## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY ACTS

Subject: Oscar Vago

File Number: 101-1988

Section: 2 Serial 101-210



### FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

# F.O.I.A.

## JULIUS ROSENBERG ET AL

FILE DESCRIPTION

HEADQUARTERS

FILE

SUBJECT OSCAR VAGO

FILE NO. 101- 1988

VOLUME NO.

SERIALS

101 - 210

## **NOTICE**

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F	ile No: 101.	- 1988	RESCAR VAGO	CAE				Date:	10/86 (month/year)	<del></del>
-	Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. o	f Pages Released		Exemption (Identify	s used or, to what statute if (b)(3)	om referred	
_	101	111	BS LETTER to NB, NY	/_						
4	102	10/3//50	NY +TG NED	/	1					
~ -	103	11/4/50	NY REPT HO, LA, ST, WFO	16	16			-		
	103	1/4/50	NY LETTER TO WA	1.	/					
_	104	1/16/50	MY LETTER TO NO. LA, SK,	,						
_	105	11/13/50	NY TT to NQ	/	1					
_		11/18/12		1	1					
	106	11/22/50	CAB WORK SHEET/ENd	1/4	1/4					
	106	12/9/50	DO LAB LETTER TO NY	/	1					•
	107	"/14/50		/	,		•			
	108	1/2.	WFO LETTER TO NO	1	1	61	•			
	109	1/27/50	DE REPT NQ, NY	2	2				+ # .	
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F	ile No: 101-	1988	Re: OSCAR VAGO  MESKAPOL V. MES	-SÆ				Date:	(month/year)
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	115	11/30/50	HENNEICH MEMO TO BELMONT	/	_[	Ы			
-	116		NY TT to NQ	1	1				
_	112	12/6/50	LQ LETTER TO WEARY	/	/				
_	118	12/4/50		1	1				
	119	2/9/50	NY TT TO HO	1	1			-	•
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			Description	No. o	f Pages	Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
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		121.	m		1	
	125	12/50	HENNRICH TO BERMONT TO	2	12	<u> </u>
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131	1/201	NY LETTER TO NO WIEW.	3/2	3/2	Ы		_			
132	11/9/5/	PH LETTER RO NO	/_	1						
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_	142	1/20/51	BEZMONT MEMO TO LASO	2	2					
_	143	1/221		1	1					
_	: 144	1/27/51	HENDRICH MEMO TO BEZMONT	/	1					
	144	167/51	NO TT TO PH	1	,					
_	145	1/30/51	HO TT to CV, NY	_/	/					
_	146	1/25/51	NY TT TO NO, WFO	1	1					
_	147	1/20/51	WFO TT TO NO. NY	1	,	b1				
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_	151	2/15/51	HO LETTER TO WAY, UY	a	2					
_	152	1/27/51	WFO TT TO NO. NY	/	1					
	153	1/30/51	CV TT to LLANY	<i>j</i> .	/					
	154	1/3/	PH TT & WFONY	1	1					
(	155	2/3/51	AQ REPT HQ. NY	2	2					_
	156	1/26/51	WFO TT TO LLQ, CA	/	/					_
	1.57	1/30/51	LATTE WE MX	1	/	ы			•	
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	170	9/9/51	HO LETTER TO MY	2	2				•
	171	2/3/51	NY IT to UQ	1	1.				
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	173	2/27/5-1	mm LETTER TO LLO, NY	/	/				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	174	2/20/51	WFO THE LANY	1	/	_		_	
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	178	3/2/5-1	NY LETTER TO LLA	/	1				
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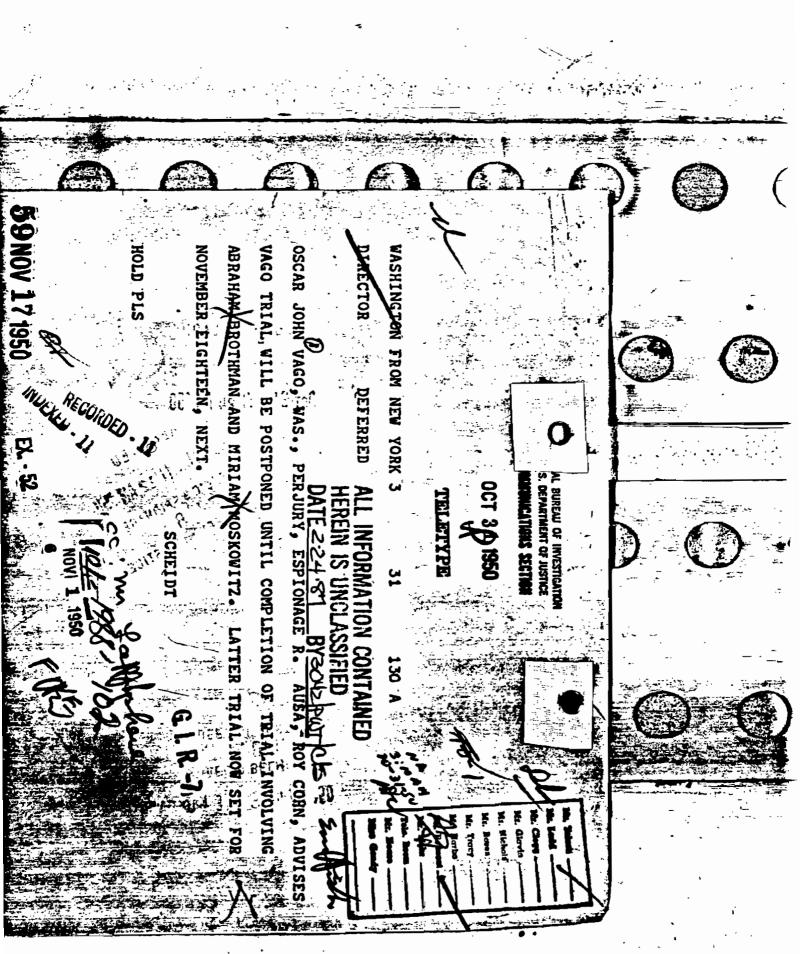
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	180	3/10/51	NO LETTER TO NY	/				•
_	181	3/20/51	NY REPT TO LA LASE	14	14	bz bic bid		
	182	3/21/51	LO LETTER TO LLA	1	_/			
	183	4/3/5/	LO LETTER TO AAG	/	/			,
	184	4/3/51	LO LETTER TO NY	/	1			
	185	4/2/5/	WFO REPT HONY, LA, S.	12	12	b2 b2D		
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F	ile No: 101-	1988	Re: OSCAR VAGO			Date:
_	Sec 1.	<u></u>	MEEROPOL V. MEE		4.5	(month/year)
	Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	Actual	Released	Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
	190	5/8/51	LLQ LETTER TO NYUFO,	/	1	ь/
-	191	5/1/51	NO LETTER TO NK, NY	/	1	
<u> </u>	192	9/23/51	NY REPT NO,LA,SF, WFO.	6_	6	brc b-D:
_	193	5/24/51	NK REPT NONY	4	4	
_	194	6/4/51	LO LETTER TO AAG	/	)	
_	195	6/2/5-1	LOLETTER TO NIS W	1/,	1//	فروم الم
	196	5/29/51	WFO TT to XIQ	3	3	b2 b7D
- م (	197	5/31/51 6/2/51	SEARCH SLIPS LETTER TO SERVICE	<u> </u>	1	b2 b7C
- لي		6/21	TO PRESIDENT LA LETTER TO SPECIAL CONSU	,,,	,	
-	199	6/6/51	TREASURY LETTER TO LLO	-		DISPOSITION handled by U.S SECRET SERVICE (1)
_	200		WFO REPT HO, CA, SE	6	6	b1 b2 b7D .
	200	7/9/57		/	1	- April 1
				29 REV	29 REL	DEN RET PRESUMED REPROC

F	ile No: 101-	1988	Re: OSCAR VAGO			Date:
_	Sec.7.	2	MESROPOL V. MES			(month/year)
	Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. o	f Pages Released	Exemptions used or, to whom referred· , - (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
_	201	7/9/5-1	LO LETTER TO NIS	/	1	,
	802	1/9/5/	LA LETTER TO USES	/	/	
	403	20/51	NY REPT LLO, LASK, WED	4	4	62 626 625
_	,* ,		IPPED IN EILE	_	-	
	205	7/17/51	TREASURY LETTER TO HA	_	_	DISPOSITION HANDLED BY USSS/D
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	209	9/181	NY REPT TO LA, LA, SE,	4	4	676 677
_	210	9/29/5-1	NO LETTER TO AAG	/	,	
	210	10/8/5/	NY LETTER TO LLO +28	1	1	
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				14 REV	14 KEL	DEN REF - PRESUMED DREPRUE

DIRECTOR, FRI QSZKAR JOHN VAGO, Was. ESPIONAGE - R Re New York Letter dated September 29, 1950. A photograph of Subject VAGO was displayed to HERBERT A. PHILBRICK, and he was unable to identify this photograph. 66-1020 RECORDED - 102 INDEXED - 102 NOV. 14 1950 EX-89

51 NOV 181950





COSCUL VICE VACO PLAN COSCUL VACO

NAME OF DEFENDANTS

OSCAR JOHN VACO, was Osskar Vago, John Murrey, John Murrey

#### HARRATIVE OF OFFICER

On September 20, 1950, OSCAR, JOHN VACO, 66-07 99th Street, Reference, Long Island, New York, appeared before a Grand Jury in the Southern District of New York in response to a subpoens, He testified at that time in response to questioning that he left the United States in 1929 for Hungary, remained approximately four years, and returned to the United States in January of 1933. He also testified that his wife, CLAIRE VACO did not accompany him at the time of his departure but joined him the Hungary in 1932, Actually, as will be set out hereafter, VAGO did not leave the United States until December 3, 1932, at which time he was accompanied by his wife. He returned to the United States on January 13, 1933

#### II. RELEVANT STATUTE

The indictment alleges violation by VACO of Title 18 Indicate States Code, Section 1621 COPIES DESTROYED

Angeles (Info.) (65 San Francisco (Infe.) (6) Washington Field (Info.)

#### III. STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS

The statute of limitations in this case began to run on September 20, 1950, but was tolled by the return of an indictment on September 28, 1950.

#### IV. PRELIMINARY PROSECUTIVE ACTION

The following indictment was returned by the Grand Jury of the Southern District of New York on September 28, 1950;

- 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 wit, the Grand Jurors of the United States of America, duly impaneled and sworn in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, and inquiring for that District, in a case then and there 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 wilfully, and contrary to said oath, state material matter which he did not believe to be true, that is to say:
- "2. That, at the time and place aforesaid, the said Grand Jurors, inquiring as aforesaid, were conducting an investigation entitled United States v. John Doe, pertaining to possible violation of espionage laws of the United States and any other Federal criminal statutes, 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 all persons who accompanied him when he departed from, or arrived in the United States, and the identity of all persons with whom he associated while in the United States or elsewhere.
- "3. That, at the time and place aforesaid the defendant, OSCAR JOHN VAGO, duly appearing as a witness before the said Grand Jurors, and then and there being under oath as aforesaid, testified falsely before said Grand Jurors with respect to the aforesaid material matter as follows:
  - Have you made any trips outside of the United States since you arrived here? A. Yes. I made one trip to visit my family.

"'Q. In Hungary? A. Yes.

- Q. What date? A. I returned to this country in January, 1933.
- Q. And you returned in 133? 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 that you are in Hungary from '29 to '32 alone, is that right? A. Yes.
- Q. When you went to Hungary and I think you said it was 129 A. Yes, 129.

"That the aforesaid testimony of the defendant, as he then and there well knew and believed, was untrue in that the defendant was in the United States during the period of time from 1925 until on or about December 1, 1932, and his wife accompanied him when he went to Hungary in 1932. (Title 18, Section 1621, United States CODE.)"

This indictment was returned by United States District Judge JOHN C. KNOX, who issued on the same date a bench warrant based on the indictment. At 1:48 PM, on September 28, 1950, VAGO was arrested by FBI agents in the vicinity of 18 East 48th Street, New York. He was arraigned on that date before EDWARD McDONALD, United States Commissioner for the Southern District of New York, for the purpose of fixing bail. In accordance with the request of United States Attorney IRVING H. SAYPOL, bail was set at \$50,000.00. A hearing to plead to the indictment was set for October 2, 1950. However, on that date the hearing was postponed to October 3, 1950, at which time VAGO requested a postponement to October 10, 1950, in order to enable him to secure the services of an attorney. On the latter date VAGO'S attorney, MOSES C. WEIMAN, requested and was granted a postponement to October 23, 1950. WEIMAN also

requested a reduction of bail and the amount was reduced to \$10,000.00. On October 23, 1950, VAGO pleaded not guilty to the charge in the indicment. The trial date was set for November 13, 1950. All of the above proceedings subsequent to the hearing before the United States Commissioner were before United States District Judge WILLIAM BONDY. As of November 1, 1950, VAGO had not furnished bail and was being held in the custody of the United States Marshal of the Southern District of New York.

#### V. WITNESSES

IDA F. GOLD, Grand Jury Stenographer
United States Court House,
Foley Square,
New York, New York
LOUISE BENSON, Grand Jury Stenographer
United States Court House,
Foley Square,
New York, New York

These witnesses under a subpoens duces tecum will produce their notes and the transcript of the testimony given by OSCAR VAGO on September 20, 1950 and on September 27, 1950, before the Grand Jury of the Southern District of New York.

HENRY SCHAEFER 12 McKinley Avenue Lynbrook, Long Island, New York

Can testify to the following signed statement and will produce the records referred to in the statement in response to a subpoena duces tecum.

"New York City October 5, 1950

"I, HENRY SCHAEFER, make the following voluntary statement to THOMAS H. ZOELLER, who has identified himself to me as a Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation. I make this statement of my own free will and no threats or promises have been made to me. I understand this statement may be used in a court of law.

"I am employed as chief accountant and assistant secretary of the White Construction Co., 95 Madison Ave., N.Y.C. & have been employed by this Company since July 7, 1924. I reside at 12 McKinley Ave., Lynbrook, L.I.

"I have identified a picture of OSCAR JOHN VAGO shown to me by Agent ZOELLER as a man I first knew as J. MURRAY. Records of the company of which I have charge indicate VAGO was employed by the company as J. MURRAY from 1/26/26 to 2/11/28. He was also employed as OSCAR J. VAGO from 10/29/28 to 12/3/32 and from 6/13/41 to 7/18/41. During the time VAGO was employed both as MURRAY and as VAGO, I personally handed him his salary check each week.

"I have read the above statements consisting of one page and three additional lines, and are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

/s/ "HENRY P. SCHAEFER 10/5/50

"Witnessed:

/s/ "THOMAS H. ZOELLER, Special Agent, FBI, NYC"

RUSSELL BALLENTINE 265 Prospect Street Westfield, New Jersey

Can testify to the following signed statement:

"New York City October 5, 1950

ment to THOMAS H. ZOELLER, who has identified himself to me as a Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation. I make this statement of my own free will and no threats or promises have been made to me. I understand this statement may be used in a court of law.

"I am employed as an estimator by the White Construction Co., Inc. 95 Madison Ave., N.Y.C. I have been employed by this company since Feb. 1925. I reside at 265 Prospect St., Westfield, N.J.

"I have identified a picture of OSCAR JOHN VAGO shown to me by Agent ZOELLER as a man I first knew as JOHN MURRAY. VAGO, using the name MURRAY came to the company about 1926 and I worked in the same room with him. VAGO, still using the name MURRAY left the Company after a year or ac. When he returned sometime before 1929 he was known as OSCAR r. VAGO. I do not know why he used the name MURRAY, as he never gave any explanation for it. He left the Company after three or four years, returning again for a short period of time in 1941.

"the best of my knowledge and belief.

/s/ "RUSSELL BALLENTINE

"Witnessed:

/s/ "THOMAS H. ZOELLER, Special Agent, FBI, NYC"

MAX BIRMAN 7551-196th Street Flushing, Long Island, New York

Can testify to the following signed statement:

"New York City October 5, 1950

"I, MAX BIRMAN, make the following voluntary statement to THOMAS H. ZOELLER, who has identified himself to me as a Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation. I make this statement of my own free will and no threats or promises have been made to me. I understand this statement may be used in a court of law.

"I am employed as Vice-President of the White Construction Co., Inc., 95 Madison Ave., N.Y.C. I have been employed at this company since 1919. I reside at 7551 - 196th St., Flushing, L.I.

"I have identified a picture of OSCAR JOHN VAGO shown to me by Agent ZOEILER as a man I first knew as JOHN MURRAY. VAGO, using the name MURRAY came to the company in 1926 and was hired as a draftsman and designer by me. I did not know him previously. VAGO left the company in the early part of 1928 and returned in October, 1928. When he returned he told me his right name is OSCAR J. VAGO. I asked him why he used the name MURRAY and he said he had had a bet with someone and had won the bot.

"VAGO remained with the Company until the end of 1932 when he left. He returned again for a short period of time in 1941.

"I have read the foregoing statement and it is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

/s/ "MAX BIRMAN

"Witnessed:

ANNA KRANKER
Pine Place
Greenlawn, Long Island, New York

Can testify to the following signed statement and will produce the records referred to in the statement in response to a subpoena duces tecuma

"October 11, 1950 Pine Place Greenlawn, Long Island, New York

"I, ANNA KRANKER, make the following statement to JOHN H. WAGNER who has identified himself to me as being a special agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"I am Secretary of the Kranker Building Corporation which corporation is the owner of the apartment house located at 22-61 37 Street, Astoria, Long Island, New York and which has been the owner of this apartment house since it was built in 1931.

"I have checked my rental records and from these it is reflected that OSCAR VAGO was a tenant in the apartment house located at 22-81 37 Street, Astoria, Long Island, New York having occupied apartment D1 from January 15, 1931 to May 1, 1935 at which time he moved from this address. His wife lived with him during this entire period. I identified the photograph of OSCAR VAGO which was shown to me by Special Agent JOHN H. WAGNER as being the same OSCAR VAGO who was my former tenant.

"I recall that sometimed uring 1934 VAGO and his wife took a trip to Europe for about three or four months. Upon their return to the United States either VAGO or his wife told me that they had visited Hungary. To the best of my knowledge this was the only time that VAGO or his wife left the United States while they resided at the above address.

"I have read the foregoing statement and it is correct to the best of my knowledge.

/s/ "ANNA KRANKER

"Witness:

/s/ "JOHN H. WAGNER, Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation"

EMMA JAHODA 191-10 122 Avenue St. Albans 12 Long Island, New York

Can testify to the following signed statement:

"191-10 122 Avenue St. Albans 12, Long Island, New York November 10, 1950

"I, EMMA JAHODA, make the following statement to John H. Magner who has identified himself to me as being a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No promises, inducements or duress have been used to have me make this statement and I know that anything I say may be used in a court of law.

"To the best of my knowledge and recollection I was superintendent of the apartment house located at 28-20 37 Street, Astoria, Long Island, New York from about 1929 to 1933 during which period I collected the rent from the tenants for the landlord.

"I recognized the pictures of OSCAR JOHN VACO taken in 1932 and 1933 and the picture of CIAIRE VACO taken in 1931 shown to me by SA John H. Wagner as tenants in the above apartment house at the time I became superintendent. However, I do not recall the length of their tenancy nor when they moved from 28-20 37 Street but do recall that they moved from this address before I left as superintendent.

"I have read the foregoing statement consisting of this and one other page and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

/s/ Mrs. EMMA JAHODA

Witness;
/s/ JOHN H. WACNER, Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation\*

C. GORDON LAMMDE, Manager, New York Office of Alien Property United States Department of Justice 120 Broadway New York, New York

In answer to a subpoona duces tecum, will produce the passenger list for the SS REX of the Italian Line, dated December 3, 1932, outgoing from New York to Genoa, which lists OSCAR and CLAIRE VAGO as the holders of roundtrip tickets.

EDWARD J. SHAUGHNESSY, District Director, Immigration and Naturalization Service 70 Columbus Avenue New York, New York

In answer to a subpoena duces tecum, will produce records reflecting the following:

The arrival at New York on January 12, 1925 of OSCAR VAGO on the SS MONGOLIA of the American Line.

The departure of OSCAR and CLAIRE VAGO on December 3, 1932 on the SS REX from New York to Genoa.

The arrival at New York of OSCAR and CLAIRE VAGO on January 12, 1933 on the SS CONTE DI SAVOIA of the Italian Line.

Will also produce records reflecting the following investigation of OSCAR VAGO by INS which was initiated when it was ascertained that VAGO entered the United States at New York on January 12, 1925, as an immigrant student destined to the University of Michigan, but did not register at that institution.

A report dated June 29, 1925, reflects that VAGO was interviewed by an inspector of INS and that he was at that time residing with his uncle, WILLIAM GOLDSTEIN, at 59 Bay 32 Street, Brooklyn, New York. VAGO advised that he had become ill upon his arrival in the United States and as a consequence was unable to attend the University of Michigan as intended. Instead, he informed the inspector, he enrolled as a student at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn in February, 1925 and completed the term in March, 1925. He stated that he intended to enter the University of Michigan in the fall of 1925 and to remain in the United States for two more years to complete his studies.

A report dated September 25, 1925 reflects that an attempt was made to locate VAGO at 59 Bay 32 Street and that the inspector was informed by Mrs. WILLIAM GOLDSTEIN that VAGO had remained in Brooklyn during the absence of the GOLDSTEINS in the summer of 1925 and that upon their return they had found him gone and had received no word as to his whereabouts or intentions. She advised the inspector that VAGO had received a favorable reply to his application for admission to the University of Michigan, but that she did not know whether he had gone there.

A report dated January 16, 1929 reflects that WILLIAM GOLDSTEIN, VAGO'S uncle, was interviewed by an INS inspector at his home at 2027 85th Street, Brooklyn. GOLDSTEIN advised that VAGO had graduated from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn and had returned to Budapest, Hungary. He promised to furnish the INS a letter he had received from his nephew in October, 1928. A letter dated January 25, 1929, addressed to GOLDSTEIN by INS thanked GOLDSTEIN for his cooperation and informed him that the letter from his nophew which he had forwarded to INS was being returned to him.

HARRY COLD
Who is in custody of the United States Marshal,
Southern District of New York,
New York, New York
Upon issuance of a Writ of Ad Testificandum

Can testify to the following signed statement:

"October 2, 1950 Philadelphia, Penna.

"I, HARRY COLD, 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 SELEN 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 Corporation. 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.

"VACO 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 chemical processes for the Soviet Union, This venture of BROTHMAN'S was all to be backed by Amtorg or Russian money.

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-Phenix Bldg. in Long Island City, on one occasion, BROTHMAN became upset for we were delayed in completing a report for the Mattur Chemical Co. 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 criticizing 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 Header 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.

one of the firm's processes to the Lonza Co. of that country. After he had left, we discovered that EROTHMAN 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, PHILLEVINE and I were at the VAGO home discussing what procedure we should best follow to insure that our interests in A. 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 F.B.I., 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 AERAHAM BROTHMAN ASSOCIATES.

"The next time this matter of irregularities in connection with V.GO'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 December 1949, I called V.GO 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, V.GO 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 2 and again on page 4. The information that I have furnished above is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

/s/ HARRY COLD October 2, 1950. Philadelphia, Penna,

BERNICE RIVERIA 114 West 114th Street New York, New York

Can testify to the following signed statement:

"607 U. S. Court House Foley Square New York, N. Y. October 9, 1950

"I, Mrs. BERNICE RIVERIA, make this statement voluntarily of my own free will to VICTOR TURYN, who identified himself and is known to me as a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats, force, or duress were used against me and no rewards, or promises were made to me to give this statement. This statement concerns my knowledge about one OSCAR VAGO, for whom I worked in 1948.

"I am twenty-six years old and reside at 114 West 114th Street, N. Y., N. Y. I completed the tenth grade of school and can read and write.

"I first met Mr. and Mrs. OSCAR VAGO through Mrs. MARILYN
BAILEY, for whom I was doing housework at the time. I worked for
Mrs. BAILEY for a period of approximately two and one-half years.
After I met Mrs. VAGO I was then engaged by her to do housecleaning which I did for her for a period of approximately two months.

"During my brief period of employment for Mrs. VAGO, she attempted to get me to join the Communist Party on several occasions. She told me that she and Mr. VAGO were both members of the Communist Party.

"I know that Mr. and Mrs. VAGO were members of the Communist Party because I saw both their names in a loose leaf note book kept by Mrs. BAHLEY. Mrs. BAHLEY was Secretary or Treasurer of the Communist Party in Queens and she kept names of members in this note book in alphabetical order. Mrs. BAHLEY told me herself that this note book contained the names of Communist Party members in Queens. I saw this book many times and looked up names in the book at the request of Mrs. BAHLEY. After I started working for Mrs. VAGO, it was then that I looked in the book and found the name of OSCAR VAGO and the name of Mrs. OSCAR VAGO.

## NY 100-55212 CONTINUE TO THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF THE

"The OSCAR VAGOS had numerous bits of literature in their apartment about the Communist Party. OSCAR VAGO also received the 'Daily Worker' which I observed in the apartment. Mrs. VAGO would also play record entitled 'The Red Army Song' to which the children would march.

"The note book I referred to earlier which was kept by Mrs. BAILEY and contained names of members of the Communist Party in Queens is described as follows: Large loose leaf binder, light blue cover which cover appeared to have been a canvas of some sort.

"I have read the above statement consisting of three pages and every word is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

(signed) "BERNICE RIVERLA-

"Witnessed:

"VICTOR TURYN, Special Agent, F. B. I."

THOMAS H. ZOELLER, Special Agent New York Office, Federal Bureau of Investigation ROBERT M. KANE, Special Agent New York Office, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Can testify that they arrested OSCAR VAGO at 1:48 PM on September 28, 1950, in the vicinity of 18 East 48th Street, New York, New York.

PENDING

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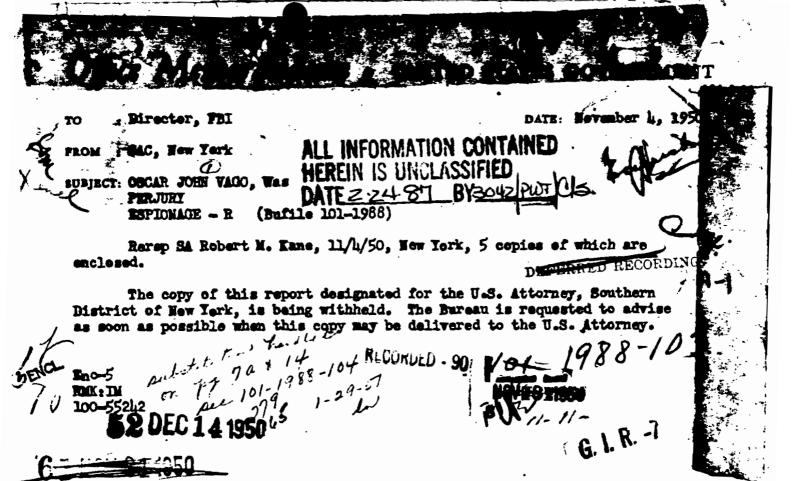
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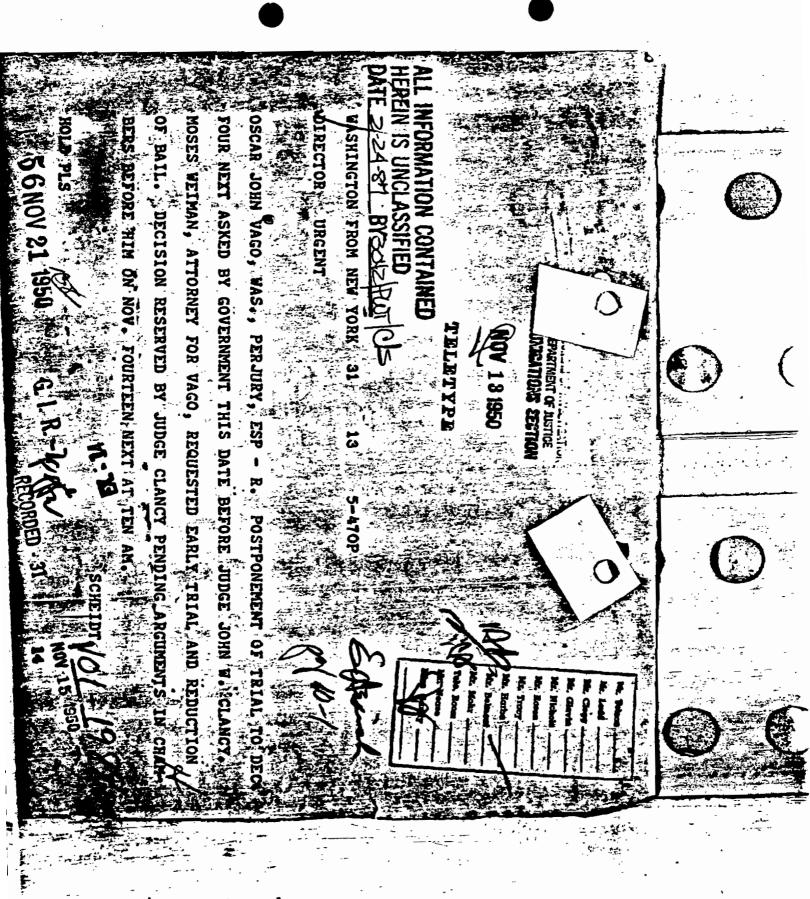
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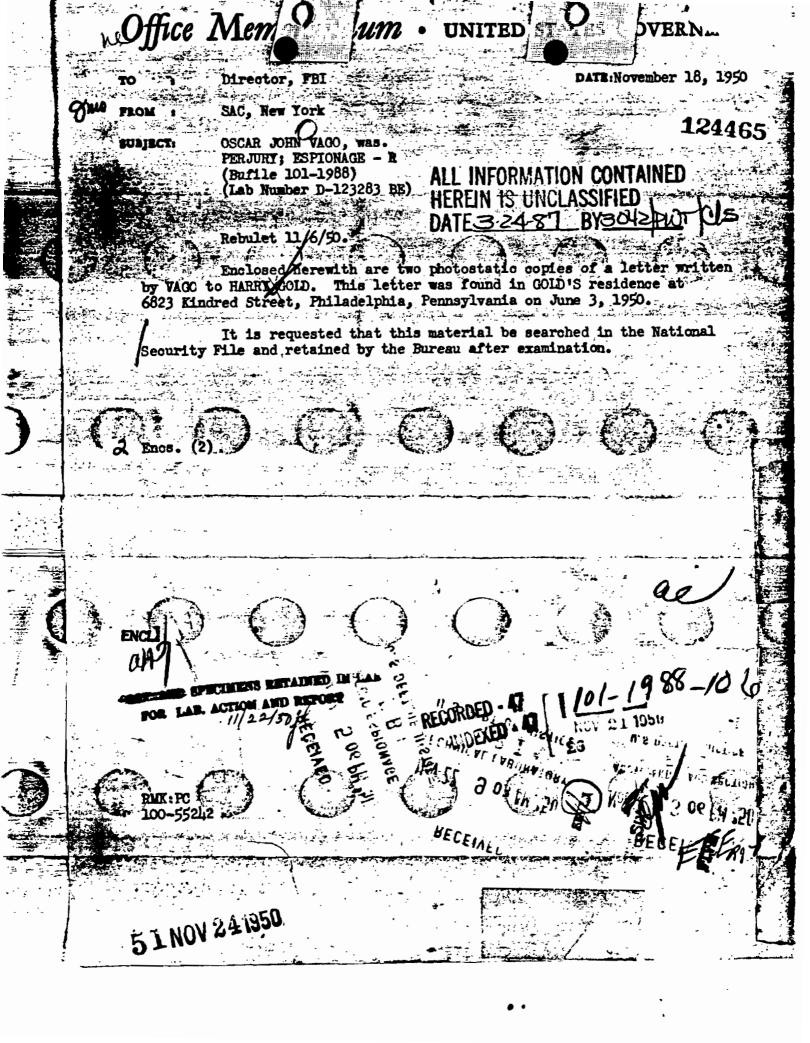
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Bureau teletype, 10/31/50



Director, FBI SAC, New York OSCAR JOHN VAGO, was: PERJURY ESPIONAGE - R (Bufile 101-1988) **化** Re report SA ROBERT M. KANE, 11/4/50 at New York. Additional information pertaining to VAGO's residence the 1929-33 period has been obtained from Mrs. EMMA JAHODA Her statement, as set out on page 7A, should be inserted in peferanced report. Copies of page 7A and revised copies of page 14 are molosed to the Bureau and offices which received copies of deference report. New York copies and the copy designated ign the USA, SDNY will be corrected as noted. ORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED San Francisco (65-5125) (Encs. 2) Washington Field (65-5598) (Encs. 2) MK: DB





11-22-50

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

# Laboratory Work Sheet

e: OSCAR JOHN VAGO, was. PERJURY: RSPIONAGE - R

101-1988-106 D-124465 BE

NOLAB. FILE

Examination requested by: New York (100-55242)

Date of reference communication: Let. 11-18-50

Date Received: 11-22-50

Examination requested: Document

Result of Examination:

Act no ident NSF (new Sec.) 7gm 5+8, UCMP.

Added & 7 gm. 8+ 4,2-8-50

("/photostatic copy and. Try / n.y.)

# Specimens submitted for examination

Kc2 Two photostatic copies each of an envelope and accompanying three-page letter to Mr. HARRY GOLD 6823 Kindred Street Philadelphia, Pa., bearing the known handwriting of OSCAR J. VAGO.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 2-24.87 BY 3042 PUT US

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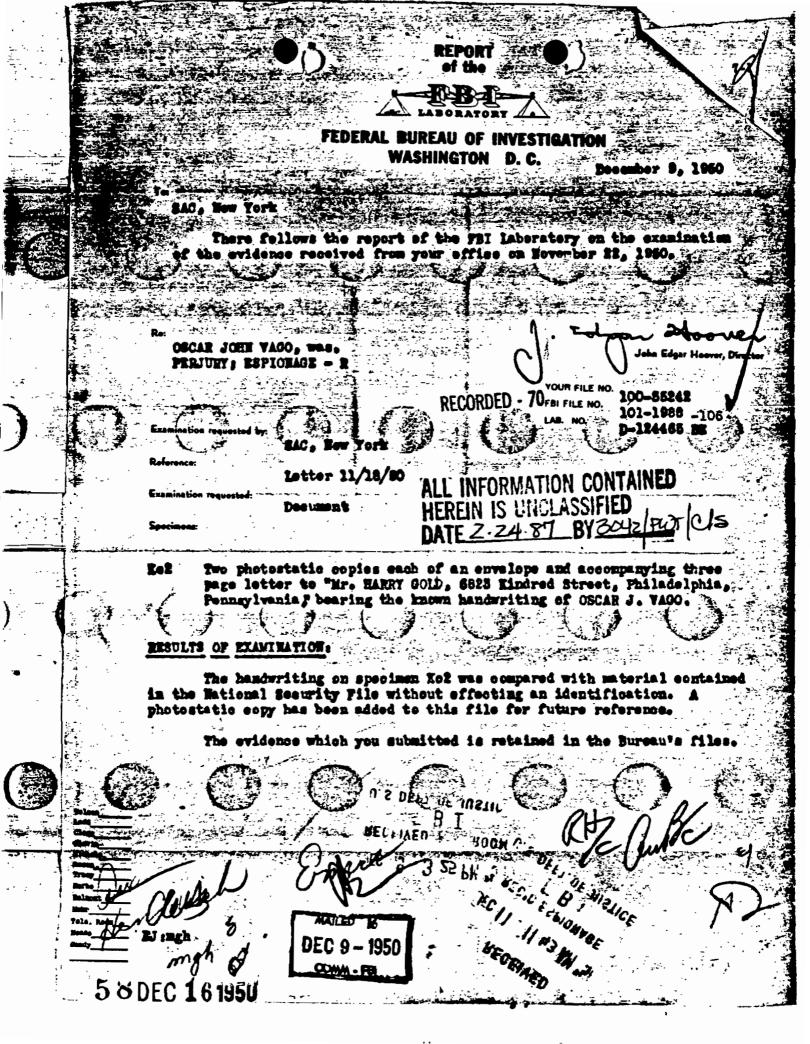
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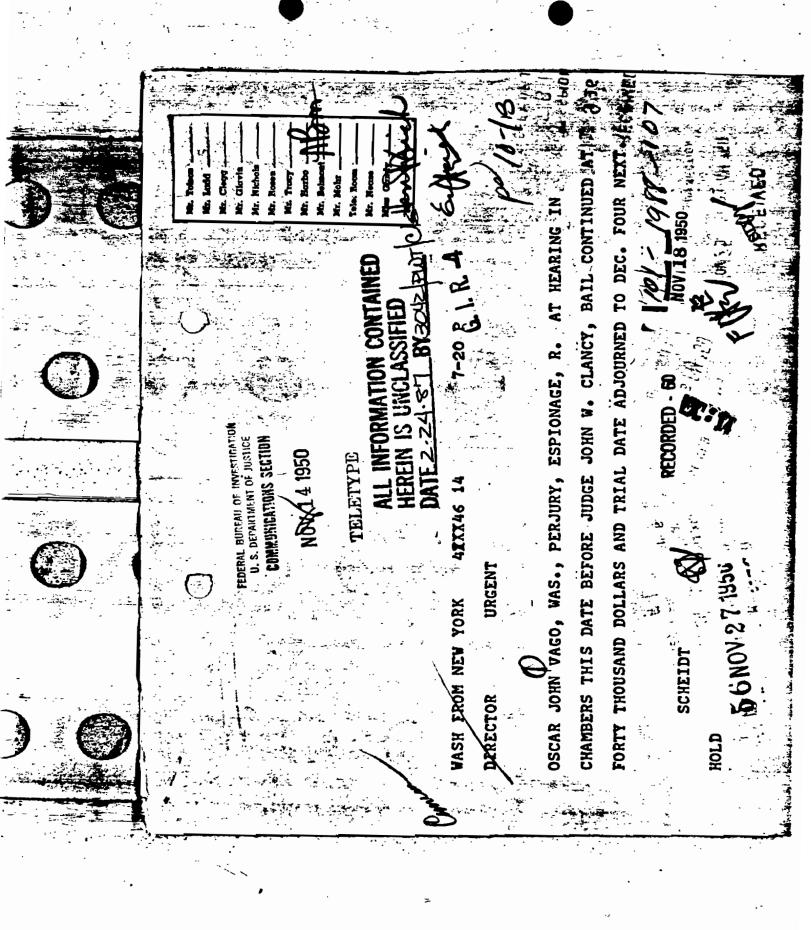
MR. HARRY GOLD 6823 KINDRED STREET PHILADELANIA, PA.

Twooday, 11 P.M. Wear Harry, Would you be good enaugh to tex me know, or if you don't know places find out, what is the subscrip. how rate of the "Cham. abstracto (insules and mon-mamber sate and of the 1. & E. C. aualytico Edition. also, whether you could get auather monter subscription? How are you? What's news on the job front I hope you succeeded m-locature your adje. I had a talk with Bernie a few days ago. It reams

that 18 acts as an agent of AB. in the gives of an supertient co-plaintiff. But why be does that is rather difficult for me to see . This time, the purpose probably was to see whether I am a dojoe or wholler I have a lawyar? But Thore is no Longa deal nor horman weel, so yet! Thear that stanton hired Jorgfo from 1. P.E. (Emil's author) an would This like a plant agineer. When will you be up in My! I would very much like to sea y I would apparecente su eas q anower to my preations. Oh you I rpoke to Bill Court

weeksund He as howing a long? time finding a post in My We is looking for some plant persoluction for he'll probably howe to laave town. We says that both a and We are in all 9 B. M. angeren a gove to wed at 9 PM. : Auceres. P.S. Victor (my S. in Com) is anxional saking about the your twent! F. P. J. You did not forget the lodgery to my prima for the convention? The name is i sy desser





Office Memorandun UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT BURECTOR, FRI DATE: November 21, 1950 GUY MOTTEL, SAC, WASHINGTON FIELD OSCAR JOHN VAGO SUBJECT: REE INFORMATION CONTRINGO ESPICMAGE - R HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN (Bufile 101-1988) OTHER WISE Rebulet October 24, 1950. CLASSIFIED BY: 3002 DECLASSIFY ON: This informant had no additional information concerning VAGO but advised that he would immediately report any additional data that he received to this office. RECORDED - 22 101- 1988-108 FJD:RHS 65-5598 CC: New York (100-552 Exempt from G Date of Declassification Indefinite

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION CORE OF CASE OF CHICAGO TO THE TORK TORK TORK

•	DE FILE NO. 65-2286
	RICHARD B. SMITH VAC
	CHARACTER OF CASE

OSCAR JOHN VAGO, With alias Osskar Vago

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

ESPIONAGE - B

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

WILLIAM ODELL NOWELL unable to identify photograph of Subject.

11/10/50

\_ RUC

DETAILS:

WILLIAM ODELL HOWELL advised on November 10, 1950, after examining a photograph of OSCAR JOHN VAGO, that that individual was not known to him and the name was not familiar to him.

G. I. R. -7

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

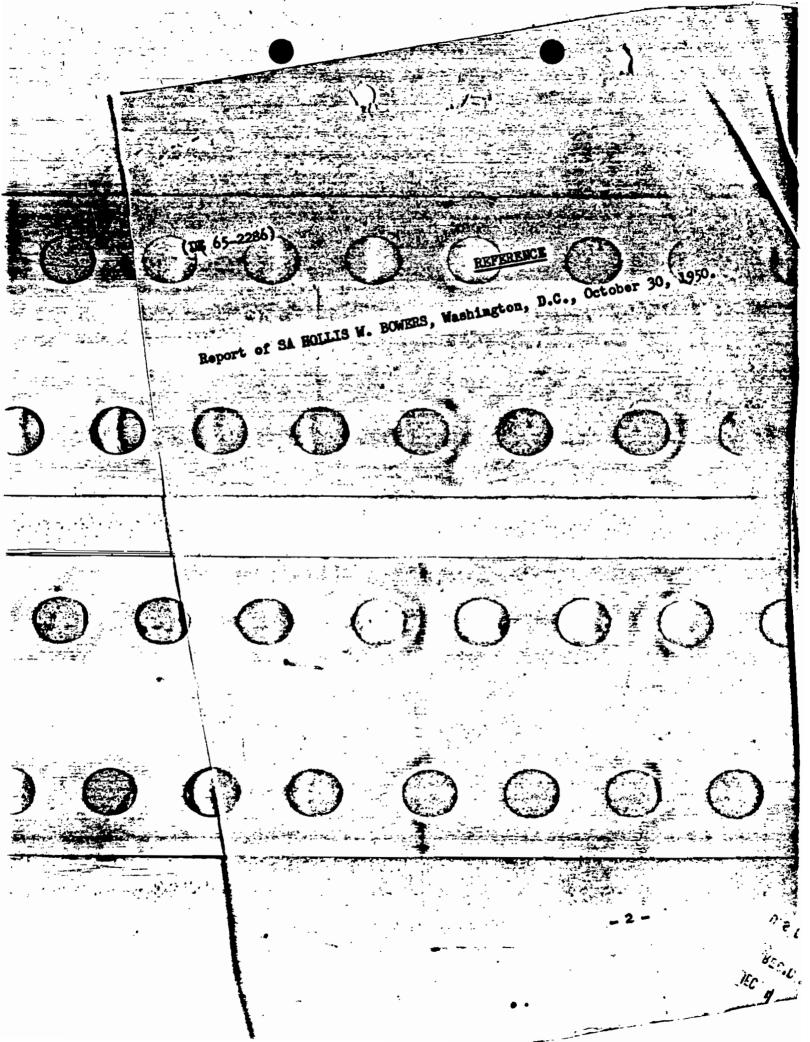
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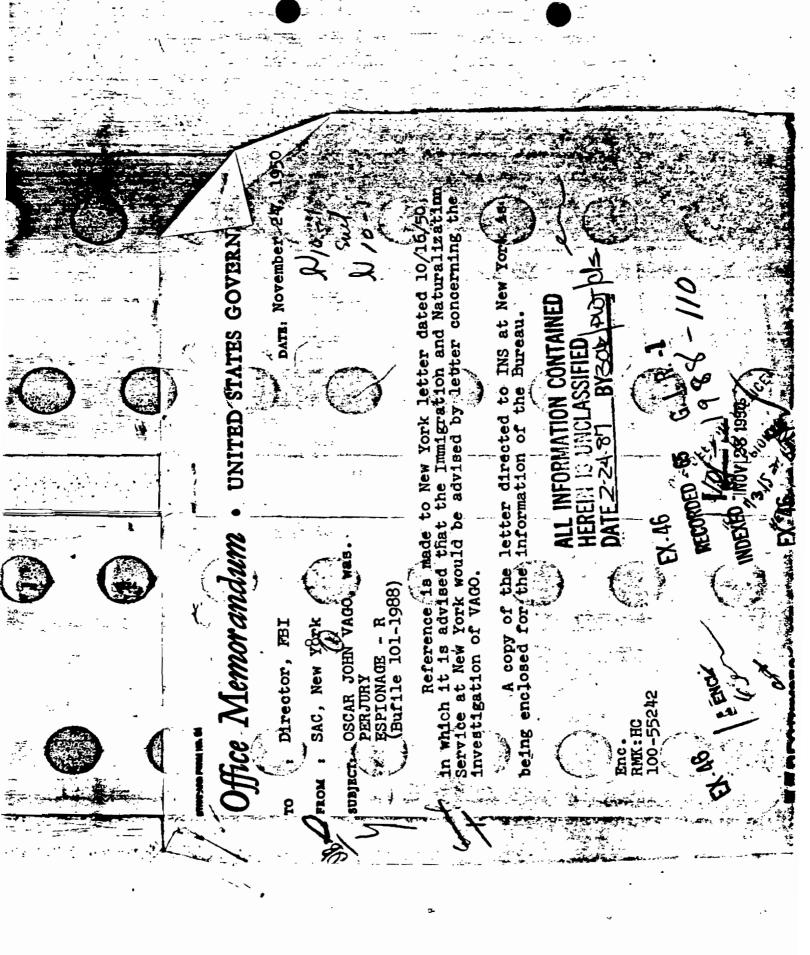
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607 U. S. Court House Foley Square New York 7, New York

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HERFIN IS UNCLASSIFIED,

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 2 24 87 BY 3012 PLUT ()

Hovember 27, 1950

Mr. Edward J. Shaughnessy District Director Imagration & Maturalization Service

70 Columbus Avenue New York 23. New York RE: OSCAR JOHN VAGO, was. PERJURY

ESPIONA GE

Dear Mr. Shaughnessys

Reference is made to your file 98943/969 pertaining to one OSCAN VAGO.

Reference file indicates that on January 12, 1925 VAGO was admitted to the United States at New York as an immigrant student destined to the University of Michigan. However, according to the report, Vago did not register at that institution and an investigation was conducted by your office as a result. This investigation disclosed that Vago had graduated from Fratt Institute in Brooklyn after his arrival in the United States and that he had returned to his home in Budapest, Hungary.

On September 20, 1950, Vago was subpossed before a Federal Grand Jury in the Southern District of New York for questioning concerning his relationship with Abraham Brothman Associates, a firm in which he was a partner from 1944 to 1948. This firm at one time employed Harry Gold, self-admitted Soviet agent, and Abraham Brothman and Miriam Moskowitz, who were also partners in the firm with Vago, have been convicted in United States District Court on a charge of obstructing justice. When questioned concerning his activities by the Grand Jury, according to the indictment Vago testified that in 1929 he had gone to Hungary and that he had returned to the United States in 1933. He also testified that his wife had not accompanied him on the trip but that she had joined him in Hungary in 1932.

CC: Bureau (101-1988) RMK: HC 100-55242

4 AEV

Letter to INS NY 100-55242

Investigation has disclosed that Vago actually was absent from the United States only from December 3, 1932 to January 12, 1933, and that his wife accompanied him on this trip, and that he has been in the United States continuously since his original entry in 1925 to the present time with the above exception.

An indictment charging Vago with perjury before the Grand Jury was returned on September 28, 1950, and he is presently being held on \$40,000.00 bail pending his trial, which is set for December \$4, 1950.

It is noted that Vago, who was born on February 27, 1898 at Budapest, Hungary, filed Petition for Naturalization #310521 in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York on May 31, 1938, and was admitted to eitigenship on September 29, 1938. Certificate of Naturalization #4320335 was issued to him

At the time of his arrest, Vago was employed as a structural engineer by Jacob Aronow, at 12 East 48th Street, New York. He resides at 66-07 99th Street, Rego Park, Long Island.

This is being submitted for your information.

Very truly yours

EDWARD SCHEIDT Special Agent in Charge

DATE WHEN PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 10/16-31: OSCAR JOHN VAGO, was. PERJURY ESPIONAGE - R VAGO plead not guilty to indictment on SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: 10/23/50 and trial date set for 11/13/50. On 11/13/50 Government requested adjournment of trial to 12/4/50. On 11/14/50 in hearing before U.S. District Judge JOHN W. CLANCY, 12/4/50 trial date approved and reduction of bail denied. VAGO remains in custady U.S. Marshal, SDNY. Residence of VAGO during 1929-31 period at 28-20 37th St., Asteria, Long Island, verified. letter from VAGO to HARRY GOLD set out. Bank account reviewed. Interviews with A. Brethman Asseciates employees set out. PROSECUTIVE ACTION On October 23, 1950, before United States District Judge, WILLIAM BONDY, VAGO entered a plea of not guilty to the indictment charging him with perjury and trial date was set for November 13, 1950. for VAGO, requested a reduction of bail in proceedings before

NOV 28 1950 PROPERTY OF FRI-THIS CONFIDENTIAL REPORT AND ITS CONTENTS ARE LOANED TO YOU BY THE FRI AND ARE NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED OUTSIDE OF

AGENCY TO WHICH LOANED.

WY 100-55242

United States District Judge JOHN W. CLANCY and requested a trial at a date earlier than December 4, 1950, which was requested by the Government. On November 14, 1950, in a hearing in chambers, Judge CLANCY denied the reduction in bail and approved December 4, 1950, as a trial date.

As of November 22, 1950, VAGO had not made bail and remained in the custody of the United States Marshal, Southern District of New York.

# RESIDENCES

H. Wagner:

# 397 Third Avenue Astoria, Long Island

It is noted that the above address is the one furnished by VAGO at the time of his marriage in 1928. This address is no longer in existence but investigation indicates that the present number which corresponds to the above address is 31-16 32nd Street, Astoria, Long Island.

- J. J. KOHOUT, 31-46 37th Street, owner of the above building, advised that he had no recollection of VAGO and stated that no records of tenants were available.
- D. MIHALIK, superintendent of the building in 1930, GUSTAVE KROEL, and JOHN BELKMANN, long time tenants of the building, advised that they had no recollection of VAGO.

CURT RASCH, 31-40 32nd Street, and RUDOLPH JERABEK, 31-23 32nd Street, long time residents in the neighborhood, were also unable to furnish any information concerning VAGO.

340 Ditmars Boulevard Astoria, Long Island

It is noted that the above address is that given by CLAIRE FAGO at the time of her marriage and is believed to be identical with the present address of 36-02 Ditmars Boulevard.

Dr. CHARLES F. ZEMAN, who has resided at the address for some twenty-five years, and Mr. and Mrs. CHARLES VLECK, 36-04 Ditmars Boulevard, who have resided at that address for approximately the same period, were unable to furnish any information concerning VAGO or his wife.

# 28-20 37th Street Astoria, Long Island

A review of the telephone directory for the summer of 1929 reflects that a telephone was listed to one CLAIRE V. WEISSIMAN, and that in the 1929-30 and 1930-31 editions the number was listed to CLAIRE W. WAGO at the above address.

PHILIP MERK, building superintendent, and Mrs. C. F. WALTERS, long time tenant, were unable to furnish any information concerning the VAGOS as were also EDWARD TARDY and ELLA FISCUS, son and daughter of the deceased owner of the building.

JOSEPHINE DULAK, 43 Halady Street, Yonkers, present owner of the building, stated that she had no records covering the period when the VAGOS are said to have resided there.

Mrs. JOHN BUZEK, 28-21 37th Street, and A. KNOROWSHI, 28-18 37th Street, long time residents of the neighborhood, were also unable to furnish any information concerning the VAGOS.

The following signed statement reflecting residence of the VAGOS at that address was obtained from Mrs. EMMA JAHODA, 191-10 122nd Avenue, St. Albans 12, Long Island, New York:

"191-10 122 Avenue St. Albans 12, Long Island, New York November 10, 1950

"I, Emma Jahoda, make the following statement to John H. Wagher who has identified himself to me as being a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No promises, inducements or duress have been used to have me

make this statement and I know that anything I say may be used in a court of law.

"To the best of my knowledge and recollection I was superintendent of the apartment house located at 28-20 37 Street, Astoria, Long Island, New York from about 1929 to 1933 during which period I collected the rent from the tenants for the landlord.

"I recognized the pictures of Oscar John Vago taken in 1932 and 1933 and the picture of Claire Vago taken in 1931 shown to me by SA John H. Wagner as tenants in the above apartment house at the time I became superintendent. However, I do not recall the length of their tenancy nor when they moved from 28-20 37 Street but do recall that they moved from this address before I left as superintendent.

"I have read the foregoing statement consisting of this and one other page and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

/s/ Mrs EMMA JAHODA

"Witness:

/s/ JOHN H. WAGNER, Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation"

25 Sickles Street New York City

The following signed statement was obtained from Mrs. ALICE R. TREI, 15 Sickles Street, New York:

"October 17, 1950

"I, Alice R. Trei, make the following voluntary statement to John H. Wagner who has identified himself to me as a Special-Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No promises, threats or duress have been used to have me make this statement and I know it may be used in a court of law.

"I reside in apartment 4A at 15 Sickles Street, New

"York City and my husband, Peter Trei, and I have owned the apartment house located at this address since August 1, 1944. From August 1, 1935 to August 1, 1944 we were superintendents of this apartment house.

"I identified the photograph of Oscar John Vago which was shown me by Special Agent John H. Wagner as being the Oscar Vago who occupied apartment 7B at 25 Sickles Street, New York City during the late 1930's with his wife and remained in this apartment for about twelve to eighteen months. I do not recall the exact dates of his tenancy at this address and no records to verify the exact dates are available. However, I do recall that several months after Vago moved into apartment 7B his wife gave birth to a child.

"I have read the foregoing statement and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

/s/ ALICE R. TREI

"Witness:

/s/ JOHN H. WAGNER, Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation"

# BANK ACCOUNT

Confidential Informant T-1, of known reliability, advised that the following checks had been drawn on the VAGO account at the Sterling National Bank and Trust Company of New York, 95-38 Queens Boulevard:

Date	Amount	<u>Payee</u>	
9/18/50	\$ 10.00	Mungarian Daily Journal Association,	Inc.
9/27/50	600.00	ARTHUR BAILY	
10/9/50	500.00	MOSES C. WEIMAN	
10/20/50	136.95	Collector of Internal Revenue	
11/14/50	500.00	MOSES WEIMAN	

The informant advised that other checks drawn on the account were small and apparently of a routine nature, such as for utilities. The balance in the account as of November 2, 1950 was \$492.47.

It is noted that ARTHUR BAILY was the original attorney for VAGO and that MOSES C. WEIMAN presently represents him.

Confidential Informant T-2, of known reliability, has advised that VAGO receives at his home the "Magyar Joyo" (Hungarian Daily Journal). Confidential Informants T-3 and T-4, of known reliability, have described this publication as a prosommunist Hungarian language daily published in New York City by the Hungarian Daily Journal Association, Inc.

Confidential Informant T-5, of known reliability, advised that OSCAR VAGO opened an account on August 23, 1941, with the Forest Hills Branch of the Corn Exchange Bank and Trust Company at 106-24 71st Avenue, Forest Hills. The opening deposit was \$240.00 and the account was closed on September 15, 1944. Informant could furnish no additional information concerning the account.

It is noted that the above information was obtained on a confidential basis and is not to be made public except in the usual proceedings upon issuance of a subpoena.

## VAGO LETTER TO HARRY GOLD

On June 3, 1950, at the residence of HARRY GOLD, 6823 Kindred Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the following letter was found by SA Forrest F. Burgess of the Philadelphia Office. It is noted that this search was conducted under a waiver from GOLD's attorney, JOHN D. M. HAMILTON.

The letter was addressed to Mr. HARRY GOLD, 6823 Kindred Street, Philadelphia, Pa., and bore the return address "OSCAR J. VAGO, 6607 - 99th St., Rego Park, N.Y." It was postmarked June 30, 1948, New York, New York.

Tuesday, 11 P.M.

"Dear Harry

"Would you be good enough to let me know. or if you don't know please find out, what is the subscription rate of the 'Chem. Abstracts' (member and non-member rate) and of the I. & E.C. Analytical Edition. Also, whether you could get another member subscription? How are you? What is news on the job front? I hope you succeeded in locating yourself. I had a talk with Bernie a few days ago. It seems that B. acts as an agent of AB. in the guise of an impartial co-plaintiff. But why he does that is rather difficult for me to see. This time, the purpose probably was to see whether I am a dope or whether I have a lawyer? But there is no Lonza deal nor Norman deal, as yet! I hear that Stanton hired Jaffe from I.P.E. (Emil's outfit) as something like a plant engineer. When will you be up in NY.? I would very much like to see you!

"I would appreciate an early answer to my questions. Oh yes, I spoke to Bill last weekend. He is having a tough time finding a job in NY. He is looking for some plant production job. He'll probably have to leave town. He says that both A. and M. are in at 9 A.M. and that A. goes to bed at 9 P.M.

"Sincerely OSCAR

"P.S. Victor (my b. in law) is anxiously asking about the apartment!

"P.P.S. You did not forget the lodging to my friend for the convention? His name is: Sy Lesser.

GOLD, who is a self-admitted soviet agent, was interviewed on June 20, 1950 by SA T. Scott Miller, Jr., concerning the above letter. GOLD advised that the BERNIK referred to is BERNARD PIDTO, an interview with whom has previously been reported in this case. The NORMAN referred to is EDWARD C. NORMAN, who was at one time a potential purchaser of A. Brothman Associates. The STANTON mentioned is MICHAEL A. STANTON, an owner of the Stanton Chemical Company, Philadelphia, for which ABRAHAM BROTHMAN set up a process for a cold wave treatment.

The JAFFE referred to is JAMES JARFE, chemical engineer formerly with Industrial Process Engineering, 8 Lister Avenue, Newark, which is also referred to in the letter. The EMIL referred to is EMIL BARISH, former partner in A. Brothman Associates. The BILL referred to is WILLIAM ROHALL, a former employee of A. Brothman Associates, who has previously been interviewed in this case.

The A. and M. referred to are ABRAHAM BROTHMAN and MIRIAM MOSKOWITZ. The VICTOR referred to, a brother-in-law of VAGO, was not known to GOLD. GOLD advised that he was not acquainted with the SY LESSER referred to in the post-script but stated that VAGO had requested him to furnish living accommodations for LESSER upon the occasion of the latter's visit to Philadelphia in 1948 for the convention of the Progressive Party.

Confidential Informant T-6, of known reliability, has advised that on October 31, 1948, SEYMOUR LESSER, 62-98 Saunders Street, Rego Park, Long Island, who is also known as SY, was active in canvassing work for the Communist Party. The informant advised that LESSER was a leader in the Rego Park Section of the Communist Party. As has been previously reported, OSCAR VAGO is also a member of the Rego Park Section of the Communist Party.

Confidential Informant T-7, of known reliability, advised on October 17, 1950 that LESSER was still active --- in Communist Party affairs.

# EMPLOYEES OF A. BROTHMAN ASSOCIATES

ROBERT KEITH TOWNSEND, 42 Prospect Avenue, Sea Cliff Long Island, advised SA Joseph J. Palguta that he had been employed by ABA in 1945 and 1946 at the ABA office at 114 East 32nd Street, New York. He stated that VAGO, who was at that time a partner in ABA, was in charge of the office during periods of BROTHMAN's absence. He advised that he considered both BROTHMAN and VAGO to be Communist Party members or strong sympathizers since they constantly discussed CP affairs and since he had seen them in possession of tickets to rallies staged by the Communist Party.

HERSH RABINOVITCH, 129 West 89th Street, New York, an engineer with ABA from August 1946 to May 1947, advised SA Stuart J. Cameron that he was unable to furnish any pertinent information concerning VAGO.

SEYMOUR MANDELKORN, an ABA employee from May 1945 to September 1946, advised SAS Stuart J. Cameron and Robert L. Stevenson, Jr. that he was in possession of no information pertinent to this investigation.

SHOLEM SILBERSTEIN, 2 Brighton 8th Court, Brooklyn, a chemist with ABA from June 1945 to May 1947, advised SA Stuar J. Cameron that he knew nothing concerning the activities of VAGO except those pertaining to business affairs.

MILTON FUSIM, 1025 Bryant Avenue, Bronx, employee of ABA from June 1945 to August 1945, was interviewed by SAS Joseph C. Walsh, Jr. and Robert F. Royal. He, too, was unable to furnish any information pertinent to this investigation.

Mrs. RUTH LEWIN SELIGER, 154 Pearsall Avenue, Mt. Vernon, New York, an ABA employee for about three months in the spring of 1946, ERNEST EGERSON MAIR, 114-20 172nd Street, Queens, an ABA employee from February 1946 to May 1946, and JOEL STANLEY CHALEK, 63-45 Wetherol Street, Rego Park, all advised SA Joseph J. Palguta that they had no pertinent information concerning VAGO.

- PENDING -

JAC DAR

# ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

# INFORMANTS

FRANCEMEYER Woodstock, New York, former high CP official, advised SA Louis P. Hurley, Jr. that he was unable to identify a photograph of VAGO.

In a letter dated November 9, 1950, the Boston Office advised that HERBERT A. PHILBRICK was unable to identify a photograph of VAGO.

Confidential Informants T-8, T-9, T-10, T-11, T-12, T-13, T-14, T-15 and T-16, all of known reliability, were unable to identify VAGO.

# VAGO WILHELM

It is noted that on October 2, 1950, Mrs. JAMES CAMPBELL LEWIS, 22 East 73rd Street, New York, advised that one VAGO WILHELM had been a Commissar in the Communist government in Hungary in 1919 and that newspaper photographs of VAGO resembled VAGO WILHELM a great deal.

On November 14, 1950, photographs of VAGO were exhibited to Confidential Informant T-3, who stated that he had been personally acquainted with the official referred to by Mrs. LEWIS and that he bore no resemblance to OSCAR VAGO. He stated that VAGO WILHELM, properly known as BELA VAGO, held the post of Commissar of Public Welfare in the Communist regime of BELA KUN in Hungary in 1919 and related that VAGO died in Soviet Russia in the early 1920's.

# MISCELLANEOUS

Confidential Informant T-l advised that a check dated October 18, 1950, in the amount of \$194.00 to OSCAR VAGO was deposited in the Sterling National Bank and Trust Company of New York, 95-38 Queens Boulevard, by Mrs. VAGO. The check was drawn on the Riggs National Bank, Washington, D.C.

# ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE (Contd.

by <u>PACE WEIDLINGER</u>. It is noted that the informant advised previously that a \$200.00 check had been given by WEIDLINGER to Mrs. VAGO and also that at the time of his arrest VAGO carried a business card of PAUL WEIDLINGER, General Engineering Associates, 1928 First Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. In a teletype dated October 9, 1950, the Washington Field Office was requested to identify WEIDLINGER.

As previously reported, BERNARD PIDTO, 783 Troy
Avenue, Brooklyn, a financial backer of A. Brothman Associates,
advised that in 1948 a dispute between VAGO and MIRIAM MOSKOWITZ
at the ABA offices in Long Island City had grown to such proportions that the police were called to restore order. A
check of the records of the 108th Precinct of the New York
City Police Department at 5-47 50th Avenue, Long Island City,
failed to disclose any record of this incident. The records
were reviewed by SAS Joseph C. Walsh, Jr. and Ralph F. Miller.

In Bureau letter dated November 6, 1950, it is reflected that the FBI Laboratory searched the signature and handprinting of VAGO through the National Security File without effecting an identification.

LEADS

NEW YORK

AT NEW YORK CITY

Will continue a mail cover on the VAGO residence at 66-07 99th Street, Rego Park, Long Imland.

Will report the results of a check of the toll calls made from the VAGO telephone at the above address.

Will continue to monitor the bank account of VAGO at the Sterling National Bank and Trust Company of New York, 95-38 Queens Boulevard.

Will follow and report prosecutive action.

Copies of this report are being sent to the Los Angeles, San Francisco and Washington Field Offices for information according to Bureau instructions.

•0

# NY 100-55242

# CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

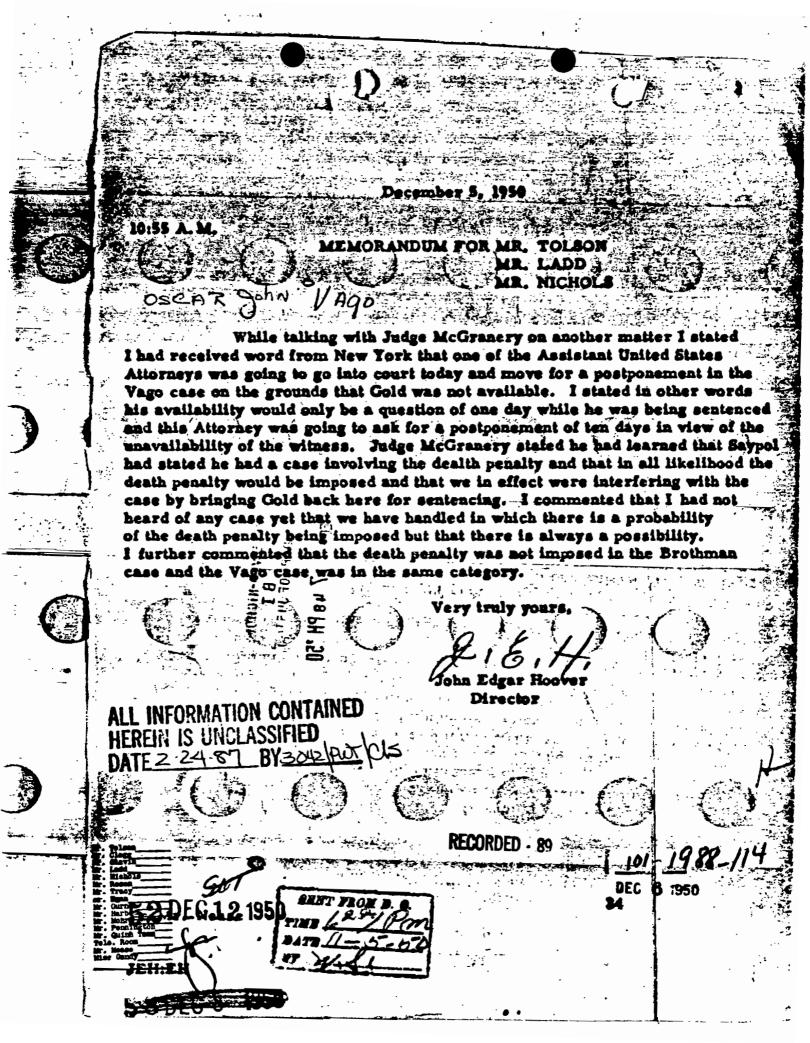
The SA Robert M. as follows:	Confidential Informants mentioned in the report of Kane, dated NOV 27 1950 at New York, are
T-	Sterling National Bank and Trust Company of New York, 95-38 Queens Boulevard.
T-	A mail cover an the VAGO residence at 66-07 99th Street, Rego Park.
<b>T-</b>	contacted by SA
	corn Exchange
<b>b</b> <sub>1</sub> ) 1-	Bank and Trust Company, 15 William Street, New by York, contacted by SAA
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<b></b>	and sometimes of the same of t
T- T- T-	contacted by SA  29 10 11 12 13 all contacted by SA
T	both set out in Cleveland letter dated 10/13/50.  as set out in San Francisco letter.

REFERENCE: Report of SA Robert M. Kane, New York, 10/16/50

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT DIRECTOR, FBI DATE: November 30, 1950 SAC GUY HOTTEL. WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE OSCAR JOHN VAGO, wa. CLASSIFIED BY: 3012 F PERJURY DECLASSIEY ON: ESPIONAGE Re New York teletype dated November 28, 1950, requesting the Bureau's opinion re the testimony of in the captioned case. The following is furnished for the Bureau's consideration. In view of the above and the fact that the disclosure of the Informant would reveal an investigative technique of the Bureau as well as jeopardize the safety of the Informant, it is the suggestion of this office that the Informant's identity be protected, and his testimony not used in this case. ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED JLS: DAW EXCEPT WHILE SHOWN 65-5598 OTHERWISE cc: 66-2198 Classified by Exempt from GDS Category Date of Declassific the Indefinite **55**DEC 201950

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION Transmit the following message Rovember 30, 1950 OSCAR JOHN VAGO, PERJURT, ESP R. WEURTEL NOW PIFTY. IDENTITY OF THE INFORMANT ANNOT **ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED** HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN COPIES DESTROYED 456 MAR 9 1961 55 DEC 201950 BENT VIA

	EDERAL BUTEAU OF INVESTIGATION  U. S. DEPARTADINI OF INSTIGE  COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  NOV 2 8 1950  Mr. Wichols
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f	WASH AND WASH FLD 79 28 10-06 P FROM NEW YORK
	DERECTOR AND SAC URGENT  CLASSIFIED BY: 3012 PUT CLS  DECLASSIFY ON: 0 DD  OSCAR JOHN VAGO, WAS. PERJURY, ESP. R. AUSA ROY COHN, SDNY, PREPARING
	THE VAGO CASE FOR TRIAL. ADVISES MATERIALITY OF VAGOS TESTIMONY BEFORE GJ QUESTIONABLE RE REP SA ROBERT M. KANE, NY, OCTOBER SIXTEEN, FIFTY. COHN DESIRES ADVICE AS TO WHETHER OR NOT INFORMANT
	IN ESTABLISHING MATERIALITY. BUREAU REQUESTED TO ADVISE IMMEDIATELY.  SCHEIDT
	HOLD PLSEC 201950 CONFINIAL ROLLES TO DECIT 5 THOSE NO.



Office Memorandum UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT MR. A. H. BEIMON DATE: November 30, 1950 BIECT: OSCAR JOHN VAGO PERJURY ESPIONAGE - R **PURPOSE** To advise the New York division that the identity of should not be considered for use as a witness in DETAILS The New York division by teletype on November 28 requested Bureau advice as to the use of the forthcoming trial of Oscar John Vago. RECOMMENDATION It is therefore recommended that the New York office be advised that this informant cannot be used in connection with the Vago trial. A teletype to the New York office is attached hereto for your approval. RECORDED - 25/6/ -/ EX-125 DE: DOM Classified by 2355 / 4 9/000 - /14/20 xempt from GDS Category 2.3.7 52 DEC 11 1950 of Declassification Indefinite けし

OSCAR JOHN VAGO, WAS, PERJURY, ESP R. TRIAL DATE SET FOR DEC ELEVEN NEXT ON CONDITION HARRY GOLD AVAILABLE AS A WITNESS BY THAT DATE COPIES DESTROYED SCHEIDT 458 MAR 9 1961 RECOR HOLD

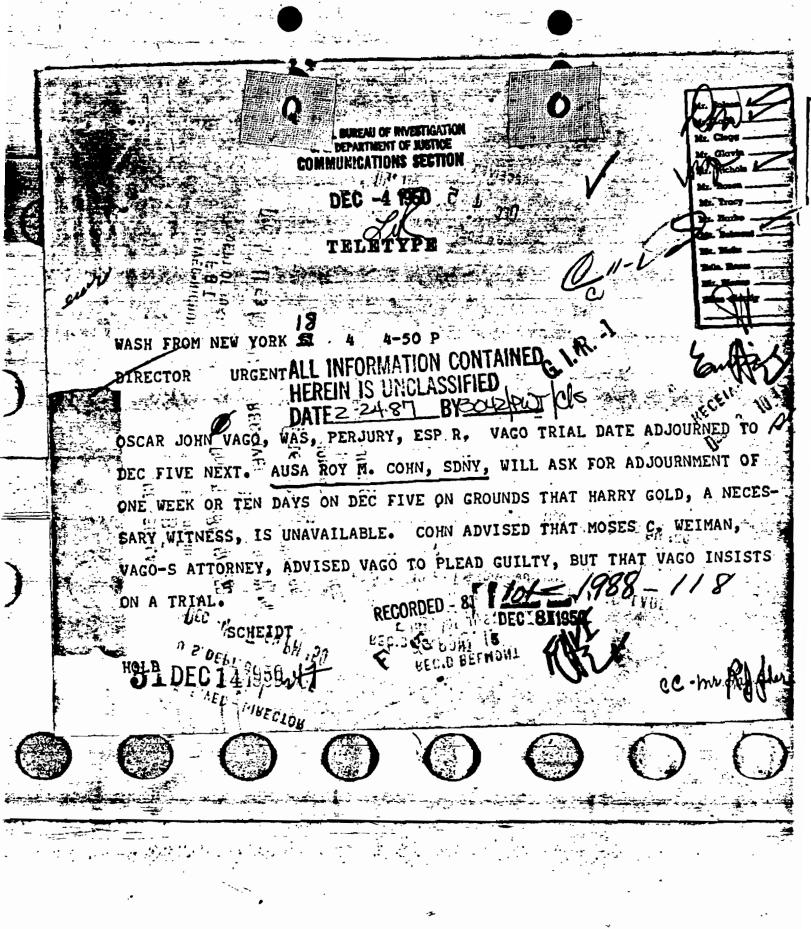
A CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF TH December 5, 1950 SAC, Washington Field Director, FBI **ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED** HEREIN IS ENGLASSIFIED OSCAR JOHN KAGO SPIONACE - 1 A review which has been made of the file in this case reflect that on August 1, 1940, your office directed a letter to lieutenent Colonel James A. lester of the Office of Filitary Intelligence, War Department, Washington, D. C. under the caption "J. H. Segal, O. Vogo Calpin, Espionage. It was noted that in this latter information was furnished to Hilitary Intelligence as having been received by your office from Er. A. B. Ground in the Identification Division of the Buroni According to this information, Fr. Faines, who was employed in the Procurement Division of the Treasury Department, advised that he had formerly under his supervision one J. H. Segal who resided at 1723 De Salos Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. He stated that a Mr. O. Vogo and one Calpin were employed under his supervision. He stated that all three of these individuals were rembers of the Communist Party and that while in the employ of the Treasury Department they had attempted to procure a transfer to the Panana Canal Zone. According to Mr. Haines's information, the Kary Department had refused to employ these men on one occasion; however, at the time of his report to Mr. Ground they were employed by the War Department. RECORDED - 23 DEC 9 1950 was for a time to by Mr. Maines as G. Vogo Grad 2 Pally subject Vago.

employed in the Procurement Division of the Treasury Department and likewise in the Ear Department, mit is considered that the individual referred

Your office is therefore requested to make an immediate effort to determine the identity of Mr. Haines and have him thoroughly interviewed for any information he may be able to furnish which would definitely establish Vago's membership in the Communist Party in Weshington, D. C. in This information may be of material value in correction with the prosecution of Yaco in New York City on the charge of perjury.

RECEIVED- POL ROOM his mitter should receive your immediate attention so that the interview can the completed in sufficient time for consideration of the United States Attorney prior to the trial of this case which, it is expected, will be set for trial on or about December 15, 1950.

101-1988 oc - New York DEC 7 1950



DIRECTOR URGENT OSCAR JOHN VAGO WAS, PERJURY, ESPIONAGE AUSA ROY COHN ADVISED THAT ON DECEMBER ELEVEN NEXT GOVERNMENT WILL REQUEST ADJOURNMENT OF TRIAL TO FEBRUARY ONE NEXT ON BASIS OF UNAVAILABILITY OF FOLD AND PRESS OF REMINGTON AND ROSENBERG CASES COPIES DESTROYED

n For Inspector Begfield:

There is being enclosed berevith for your information a prendum potting forth information as to the background of Occar John Vago, as well as the present status of the prosecutive estion which has been implifuted against him for violation of the Federal Parjury Statute.

101-1968

ec: Mr. Glenn H. Bethel

(RECISIONED - AIR MAIL)

c/o The Commissioner Royal Canadian Mounted Police

(with enclosure)

Ottama, Ontario, Camada

cc: Poreign Service Desk (v/ copy of enclosure) DEC 15 1950 /

> Classified by 239 Exempt from C

INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPTANHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

CLASSIFIED BY: 3042 PUT

DECLASSIFY ON

Occur John Yago was indicted by a Federal Cauch Jury in the Southern District of New York on September 25, 1970, on a charge of perjusy based on his false testimony before the Federal Grand Jary on September 20, 1950. He was exrested on the same date, and upon agraigment in the United States District Court in New York City he entered a plea of not guilty and is presently being beld in custody of the United States Hardenl in default of a bond of fifty thousand dollars. We tried you got for December 11, 1950.

Coour John Vego was a partner in the firm of A. Brotheim and Associates, New Mark City, from August, 1944, to June, 1948, During this period be become elosely essociated with Herry Gold, a confused Soviet agent, and Abrohum Drotheso, the the furnishing information to know Boviet agents for transmittal to Russia.

According to Gold, Yego was present in the effice of A. brothum and Associates on the evening when Brotisson received his Grand Jury subposens and appropried his intention of talling the whole story as to his having furnished information to the Austians. Gold also stated that Vego, in December, 1949, made inquiry of him as to whether Brothean's statement that he, Brothean, has received a red star from the UESA for his activities on behalf of the Soviets was true. Yego, upon interview, however, has denied the shows.

In September, 1950, it was learned through a highly confidential engos

that

Occar John Yego was born in Buderest, Bangary, on February 27, 1890. He came to the United States in 1924 and was naturalised as a United States citizen in the Southern District of New York on September 29, 1938. According to information received. Vago attended the Royal Hungarian Technical University at Bulepast, Burgary, and in October, 1922, graduated with an engineering degree. The secreted Claims Volument of Long Island City, New York, on May 31, 1928. He precised in thebington, D.C. from 1938 to 1941, during which period he was employed in the Procurement Division of the Transmy Department, the Federal Horks Age of the Public Building Administration, and the Quartermeters Corps of the W Department at Pt. Her, Virginia.

According to testimony before the Consittee on Un-American Activities of the 77th Congrues, Vago was a member of the Machington Book Shop, the Machington Countities for Democratic Action, and the American Langua for Pasce and Democracy,

Inspector Bayfield cc: Mr. Glenn H. Betbel Legal Attache, London Foreign Service Deak

E.F.EMRIGH:bc 101-1988

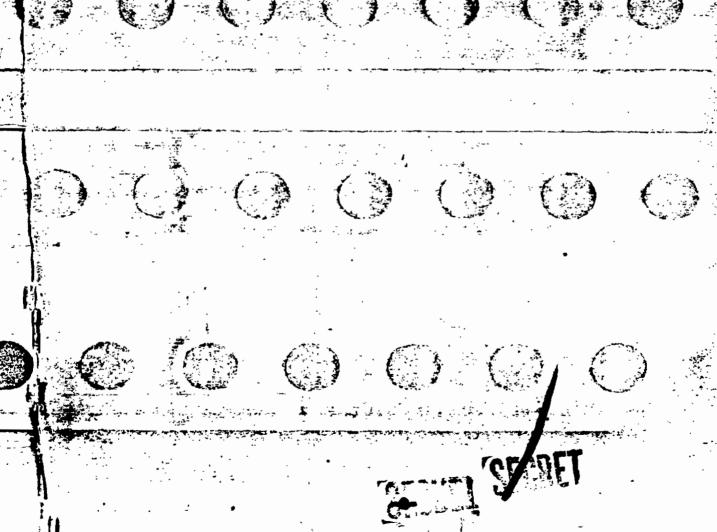
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all of which experientions have been eited by the Attorney Medical as being within the purview of Executive Order 9035. Rebesquent to his return to Now Mark City in 1962, information was sessived through confidential information indicating that he was a mader of the Executive Condition at Large of the Rago Park Clab of the Communist Political Association in May, 1944; that he was elected to the Queens County Council of the Communist Political Association in July, 1944; and that he was listed as President of the Trylox Club, Ridgewood Section, Queens County Communist Party, in June, 1949.

Prior to Tago's arrest on September 20, 1950, he was employed by the Carol Management Corporation in New York City and recided with his wife and two children at 6607 - 99th Street, Rego Furk, Long Island, New York.



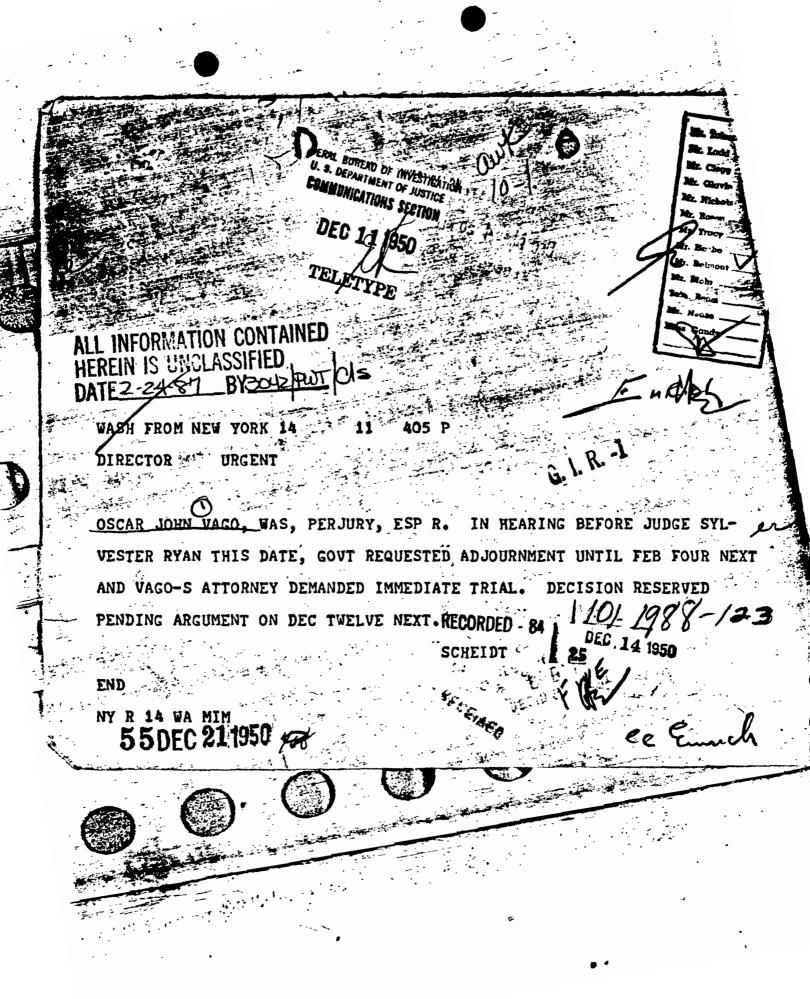
OSCAR JOHN VACO ESPIONAGE - E There is being furnished for your information a copy of report of Special Agent Robert M. Kane dated at New York City November 27, 1950, in the above-entitled matter, TION CONTAINED 101-1988 U. S DEPT OF JUSTIF' DEC 14 1950 -DEC 1 9 1950

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE COMMUNICATIONS SECTION DEC 12,1850 URGENT OSCAR JOHN VAGO, WAS, PERJURY, ESPIONAGE R. JUDGE SYLVESTER RYAN ORDERED TRIAL DATE SET FOR JAN. FIFTEENTH NEXT, WITH DEFINITE

UNDERSTANDING THAT VAGO WILL BE TRIED UPON COMPLETION OF REMINGTON TRIAL. VAGO-S REQUEST FOR REDUCTION OF BAIL TO TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS CONTINUED AT FORTY HOUSAND DOLLARS. DENIED.

HOLD

SCHEIDT 2



# FD-72

## FEDERE BUREAU. OF INVESTIGATION

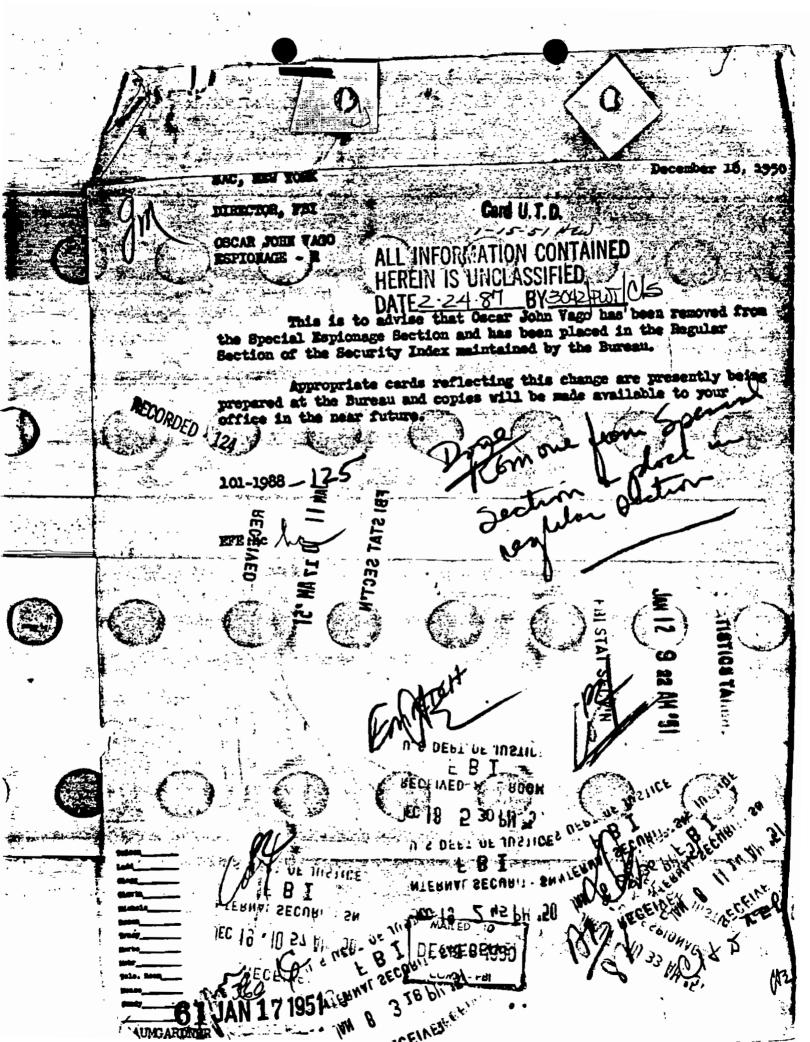
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PROPERTY of FOI - This confidential report and its contents are loaned to you by the FBI and are not to be distributed outside of agency to which loaned.

AT 65-1362

#### ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

REFERENCE: Report of SA GEORGE P. DILLARD, dated 10-17-50 at Atlanta, Georgia.



DATE: December 12, 1950 SUBIRCT: OSCAR JOHN VAGO ESPIONAGE - R To recommend against the retention of Oscar John Vago in the Special Espionage Section of the Security Index. DETAILS: Oscar John Vago was a partner in the firm of A. Brothman and Associates, New York City, New York, from August, 1944, to Jone, 1948. During this period he was closely associated with Harry a confessed Soviet espionage agent, and Abraham Brothman, who Was furnishing information to known Soviet agents for transmittal to Russia. According to Gold, Vago was present in the office of A. Brothman and Associates in May, 1947, when Brothman had received his subpoena to appear before a Federal Grand Jury in New York. Further it was indicated that on this occasion Brothman announced his intention of telling the whole story as to his having furnished information to the Soviets. Gold has also advised that in December. 1949. Vago made inquiry of him as to whether Brothman had actually received a Red Star from the USSR for his activities in behalf of the Soviet Union. On this occasion he is also alleged to have advised Gold that Brothman had informed him his (Brothman's) work had been worth the work of one or two brigades of men. It was learned recently through a highly confidential source that onlicing in the Ы Vago was born in Budapest, Hungary on February 27, 1898. He came to the U.S. in 1924, and was naturalised as a U.S. 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 1941 during which period he worked for the Progresset Division of the Treasury Department, the Federal Works Agency, Public Building Administration, and the War Department at Fort Hyer, Virginia Exempt from CDS, Category Date of Declaration Indefinit



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. Upon moving back to New York City he was reported to be a member of the Executive Committee at Large of the Rego Park Club of the SPA in May, 1944. He was elected to the President of the Trylon Club, Ridegewood Section, Queens County Communist Party in June, 1949.

Vago was employed by the Carol Management Corp., 12 E. 48th Street, New York City prior to September 28, 1950, and resided with his wife and two children at 66-07 99th Street, Rego Park, Long Island, New York. He is presently in the Federal House of Detention in New York City, where he is being held in default of a \$50,000 bond awaiting trial on a Federal Perjury charge.

All of the remaining factors appearing in the memorandum of September 28, 1950, have been given appropriate consideration.

#### RECOMMENDATION :

It is recommended that Oscar John Vagds be removed from the Special Espionage Section of the Security Index pending the outcome of the present prosecutive action against him, but retained in the regular section of the Security Index. A letter is being directed to the Department requesting their opinion as to Vagosimmediate apprehension in case of hostilities, should he be successful in being released under bond.

SECNET

December 12, 1950

. bl

OSCAR JOHN YAGO

There is being furnished herewith for your information a memorandum setting forth information as to the background of Oscar John Vago, as well as the present status of the prosecutive action which has been instituted against him for violation of the Federal Perjury Statute.

2.24.87

CLASSIFIED BY:30 DECLASSIFY ON:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNGLASSIFIED EXCLAS

Enclosure

EFE:hc 101-1988

ce: Mr. Ladd

Mr. Belmont

Foreign Service Desk

Legal Attache, London

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ME: OOCAR JOHN YACO

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Occar John Vago was indicted by a Federal Grand Jury in the Southern District of New York on September 28, 1950, on a charge of perjury based on his false testimony before the Federal Grand Jury on September 20, 1990. He was arrested on the same date, and upon arreignment in the United States District Court in New York City he entered a plea of not guilty and is presently being held in custody of the United States Hershal in default of a bond of fifty thousand dollars. His trial as set for December 11, 1970, 🚟 🔆

Occur John Vago was a purtner in the first of A. Brothman and Association, New York City, from August, 1944, to June, 1948. During this period be became closely associated with Marry Gold, & confensed Soviet agent, and Abraham Brothman who was furnishing information to known Soviet agents for transmittal to Russia.

they wanted and they are According to Gold. Vago was present in the billion of A. Brothman and Associates on the evening when Brothman received his Grand Jury subposes and emounced his intention of telling the whole story as to his having furnished information to the Russians. Gold also stated that Vago, in December, 1949, made inquiry of him as to whether Brothman's statement that he, Brothman, had received a red star from the USSR for his activities on behalf of the Sovieta was true. Yego, upon interview, however, has denied the above.

In September, 1950, it was learned through a highly confidential source

Oscar John Yago was born in Budapest, Mangary, on February 27, 1896. 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. According to information received, Vago attended the Royal Mangarian Technical University at Budapest, Hungary, and in October, 1922, graduated with an engineering degree. He married Claire Melecuen of Long Island City, Now York, on May 31, 1928. He resided in Washington, D.C. from 1938 to 1941, during which period be was employed in the Procurement Division of the Freesury Department, the Federal Forks Agency of the Public Building Administration, and the Quarternasters Corps of the War Department at Pt. Ryer, Virginia, 300 1300

According to testimony before the Consittee on Un-American Activities 🕊 the 77th Coogress, Vago was a member of the Machington Book Shop, the Machington, Constitue for Description Action, and the American League for Peace and Description

E.F.EMRICH:bc 101-1988

cc: Mr. Glenn Bethel Legal Attache, London Foreign Service Desk

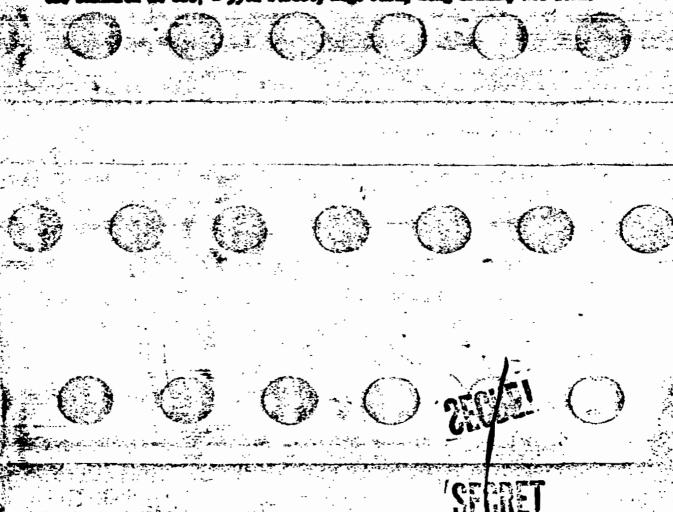
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all of which experientions have been eited by the Attorney Sountil as being within the purview of Encative Order 9835. Subsequent so his swifts to have that City in 1982, information was preserved through confidential information indicating that he was a maker of the Encative Countities at Large of the Bago Park Club of the Communist Political Association in May, 1984; that he was elected to the Queens County Council of the Communist Political Association in July, 1984; and that he was listed as President of the Trylon Club, Ridgresof Section, Queens County Communist Party, in June, 1989.

Prior to Vago's arrest on September MD, 1970, he was employed by the Carol Management Corporation in New York City and resided with his wife and two children at 6607 - 97th Street, Rego Park, Long Island, New York.



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M. PETRON PORD. METORY ATTORNEY CHARACL

Secondar 14, 1990

DIESCIUS, FEI

PROGRAM FOR APPRECISION AND DESCRIPTION OF PERSONS CONCIDENCES. POTENTIALLY DANAMAGOUS TO THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AND THE PUBLIC SAFETY OF THE UNITED STATES.

Ding Desertion

In connection with our program for the apprehension of persons considered potentially dangerous in the event of hostilities, be are maintaining on the list of persons to be immediately apprehended several name of persons who are assiting trial or other court action.

This list includes such persons as Oscar John Vago, in jail smalling trial on a perjury charge; Julius Rosenberg, in jail smalling trial on an espionage charge; Judith Coplon, at liberty under bond swalling an appeal before the Court of Appeals in the District of Columbia; and Alger Hise, at liberty under bond swalling appeal before the Supress Court of the United States.

In the event of hostilities, it is contemplated that with regard to the shove-named individuals who are presently in jail, an appropriate Sciance will be filed at their place of incorceration so that the Bureau will be immdistely advised at such time as they may be released from custody. With respect to the above-named individuals who are presently at liberty under bond, it is contemplated that their immediate apprehension will be effected under the aforementioned program.

It is requested that you furnish your opinion as to whether the above-described procedure is considered proper in view of the fact that these individuals have either trials or appeals pending in the Federal courts, or indicate your views as to the action that you suggest should be taken by the Bureau concerning individuals in the above category in the event of hostilities.

ec: 101-1988 (Year)
65-58236 (Rosenberg)
65-58365 (Coplon)
(Else)

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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WASHINGTON, D.C

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OSCAR JOHN VAGO, WAS

PERJURY ESPIONAGE - R

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

#### ADMINISTRATIVE

During 1938 and 1939, subject, while residing in Washington, D.C., was a close associate of DAVID BLOOM and JOSEPH ZALKIN. In 1938, subject, BLOOM and ZALKIN were employed by Treasury Department and all were active in the FAECT. BLOOM, a native of the United States, was employed by Russia in 1932. In 1939, was reported to have been active in the American League for Peace and Democracy, which organization falls within the purview of EO 9835. In 1943, BLOOM was employed by the Dupont Company, Wilmington, Delaware, and resided Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. ZALKIN is a native of Russia and naturalized U.S. citizen. Was educated in the United States and during early 1930's was employed as an Engineer in Russia. Reliable confidential in- 4. formants have advised that ZALKIN was a member of the American Peace Mobilization, Washington Committee for Democratic Action, and other Communist front groups. He resides Arlington and is now employed Department of Army. In 1938, VAGO resided 2114 Huidekoper Place, N.W. in home of MORRIS H. BERKMAN. ZALKIN also resided at this residence in 1938.

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WFO 65-5598

ADKINISTRATIVE

DETAILS: AT WASHINGTON, D.C.

# SUBJECT'S EMPLOYMENT AT PROCUREMENT DIVISION, TREASURY DEPARTMENT

CHARLES W. BARBER, Chief, Structural Engineering Division, General Services Administration, advised that this Division, during the 1930's, was known as a part of the Procurement Division of the Treasury Department. BARBER recalled that subject had been employed as a Structural Engineer in this Division during the late 1930's under his general supervision. He also stated that DAVID BLOOM and JOSEPH ZALKIN were also employed in this same section and also served under his general supervision. BARBER recalled that subject was released from his position in 1939, due to a reduction in force. Thereafter, according to BARBER, the subject was employed by the Department of the Army. Since 1939, BARBER stated that he has had no further contact with subject. He also advised that BLOOM and ZALKIN left their positions in the Treasury Department at approximately the same time as did the subject and were thereafter employed respectively by the Dupont Company and the Department of the Army.

While serving under his general direction, Mr. BARBER recalled that subject, BLOOM and ZALKIN were all active in the local chapter of the Federation of Architects. Engineers, Chemists and Technicians (FAECT), which has been identified previously in this investigation. BARBER was of the opinion that BLOOM served for a period during the late 1930's as President of the local chapter of the FAECT. BARBER was not acquainted with subject, BLOOM or ZALKIN socially and had no additional pertinent information. U.

GEORGE SLOAN, Structural Engineer, General Services Administration, recalled that VAGO had been employed in his section when the group was under the Procurement Division of the Treasury Department. SLOAN advised that he was not well acquainted with the subject and advised that subject's closest acquaintences during this period were DAVID BLOOM and JOSEFH ZALKIN, who were also employed in the Procurement Division as Structural Engineers. L

Mr. SLOAN recalled that these individuals were all active in the local FAECT and that BLOOK served as President of the D. C. Chapter of this group during the late 1930's. Mr. SLOAN had no additional information pertinent to this investigation and was not aware of the present whereabouts of subject, BLOOK or ZALKIN. W.

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#### **ADMINISTRATIVE**

H. M. ZIMMERMAN, Structural Engineer, General Services Administration, and CHARLES E. EDWARDS, Structural Engineer, General Services Administration, recalled that subject had been employed with them during the late 1930's. They also advised that during that period subject's closest associates were ZALKIN and BLOOM. ZIMMERMAN advised that the loyalty and patriotism of the subject was suspected. Neither EDWARDS nor ZIMMERMAN could furnish any concrete or definite evidence showing how subject, BLOOM and ZALKIN acquired this reputation, but both stated that subject was considered to be a Russian sympathizer while employed in the Treasury Department.

GIDEON M. HAYNES, 2420 Observatory Place, N.W., and former Group Chief, Procurement Division, Treasury Department, advised that VAGO was employed under his immediate supervision during 1939 and 1940, at the Procurement Division.

HAYNES also advised that VAGO was a close associate and acquaintance of DAVID BLOOM, whom he described as active in the local chapter of the FAECT. HAYNES recalled that in conversations with VAGO, it was his definite impression that VAGO was sympathetic toward Communism and Russia. Although Mr. HAYNES could not recall any specific statement made by VAGO and had no personal knowledge that VAGO was a Communist, he advised that his opinion that VAGO was a Communist sympathizer was gained by VAGO's interest in the FAECT and by his outspoken statements which were in sympathy with Russia whenever topics pertaining to Russia and the United States were discussed at work. Mr. HAYNES also believed that BLOOM was a Communist sympathizer and because of his interest and activity in the FAECT he also was of the opinion that this organization was also sympathetic toward Russia and Communism.

HAYNES was unable to recall J. H. SEGAL or CALPIN, former employees of the Procurement Division, Treasury Department. It is believed that the CALPIN reported by HAYNES, the subject of WFO letter to the Bureau dated August 1, 1940, is identical with JOSEPH ZALKIN. U.

#### DAVID BLOOM

Report of Special Agent F. E. WHITE, dated January 11, 1943, at Philadelphia, in the matter entitled "Kr. and Krs. DAVID HLOOM; Internal Security - C", contained the results of an investigation conducted by Private RUDOLPH ROTH, Pennsylvania Motor Police, at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in this matter which investigation was made during December, 1942. This report reflects that one DAVID ELOOM,

although Private ROTH mentioned

that his informant believed both to be identical. U

hal

Gredit Bureau records disclosed in a report made in October, 1940, that BLOOM and his wife, HILARIE, resided at 600 Claymont Garden, Wilmington, Delaware. It was also reported that BLOOM formerly resided at 4141 North Henderson Road, Arlington, Virginia, and had been employed as an Assistant Structural Engineer, Procurement Division, Treasury Department, from 1934 to 1940. His birth date was fixed as October 28, 1908, at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This report identified BLOOM's parents as ISADORE and ANNIE, and also mentioned that his parents resided at 4260 Parkside Avenue, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and that ISADORE BLOOM was engaged as a partner in the wholesale bottle business, 1211 Bainbridge Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

In 1940, DAVID BLOOM was reported to be employed by the Dupont Company, Wilmington, Delaware. Prior to his service in the United States Government, in 1934, this report indicated that he had been employed by John T. Windrim, Architects Building, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. W

Late in 1941, HARRY G. STUMPF, an Associate Structural Engineer employed by the Bureau of Prisons, Department of Justice, Washington, D.C., advised that he had attended school with BLOOM in Philadelphia and had subsequently been associated with him in the Procurement Division of the Treasury Department. STUMPF advised that late in 1939, BLOOM and his wife were active in the American League for Peace and Democracy. L.

The American League for Peace and Democracy was declared by the Attorney General to be within the purview of Executive Order 9835. U

In addition to the foregoing, STUMPF also advised that BLOOM and a classmate, one LEOW SPECTOR, had been employed as Engineers in Russia during the early 1930's. As a result of this experience, STUMPF advised that SPECTOR became opposed to Russia and it was his belief that thereafter BLOOM developed a sympathetic attitude toward the U.S.S.R.U.

BLOCK, in his application for employment with the Dupont Company, Wilmington, Delaware, advised that he had been born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on October 28, 1908, and was graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering in June, 1929. BLOOM's mother, ANNIE RESSMAN BLOOK, and his father, ISADORE BLOOM, were reported by BLOOM to be natives of Russia who had acquired United States citizenship through the naturalization of their M

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#### ADMINISTRATIVE

respective fathers. His mother's father, AERAHAM PRESSMAN, acquired United States citizenship in the Court of Common Pleas at Media, Pennsylvania, February 13, 1893, and his grandfather, JOSEPH BLOOM, acquired United States citizenship in the U. S. District Court at Philadelphia on May 20, 1901. U.

BLOOM identified the following as his employers: U

79143. 34 June, 1929 to February, 1932 - Structural Engineer - John T. Windrim, Philadelphia

April, 1932 to December, 1932 - Structural Engineer - U.S.S.R. Government at Moscow

January, 1933 to October, 1934 - Assistant Manager, Bavaria Luxburger Brewing Company, Wilmington, Delaware

October, 1934 to May, 1936 - Structural Engineer - Procurement Division, U. S. Treasury Department, Washington, D.C.

May, 1936 to October, 1936 - Engineer - U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, Washington, D.C.

November, 1936 to February, 1937 - U. S. War Department, Washington, D.C.

February, 1937 to March, 1940 - Procurement Division, U. S. Treasury Department, Washington, D.C.

HEOOM identified his wife as HILARIE, and reported that she had been born October 1, 1913, at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Early in 1943, BLOOM resided at 107 Briarcliffe Road, Upper Darby, Pennsylvania.

#### JOSEPH ZALKIN

X7.alkin

Credit Bureau records contained a report dated November 8, 1950, which disclosed that ZALKIN and his wife, MIRA, resided at 429 Belleview Drive, Falls Church, Virginia. This report disclosed that ZALKIN had been born April 26, 1894, and had previously resided at 319 North Thomas Street, Arlington, Virginia; 6323 Luzon Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C., and 3451 Giles Avenue, New York City.

This report revealed that ZALKIN was employed as an Engineer by the Department of the Army and had been so employed since October 1, 1945, and from January 13, 1943 to 1945, was employed by the War Production Board as a Constructional Engineer and this report indicated that 14

prior to 1943 he had been employed by the Department of the Army. L

Personnel files of the Corps of Engineers, Department of the Army, disclosed that ZALKIN was born April 26, 1894, at Ekalermoslav, Russia, and that his wife, ESTER MIRE ZALKIN, had been born in Poland in January, 1898. ZALKIN, in his application for employment in this agency, advised that his father, HYMAN, had been born in Russia and his mother, ALMGOV, had been born in Poland. L.

ZALKIN arrived in the United States on July 3, 1911, from Lisbon, Portugal. On April 8, 1919, he acquired United States citizenship in the U. S. District Court at New York City under Certificate #1195590. ZALKIN attended Cooper Union College in New York City from October, 1913 until May, 1916, and again from October, 1917 to May, 1918, receiving a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering. He also attended the University of New York at Albany in 1931, receiving a "P.E." Degree.

His record indicated the following employments for him: U\_

1918 to 1919 - Draftsman, Turner Construction Company, New York City;

1919 to 1921 - Designer, Witherow Steel Company, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania;

1922 to 1923 - Field Engineer, Barahona Sugar Company, Santo Domingo:

1923 to 1924 - Assistant Engineer, Thomas H. Wiggen, New York City;

1924 to 1928 - Structural Engineer, Walker and Eisen Architects, Los Angeles, California;

1928 to 1929 - Structural Engineer, Board of Transportation, New York City;

1928 to 1931 - Structural Engineer, Albert Kahn, Detroit, Michigan;

1931 to 1934 - Amtorg Corporation, New York City (was employed by this corporation at Uralvagonstroy, Russia, as Resident Engineer);

1935 to 1937 - Supervisory Engineer, Parks Department, New York City;

1937 to 1938 - Structural Engineer, Semet Solvay Corporation, New York City:

1938 to 1939 - Assistant Structural Engineer, Federal Works
Administration, Procurement Division, Treasury Department;

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#### **ADMINISTRATIVE**

1939 to 1943 - Structural Engineer, War Department; 1943 to 1945 - Engineer, War Production Board

Since 1938, ZALKIN has been employed in Washington, D.C. U

Passport files, Department of State, disclosed that ZALKIN was included in Passport #h45579, issued October 10, 1931, for travel to Russia for the purpose of fulfilling his contract with the Amtorg Trading Corporation. His application indicated that he was to be employed in the capacity of a Civil Engineer on the construction of reinforced concrete structures at Uralvagonstroy, Russia. From March, 1933 until 1934, the records of this source indicate that he had been employed as an Engineer for the organization Sonzasbost, at Asbest Uralski Oblast, Russia.

ZALKIN's wife, ESTER, was issued Passport #484313 on April 26, 1932, for travel to Russia. Her file indicated that she had been born in Pinsk, Minsk, Poland. L.

Confidential Informant T-1, of known reliability, advised that ZALKIN's name appeared on the active indices of the American Peace Mobilization in 1940.

Confidential Informant T-2, of known reliability, advised in 1940, that ZALKIN's name appeared on the membership list of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action.

Both of these organizations were declared by the Attorney General to be within the purview of Executive Order 9835 on November 24, 1947.

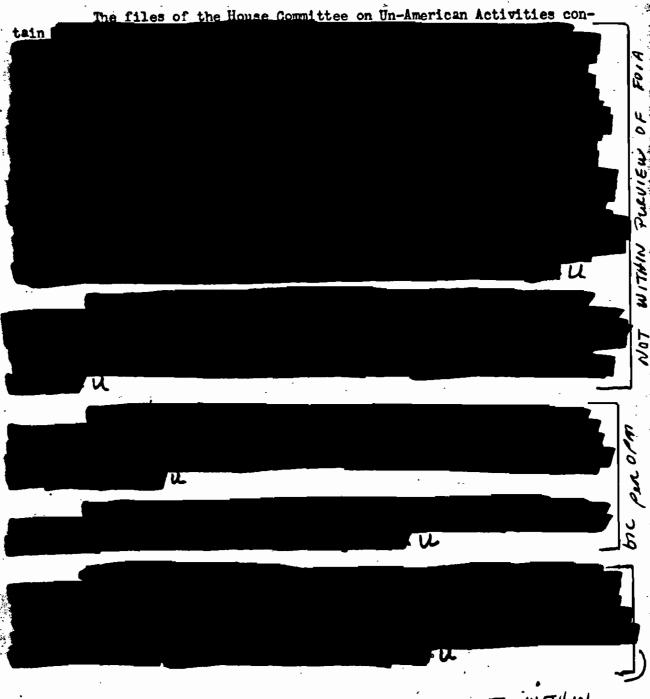
Confidential Informant T-3, of known reliability, advised that the names of JOSEPHIZALKIN and his wife, MIRE, appeared on the active indices or mailing list of the United American Spanish Aid Committee. W

This organization was cited as a Communist iront by the House Committee on Un-American Activities on March 29, 1944. U

The House Committee on Un-American Activities files also disclosed that ZALKIN was listed as a member of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action and was a member of the American League for Peace and Democracy.  $\mathcal U$ 

Both of these organizations have been previously identified. LL

#### ADMINISTRATIVE



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#### **ADVINISTRATIVE**

Department of the Army personnel records also disclosed that in August and September, 1938, ZALKIN resided at 2114 Huidekoper Place, N.W., and in 1938 and 1939, he resided at 6323 Luzon Avenue, N.W. From 1939 to 1947, he resided at 319 North Thomas Street, Arlington, Virginia. ZALKIN is presently residing at 1300 North Hudson Street, Arlington, Virginia, and is still employed as a Structural Engineer by the War Department. A

Mrs. LEE A. POLAND, 2112 Huidekoper Place, N.W., advised that MORRIS H. BERKMAN, his wife, FRANCES, and their two children resided at 2114 Huidekoper Place, N.W. from 1938 to 1945. Mrs. POLAND was not acquainted with ZALKIN but did advise that during the late 1930's BERKMAN rented rooms in his residence. U

Mrs. HELEN F. MURPHY, 2118 Huidekoper Place, N.W., was not acquainted with ZALKIN, although she was aware that the BERKMANs rented rooms. U

In 1948, MORRIS BERKMAN's son, ROY, advised that ZALKIN had rented a room in his home for approximately three months in 1939.

#### MCRRIS BERKMAN

Confidential Informant T-h. of known reliability, advised

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#### SUBJECT'S RESIDENCES, WASHINGTON, D.C.

It will be recalled that subject's personnel file, General Services Administration, listed the following residences for VAGO: 14

1936 - 2114 Huidekoper Place, N.W.; 1939 - 6323 Luzon Avenue, N.W.

The 1937 City Directories contained no listing for VAGO or ZALKIN but listed DAVID BLOOM as residing at 401 - 23rd Street, N.W., Apartment 604. This same Directory also listed MORRIS BERKMAN as a resident of 2551 - 17th Street, N.W.

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#### ADMINISTRATIVE

The 1938 Directory contained no listing for subject, ZALKIN or BLOOM, but furnished the same information as has been reported with respect to BERKMAN. U.

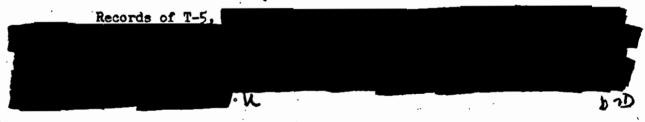
The 1939 Directory listed VAGO as residing at Apartment 106, 6323 Luson Avenue. U.

ZALKIN was also reported in this Directory to reside at this same residence but his apartment number was not shown. This Directory also disclosed that BLOOM was residing in Arlington, Virginia, and that BERKKAN was residing at 2114 Huidekoper Place, N.W.LL

The current Telephone Directory lists MORRIS H. BERKMAN, an Architect, presently residing at 627 A Street, N.E. L.

#### PAUL WEIDLINGER

FBI New York has advised that at the time of VAGO's arrest he had in his possession the personal card of PAUL WEIDLINGER, General Engineering Associates, 1928 I Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. U.



SHAPIRO was described as 45 years of age and who had formerly been employed by the United States Government in the National Capitol Housing Authority. U

ENGLE was described as 40 years of age, married, a resident of Washington, D.C. for fourteen years, and an employee of the Department of Agriculture for twelve years.

According to the records of T-5, these individuals are engaged in the consulting engineering business which includes structural, mechanical and electrical engineering obtaining trade from registered architects in the District. The company was described as having no liabilities and having several contracts valued at \$10,000 each. This company was reported to employ several draftsmen and described as having a good income from this operation. A

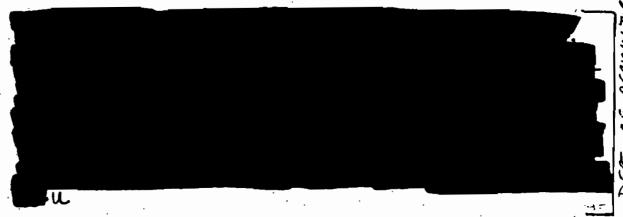
Miss MARIANA ANDERSON, Clerk, National Capitol Housing Authority, 1737 L Street, N.W., was unable to locate the employment record for MOHRIS SHAPIRO. U

#### ADMINISTRATIVE

Credit Bureau files contained a report dated May 31, 1950, which disclosed that SHAPIRO was born November 29, 1905, and since October 1, 1938, has resided at 6323 Luzon Avenue, N.W. (It is to be noted that this is the same apartment building in which subject resided in 1938 and 1939.)

This report disclosed that SHAPIRO was associated with PAUL WEIDLINGER as an Engineer in the General Engineering Associates and had an annual income in excess of \$7,000. SHAPIRO was described as a former Chief Petty Officer in the United States Navy and to have been employed in the United States Government prior to forming his association with WEIDLINGER. U

No pertinent data which could be identified with MORRIS SHAPIRO could be located in the files of this office. U



The files of this office contained no pertinent information concerning ENGLE. U.

On March 8, 1946, FBI New York determined that PAUL WEIDLINGER was in contact with CEDRIC HENNING BELFRAGE. V.

WEIDLINGER was born in Hungary on December 22, 1914. He and his wife entered the United States at Miami, Florida, on January 24, 1943. Early in 1946, he was employed by the Atlas Aircraft Products Corporation, New York City, and resided at 43-01 - 46th Street, Long Island City, New York.

Immigration and Naturalization Service files disclosed that WEIDLINGER formerly resided at 128E - 3Lth Street, New York City, and 3630 Pine Grove Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. He filed a Declaration of Intention

TTO 65-5598

#### <u>ADMINISTRATIVE</u>

to become a United States citizen on February 4, 1943, in the U. S. District Court at New York City. His last foreign residence was at La Pas, Bolivia, and his occupation was listed as an Architectual Engineer.

Late in 1945, ELIZABETH TERRELL BENTLEY, a confessed Russian Espionage Agent, who was active during the late 1930's and early 1940's, identified CEDRICIBELFRAGE as a British National and former employee of the British Security Coordination Office in New York City. BENTLEY reported that BELFRAGE was a friend of EARL BROWDER, former head of the Communist Party in the United States, and also reported that BELFRAGE was a Communist sympathizer. She said that BELFRAGE also supplied Communists with information he obtained by virtue of his employment. A

No record for WEIDLINGER could be located in the files of the Credit Bureau. U

#### NEIGH BORHOOD 6323 Luzon Avenue, N.W., SUBJECT'S FORMER RESIDENCE

Mrs. H. WOLCUITT, Apartment 205, 6323 Luzon Avenue, was unable to furnish any information pertaining to subject or ZALKIN, nor could she advise as to the relationship between MORRIS SHAPIRO, the subject or ZALKIN. U.

### JOSEPH KORNFEDER

Special Agent HOLLIS W. BOWERS displayed photographs to KORNFEDER including a photograph of the subject. KORNFEDER, a former member of the Communist Party, was unable to identify VAGO.

Information relating to the association of WEIDLINGER and BELFRAGE was secured from New York report dated April 12, 1946, by Special Agent E. W. DOOLEY, entitled "Gregory; Espionage - R". U.

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#### ADMINISTRATIVE

Copies of this report are being sent to the Los Angeles and San Francisco offices in accordance with Bureau instructions.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

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#### LEAD PAGE

#### THE NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION

#### AT NEW YORK CITY

Will advise the Washington Field Office and the Philadelphia Office if interviews are desired with JOSEPH ZALKIN, a resident of Washington, D.C., and DAVID BLOOM, a resident of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. U.

Will also advise when the stop notice placed with the Bureau of Customs may be cancelled. V

#### THE PHILADELPHIA FIELD DIVISION

#### AT PIILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

Will furnish additional pertinent information concerning DAVID BLOOM appearing in your files to the New York Office (refer Philadelphia File 100-10892).

Will endeavor to ascertain the reliability of the informant who reported that BLOOM was a member of the Communist Party in 1939.

Will consider the advisability of interviewing LEON SPECTOR, Structural Engineer residing Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania, for information relating to the Communist Party activities of BLOOM, noting that SPECTOR was a classmate of BLOOM and worked in Russia with him. In 1940, BLOOM listed SPECTOR as a reference in his application for employment with the Dupont Company.

#### INFORMANT PAGE

Confidential Informant T-1 -

A highly confidential source of information, known to Special Agents J. C. NEWSOME, W. H. CORRIGAN, M. J. CONNOLLY and T. W. DAWSEY, as reflected in Agent DAWSEY's report dated February 17, 1941, at Washington, D.C., in the case entitled "American Peace Mobilization; Washington Peace Mobilization; Internal Security - C."

Confidential Informant T-2 -

A highly confidential source of information, known to Special Agents
J. S. NEWSOME, M. J. CONNOLLY, J. C.
NEWSOME and T. W. DAWSEY, as reflected
in Agent DAWSEY's report dated January 21, 1941, at Washington, D.C., in
the case entitled "Washington Committee
for Democratic Action; Internal Security-C."

Confidential Informant T-3 -

A highly confidential source of information, known to Special Agent NED P.
HOLMAN, JR., as reflected in Agent
HOLMAN's report dated July 19, 1942, at
Washington, D.C., in the case entitled
"United American Spanish Aid Committee;
Washington Committee for Spanish Refugee
Aid; American Rescue Ship Mission; Intern
Security - C."

Confidential Informant T-4 -

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Confidential Informant T-5 -

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REFERENCES:

Reports of Special Agent ROBERT M. KING, dated November 4, 1950 and October 16, 1950, at New York City

Report of Special Agent HOLLIS W. BOWERS, dated October 30, 1950, at Washington, D.C.

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# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Director, FBI

DATE: January 3, 1951

OUY HOTTEL, SAC, Washington Field

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(Bureau File 101-1988

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Rebulet dated December 6, 1950.

GIDEON M. HAYNES, 2420 Observatory Place, N.W., a former Group Chief in the Procurement Division, Treasury Department, and a supervisor of the subject, was unable to furnish any pertinent information concerning VAGO.

Report of Special Agent FRANCIS J. DUANE, dated January 3, 1951, contains information concerning the association of the subject with <u>DAVID</u> BLOOM, now a resident of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; JOSEPH ZALKIN and <u>MORRIS REERKMAN</u>, residents of Washington, D.C. BLOOM has been identified by an informant whose reliability is not known to this office as having been a member of the Communist Party. ZALKIN has been identified as having been affiliated with numerous Communist front groups during the period he resided in Washington, D.C. BERKMAN has been identified by a reliable informant of this office as having been a member of the Communist Party in the late 1930's.

In view of the association between the subject, BLOOM, ZALKIN and BERKMAN, the Bureau is requested to advise the Washington Field Office and the Philadelphia Office if these individuals should be interviewed in order to obtain positive information which would establish VAGO's membership in the Communist Party in Washington, D.C. in 1940.

FJD:NJB 65-5598 cc - New York Philadelphia

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DAVID BLOOM

(Some of these references may be contained in Bloom's main file, but

The April, 1936 issue of the official FAECT Bulletin reflected that one David Bloom had been elected Recording Secretary of the Washington, D. C. Chapter of the FAECT. (61-7281-64)

On October 25, 1939, the Dies Committee entered into its record a list of Government employees affiliated with the Washington Chapter of the American League for Peace and Democracy. Among those so listed was David Bloom, 4141 Henderson Road, Arlington, Virginia, who was a Structural Engineer in the Public Buildings Division of the Treasury Department. (61-7582-Vol. 10, p.6414)

. The records of the House Committee on Un-American Activities contain

(101-2489-28, p.11)(101-2697-10)

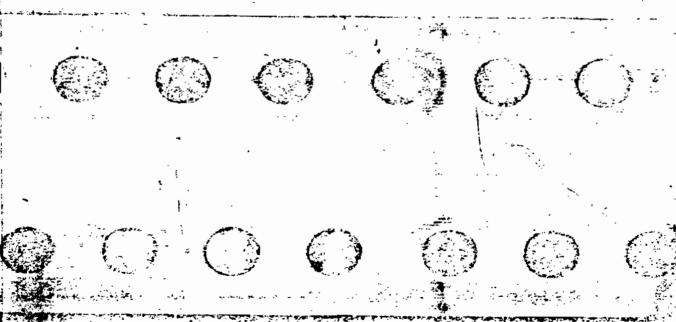
In the report of Special Agent Leland H. Milber dated October 12, 1949, at Washington, D. C. entitled "Harry George Stumpf; Departmental Applicant, Structural Engineer, Bureau of Prisons, Washington, D. C." is was stated that on September 29, 1941, Stumpf wasinterviewed by an Agent of the Washington Field Office in connection with his alleged membership in various front organizations. When asked if he had ever been a member of the American League for Peace and Democracy, Stumpf stated that he had become a member (date not set out) by a contribution of \$1 which he made "through a friend of mine who belonged to that organization -- Mr. or Mrs. David Bloom." (77-44015-8)

Physical surveillance disclosed that on March 9, 1946, Jules Korchein departed from New York City at 5:35 p.m. and proceeded by Pennsylvania Railway to Wilmington, Delaware, where he was observed entering an automobile bearing Delaware license #58937, which was listed in the name of David Bloom, Appletree Boad and Orchard Road, Arden, Delaware. (65-55402-567, 810,p.19)

On this same date, a highly confidential and reliable informant advised that among the names contained in an address book owned by Jules Korchein was that of D. Block, 1806 Spruce, Philadlphia, Pennsylvania. (65-56402-978)

101 1988 - 129 ENCLOSURE In the report of Special Agent Dawson Van Eps dated September 80, 1949, at Baltimore captioned "Frederick August Blossom; Security Matter - C" it is set out that Victor W. Faivre, 5004 Washington Boulevard, Wilmington, Delaware, manager of the Suburban Water Company at Claymont, Delaware, (temporary informant), advised that Mr. and Mrs. Donald Stephens of Arden, Delaware, gave enthusiastic support to the Progressive Party during the election campaign of 1948 and entertained David Bloom, a known Communist, at their home subsequent to a Progressive Party rally held at Arden, Delaware. (61-7692-74)

The report of Special Agent Dean L. Brackey dated August 25, 1949, at Baltimore entitled "Edmund Fusco Hurlong; Security Matter - C" stated that en February 24, 1949, Mr. Frank C. Starr, an engineer employed by the Dupont Company who resided on Cherry Lane, Arden Delaware, advised that during the past four years he had observed that Hurlong and his wife, "Bunny," had entertained an unusually large number of people, who, for the most part, were strangers in the town of Arden, and hebbelieved this entertainment might have had some connection with Communist Party activity. Starr explained that the functions often took the form of camp fires or informal out-door gatherings. Starr pointed out that he had observed that both David Bloom and Jery Lincoln, former residents of Arden, occasionally visit the Hurlong home. Starr added that Bloom and Lincoln had the reputation of being Communists in the Arden area. (100-353624-3)



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JOSEPH ZALKIN

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On October 25, 1989, the Dies Committee entered into its record a list of the Government employees affiliated with the Washington Chapter of the American League for Peace and Democracy. Among those so listed as Joseph Zalkin, 6325 Ingon Avenue, W. W., Washington, D. C., who was an Engineer in the Procurement Division of the Treasury Department at a salary of \$3,200 per annual (61-7582, Vol. 10,p.4)

In the report of Special Agent T. W. Dawsey dated February 17, 1941, at Washington, D. C. entitled "American Peace Mobilization; Insernal Security - C" it was stated that a highly confidential and reliable informant had furnished a list of the individuals who were listed in the active indices of the Washington Chapter of the American Peace Mobilization. This listing included Joseph Zalkin, 519 Worth Thomas Street, Arlington, Virginia, telephone CH 5776. (61-10498-407,p.265)

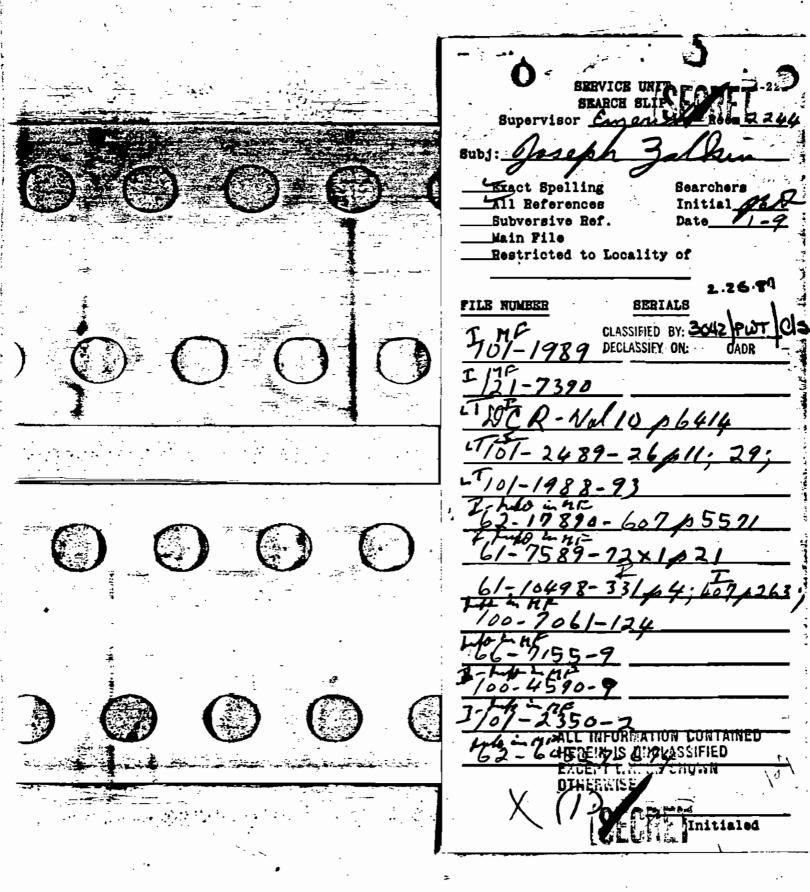
The report of Special Agent J. S. McLeod dated January 11, 1941, at Rich captioned "American Peace Mobilisation Movement; Internal Security" stated that during the early part of September, 1940, this organization engaged in extensive demonstrations in Washington, D. C. At that time, the license numbers of the automobiles participating in the demonstrations and those in the near vicinity of the meeting place were noted. Among those cars was Virginia registration 100-120, which was listed to Joseph Zalkin, 519 North Thomas Street, Arlington, Virginia. (61-10498-551,p.4)

The records of the House Committee on Un-American Activities contain

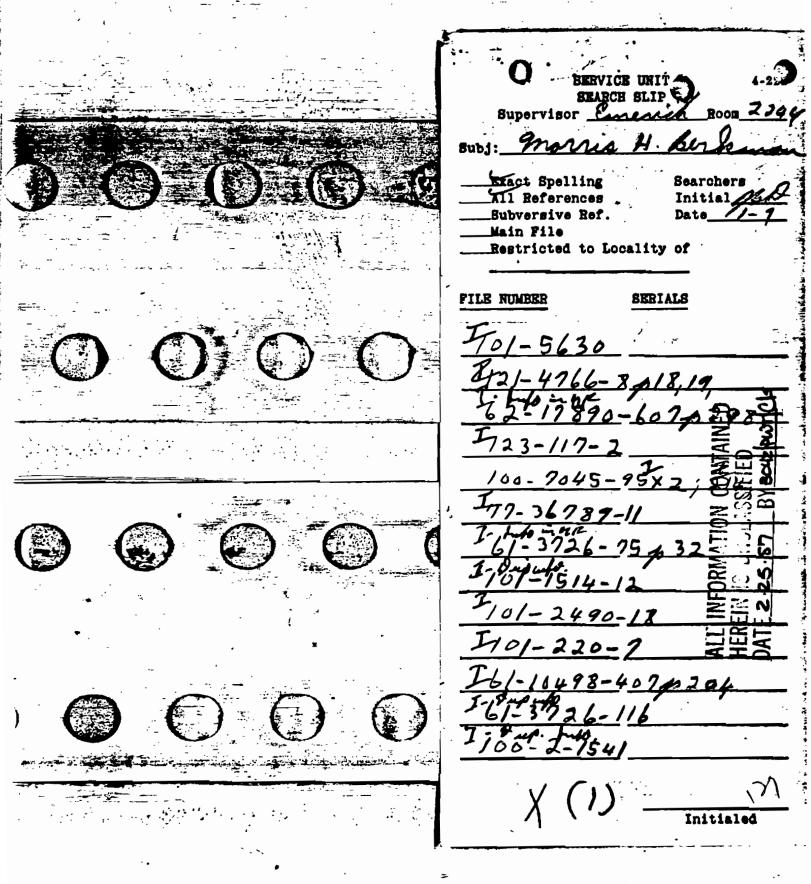
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In the report of Special Agent James J. Canavan dated September 11, 1950, at Washington, D. C. entitled "Meir Shalit, was: Moshe Shalit, Major Max de Shalim de Shalit, "Memmy." 'Memi; 'Espionage - R" it was stated that I

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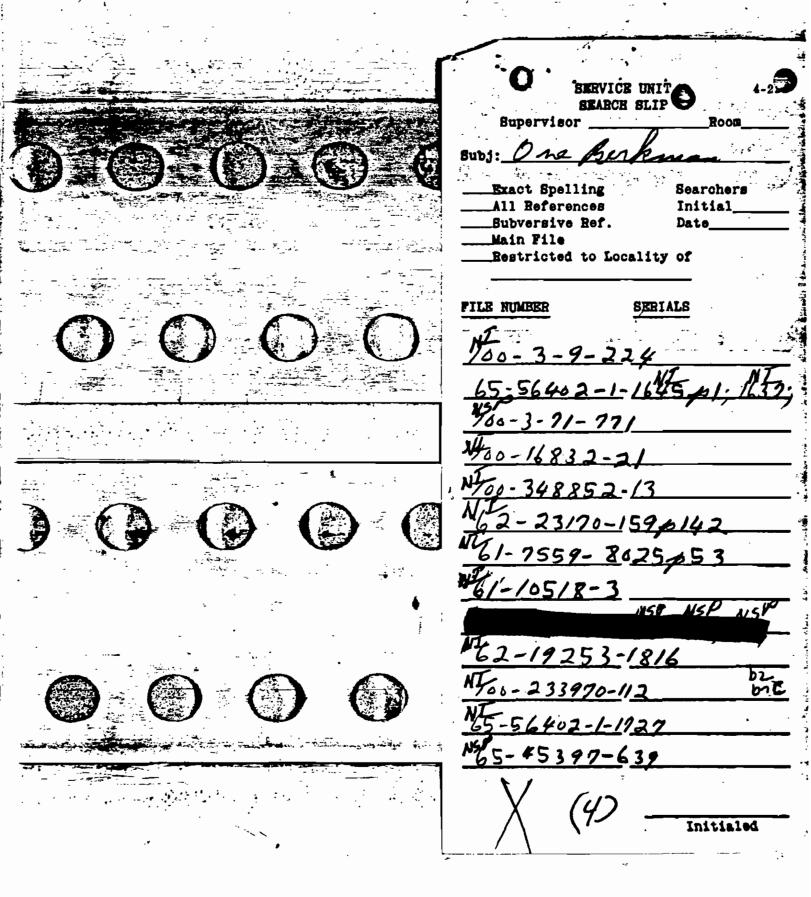


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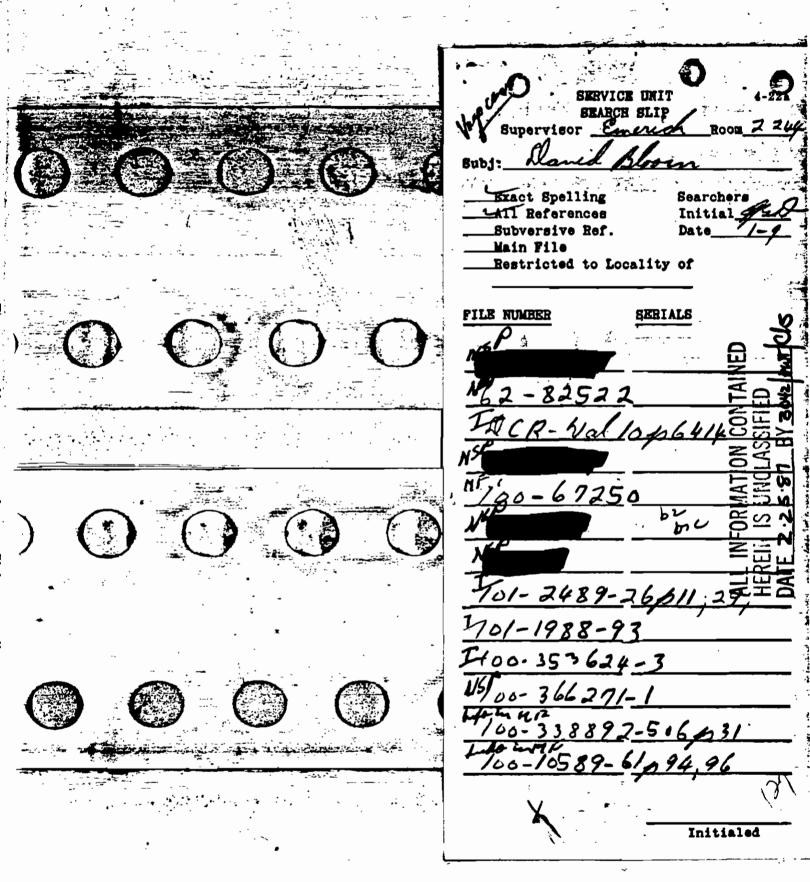
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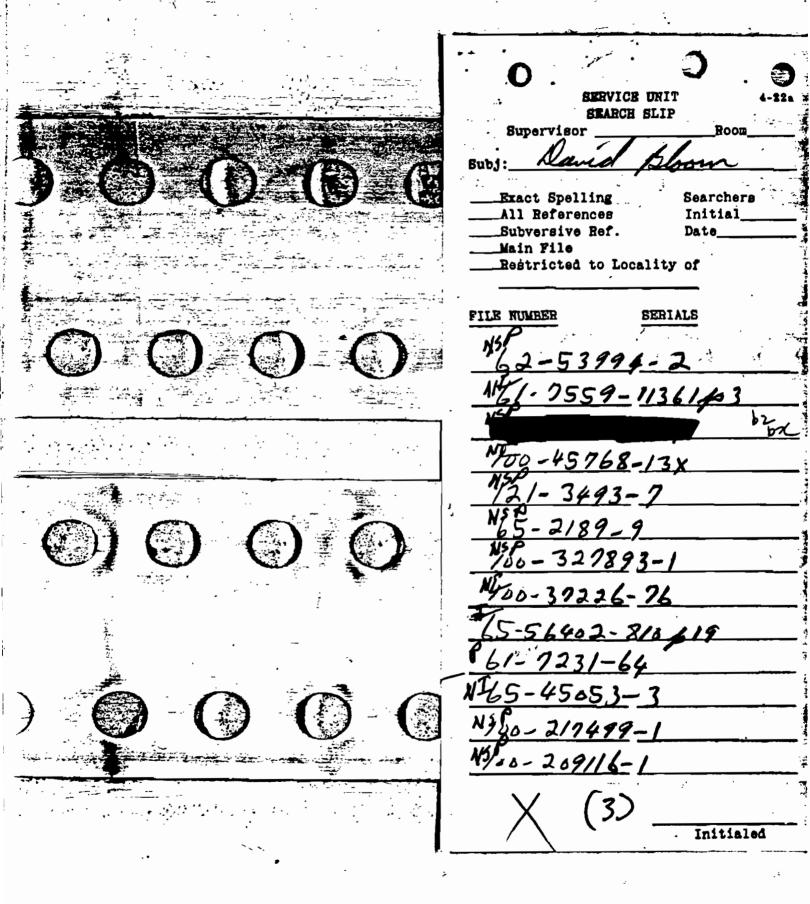


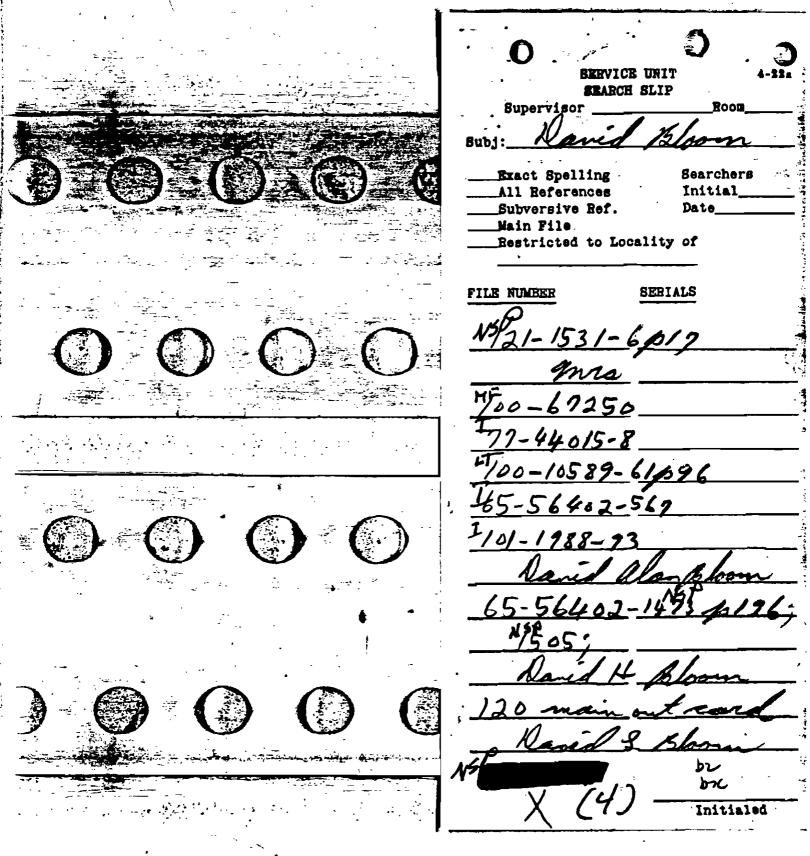
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SAC, Washington Field

Director, FBI

OSCAR JOHN VAGO

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January 16, 1951

BY SPECIAL MESSEMOKE

Bourle's Jamery 3, 1951.

Authorization granted to interview Morris H. Berkman, re his knowledge Communist Party activities of Vago.

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(A check was made of the Bureau files and references concerning Morris H. Berkman. This review reflected that Berkman was born May 10, 1899, in Ukraine, Russia, and was indicated as having been naturalized as a United States citizen on February 24, 1939. He is a graduate of George Washington University, Washington, D. C. and also attended University of Maryland and National University. From June 1926 to 1936, he was employed as a supervisor in an architectural office in Washington, D. C. From 1936 to 1940, he was employed as a public buildings administrator in Washington, D. C. and from 1941 to 1943, as an employee of the Federal Public Housing Authority in Washington, D. C. During the period from 1944 to 1946, he was employed at the War Flants Reconstruction Finance Corporation, Cleveland, Ohic. On March 4, 1947, he worked as a structural engineer in the city of Glendale, California, and remained in that position until April 15, 1948. According to the latest information in the Bureau files he returned to Washington, D. C. in 1948 for the purpose of setting himself up in business as an architectural engineer.

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Through a highly confidential source, it was learned that his name appeared on the mailing list for the Washington, D. C. Branch of the Friends of the Soviet Union in May 1934, and through

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Through a highly confidential source known to the Bureau, his name appeared on a list in the active indices of the Washington Chapter of the Ameridan Peace Mobilisation.

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1950 on condition that HARRY GOLD would be available as a witness on that date. On December 11, 1950, the Government requested adjournment until February 4, 1951.

Judge SYLVESTER RYAN reserved judgment on that date, and on December 12, 1950, ordered the trial date set for January 15, 1951, with the understanding that VAGO was to be tried upon the completion of the WILLIAM REMINGTON perjury trial.

At that time, VAGO'S counsel, MOSES WEINMAN, made a request for reduction of bail to \$2,000, which was denied. On December 15, 1950, again before Judge SYLVESTER RYAN, VAGO'S petition for a writ of habeas corpus claiming illegal imprisonment because of excessive bail was dismissed, and bail was continued at \$40,000. VAGO continues to remain in the custody of the United States Marshal for the Southern District of New York.

## Interview With HARRY GOLD

HARRY COLD advised that on the first Friday in December, 1949, he came to New York from Philadelphia to the National Exposition of Chemical Industries at Grand Central Palace, New York. He related that he attended the exposition during the day, and that about 5:00 P.M. he called VAGO intending merely to give him his regards. However, he advised, VAGO was extremely insistent that GOLD visit him at his home, and GOLD complied with his request. He recalled that he arrived at VAGO'S home between 6:00 and 6:30, and that he remained until approximately 10:30 in the evening.

He stated that it was his impression that VAGO wanted to discuss the whole matter of relations at Abraham Brothman Associates with someone who had been directly connected with that setup.

GOLD recounted the story which he had told earlier about his having drawn up a list of charges of misconduct on the part of BROTHMAN which was approved by OSCAR at the time. During his visit at the VAGO home, GOLD said, VAGO informed him that BROTHMAN had made up a list of these charges formulated by GOLD, leaving out some of the ones concerning which he felt most vulnerable, and had asked VAGO to sign a typewritten statement that the charges were all baseless.

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VAGO advised that BROTHMAN had offered him \$600.00 for signing this statement, and that he had done it simply to obtain the money since he still felt that the charges were true. GOLD advised that VAGO at that time treated the signing as a joke, and appeared to be relating the incident merely for its humorous value. GOLD stated that YAGO had told him that BROTHMAN owed him about \$7,000 in back wages, and that the \$600.00 was all he ever received of that amount.

During the remainder of the evening, according to GOLD, the two reminisced over incidents at Abraham Brothman Associates, and GOLD received the impression that VAGO probably had asked him to his home in order to discover whether GOLD had any additional information concerning Abraham Brothman Associates which might be of interest to him.

During the conversation, VaGO informed GOLD that he and BROTHMAN had been extremely close friends at abraham Brothman associates up to the time that MIRIAM MOSKOWITZ was taken into the firm. VAGO stated that he believed that she had deliberately turned BROTHMAN against him, and stated that her dislike for him probably stemmed from the fact that VAGO was persistent in his demands for back wages.

At that point, GOLD observed that VAGO was a worrying type and constantly fretted about his financial affairs and his inability to provide for his children in the manner that GOLD said he wished to. GOLD recalled that VAGO was desperately poor, and that on more than one occasion VAGO was unable to furnish his son with sufficient money for school lunch.

With respect to VAGO'S ability as a draftsman, GOLD advised that he was extremely capable, but that at times he was guilty of being quite impractical. He advised also that VAGO apparently was able to work efficiently and talk at the same time so that although he accomplished a great deal of work, he was a constant distraction to other people attempting to work in the same room.

GOLD stated that VAGO had informed him that he was a Communist before he came to the United States, and observed that he himself regarded VAGO as one of the firmest believers in Communism that he had ever known. He stated that in every political

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discussion, STALIN and Russia were always upheld by VAGO. GOLD stated that in his opinion VAGO would have done "anything on earth" to help the Russians, but that he probably was not utilized by them because he was too well-known as a Communist.

GOLD related that VAGO spent a very great deal of his time on Communist Party affairs, selling "Daily Workers", and contacting recruits, and that he constantly talked at the office of affairs and meetings held by the Communist Party. GOLD recalled that VAGO constantly deplored the fact that the laboring man in the United States was so politically unaware and unable to realize how much he was being exploited by the capitalists.

GOLD stated that the Communist Party was the center of existence for VAGO and that his social life also centered around the Party. He stated that to the best of his knowledge, all of VAGO'S friends were members of the Party. In this connection, he expressed the opinion that VAGO would be extremely averse to being used as a Government witness in any connection, since he would thus incur the censure of his entire circle of friends.

Throughout the interview, GOLD stuck firmly to his statement that he was sure that VAGO was not involved in espionage.

#### Bank Account

Confidential Informant T-1, of known reliability, advised that the VaGO account at the Sterling Bank and Trust Company at New York, 95-38 Queens Boulevard, had a balance on January 11, 1951 of \$128.05. The records reflect that on December 4, 1950, a check in the amount of \$544.01 was drawn by CLAIRE VaGO with herself as the payee, and on December 13, 1950, a check in the amount of \$500.00 was made payable to MOSIS C. WELDIAN, attorney for VaGO. All other checks in the account appear to be of a routine nature for such matters as rent and utilities.

The informant advised that on November 13, 1950, \$705.00 in cash was deposited, on November 28, 1950, a check in the amount

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of \$165.00, on December 11, 1950, \$500.00 in cash, and on January 8, 1951, \$180.00 in cash were deposited.

The above information was obtained on a confidential basis and is not to be made public except in the usual proceedings upon the issuance of a subpoena.

Interviews with Abraham Brothman Associates Employees

The following investigation was conducted by SA JOHN M. COLLINS:

ROBERT GERSON, Apartment 4H, 201 West 77th Street, New York, advised that he first became acquainted with VAGO in March of 1946, when he was hired by the firm of Abraham Brothman Associates. From that time until February, 1948, when he resigned, he was in almost daily contact with VAGO and also visited him socially on two or three occasions. In addition, he said they usually rode home from work together inasmuch as they resided in the same neighborhood at that time.

GERSON said that VAGO often spoke of life in Hungary and always expressed a desire to return to that country. However, GERSON stated that he always believed this to be only a dream and did not believe that VAGO really intended to return.

GERSON stated that he had read in the newspapers that VAGO had lied to the Grand Jury when he testified that he had been out of the United States from 1929 to 1933. GERSON stated that he knew of no reason why VAGO should perjure himself concerning that period, except that he might have been engaged in some type of work for the Communist Party at that time which he was attempting to conceal.

GERSON stated that he did not know positively that VAGO was a member of the Communist Party, but said that VAGO always followed the Communist Party line in any discussion which was held. He stated that he was unable to speak of specific instances, but that this was his present impression of conversations had with VAGO during that period.

He advised that VAGO was very active in affairs of the american Labor Party and the Federation of Architects, Engineers, Chemists and Technicians, but stated that he knew of no espionage activity on the part of VAGO.

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ARTHUR P. WEBBER, 1334 Surrey Lane, North, Rockville Center, New York, stated that he was employed with VAGO in 1943 and 1944 at the Chemurgy Design Corporation, 420 Lexington Avenue. He advised that he had no information concerning VAGO'S early residence in the United States, but advised that VAGO had often indicated to him that he desired to return to Hungary for permanent residence.

He stated that he had no information that VAGO was ever involved in espionage, but stated that he always followed the Communist Party line in any political discussion. WEBBER was unable to furnish any specific instance concerning this, and advised that he could not say positively that VAGO was a member of the Communist Party.

EMIL Z. BARISH, 2144 78th Street, Jackson Heights, advised that he had known VAGO for about a year and a half, first at Chemurgy Design Corporation and later at Abraham Brothman Associates.

He stated that he knew nothing about any Communist activities on the part of VAGO and was unable to furnish any information concerning VAGO'S return to Hungary.

SCL FANSHEL, 86-20 162nd Street, Jamaica, declined to be interviewed concerning VAGO. FANSHEL is also a former employee of abraham Brothman Associates.

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#### ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

#### Messages Re EUGENE DENNIS

Confidential Informant T-2, of known reliability, advised that VAGO had sent ten telegrams on May 3, 1950, to Washington, D.C.

Confidential Informant T-3, of known reliability, advised that the messages, in the form of night letters, read as follows:

"Urge stay of execution of DENNIS' sentence and urge immediate review of case."

Five of these messages were directed to the Honorable J. HOWARD MC GRATH, Department of Justice, Washington, D.C., and five to the Honorable FRED M. VINSON, Chief Justice, Washington, D.C.

The following names were signed to the messages:

MARILYN BAILY 66-08 102nd Street Rego Park

PEARL RICHMOND 6141 Saunders Street Rego Park

OSCAR JOHN VAGO 6607 99th Street Rego Park

DOROTHY HELLER 98-15 65th Road Rego Park

EDITH RAY 98-11 Queens Boulevard Rego Park

It is noted that MARILYN BAILY, the wife of ARTHUR BAILY, former attorney for VaGO, has been previously described as a member of the Communist Party.



#### ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE (Cont.)

Confidential Informant T-H of known reliability, advised on June 3, 1948, that PERRUNDICHMOND was Educational Director of the Rego Park Club of the Communist Party.

Confidential Informant T-5, of known reliability, advised that EDITH(RAY is the Literature Director of the Rego Park Club of the Communist Party.

Mrs. STANLEY F. MIRSH, 10-43 65th Road, Forest Hills, New York, advised SA J. RCBINSON FIELD on June 18, 1950, that DOROTHY HELLER and CLAIRE VAGO were members of a group in the Parent-Teachers Association at Public School 157 whom she believed to be Communists.

Confidential Informant T-6, of known reliability, advised on December 13, 1946, that DOROTHY HELLER, 457 West 57th Street, New York, was a member of the West Midtown Club of the Communist Party. It is not known whether the latter is identical with the above DOROTHY HELLER.

#### Association with JULIUS ROSENBERG

JEROME EUGENE TARTAKOW, a prisoner at the Federal House of Detention, West Street, New York City, advised SAS ARMAND A. CAMMAROTA and JAMES P. LEE that he had become quite friendly with JULIUS ROSENBERG, who is presently awaiting trial on a charge of espionage, and that he has observed that ROSENBERG has been friendly only with OSCAR VAGO and EUGENE DENNIS in addition to himself. He stated that on one occasion VAGO furnished ROSENBERG with several sheets of paper, and the two of them spent most of the day working together over these papers.

TARTAKOW stated that ROSENBERG later told him that the papers contained complicated scientific material that would not be understood by TARTAKOW. He also related that on one occasion ROSENBERG had given VAGO a message to deliver to ABRAHAM BROTHMAN, who at that time was also a prisoner at the House of Detention.





## ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE (cont.)

MAX ELITCHER, 164-18 72nd Avenue, Flushing, New York, advised SA VINCENT J. CAHILL that he knew of no association between VAGO and ROSENBERG prior to the time that both were incarcerated at the House of Detention.

It is noted that ELITCHER, a former classmate of ROSENBERG, has admitted that he was approached by ROSENBERG in 1944 and on several subsequent occasions for confidential information from the Navy Department.

DAVID GREENGLASS, brother-in-law of ROSENBERG, who has admitted espionage activity, also advised that he knew of no previous association between VAGO and ROSENBERG.

RUTH GREINGLASS, wife of DAVID GREENGLASS, who was aware of his espionage activities, also advised that she knew of no association. The GREENGLASS interviews were conducted by SA JOHN W. LEWIS.

#### Miscellaneous

Confidential Informant T-7, of known miliability, advised that after VAGO'S arrest by the F.B.I. accommunication was directed by

submitted by the F.B.I.

In a letter dated December 9, 1950, the F.B.I. Laboratory advised that the handwriting of VAGO had been searched through the National Security file without effecting identification.



#### L E A D S

#### NEW YORK

At New York, New York.

Will continue to maintain a mail cover at 66-07 99th Street, Rego Park, the residence of VAGO.

Will continue to monitor the VAGO bank account at the Sterling National Bank and Trust Company, 95-38 Queens Boulevard.

Will follow and report prosecutive action.

CONF. TAL

Company of New York

To Susang Poulevard checked by

Conc (dental) onto

5 contacted by SA

contacted by a

CONFLENTIAL



### FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION New York, New York

SECREI

January 20, 1951

GLR-8

Director, FBI

OSCAR JOHN VAGO, ps. Oszkam Vago, John Jiurray, John Muray

PERJURY

ESPIONACE - R

(Bureau file 101-1988) HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN

OTHERWISE

Dear Sir:

On September 28, 1950, VAGO was indicted by a Grand Jury in the Southern District of New York, for Perjury committed before the Grand Jury September 20, 1950. Since his arrest on September 28, 1950, VAGO has been held at the Federal House of Detention, West Street, New York. On January 20, 1951, he was released on \$5,000 bail and restricted to the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York. U

DECER TOHNTVAGO. PHOTOGRAPH

Encs. 2

CLASSIFIED BY: 3042

2**cc:** 

Classified by Exempt from C.

SECRE

Category Date of Declassiful at an Indefinite

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Buffalo (Encs. 2) (SPECIAL DELIVERY) Phoenix (Encs. 2) (AMED)

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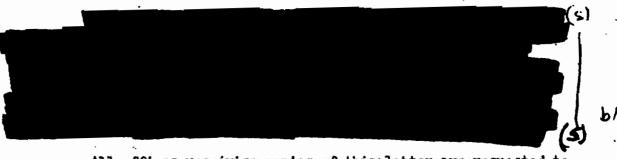
EX-60

**Jan 22 | 19**5 |

Let. to Dir. NY 100-55242



It is noted that a confidential informant has advised that VAGO has stated that he intends to flee the United States if released on bail. W.



All offices receiving copies of this letter are requested to place appropriate stope with United States Customs Service, the Immigration & Naturalization Service, and the Alien rax Division of the Bureau of Internal Revenue. In connection with the latter, it is noted that VAGO has advised that he may leave the United States on a Hungarian passport although he, himself, is a naturalized citizen of the United States. A

All offices are also requested to place such stops as are practical with airlines, and steamship companies and any other logical places. It is noted that in a letter dated September 20, 1950, the Washington Field Office placed a nation-wide customs stop with the Collector of Customs requesting that the nearest office of the FBI be notified in case VAGO attempted to leave the United States.

At the present time the United States Attorney at New York has authorized the arrest of VAGO in the event that he is apprehended making an attempt to leave the United States. In the event that VAGO is apprehended, the Bureau and the New York Office should be advised telephonically. Two photographs are being sent to all offices receiving copies of this letter to assist in the placing of stops. U

#### The following is a description of VAGO: U

MRS, OSCAR JOHN VAGO Name

OSZKAR VAGO, JOHN MURPAY, JCHA MUPAY February 27. 1358, Aliases

Birthdate

Birthplace Budapest, Hungary

516" Height 150 lbs. Weight Eyes Brown

Hair Brown, graying and thinning

Complexion Ruddy Build Stocky

Occupation Structural engineer

Employed

JACOB ARONOW, 12 East 48th Street, New York City

Social Security Number - 090-05-9115

Citizenship United States - naturalized September 29, 1938

Wife CLAIRAVAGO

Children JOHN VACO, age 12

SUSAN VÁGO, age 4

66-07 99th Street, Rego Park, Residence

Long Island, New York

FBI Number 519 746 A

Very truly yours,

EDWARD SCHEIDT, SAC



.



OSCAR JOHN VAGO, was: Oszkar Vago, John Murray, John Muray

Date of birth! 2/27/98, Budapest,

Hungary

Et: 5'6"
%t: 150 lbs.
Eyes: Brown

Hair: Prown, graying and thinning.

Complex: Ruddy

Soc. Sec: 090-05-9115

Citizenship: U.S. NATURALIZED

9/29/38

Wife: Clair Vego

Children: John Vego, 12 yrs.

Susan Vago, 4 yrs.

Res: 66-07 99 St.,

Rego Pk. .

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIT IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2 25 87 BY 300 PROJECT

DATE: 1/19/51 : SAC, Philadelphia SUBJECT: OSCAR JOHN VACO PERJURY, SESPIONAGE - P Bureau File #101-1988 Re Washington Field report of SA FRANCIS J For the assistance of the New York Office there are being submitted herewith copies of the following reports relating to DAVID BLOOM: Philadelphia report of SA JAMES E. FOGARTY, 8/4/44 Baltimore report of SA WILLIAM G. OSBORN, 5/17/49 Relative to the reliability of the informant who reported DAVID a CP member in 1939, this matter is clarified in the report of SA FOGARTY, a copy of which is designated herein for New York. At the current time information of a subversive nature contained in the Pennsylvania State Police files is not available to the FBI. Therefore, no additional data relative to this informant is available. However, on December 10, 1949 an anonymous source of known reliability (believed to have come from CP Headquarters, 250 S. Broad St., Philadelphia) furnished this office with a transfer form. This form bore the following information thereon: "Have had no contact for 2 years - they say but had been transferred & should have been contacted - Therefore, see them immediately, register for this year & get this year's dues." In addition, this transfer form bore the names DAVID & HILARY BLOOM, 4284 Parkside Ave., Phila., from Arden, Del. The Philadelphia indices contain no information relative to LEON SPECTOR of Hollidaysburg, Pa. However, it should be noted that this city is covered by the Pittsburgh Field Division and accordingly it is suggested the New York Office consider restating this lead for Pittsburgh. oc - New York (Encl.)

RGJ:mpm, tgm: 65-4411

RECORDED - 47 101+ 1988-132

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62FEB7 1951

# Office Membrandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

10

A. H. Belmost

FROM

C. E. Heonr

SUBJECT:

OSCAR JOHN VAGO ESPIONACE - R ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UTULISSIFIED
DATE 3 12 87 BY 3042 PLY ()

DATE: January 18,

*1951* 

PURPOSE

To authorize immediate interviews of Joseph Zalkin and David Bloom, both of whom are known to have been fellow employees and associates of subject Vago in Washington, D.C., for any information which they may be willing to furnish concerning Vago's Communistic affiliations during the period of his employment in Washington, D.C. during the period from 1938 to 1941.

#### DETAILS

As a result of a review of various references concerning Oscar John Vago, it was determined that in 1940 a Mr. Haines who was employed in the Procurement Division of the Treasury Department, advised that he had in his employ one J. H. Segal, one O. Voge, and one Calpin, all of whom he stated were members of the Communist Party.

Pursuant to Bureau request, the Washington Field Division located and interviewed Gideon M. Haynes who was formerly Group Chief of the Procurement Division, Treasury Department, and a supervisor over subject Vago. Mr. Haynes however, was unable to furnish any pertinent information concerning Vago, or relative to the previously mentioned information that was attributed to him concerning Segal, Vogo and Calpin.

The Washington Field Office advised, however, that in the report of SA Francis J. Duane dated January 3, 1951, there is information indicating the association of Vago with David Bloom, now a resident of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Joseph Zalkin and Korris H. Berkman, both of whom are residents of Washington, D.C. According to the information furnished by the Washington Field Office, all three of these individuals have been identified as either being Communists or affiliated with Communist front groups during the period that Vago resided in the second secon

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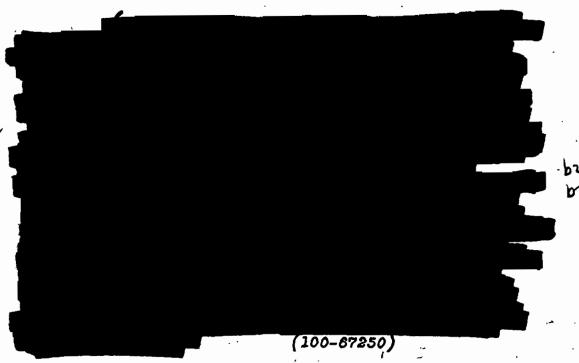
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Washington, D.C. Bureau authority was requested to have these individuals appropriately interviewed concerning their knowledge of the Communistic activities of Vago in Washington, D.C.

. A review made of the Bureau file, and references relative to David Bloom reflects that he was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on Uctober 28, 1908. His parents were born in Russia and were indicated as being naturalized United States citizens He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1929 with a Batchelor of Science in chemical. engineering degree. Bloom was employed from April to December, 1932 by the Heavy Industry Trust of the Russian Soviet Government in Moscow, Russia. From October, 1934 to May, 1936 he was an associate structural engineer in the Procurement Division of the United States Treasury Department, Washington, D.C. He was employed as an assistant structural engineer in the United States War Department, Washington, D.C. from November, 1936 to February, 1937 at which time he returned to his former, job with the Procurement Division in Vashington; D.C. On April 1, 1940 he received employment in the Engineering Department of E. I. DuPont Company, Wilmington, Delaware, at which time he moved to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



In the April, 1936 issue of the official FAECT Bulletin, it was noted that one David Bloom was elected as Recording Secretary of the Washington, D.C. Chapter of the FAECT. (61-7231-64)

A physical surveillance on March 9, 1946 developed that one Jules Korchien, a business partner of Abraham Brothman and Oscar Vago, was observed entering the automobile registered to David Bloom, and on the same date a highly confidential and reliable informant advised that Bloom's name appeared in the address book of Korchien.

(65-56402-923)

A similar review of the files and references pertaining to Joseph Zalkin developed that he was born in Russia on April 26, 1894. His mother was born in Poland and his father in Russia. Zalkin came to the United States in 1911 and was naturalized as a United States citizen in New York City in 1919. He attended Cooper Union College in New York City from October, 1913 to May, 1916 and from 1917 to 1918. He received a Batchelor of Science in civil engineering degree from that college in 1918. Subsequently, he received a PE degree from the University of New York at Albany, New York in 1931.

Zalkin was employed from August, 1938 to December, 1939 as an assistant structural engineer in the Federal Works Administration, Washington, D.C. From December, 1939 to January, 1943 he was employed in that capacity by the War Department at Fort Myers, Virginia. He received employment as a construction engineer for the War Productions Board in January, 1943 and remained in that position until October, 1945 when he returned to his former position in the War Department Corps of Engineers. He is presently in the employ of the War Department.

According to a highly confidential informant known to the Bureau in 1940, it was learned that Zalkin's name appeared on the active indices of the American Peace Mobilization and the Washington Committee for Democratic Action, and the American-Spanish Aid Committee.

200

and David Bloom. The records of the House Committee investigating Un-American Activities reflected that Zalkin was listed as a member of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action and the American League for Peace and Democracy. (121-7390 101-1989)

During the demonstrations engaged in by the American Peace Mobilization in September, 1940, the license number of Zalkin's automobile was noted to be among the automobiles participating in these activities. (61-10498-331 p.4)

Zalkin was the subject of a full field loyalty investigation, and as a result of which he was processed under Public Law #808, and no removal action was initiated. According to information received from the 116th Counter Intelligence Corps Detachment, Washington, D.C. on September 20, 1949, Zalkin has been restricted to non-sensitive duties. (121-7390)

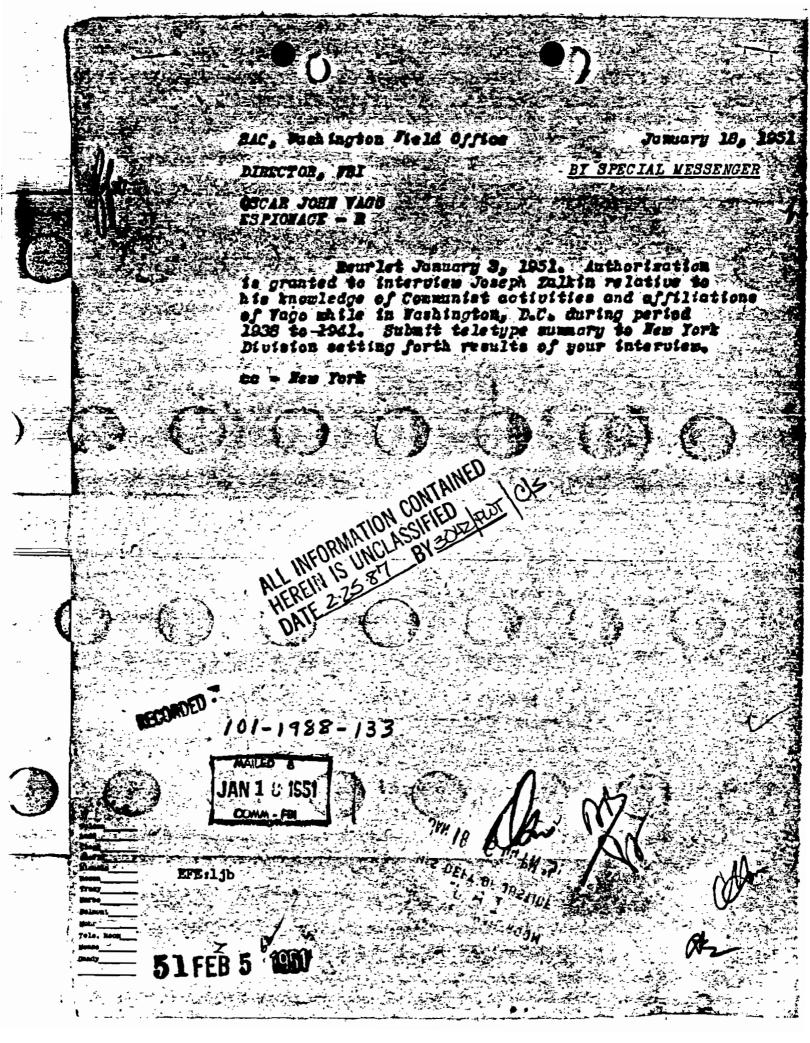
A review of instant files and references concerning Bloom and Zalkin fail to indicate any information reflecting espionage activities on the part of these individuals.

While it is appreciated that Bloom and Zalkin, by reason of their Communistic activities and affiliations, may decline to furnish any information to the Bureau, it is believed that they should be interviewed on the possibility that they may disclose information of value concerning Vago's CP activities which might be used in connection with Vago's trial which is set for January 22, 1951.

The Washington Field Division has previously been authorized to interview Morris H. Berkman who was previously referred to in this memorandum.

#### RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Philadelphia Division be authorized to interview David Bloom and the Washington Field Office Joseph Zalkin for any information they may be in a position to furnish concerning Vago's Communistic activities while in Washington, D.C. There are attached hereto for your approval a teletype directed to the Philadelphia Division and a memorandum in lieu of teletype to the Washington Field Division authorizing these interviews.



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	PEDERAL BUREAU OF INVINITIOATIC AL A. DEPARTMENT OF INICIOE		Mr. Clegg
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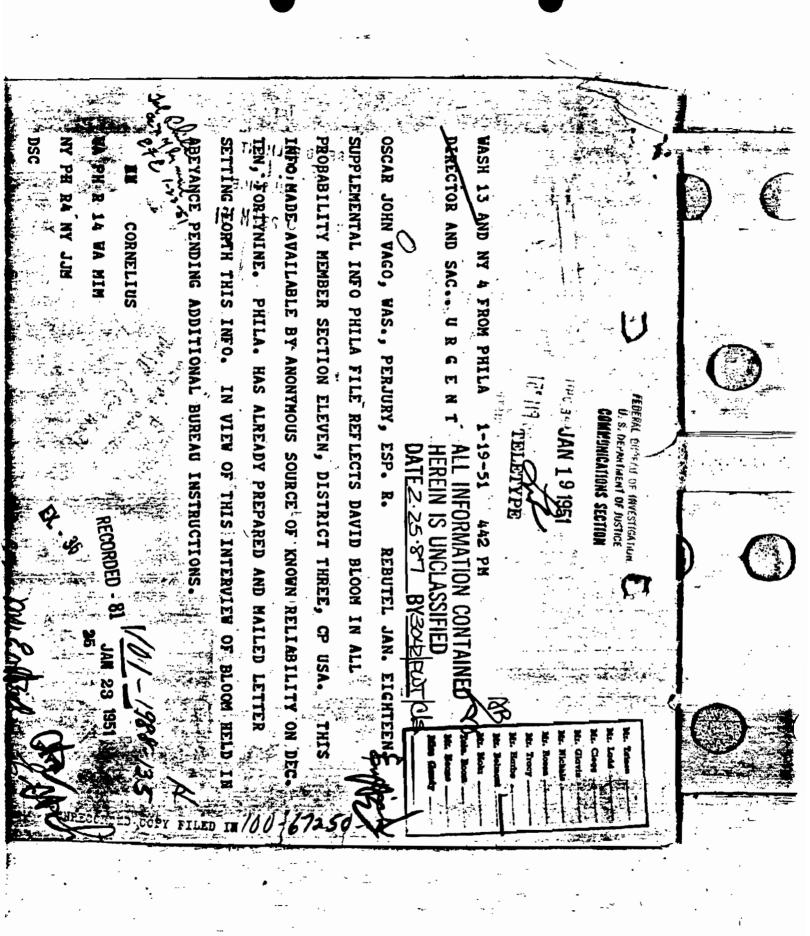
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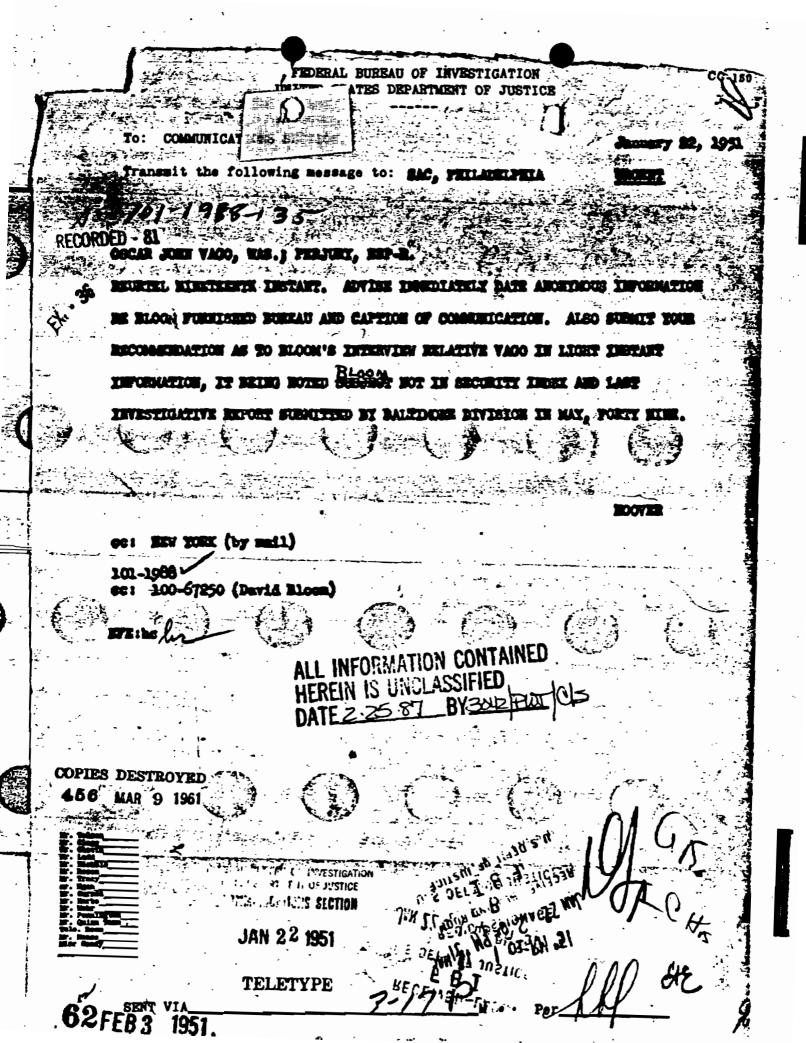


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OSCAR JOHN VAGO, WAS., PERJURY., ESPIONAGE - R. JUDGE JEROME FRANK, CCA, ISSUED ORDER FOR VAGO TRIAL TO BEGIN THIS DATE OR BAIL REDUCED. HOWEVER, TRIAL NOW SET FOR OPENING UPON COMPLETION OF CASE NOW BEING TRIED BEFORE DISTRICT JUDGE JOHN CLANCY WHO WI AUSA MYLES J. LANE WHO WILL HANDLE PROSECUTION OF VAGO CASE ESTIMATES TRIAL WOULD BEGIN JAN TWENTY TWO NEXT

OSCAR JOHN TACO, ESPICIACE - 2. RE WYO LETTER JANUARY THIRD, NINETEEN HUNDRED AR AND APPILIATIONS OF VAGO WHILE IN WASHINGTON, D.C. DURIEG PERIOD WINETEEN BUNDRED AND THIRTY-SIGHT TO HINETEEN HUNDRED AND FORTY-ONE. SUTUL NEW YORK YORK CITY (BY WAIL) EFE:LJB 61.R.S ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED ALL INFUNCIONALISTEE
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	FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  JAN 2 0 1951
	CONF WASHINGTON & WASH FIELD FROM NEW YORK 33  DIRECTOR AND SAC URGENT  CONF WASHINGTON & WASH FIELD FROM NEW YORK 33  20  Mr. Rooms  Mc. Rooms
	OSCAR JOHN VAGO, WAS, PERJURY, ESP - R. VAGO RELEASED THIS DATE ON FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS CASH BAIL FURNISHED BY SISTER IN LAW, JOSEPHINE WINKLER, TWO EIGHT DASH FOUR FOUR FIFTIETH ST., WOODSIDE, LONG ISLAND,
)	NO ARRANGEMENTS MADE FOR VAGO TO REPORT. SPOT SURVEILLANCE BEING  CONDUCTED.  ALSO PLACE STOP WITH PASSPORT  DIVISION, DEPT. OF STATE AND BUREAU REQUESTED TO ARRANGE FOR DISPLAY
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	HOLD PLS ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNICLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE  ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  Classified by 235  Exempt from GDs. Category 12.2  Exempt from GDs. Category 12.2  Date of Declassification Indefinite