

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION
AND
PRIVACY ACTS**

Subject: Oscar Vago

File Number: HQ 101 - 1988

Section: Referrals



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REFERRAL RESPONSES

OSCAR VAGO

101-1988

NOTICE

THE BEST COPIES OBTAINABLE ARE INCLUDED IN THE REPRODUCTION OF THE FILE. PAGES INCLUDED THAT ARE BLURRED, LIGHT OR OTHERWISE DIFFICULT TO READ ARE THE RESULT OF THE CONDITION AND OR COLOR OF THE ORIGINALS PROVIDED. THESE ARE THE BEST COPIES AVAILABLE.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FORM NO. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

NEW YORK

FILE NO.

65-5598

REPORT MADE AT WASHINGTON, D.C.	DATE WHEN MADE 1/3/51	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 10/17,31;11/16, 20,21,23,30/50	REPORT MADE BY FRANCIS J. DUANE FJD:NJB
TITLE OSCAR JOHN VAGO, was.			CHARACTER OF CASE 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 informants 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.

COPIES DESTROYED

456 MAR 9 1961

- RUC

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

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPY IN FILE		101-1988	127
COPIES OF THIS REPORT ⑤ - Bureau (101-1988) 3 - New York (100-55242) 2 - Philadelphia 1 - Los Angeles (Info) (65-5125) 1 - San Francisco (Info) (65-4286) 2 - Washington Field		JAN 4 1951 3	INDEXED - 61 RECORDED - 61 EX-35

PROPERTY OF FBI - 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.

53 JAN 13 1951

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.) U

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

~~Personnel~~ Personnel files of the Department of Agriculture disclosed that [REDACTED] had been employed by the Department from 1937 to January 13, 1940, when he was terminated due to a reduction in force. At the time of his termination he was employed as a Soil Conservationist. [REDACTED] was born January 15, 1909, at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and was reported to have been graduated from the Pennsylvania State College with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering in 1930. His wife, [REDACTED] was reported to be a native of Portsmouth, Virginia. His file at this source contained no derogatory data and the records of the Investigations Division of the Department of Agriculture contained no information concerning him. U b7C
per
agriculture

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 HENNIN BELFRAGE. U

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. U

Immigration and Naturalization Service files disclosed that WEIDLINGER formerly resided at 128E - 34th Street, New York City, and 3630 Pine Grove Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. He filed a Declaration of Intention U

SAC, Washington Field

January 16, 1951

Director, FBI

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

OSCAR JOHN VAGO
ESPIONAGE - R

Reurlet January 3, 1951.

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

2.26.87

101-1988

CLASSIFIED BY: ~~302/pwt/pls~~
DECLASSIFY ON: OADR

cc - New York (By Mail)

EFE:mes *mes*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

(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 Plants Reconstruction Finance Corporation, Cleveland, Ohio. 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.

[REDACTED]

b2
b7D

RECORDED

101-1988-129

CONFIDENTIAL

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

[REDACTED] (C)

b1

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 American Peace Mobilization.

According to a report from ONI, dated March 3, 1942, Berkman's name appeared on a list of members of the FAECT-CIO, Chapter 14, Washington D. C., he being listed as a representative of the Public Building Local of that Union.

release per Navy

[REDACTED]

0 (101-5630)

b2
b7D

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



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

WASHINGTON 25, D.C. 20535
August 6, 1965

MIS OSCAR JOHN VAGO

The files of the Passport Office, United States Department of State, were reviewed on August 3, 1965, by a representative of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and disclosed the following information concerning the above individual:

On October 12, 1964, at New York, New York Vago was issued passport E 700007. On the application for this passport, dated September 20, 1964, at New York, New York, Vago did not list any travel plans.

Vago was born on February 27, 1898, at Budapest, Hungary. He immigrated to the United States in January, 1933, and resided continuously at New York, New York, and Washington, D. C. He was naturalized as a United States citizen on September 29, 1938, before the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, receiving Certificate of Naturalization number 4320335. He listed his permanent residence as 164-13 73rd Avenue, Flushing, New York, and his occupation as civil engineer.

He listed his father as Morris Vago, born 1858 in Hungary and his mother as Mathilde Goldstein, born 1860 in Germany. Neither of his parents is a United States citizen.

He was last married on March 31, 1928, to Claire Weisman, who was born on January 31, 1907, at Budapest, Hungary. This marriage has not been terminated.

This passport is valid for travel to all countries except Albania, Cuba, and those portions of China, Korea, and Viet-Nam under communist control. It will expire on October 11, 1967, and may be renewed for two years.

*release
per
state*

101-1918-250

ENCLOSURE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3-5-84 BY 3042/PDT/CLS

OSCAR JOHN VAGO

The following description was taken from the
passport application:

Height:	Five feet six inches
Hair:	Brown
Eyes:	Brown

*release
per
State*

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

AIRGRAM

PPT VAGO, OSC.

JOHN

FOR RM USE ONLY

PPT-2		
RM/R	REP	AP
RA	EUR	FE
NEA	CU	INR
E	P	IO
L	FBO	AID
AGR	COM	FRS
INT	LAB	TAR
TR	XMB	AIR
ARMY	CIA	NAVY
OSD	USIA	NSA

CA-1901

CONFIDENTIAL

HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : BUDAPEST, MOSCOW, PARIS

FROM : DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DATE:

SUBJECT : CITIZENSHIP AND PASSPORTS: OSCAR JOHN VAGO

REF : NONE

AUG 17 10 45 AM '65

Oscar John Vago, born February 27, 1898 at Budapest, Hungary, was issued Passport No. E700007 on October 12, 1964. There are indications that the subject is travelling in Europe at this time, possibly in Cherbourg, France and Hungary.

The Department has reason to believe that he is a member of the Communist Party, USA or at least supports the communist ideology and receives communist literature and publications.

If Embassy Budapest or Moscow receives any pertinent information, please notify the Department. Paris notify the Legal Attache only.

RUSK

101-1988 -
NOT RECORDED

5 AUG 19 1965

Group 1.

Excluded from automatic
downgrading and declassification

CONFIDENTIAL

FOR DEPT. USE ONLY

FORM 4-62 DS-323

Drafted by: PPT/LS:WLMcNeil:dgg 8/17/65

Clearances:

Contents and Classification Approved by:
PPT - Frances G. Knight, Director

53 AUG 25 1965

1965 AUG 17 AM 11 54

COPYLO-PBR

SCA 2
INR 2
FBI 2release
per
state

FBI-Mr. Bartlett
thru PT/LL - Mr. Hazer

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

BUDAPEST, MOSCOW, PARIS

AUG 17 1965

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

CITIZENSHIP AND PASSPORTS: OSCAR JOHN VAGO

NONE

Oscar John Vago, born February 27, 1898 at Budapest, Hungary, was issued Passport No. E700007 on October 12, 1964. There are indications that the subject is travelling in Europe at this time, possibly in Cherbourg, France and Hungary.

The Department has reason to believe that he is a member of the Communist Party, USA or at least supports the communist ideology and receives communist literature and publications. [REDACTED]

If Embassy Budapest or Moscow receives any pertinent information, please notify the Department. Paris notify the Legal Attache only.

Group 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and declassification

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NOT RECORDED

8 AUG 23 1965

PPT - Frances G. Knight, Director

PPT/LS:WLMcNeil:dcg 8/17/65

195
AUG 25 1965

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

REPORTING OFFICE NEW YORK	OFFICE OF ORIGIN NEW YORK	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 12/1/65-1/19/66
TITLE OF CASE OSCAR JOHN VAGO aka		REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] b7c
CLASSIFIED BY: 3012/PWT/cls DECLASSIFY ON: OADR 3-6-87		TYPED BY tai
		CHARACTER OF CASE SM - C

REFERENCE: New York report of SA [REDACTED] 1/25/65.

- C -

ADMINISTRATIVE:

One copy of this report is being furnished G-2, First Army, New York City, [REDACTED] b7c

Subject's wife, CLAIRE VAGO is on the RI-B of the NYO (NY file 100-66457, Bu file 100-335813).

The pretext conducted on 1/17/66, was a telephone call to subject's residence by SA [REDACTED] b7E

The pretext conducted on 1/17/66, was a telephone call to subject's employment by SA [REDACTED] b7E

APPROVED [Signature]	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW	
COPIES MADE: 5 - Bureau (101-1988) (RM) 1 - Secret Service, NYC (RM) 1 - G-2, First Army, NYC (AA611495) (RM) 3 - New York (100-55842)		101-1988-253	REC 12
ENCLOSURE		14 JAN 25 1966	4-101
Dissemination Record of Attached Report		Notations	
Agency	RAO Sec. Service	SUBV CONTROL	
Request Recd.	2/1/66	Classified by 1628 RFP/66	
Date Fwd.	2/1/66	Declassify on: OADR 2-27-82	
How Fwd.	11 0-6 PD 776	Group # 56,25	
By	3012/PWT/cls 1966		

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-55242

be able to visit Hungary on a tour being organized by the AMS. This advertisement reflected that a tour would leave by ship in June, 1965.

On May 13, 1965, [REDACTED] Reservation Department, Cunard Lines, 25 Broadway, New York City, advised that the subject and his wife, CLAIRE had reserved space for the June 9, 1965 sailing of the "Queen Mary" from New York City, to Cherbourg, France. [REDACTED] also advised that the subject and his wife held reservations to return to New York City on the "Queen Mary" on August 26, 1965. b7c

On July 20, 1965, the records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) 20 West Broadway, New York, New York, were reviewed by a SA of the FBI. These records reflected that CLAIRE VAGO and OSCAR J. VAGO travelled on United States Passport Number E-700007 from New York, New York, on June 9, 1965, on board the British Royal Majesty Ship (RMS) "Queen Mary" enroute to Cherbourg, France. These records also reflected that the subject and his wife travelled tourist class.

On August 3, 1965, the records of the Passport Office, United States Department of State, Washington, D. C. were reviewed by a representative of the FBI. These records reflected that on October 12, 1964, OSCAR VAGO was issued Passport Number E-700007 at New York, New York and would expire on October 11, 1967. This passport may also be renewed for two years. Melvin
per
JTB

On September 8, 1965, by means of a pretext conducted by a SA of the FBI, it was determined that the subject and his wife returned from their trip to Europe during the last week of August, 1965.

IV MISCELLANEOUS

Certain New York informants, who are familiar with CP activities in the New York City area, were contacted during December, 1965, and shown a photograph of the subject. The informants advised they could furnish no information concerning subject's activities.

United States Government
MEMORANDUM

SECRET

To: Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Date: APR 20 1967

From: Assistant Attorney General
Internal Security Division

Subject: INDEX REVIEW

Re: OSCAR JOHN VAGO

FBI No. 101-1988

100-398030

Reports of investigation have been reviewed as requested

by you on _____.

It has been determined that indexing of this case for future
review should be☒ continued☐ discontinued

Commentary:

DECLASSIFIED BY 3042/PST/CLS
ON 3-23-81
per blanket authority
memo dated 2-12-76

REC 32

EX-113/101-1988-255

cc: FBI
ISD-SO
Dept. 146-012-18-2

1 APR 20 1967

54 MAY 1 1967

SECRET

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

CONTROL

M. E. RON

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 100-398030-



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

April 3, 1970

FBI LIAISON

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

RE:

Oscar John VAGO
BORN: February 27, 1938
PLACE: Budapest, Hungary

RESIDENCE:

164-13 73rd Avenue
Flushing, New York

BUREAU FILE NUMBER:

101-1988

WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE:

65-65598

PASSPORT NUMBER:

A304185 issued March 16,
1970 at New York

ATTORNEY:

TRAVEL PLANS

PORT OF DEPARTURE:

Unknown

DATE OF DEPARTURE:

May 30, 1970

MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION:

Air

PROPOSED LENGTH OF STAY:

6 Weeks

COUNTRIES TO BE VISITED:

Hungary, France, England,
Germany, Poland, U.S.S.R.,
Denmark

PURPOSE OF TRIP:

Visit of relatives

PASSPORT OFFICE
Robert D. Johnson

5 file
u#

*release
per
State*

2 Copy to NY
routing slip for
info ☒ action
4/15/70
with f. j. h.

59 APR 16 1970



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

New York, New York

MAY 14 1970

In Reply, Please Refer to

File No. Bureau file 101-1988
New York file 100-55242

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

Oscar John Vago
Security Matter-C

Mr. Oscar John Vago was born on February 27, 1898, in Budapest, Hungary. He resides at 164-13 73rd Avenue, Flushing, Queens, New York.

He is a white male, stands five feet six inches, weighs 145 pounds, is bald on top with gray hair. He is married to Claire Vago and has a son John and daughter Susan.

In the past he has been employed as a structural engineer by John Graham Architect and Engineer, 444 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York.

The passport office, United States Department of State, provided information indicating that Oscar John Vago, born February 27, 1898, at Budapest, Hungary, was issued a passport number A 304185 on March 16, 1970, at New York.

In his application for the passport Mr. Vago indicated that he planned to depart the United States on May 30, 1970, via air for a six week trip to Hungary, France, England, Germany, Poland, Union of Soviet Socialist Republic (USSR), and Denmark.

3-6-87

CLASSIFIED BY: 3042/PWT/als
DECLASSIFY ON: OADR

CONFIDENTIAL
GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

*release
per state*

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

101-1988-258
ENCLOSURE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

30

REPORTING OFFICE NEW YORK	OFFICE OF ORIGIN NEW YORK	DATE MAR 23 1971	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 1/20/68 - 3/12/71
TITLE OF CASE OSCAR JOHN VAGO aka		REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED]	TYPED BY bas
		CHARACTER OF CASE CONFIDENTIAL SM - SECRET	

REFERENCE:

NY report of SA **[REDACTED]** dated 1/24/69.

b7c

3-6-87

- C -

CLASSIFIED BY: **3042 PWT/clb**
DECLASSIFY ON: OADR

ENCLOSURES:

TO BUREAU (2)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

19

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						☐ NONE	ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN: PENDING OVER ONE YEAR ☐ YES ☒ NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS ☐ YES ☒ NO
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES			
APPROVED [Signature]						SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE		
COPIES MADE: 5-Bureau (101-1988) (Encls. 2) (RM) 1-Secret Service, NYC (RM) 3-New York (100-55242)						DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW 101-1988-259 B MAR 26 1971 REC-66 EX-114		
Agency [REDACTED]						Notations INT/SEC CONFIDENTIAL SECRET		
Request Recd.								
Date Fwd.								
How Fwd.								
By								

62 APR 15 1971

COVER PAGE

NY 100-55242

I. BACKGROUND

Residence
and
Employment

By means of a direct inquiry to the subject's former employer, JOHN GRAHAM, Architect and Engineer, 444 5th Avenue, New York, New York, it was learned that the subject is now retired and continues to reside at 164-13 73rd Avenue, Queens, New York.

Foreign
Travel

The Passport Office, United States Department of State (USDS), provided information indicating that OSCAR JOHN VAGO, born February 27, 1898, at Budapest, Hungary, was issued a passport, numbered A304185, on March 16, 1970, at New York.

In his application for the passport, Mr. VAGO indicated that he planned to depart the United States (US) on May 30, 1970, via air for a six week trip to Hungary, France, England, Germany, Poland, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), and Denmark. He indicated he planned to visit relatives.

The July 25, 1970, issue of "Magyar Hírek" (Hungarian News), published in Budapest, Hungary, by the Hungarian World Federation, contained a photograph with the caption "Happy Postprandial Conversation". Identified was OSCAR VAGO, leader of a New York Hungarian social club tour.