERO ONE WILL NOT BE INCLUDED IN PROSECUTIVE SUMMARY  
IN VIEW OF SOURCE.

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DATE 3/12/87 BY 3042 RU/CLM

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

OCT 3 1950

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Ladd	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

WASHINGTON FROM NEW YORK 60 3 10-23 P

DIRECTOR URGENT

OSCAR JOHN VAGO, WAS, ESPIONAGE - R. HEARING TO PLEAD TO INDICTMENT POSTPONED TODAY TO OCTOBER TEN NEXT IN ORDER TO GIVE VAGO OPPORTUNITY TO SECURE ATTORNEY. MRS. JAMES C. LEWIS, TWO TWO EAST SEVENTY-THIRD STREET, NYC, OF UNKNOWN RELIABILITY, HAS ADVISED THAT NEWSPAPER PHOTOS OF VAGO REMIND HER ONE VAGO WILHELM, A COMMISSAR IN THE COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT OF BELA KUN IN HUNGARY IN NINETEEN NINETEEN, WHO WAS THEN IN HIS LATE TWENTIES. SHE KNEW THE LATTER ONLY THROUGH NEWSPAPER PHOTOS, BUT STATES THAT VAGO STRONGLY RESEMBLES HIM. ADVISED THAT ONE OSCAR JASZI, A PROFESSOR AT OBERLIN COLLEGE, OBERLIN, OHIO, WAS MINISTER OF INTERIOR IN THE GOVERNMENT PRECEDING THE KUN REGIME AND PROBABLY KNEW VAGO WILHELM. CLEVELAND REQUESTED TO INTERVIEW JASZI. RE NY LETTER TO BUREAU SEPTEMBER TWENTY LAST FOR PHOTO AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION RE OSCAR VAGO.

SCHEIDT

CLEVELAND ADVISED

HLD PLS

66 OCT 21 1950

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INDEXED - 60

101-1988-56  
OCT 16 1950

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## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI  
FROM : SAC, Denver  
SUBJECT: OSCAR JOHN VAGO, wa  
Oskar John Vago  
ESPIONAGE - R

DATE: October 6, 1950

Re New York letter to Bureau, September 20, 1950.

A photograph of Subject was shown to MORRIS LOUIS APPLEMAN, Executive Secretary of the General Rose Hospital, Denver, for possible identification. APPLEMAN stated he could not identify the photograph as an individual he has ever come in contact with.

RUC.

EOJ:MMB  
cc New York (100-55242)  
65-690

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OCT 9 1950

56 OCT 13 1950

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK, NEW YORK**

**DE**

FILE NO. **65-2286**

REPORT MADE AT <b>DETROIT, MICHIGAN</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>10/4/50</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>9/22, 23, 25/50</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>RICHARD B. SMITH LJK</b>
TITLE <b>OSCAR JOHN VAGO, with alias</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>ESPIONAGE - R</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>10-1</i></span>
<p><b>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:</b></p> <p>The Great Lakes Steel Corporation, Ecorse, Michigan, the Cement Tile Division, Truscon Laboratories, Detroit, and the Brickcrete Associates, Inc., Grand Rapids, Michigan, all received requests from VAGO for their latest catalogue or literature, which was sent to him and did not contain confidential or restricted information. Detroit Steel Products Corporation, Detroit, has no such request as yet from VAGO.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- RUC -</p> <p><b>DETAILS:</b></p> <p>Mr. CLARK ANDREWS, Industrial Relations Department, Great Lakes Steel Corporation, Ecorse, Michigan, advised that they were in receipt of a letter dated September 18, 1950, stating as follows:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">"Gentlemen:</p> <p style="margin-left: 80px;">"Kindly send a copy of the latest edition of your catalogue.</p> <p style="margin-left: 80px;">"Thank you.</p> <p style="text-align: right; margin-right: 40px;">"Oscar J. Vago, P.E. 6607 99th Street Bago Park Long Island, New York"</p>			
<p style="text-align: center;">ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE <u>3/8/87</u> BY <u>3042-PW/jcm</u></p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>H. I. O'Connor</i> <b>COPY IN FILE</b>		DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES <div style="text-align: right;"><b>RECORDED - 76</b></div>	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT ⑤ - Bureau 3 - New York 2 - Detroit <b>COPIES DESTROYED 456 Jun 9 1961</b>		<div style="text-align: center;">107-1988-58</div> <div style="text-align: center;">OCT 16 1950</div> <div style="text-align: center;">14</div>	
<b>56 OCT 13 1950</b>		<b>RECEIVED</b>	

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(De 65-2286)

Mr. ANDREWS advised that the latest copy of their catalogue was sent to VAGO and that it would be sent to anyone requesting the same. He stated it did not contain restricted or confidential information.

Mr. C. E. THOMPSON, in charge of the Cement Tile Division, Truscon Laboratories, Detroit, Michigan, advised that they were in receipt of a letter dated September 18, 1950, stating as follows:

"Gentlemen:

"Kindly send a copy of the latest edition of your catalogue.

"Thank you.

"Oscar J. Vago, P.E.  
6607 99th Street  
Rego Park  
Long Island, New York"

Mr. THOMPSON advised that their catalogue was sent to him and it did not contain restricted or confidential information. He stated that this catalogue was sent to anyone who requested it.

Mr. HAROLD MILLER, President, Brickcrete Associates, Inc., 4669 South Division, Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised SA ROBERT DONALD COOPER that they had received a letter on September 21, 1950, from OSCAR J. VAGO at 6607 99th Street, Rego Park, Long Island, New York, which stated as follows:

"Gentlemen:

"I would appreciate to receive a copy of your literature for engineers and architects.

"Thank you."

Mr. MILLER advised that on the same date a form letter and two booklets were sent to the Subject and that these did not contain restricted information.

Mr. DALE W. PALMER and Mr. H. L. FRAZIER, Industrial Relations Officer, Detroit Steel Products Company, 2250 East Grand Boulevard,

(De 65-2286)

Detroit, Michigan, advised that no request had been received by them from anyone by the name of VAGO for any material or information. Both Mr. PALMER and Mr. FRAZIER advised that if such request were received, it would come to the attention of one of them and they would notify the FBI.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

(De 65-2286)

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

The correspondence of VAGO and that sent to VAGO relative to the Brickcrete Associates, Inc., Grand Rapids, was made available by Mr. MILLER and is being retained in the Detroit Office for future reference and any evidentiary value it may have.

REFERENCE: New York teletype to Detroit, September 21, 1950.



## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO

DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM

SAC, SEATTLE

SUBJECT:

OSCAR JOHN VAGO, wa.  
Oszkar John Vago  
ESPIONAGE - R

DATE:

October 3, 1950

Re New York letter to Bureau dated 9/20/50.

The photograph of VAGO was exhibited to Confidential Informant [redacted] on 9/29/50 without an identification being made. It is noted that former Confidential Informant [redacted] is deceased.

RUC.

WCT/hg  
65-3133

cc: New York (100-55242)

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[Signature]

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

FROM : SAC, Philadelphia

DATE: 10/6/50

SUBJECT: OSCAR JOHN VAGO, wa  
ESPIONAGE - R

Re New York letter 9/20/50.

On 10/2/50, a photograph of the subject was shown to THOMAS L. BLACK who at first said he did not recognize the person shown. BLACK was then asked whether he recognized the photograph as that of anyone connected with ABRAHAM BROTHMAN. After further study, BLACK said he believed the picture to be of "OSCAR, the mechanical engineer and draftsman." BLACK remarked that the photograph showed OSCAR as having considerably less hair than BLACK recalled. BLACK has not seen OSCAR since 1945 or 1946.

BLACK said that he recalled having seen OSCAR on two occasions. The first time was at BROTHMAN's office in New York when he went there with GOLD and BROTHMAN, and saw a man, who was casually introduced to him, sitting at a drawing board. On the second occasion, he saw the same man in BROTHMAN's laboratory in Long Island City.

BLACK said that he never had any direct conversation with VAGO, and that what he knew about him he had learned from HARRY GOLD, who described VAGO as an excellent draftsman who was a devoted worker for BROTHMAN. GOLD told BLACK that VAGO was having family trouble as the result of the long time he worked for BROTHMAN without pay. During this period VAGO was dependent on his wife's relatives for support.

BLACK knew nothing about VAGO's possible CP membership except that he said it was his own observation, with nothing to support it except remarks made during his visits to BROTHMAN's office and laboratory, that anybody who worked for BROTHMAN was at least a COMMUNIST PARTY sympathizer. In support of this idea BLACK said that BROTHMAN once told him that he had hired a man who held a Ph. D. in chemistry and who had formerly worked for the Hoffman-LaRoche Company. BLACK

rwh/rac  
 65-4411

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cc: New York (100-55242)  
 PH File 65-4332 (THOMAS L. BLACK)  
 PH File 65-4307 (HARRY GOLD)

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 INDEXED - 45

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 465

FILE  
 E.M.

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Director, FBI

did not know the name of this chemist but said that he was a tall, thin man. BROTHMAN was dissatisfied with the work done by this chemist and discharged him, claiming that his work was poor, his references from Hoffman-LaRoche had been bad, and that he was a homosexual. It was BLACK's understanding that following the discharge, the COMMUNIST PARTY intervened on behalf of the chemist and forced BROTHMAN to pay the chemist \$600 back wages. This occurred about 1945 or 1946.

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

NEW YORK

~~SECURITY INFORMATION~~ ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

BS

FILE NO. 65-3417 1s

REPORT MADE AT <b>BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>10/6/50</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>10/5/50</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>BRENTON S. GORDON</b>
TITLE <b>OSCAR JOHN VAGO, was.</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>ESPIONAGE R</b> <span style="float: right;">470-1,2</span>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

PHILLIP LEVINE admitted knowing Subject while both were employed by Abraham Brothman and Associates, New York City, between September, 1947 and July, 1948. LEVINE avers that he never knew or suspected VAGO of being a member or associated in any manner with the Communist Party, USA, predecessor organizations or affiliated organizations. LEVINE states he never saw VAGO in possession of any issue of the DAILY WORKER. Sometime in the Spring of 1948, and while ABRAHAM BROTHMAN was in Switzerland, LEVINE, VAGO, and HARRY GOLD met at VAGO's apartment in Forest Hills, New York City to discuss their future business association with BROTHMAN. LEVINE denies that he has any recollection of VAGO's having admitted at that time that he had been an illegal entrant into the United States or had violated any other Federal law. Based upon association with GOLD and VAGO, LEVINE would testify that GOLD's reputation for truth and veracity was better than VAGO's although he does not know of any specific instance wherein VAGO told a lie.

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DATE 3/18/87 BY 3042 P. (John)

*cc - On 2-27-51  
12-12-51-11*

- RUC -

G. I. R. - 10

**DETAILS:**

PHILLIP LEVINE resides at 67 Perry Street, Brookline, Massachusetts. He is employed as a physicist and chemist at the Children's Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts. LEVINE on an earlier occasion had stated he was employed by Abraham Brothman Associates of New York City from

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**OCT 16 1950**

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approximately September 1, 1947 to June 30 or July 1, 1948. While so employed, LEVINE said he resided at 46-53 Forty-fourth Street, Woodside, New York City. A fellow tenant at this address and for whom LEVINE secured apartment space was HARRY GOLD.

LEVINE was interviewed on October 5, 1950 at the offices of the Boston Division. LEVINE asserted he had known OSCAR VAGO as a fellow employee at the Abraham Brothman Associates throughout the above-described period. LEVINE declared he had never known or suspected VAGO of being a member of the Communist Party, USA, or any of its predecessor organizations, or of its affiliated organizations.

LEVINE stated that throughout his period of employment at Brothman Associates he had observed the DAILY WORKER, an East Coast Communist publication, to be lying around on desks or tables in the Brothman offices and laboratories. LEVINE states that at no time did he ever see or hear of VAGO possessing or reading a single copy of the DAILY WORKER.

LEVINE related that in the Spring of 1948 he was suspicious of the moral integrity and financial standing of the Brothman firm. While entertaining such suspicions, LEVINE had an opportunity to surreptitiously review BROTHMAN's business records during the latter's absence. BROTHMAN at the moment was in Switzerland attempting, so he had told LEVINE, to negotiate contracts. LEVINE would not reveal specifically what he had learned from the examination of BROTHMAN's files, but he did state that he reached the conclusion as a result thereof that "BROTHMAN was a fraud--wasn't a good engineer and wasn't a good chemist." LEVINE stated that the document examination convinced him that there was no hope of financial success for the BROTHMAN enterprise.

As a result of the foregoing incident, LEVINE asserted he made arrangements to meet with HARRY GOLD and OSCAR VAGO shortly thereafter. The meeting occurred on a Spring evening at VAGO's apartment. LEVINE stated that he could not fix the date of the meeting, not even as to the month, but that he knew it occurred while BROTHMAN was still in Switzerland. LEVINE could not recall VAGO's precise address at that time but does remember that VAGO's apartment on the occasion of the described meeting was located on a street off Queens Boulevard and in a building known as the "Thorneycroft Apartments" in the Forest Hills section of New York City. LEVINE asserts VAGO, GOLD, and himself were present

~~SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL~~

throughout the meeting. He has a dim recollection that Mrs. VAGO was present for at least part of the time. LEVINE is insistent that the only matters discussed were BROTHMAN's ability as an engineer and the financial relationship between BROTHMAN and the three named individuals. LEVINE claims that by the time the conversations were concluded he had convinced VAGO and GOLD that BROTHMAN was "a fraud" and that a decision was arrived at whereby all three intended to disassociate themselves from the BROTHMAN firm.

LEVINE, after considerable reflection, stated that he has absolutely no recollection whatsoever of VAGO having made any mention that he, VAGO, was at any time an illegal entrant into the United States. LEVINE further asserted he has absolutely no memory of VAGO ever having admitted or indicated in any way at any time that he, VAGO, had ever violated any law.

LEVINE stated he would be willing, on the basis of the association described above to testify that the reputation of HARRY GOLD for truth and veracity at that time was good.

LEVINE stated he would not be willing to so readily testify to the reputation for truth and veracity possessed by the Subject during the same period. LEVINE said he knew of no specific instance wherein VAGO had lied. LEVINE declared that VAGO, in the initial days of LEVINE's association with the BROTHMAN firm, had made several representations to LEVINE concerning BROTHMAN's abilities and financial status which ultimately proved to be false. LEVINE suspects, but he admits he has no basis in fact for these suspicions, that VAGO knew or could have known that the representations he made to LEVINE concerning BROTHMAN were false.

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~~SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL~~



ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

The interview with PHILLIP LEVINE was conducted by Special Agent JOHN E. KEENAN and the writer.

LEVINE on the occasion of this interview was more relaxed than on June 7, 1950 when interviewed concerning HARRY GOLD. He continued to exhibit a lack of belief in the truth of published stories concerning his former associates and Russian espionage activities, that is, the published stories concerning ABRAHAM BROTHMAN and MIRIAM MOSKOWITZ, and the instant Subject. LEVINE continued to exhibit an attitude of coldness, suspicion, and reluctance to respond to the questions of interviewing agents.

On October 5, 1950 LEVINE in response to a specific question categorically denied that he had ever been a member of the Communist Party or any of its predecessor or affiliated organizations.

A short signed statement with reference to LEVINE's denial of (1) any knowledge that VAGO was associated with the Communist movement, (2) any knowledge of VAGO's ever having possessed the DAILY WORKER and (3) any knowledge of VAGO's ever having admitted illegal entry, was taken by the interviewing agents and has been incorporated as an exhibit in the Boston file in this case.

REFERENCE: Teletype from New York dated October 4, 1950



## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : D. M. Ladd

FROM : A. H. Belmont

SUBJECT: OSCAR JOHN VAGO  
ESPIONAGE - R

DATE: September 28, 1950

Tolson ☒

Ladd ☒

Clegg ☒

Glavin ☒

Nichols ☒

Rosen ☒

Tracy ☒

Harbo ☒

Mohr ☒

Tele. Room ☒

Nease ☒

Supervisor Granville called from New York at 12:05 P. M. He advised that a bench warrant had just been issued by Judge John C. Knox of the Southern District of New York based upon an indictment charging Vago with unlawfully committing perjury before the Grand Jury sitting in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York on September 20, 1950, in violation of Title 13, Section 1621, U. S. Code. Granville advised that agents were being dispatched to arrest Vago. He will be brought into the office, photographed and fingerprinted and will be interviewed regarding his espionage implications. An attempt will be made to obtain a waiver of search for his home.

There is attached a copy of the indictment which was dictated by Granville on the telephone. The New York Office was instructed to keep the Bureau advised of the developments.

Attachment  
CEH:eal

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INDICTMENT

In the District Court of the United States for the Southern District of New York. The United States of America versus Oscar John Vago.

The Grand Jury charges:

1. On or about September 20, 1950, at the Southern District of New York, and within the jurisdiction of this court, Oscar John Vago, the defendant, herein having duly taken an oath before a competent tribunal, to which the Grand Jurors of the U. S. of America duly enpaneled and sworn in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, then inquiring for that District in the case there and pending before said Grand Jurors in which a law of the United States authorizes an oath to be administered, that he would testify truly, did unlawfully, knowingly and willfully and contrary to said oath take material matter which he did not believe to be true, that is to say.

2. That, at the time and place of aforesaid the said Grand Jurors, inquiring as aforesaid, were conducting investigation entitled United States versus John Doe, pertaining to possible violation of espionage laws of the United States, and any other Federal criminal statute, and it was material to said inquiry to ascertain the period of time the defendant had been in the United States and the identity of persons who accompanied him when he departed from or arrived in the United States and the identities of all persons with whom he associated while in the United States or elsewhere.

3. That, at the time and place of aforesaid time defendant, Oscar John Vago, duly appearing as a witness before said Grand Jurors and then and there being under oath as aforesaid testified falsely before said Grand Jurors with respect to the aforesaid material made as follows:

"Q. Have you made any trips outside of the United States since your arrival here?"

"A. Yes, I made one trip to visit my family."

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ENCLOSURE

Q. "In Hungary?"

A. "Yes."

Q. "What date?"

A. "I returned to this country in January, 1933."

Q. "You left when?"

A. "I left in 1929."

Q. "And you returned in 1933?"

A. "Yes."

Q. "You were away approximately four years?"

A. "Something like that."

Q. "Did your wife go with you?"

A. "No. She came later."

Q. "When you went back to Hungary your wife did not accompany you, is that right?"

A. "No. She did not."

Q. "So then you were in Hungary from 1929 to 1932 alone?"

A. "Yes."

Q. "You went to Hungary ..... and I think you said it was 1929....."

A. "Yes, 1929."

That the aforesaid testimony of the defendant, as they did and they well know and believe, was untrue in that the defendant was in the United States during the period from the time of 1929 until on or about December 21, 1932, and his wife accompanied him when he went to Hungary in 1922. (Title 18, Section 1621, U.S. Code)

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK**

**NPLS** FILE NO. **65-872**

REPORT MADE AT <b>MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>10/4/50</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>9/25, 29/50</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>ROY O. STUART</b>	<b>FIB</b>
TITLE <b>OSCAR JOHN VAGO, wa. Oskar John Vago</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>ESPIONAGE - R</b>	

ADMINISTRATIVE

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Photo of OSCAR JOHN VAGO exhibited to MARK GRAUBARD and he advised he did not know this individual.

- RUC -

**DETAILS:**

MARK AARON GRAUBARD, who is an assistant professor of General Studies, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota, and who resides at 4035 Lyndale Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota, was shown a photograph of OSCAR JOHN VAGO and advised that he did not recognize this individual nor had he ever heard anything concerning him.

It is noted that GRAUBARD has admitted being involved in an anti-Nazi and Soviet espionage ring in the middle 1930's.

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**Mpls File #65-872**

**REFERENCE: New York letter to Bureau dated September 20, 1950.**

Assistant Attorney General James M. McInerney

October 4, 1950

Director, FBI

OSCAR JOHN VAGO  
ESPIONAGE - R

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
9/30/50  
DeLoach  
10/5/50

Your attention is invited to my memorandum of September 12, 1950, in which you were furnished with certain information concerning the background and activities of Oscar John Vago. As you know, Vago is presently in the custody of the United States Marshal in New York City on the basis of an indictment returned by the Federal Grand Jury in the Southern District of New York on September 28, 1950, charging him with violation of the Federal Perjury Statute.

Harry Gold, confessed Soviet agent, was interviewed concerning Vago on October 2, 1950, at which time he executed the following voluntary statement setting forth information as to conversations with Vago concerning the latter's Communist activities and his fear of an investigation which might bring to light certain irregularities as to his movements in and out of the United States.

"I, Harry Gold, make the following voluntary statement to Robert G. Jensen and Ralph J. T. Carter, Jr., who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me and I know that any statement I make can be used against me in a court of law. I have been advised of my right of counsel and I know that I do not have to make any statement at all.

"I first heard of Oscar John Vago in 1943 from Abraham Brothman, who was at that time furnishing me with technical information for transmittal to the Soviet Union. Brothman at this time wanted me to get financial assistance for him from Semen M. Semenov so that he, Brothman, could hire Oscar John Vago and Jack Miller. Vago and Miller were to work for Henry Gokhryne or rather the Chemistry Design Corp. Brothman was a partner with Art Weber and Henry Gokhryne in this firm. Semenov was my Russian espionage superior at this time. I informed him of Brothman's request, which he rejected rather violently. Vago and Miller had been described, by Brothman, to me as sincere and convinced Communists who could form the nucleus of a later development of A. Brothman Organization. This organization to produce and design

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3/18/87 RST/EL

- Volson
- Lead
- Chase
- Glavin
- Nichols
- Rosen
- Tracy
- Harbo
- Balsmont
- Mohr
- Tele. Room
- Nease
- Gandy

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EPE:jmm

MAILED TO  
OCT 4 1950  
COMM - FBI

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OCT 20 1950

"chemical processes for the Soviet Union. This venture of Brothman's was all to be backed by Amtorg as Russian money.

"I first met Vago in May of 1946 on the morning I came to work for A. Brothman Associates. He was a partner in this firm and was also a design engineer and the chief draftsman. Many times in the ensuing months, Vago would spend a great deal of time in the office on 32nd Street in discussing such matters as what had gone in his own particular 'Communist Party Club' the night before. He would also dwell at some length on news items and editorials in the New York Herald Tribune and would expostulate about the perfidy of the capitalist press in general. Later, when the design offices had been moved to the Chatham - Phoenix Building in Long Island City, on one occasion Brothman became upset for we were delayed in completing a report for the Mettur Chemical Company of India, because Oscar Vago was at that very moment busy selling a special edition of the Daily Worker in Queens Plaza. On at least one other occasion, Vago told me of having sold the Daily Worker in both his home neighborhood, Rego Park, and nearby Queens Village.

"Sometime in the Spring of 1948, a mimeographed series of pamphlets criticising the policies of the national leaders of the American Communist Party came out. These pamphlets were issued by an individual whose name may have been 'Franklin.' To the best of my knowledge, this 'Franklin' became a leader of a factionalist group in Harlem. Abraham Brothman was much taken with the arguments presented by 'Franklin.' He at one time argued these points before a Communist Party club in Chelsea, which is a section of Manhattan. A few days later, while I was working at the Elmhurst Laboratories of A. Brothman Associates, Vago called and asked me to come to his home some two miles distant. While at the Vago residence, Oscar stated his belief that the Chelsea Communists had been perfectly justified in ejecting Brothman from their meeting. Vago added that in his own Rego Park Club, Brothman would not have succeeded in even getting a few words of criticism out.



"In late May of 1948, Brothman went to Switzerland to sell one of the firm's processes to the Lonza Company of that country. After he had left, we discovered that Brothman was planning to deprive the rest of his associates from their fair share of any future income of I. Brothman Associates. On one evening in the week following Brothman's departure for Switzerland, Phil Levine and I were at the Vago home discussing what procedure we should best follow to insure that our interests in I. Brothman could be protected. As we were preparing to leave, I mentioned that I was in no position to be too harsh with Brothman. Vago then added that he too did not wish to undergo any scrutiny by the FBI inasmuch as there was an irregularity involved in his leaving the United States for Hungary after his first stay in America. He elaborated on this only to the extent that while the authorities thought or believed he had actually left for Hungary, he was in reality still in the United States. Phil Levine, who was present during this entire conversation, was a co-worker of Vago and mine at Abraham Brothman Associates. The next time this matter of irregularities in connection with Vago's entry into the United States came up was in December of 1949. I was in New York City on a visit to the National Exposition of Chemical Industries at the Grand Central Palace. At 5:30 or 6:00 P.M. on the evening of the first Friday in Dec. 1949, I called Vago just to say hello, but Oscar insisted I come over to his house for dinner and a talk. At the end of several hours of conversation, Vago again mentioned his fear of an investigation concerning the irregularities of his movements in and out of the United States of America in the late twenties or early thirties. This was the last time that I saw or heard from Oscar John Vago.

"This is to certify that I, Harry Gold, have read the above statement consisting of this and four other pages. I have placed my initials at the bottom of the preceding four pages signifying that I have read those pages. I have also placed my initials at the corrections indicated on page two and again on page four. The information that I have furnished above is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

"s/ Harry Gold."

The above is being furnished you for your information and the New York Division has been instructed to bring this information to the attention of the United States Attorney in the Southern District of New York for his assistance in connection with the prosecution of this matter.

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

OCT 7 1950

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Ladd	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Mr. Gandy	_____

10-7-50  
N.H. Tolson  
J.W.  
M  
FBI, ATLANTA

10-7-50

4-19 PM EST

DIRECTOR AND SAC, NEW YORK U R G E N T

OSCAR JOHN VAGO, WAS., ESPIONAGE, R. RE NY TEL OCT. FOUR LAST AND BUTEL OCT. FIVE LAST ENTITLED ABRAHAM BROTHMAN, ESPIONAGE, R. GERHARD WOLLAN INTERVIEWED, UNIV. OF GA., ATHENS. WOLLAN DENIED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF VAGO-S BEING IN THE U. S. ILLEGALLY. STATED VAGO READ DAILY WORKER WHILE ASSOCIATED WITH ABA, BUT HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF VAGO DISTRIBUTING D.W. WOLLAN ADMITTED HAVING ARGUMENT WITH VAGO AND ALSO BROTHMAN CONCERNING OUSTER OF BROWDER FROM THE CP. WOLLAN FAVORED BROWDER. VAGO, BROTHMAN, AND MIRIAM MOSKOWITZ FAVORED EXPULSION OF BROWDER AND ELECTION OF WILLIAM Z. FOSTER. WOLLAN DENIED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES OF GOLD, BROTHMAN, OR VAGO AND EXPLAINED THAT THE STATEMENT PREVIOUSLY MADE BY HIM REFERRED TO THE WORK WHICH GOLD WAS DOING AT ABA. HE STATED THAT GOLD FREQUENTLY MADE TESTS, SKETCHES, ETC., AT THE LABORATORY WITH WHICH WOLLAN WAS NOT ACQUAINTED. REPORT FOLLOWS.

B I L L S

END

NY TO BE ADVISE

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EX-29

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/18/87 BY 3042 PWT/Hcm

cc Mr. Lamphere

Assistant Attorney General James M. McInerney

October 10, 1950

Director, FBI

CONFIDENTIAL

OSCAR JOHN VAGO  
ESPIONAGE - R

I am transmitting herewith for your information a copy of the report of Special Agent Edward E. Kachelhoffer dated September 20, 1950, at St. Louis, Missouri. It will be noted that this report contains the results of an examination of Vago's personnel file at the Adjutant General's Office, Department of the Army, St. Louis, Missouri.

Attachment

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/18/87 BY SP42 RUT/ama

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Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
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RECEIVED READING ROOM  
FBI  
OCT 10 1950  
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

SAC, New York

October 10, 1950

Director, FBI

OSCAR JOHN VAGO  
ESPIONAGE - R

You are authorized to furnish a copy of the report of Special Agent Edward E. Kachelhoffer dated September 20, 1950, at St. Louis to the United States Attorney for his assistance in connection with the prosecution of this matter.

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OCT 16 1950

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Mohr
- Mr. Winterrowd
- Tele. Room
- Mr. Holloman
- Miss Gandy

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

**NEW YORK**

FILE NO. 65-1748

REPORT MADE AT <b>CINCINNATI, OHIO</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>10/10/50</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>9/25, 27/50</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>JULIAN B. ENGELSTAD MJS</b>
TITLE <b>OSCAR JOHN VAGO, with alias</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>ESPIONAGE - R</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>10-1</i></span>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:** Officials of Philip-Carey Mfg. Co., Lockland, Ohio, unable to locate correspondence from VAGO. Letter dated 9-18-50 directed to Flexicore Co., Inc., Dayton, requested copy of latest edition of catalog. Data requested not restricted. Subject unknown to Confidential Informant T-1.

-RUC-

**DETAILS:**

**AT LOCKLAND, OHIO**

**G. I. R. - 1**

Mr. S. E. BREULEUX, Treasurer, Philip-Carey Manufacturing Company, 320 S. Anthony Wayne, Lockland, Ohio, advised on September 25, 1950, and again on September 27, 1950, that he had been unable to locate any correspondence received from OSCAR J. VAGO by the Advertising, Sales, or Manufacturing Divisions of the Philip Carey Company.

**AT DAYTON, OHIO**

The following investigation was conducted by SA WADE H.

**ALLEY:**

At the PRICE Brothers Cement Company, 1932 East Monument Avenue, Mr. H. O. WEAVER exhibited the following letter dated September 18, 1950, directed to Flexicore Company, Inc.:

"Kindly send me a copy of the latest edition of your catalogue.  
(S) Oscar J. Vago."

Mr. WEAVER advised that the requested catalogue consists

<p>APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>A. E. Cuthbert</i></p> <p><b>COPY IN FILE</b></p> <p>COPIES OF THIS REPORT</p> <p>⑤ - Bureau 3 - New York (NY file 100-55242) 2 - Cincinnati</p> <p><b>COPIES DESTROYED</b> 456 MAR 9 1961</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>101-1988-68</b> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>OCT 11 1950</b> 37         </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>RECORDED - 89</b> </div>
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**10 OCT 18 1950**

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 11/18/87 BY 3042 PLO/John