# FILE DESCRIPTION BUREAU FILE

SUBJECT HOMAS L. BLACK FILE NO. 65-59181 SECTION NO. SERIALS

85

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VOLUME 3 HEA JARTERS FILES Inventory Worksheet FD-503 (2-18-77) Pile No: 65-59/8/ Rei Thomas L. Black No. of Pages Exemptions used or, to whom referred Description Serial Date (Type of communication, to, from) Released (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited) Actual PH TeleType To HQ, MY, NK, BA 76 6/3/50 Copy of Above TeleType 6/3/50 NR BA. Report To HQ 1/1/50 10 PH Letter To HQ 78 BA TeleType To HQ, PH, MY WITH enclosed Search Slip NA 2/6/50 HQ Letter To P.H. 79 3 3 CE Henrich LeTTer To AH. Belmont NR See Bufile 65-57449 PH LeTTer TO HQ 80 6/22/50 1/1/50 HQ Letter To PH 80 AAG Letter To HQ 6/30/50 referral to Out. 7/6/50 HQ Letter To AAG N.H. Report TO HQ 7/11/50 82

VOLUME HEADQUARTERS FILES **Inventory Works** FD-503 (2-18-77) Pile No: 65-59/8/ Rei Thomas L Black No. of Pages Description Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Type of communication, to, from) Serial (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited) Released Actual PHLeTTer To Ha 23 Enclosures To Above Letter 83 AH LeTTer To HQ 6/3/50 Enclosures To Above Letter 84 7/13/50 MY Report To HQ 85 35

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DIRECTOR AND SACS, NEW YORK AND NEWARK AND BALTIMORE THOMAS L. BLACK. WAS., ESPIONAGE-R. HARRY GOLD ADVISED TODAY THAT BLACK WAS EMPLOYED NATIONAL OIL PRODUCTS CO., HARRISON, N. J., THIRTY THREE TO ABOUT FORTY THREE OR FORTY FOUR. GOLD SAID THAT DURIN THIS TIME THERE WOULD BE PERIODS OF A WHOLE YEAR WITHOUT THE TWO MEET ING. BLACK GAVE GOLD VERY LITTLE INFORMATION ABOUT HIS OWN ACTIVITIES ABOUT THIRTY EIGHT BLACK SHOUED GOLD NAME OF WHITTAKER WITH SOVIETS. CHAMBERS IN TIME MAGAZINE AND SAID THAT CHAMBERS KNEW BLACK BY LATTER-S OWN NAME AND THE TWO HAD WORKED TOGETHER WITH THE SOVIETS. GOLD ADvised that he used black as an alibi in explaining to his family his ABSENCES FROM PHILA. IN CONNECTION WITH HIS ESPIONAGE ACTIVITY. ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS HE EVEN CALLED BLACK AND ALERTED HIM IN CASE FAMILY OF GOLD SHOULD MAKE INQUIRY OF BLACK AS TO WHEREABOUTS OF GOLD. GOLD. ADVISED BLACK THAT HE WAS USING HIM AS ALIBI IN CONNECTION WITH SOVIET ESPIONAGE ACTIVITY. GOLD SAID THAT IN ABOUT EARLY FORTY TWO BLACK LE DROP TO GOLD THAT THE SOVIETS WERE INTERESTED IN OBTAINING INFORMATIO ON PENICILLIN. AND THAT BLACK WAS TRYING TO GET INFORMATION ON THIS. GOLD ADVISED THAT BLACK WAS DISCHARGED FROIL NOPCO AT ABOUT ABOVE DATE: AT WHICH TIME HE DID INDEPENDENT CONST ABOUT LATE FORTY FIVE GOLD INTRODUCED BLACK TO CHARLES W. BERG CO.

PHILA., AND BLACK BEGAN PART TIME WORK ON COMMISSION BASIS FOR BERG, ). BUT CONTINUED TO RESIDE IN NEWARK. IN ABOUT FORTYSEVEN BLACK MOVED TO

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PHILAMAND CONTINUED WORKING FOR BERG. GOLD SAID THAT BLACK HAD A SMALL LABORATORY ON THE SIDE CALLED SPRUCE CHEMICAL CO., WHICH RECENTLY FOLDER UP, AND WHICH PRODUCED A BOILER CLEANING COMPOUND. BLACK-S PARTNER IN THIS WAS JACK FASS. WHOM GOLD DESCRIBED AS AN INTELLECTUAL, BUT STATED. FASS NOT INVOLVED IN SOVIET ESPIONAGE. SPRUCE LAB. IN PHILA. ALSO ADVISED THAT ERNESTISEGESSEMAN, A FRIEND OF BLACK, WAS NOT CONNEC TED WITH SOVIET ESPIONAGE. SEGESSEMAN WAS FRIEND OF BLACK AT NOPCO. AND PRESENTLY WITH MOLNAR LABORATORIES, NEW YORK, WHICH IS RUN BY NICHOLAS 110LNAR -PRIOR TO LATE FORTY SEVEN OR EARLY FORTY EIGHT BLACK ADVISED GOLD THAT THE SOVIETS HAD A MEANS OF GETTING IN TOUCH WITHIM THROUGH HIS NEWARK APARTMENT. AFTER HE MOVED TO PHILA. THE TWO ON AN OCCASION WERE DISCUSSING THE POSSIBILITY OF BEING RECONTACTED BY SOVIETS. AT WHICH TIME BLACK STATED. ON ONE OCCASION. THAT THE SOVIETS KNEW WHERE TO CONTACT HIM IF THEY WISHED. ON TWO SEPARATE OCCASIONS BLACK GAVE TWO ANSWERS, ONE OF WHICH WAS, QUOTE, I DON-T KNOW, UNQUOTE, AND THE OTHER WAS THAT THE SOVIETS KNEW HIS NEW ADDRESS IN PHILA. BLACK HAS NEVER INDICATED ANY DESIRE TO GOLD TO GET BACK WITH THE SOVIETS. AND WAS EVEN CAUTIONED GOLD AS LATE AS FORTY EIGHT THAT HE SHOULD FORGET AL! ABOUT HIS PAST ASSOCIATION WITH SOVIETS. GOLD STATED THAT HE DIS-CUSSED HIS BEING QUESTIONED BY FBI AGENTS AND GRAND JURY. NEW YORK. IN FORTY SEVEN WITH BLACK AND SUGGESTED POSSIBILITY OF CONTACTING SOVIETS BLACK ADVISED HIM AGAINST THIS, EXPLAINING, QUOTE, YOU SHOULDN-T DO HIS AS THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT THEY WANT YOU TO DO, UNQUOTE, AND ADDED

PAGE THREE

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GOLD BASED THIS ON FACT THAT BLACK TOLD HIM ON OCCASIONS THAT HE HAD BEEN
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PAGE FOUR - PAGE FOUR

TOLD GOLD THAT HE MADE A TRIP TO PITTSBURGH FOR SOVIETS AROUND FORT BUT IT WAS FRUITLESS AS HE DID NOT MEET PERSON WHOM HE WAS SUPPOSED TO. AND ENDED UP JUST SPENDING A LOT OF MONEY. GOLD OF OPINION THAT BLACK WAS ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ON BIOLOGICALS FOR THE SOVIETS DURING HIS ACTIVITY IN FORTIES. BLACK MENTIONED TO GOLD A VISIT TO UNIVERSITY OF PENNA. MEDICAL SCHOOL TO OBTAIN A BIOLOGICAL WHICH TURNED SOUR: BLACK EXPLAINED TO GOLD THAT HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED BY THE SOVIET THAT INDIVIDUAL AT MEDICAL SCHOOL WOULD FURNISH BIOLOGICAL BUT CONTACT HAD NO INFORMATION OF BLACK-S PURPOSE OF TRIP AND EVIDENTLY HAD NOT BEEN APPROACHED AT ALL BY ANYONE. GOLD SAID HE COULD MORE ACCURATELY PLACE THIS TRIP ABOUT FORTY ONE OR FORTY TWO. GOLD SAID THAT SEVERAL TIMES DURING HIS ASSOCIATION WITH BLACK LATTER INDICATED A DESIRE TO BREAK WITH SOVIETS. SUCH INDICATIONS COMMENCING WHEN BLACK WORKING ON TROTSKYITE INFILTRATION. AND CONTINUING ON UP UNTIL HIS BREAK. WITH THEM. ON ONE OCCASION IN FORTIES GOLD AND BLACK EXCHANGED NOTES AND DESCRIPTIONS ON THEIR RESPECTIVE SOVIET CONTACTS AND BOTH CAME TO CON-CLUSION THAT THEY WERE SEEING SAME RUSSIAN. GOLD GAVE BLACK THE ANTH) OF HIS RUSSIAN CONTACT. SAM. BUT BLACK SAID THAT THAT WAS NOT THE NAME THE CONTACT USED WITH HIM. BLACK SAID THAT PROBABLY IN THE MIDDLE OF LATTER PART OF FORTY BLACK MADE REGULAR TRIPS TO NEW CASTLE. DELAWARE TO OBTAIN INFORMATION. GOLD FIRST STATED THAT THE TOWN MIGHT HAVE BEEN SEAFORD. DEL... BUT CHANGED HIS MIND. GOLD BELIEVES THAT NEARLY A CONTACTS BLACK HAD WITH SOVIETS OCCURRED IN NYC'. GOLD SAID THAT IN

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FORTY FOUR BLACK MADE TWO TRIPS TO CHICAGO ON BEHALF OF SOVIETS, ONE B' TRAIN COACH AND ONE BY BUS. GOLD SAID THAT AFTER HIS FIRST TRIP TO SANTA FE TO SEE FUCHS HE TOLD BLACK THAT HE HAD MADE A LONG TRIP TO THE SOUTHWEST ON BEHALF OF THE SOVIETS AND THAT THE ASSIGNMENT WAS QUOTE. SOMETHING BIG. UNQUOTE. BUT DID NOT DISCLOSE NATURE OF IT TO PRIOR TO GOLD-S SECOND TRIP TO SANTA FE HE DISCUSSED THE PROPOSED TRIP WITH BLACK. TELLING HIM THAT IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICU ITO OBTAIN A VACATION SO TRIP COULD BE MADE. GOLD SAID HE DID NOT DISCLOSE TO BLACK ANY MORE THAN FACT THAT TRIP WAS TO SOUTHWEST AND GOLD THEN ADVISED AGENTS THAT WHEN HE READ THE ON SOMETHING BIG. NEWSPAPER STORY ON THE ARREST OF KLAUS FUCHS ON! WHAT HE BELIEVED.A. FRIDAY HE BECAME VERY FRIGHTENED AND ON THE FOLLOWING MONDAY SAW AFTER MUCH DELIBERATION HE FINALLY TOLD BLACK THAT HE BLACK. INDIVIDUAL TO WHOM FUCHS GAVE HIS INFO. BLACK WAS VERY SURPRISED AND EKCITED. GOLD SAID THAT AS A RESULT OF THIS CONVERSATION WITH BLACK IT WAS DECIDED THAT FOR BLACK-S BENEFIT THE TWO WOULD MEET IN THE FUTURE ONLY AT THE FRANKLIN INSTITTE IN PHILA. AND TO TELEPHONE EACH OTHER AT THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE IN ORDER TO ARRANGE SUCH MEETINGS. SAID THAT HE WOULD FREQUENTLY BORROW MONEY FRON BLACK WHEN HE BECAME LOW IN FUNDS DUE TO HIS TRAVELLING ON BEHALF OF THE SOVIET UNION. EXPLAINED THAT IT WAS A RELATIVELY EASY MATTER FOR HIM TO BORROW

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Subject unknown to WHITTAKER CHAMBERS. Records of the Dupont Co., Wilmington, Del, contain no record of an employment application for BLACK. Records of Hercules Powder Co., Wilmington, Del, reflect that WILLIAM W. STAPLER, identified as a contact of BLACK, was employed as a chemist from November, 1933, until his death 8-15-47. Background information re STAPLER set out. Check of records of Technical Library, Hercules Powder Company, revealed only two charge-out cards for period 8/31 to 9/45, which cards reflected that Hopewell Reports were charged out to STAPLER.

a social acquaintance of STAPLER, advised she does not recall any unusual request made by STAPLER for files. She further advised that none of the Hopewell Reports contained any Government restricted information. Other Library employees and a Hercules Company official advise that they do not recall STAPLER's having had access to any Government classified material. Mr. and hirs. A. STANLEY AYERS, brother-in-law and sister of STAPLER, interviewed. They state they can furnish no information regarding STAPLER's activities or contacts.

- R U C -

RECORDED - 75 ES DESTROYED NOV 2 1 1968 COPIES OF THIS REPORT INDEXED - 75 5 🚅 Burcau | - Newark (65-4074) - 10 195**0** 3 - New York (65-15338) 3 - Philadelphia (65-4332) 1 - Washington Field - info.

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DETAILS:

- AT VIESTMINSTER, MARYLAND -

JAY DAVID WHITTAKER CHAMBERS, Route 2, Westminster, self-confessed former Soviet espionage agent, was interviewed on June 4 and June 6, 1950, at which time photographs of the subject were displayed to him. Mr. CHAMBERS was unable to identify any of the photographs. He said that he does not know BLACK and has no recollection of such an individual.

- AT WILMINGTON, DELAWARE -

67C The following investigation was conducted by SA FRANK A. STANTON.

E. I. duPont de Nemours Company, Inc., advised that no record could be located reflecting any employment application or employment for the subject under the name THOMAS L. BLACK or any of his aliases. According to applications for employment filed prior to January, 1947, by persons not subsequently employed, have been destroyed.

#### Re: WILLIAM WEBB STAPLER

In an interview conducted by the Fhiladelphia Office, BLACK advised that pursuant to instructions from his Russian superior, he made contact with an employee of the Hercules Powder Company who had sold technical information to the Russians in the past. He stated that he believed the first name of this individual was WILLIAM, that he was a chemist by trade and that he was working as a technical man on the road; further, that WILLIAM's wife owned a home in Verona or Caldwell, New Jersey, and that he lived during the week with a sister in Wilmington, Delaware. BLACK described WILLIAM as about 45 years of age, tall, with graying hair, thick features, wore glasses. BLACK further advised that WILLIAM was a friend of the technical librarian at the Hercules Powder Company. BLACK subsequently identified WILLIAM as WILLIAM W. STAPLER.

Hercules Powder Company, Wilmington, Delaware, made available the personnel file for WILLIAM W. STAPLER which reflects that he was employed by the Hercules Powder Company in November, 1933, as a chemist at the Experiment Station in Wilmington, Delaware. From 1934 until the time of his death on August 15, 1947, STAPLER was engaged in the Technical Service Division of the Naval Stores Department of the Hercules Company, located at Wilmington.

The file reflects that STAPLER was born November 11, 1889, at Wilmington, Delaware, the son of WILLIAM WEBB STAPLER, a native of Wilmington, Delaware, and EMMARNOLE STAPLER, born in Harmonyville, Pennsylvania.

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STAPLER's wife is listed as ETHEL MEAD STAPLER whose birthplace is reflected as Pompton, New Jersey. Her residence, according to the file is Riverdale, Morris County, New Jersey. According to the record, the STAPLERS have one son, WILLIAM MEAD STAPLER, born November 30, 1920, The file reveals that STAPLER attended the Wilmington High School, the University of Illinois, where he obtained a B.S. degree in Chemical Engineering, and the Goldey Commercial College at Wilmington, Delaware, where he took a course in stenography. The file reflected no dates for the attendance at the above-mentioned educational institutions.

Miss EDITH STAPLER, 602 Springer Street, Wilmington, Delaware, and Mrs. A. STAPLER AYERS of Wilmington, Delaware, are listed as sisters of STAPLER. STAPLER listed a temporary residence while at Wilmington, Delaware, with his sister, EDITH.

STAPLER's file does not disclose any previous employment record. His Social Security Number is 221-07-2645. STAPLER listed membership in the following clubs and organizations:

American Chemical Society

American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists

Sons of the American Revolution

Cosmopolitan Club of Montelair, N. J.

The file reflects that STAPLER reportedly died at Riverdale, Now Jersey, on August 15, 1947, It indicates that he died of cancer.

The personnel file contains the following partial physical description of STAPLER: 5' 10", 149 pounds, brown hair, brown eyes. 5

Powder Company, advised that WILLIAM W. STAPLER was engaged as a technical service man in the Naval Stores Department from 1934 until 1947, the year of his death. Stated that as he recalls, STAPLER worked entirely on textile development. STAPLER's principal duty, according to the textile industry in an effort to further the use of pine oil. He pointed out that STAPLER traveled extensively and would have had very complete information concerning the textile industry. He said that STAPLER probably contacted most of the textile plants and firms in the eastern United States in connection with his work.

stated that STAPLER had access to the Technical Service Trade Reports and in this respect all new developments engaged in by the Hercules Company were available to STAPLER. According to no information carrying a Government classification was

65-59181-77

contained in these Trade Reports and as far as he knows, STAPLER had no access to any confidential material.

Available progress reports prepared by STAPLER in 1944 and 1945 reflect that he was engaged only in the field of textiles, particularly along the lines of the use of pine oil, moth-proofing of textiles, shrink-proofing of textiles, improving cloth for textile lamination, crease-proofing of rayon, and ink solvents. His 1946 Progress Report disclosed that he was interested in the development of "Resin-Amine D". advised that this was also in connection with textile development. Stated that during the period 1943 to 1947, STAPLER's earnings were in excess of \$400.00 per month and that in 1947, his earnings increased to a sum above \$500.00 per month.

Hercules Powder Company, advised that she was acquainted with WILLIAM STAPLER during his employment at the Hercules Company. She stated that her acquaintanceship consisted of seeing STAPLER occasionally when he visited the Experiment Station in connection with his work as a technical service man in the Naval Stores Department. She stated that STAPLER's position required that he travel extensively. She pointed out that to the best of her knowledge, STAPLER's efforts were devoted to the use of pine oil and pine oil products in the textile industry. She cannot recall STAPLER's making any unusual requests for any particular type of information or material at the library.

By way of explanation, pointed out that the Naval Stores Department of the Hercules Powder Company is not associated with any Naval function as the name would imply but rather has to do with the development of products based on resin, turpentine and pine oil.

stated that she has a vague recollection that at one time STAPLER was interested in minerals. She could not remember exactly when he was interested and could offer no specific information to indicate that there was any particular significance to this fact. She explained, however, that pine oil is used to separate minerals from slag.

Stated that to the best of her knowledge, STAPLER had no access to any Government classified material.

of the Hercules Powder Company, advised that she did not know WILLIAM W. STAPLER.

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Hercules Powder Company, who is in charge of the Hopewell Reports at the Technical Library, advised that she knew STAPLER during the time of his employment at the Hercules Powder Company in Wilmington. She stated that she had gone out to dinner with STAPLER on several occasions and that STAPLER frequently stopped at her house and talked to her for long periods of time. She claimed that STAPLER, in his attempts to entertain her and to become friendly with her, made himself obnoxious. She stated that she recalls that STAPLER had a "girl friend" in the Methodist Hospital in Philadelphia, whom she believes is a nurse but she does not know this individual's name nor can she furnish any further information concerning her.

With the assistance of the Hopewell Reports was made. The search revealed that only two charge-out cards for the period August, 1931 to September 5, 1945, reflected that Hopewell Reports had been charged out by STAPLER. The charge-out cards reflected that Hopewell Reports #52 and #65 were charged out to STAPLER. Report #52 pertained to "cooking cotton linters with detergents". Report #65 pertained to cotton cellulose purification on a small scale. A check of all of the Hopewell files at the Technical Library revealed

no additional charge-out record for STAPLER.

Government restricted information. She said that she cannot recall STAPLER's ever making any unusual requests for files and that he could have charged out files for extended periods of time as a routine procedure.

advised that they do not recall STAPLER's ever having charged out any of the Hopewell Reports at the Experiment Station Library. They informed the Agent that no charge—out cards are retained at the Experiment Station Library. They further advised that the files maintained at the Experiment Station are copies of those which are maintained in the custody of Hercules Company.

Mrs. A. STANLEY AYERS, nee MARGERY STAPLER, sister of WILLIAM W. STAPLER, was interviewed on June 21, 1950, at her residence at 1706 Woodlawn Avenue, Wilmington, Delaware. Also present was her husband, A. STANLEY AYERS, Secretary-Treasurer of Woodlawn Trustees, Inc., Wilmington, Delaware. They advised that WILLIAM W. STAPLER, with the exception of about three weeks in 1934, never lived with

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B4 65-1751

them while he was in Wilmington. They explained that his home was in Riverdale, New Jersey, but that when he was in Wilmington, he usually stayed at the home of another sister, EDITH STAPLER, who is presently in a nursing home in Pennsylvania. They stated that they had none of STAPLER's personal effects and were of the impression that all of his possessions are with his wife, ETHEL, in New Jersey. Mr. and Mrs. AYERS expressed a desire to cooperate in any way possible in this investigation but stated that they have no information or material which would throw any light on STAPLER's activities or contacts.

Mr. and Mrs. AYERS stated that to the best of their knowledge, STAPLER worked principally in the field of textiles, pine oil and pine oil products, while he was employed at the Hercules Powder Company. They mentioned the fact that STAPLER traveled a great deal in connection with his work.

The AYERS advised that during the first world war. STAPLER was employed by the Dupont Company at Wilmington, Delaware, and following this, he was employed a short time by a Mr. (fnu) WILSON who was in the advertising business in New York City. It'is their recollection that at this time, STAPLER was doing some work in Following this, STAPLER, according to the AYERS. traded in real estate in New Jersey from time to time until he was employed by the Hercules Company in 1933. Mr. and Mrs. AYERS informed the interviewing Agent that STAPLER's wife never came to Wilmington, Delaware, to live even though her husband's employment was in that city. They stated that they had only occasional contact with STAPLER's wife and son, WILLIAM MEAD STAPLER. regard to STAPLER's son, Mr. and Mrs. AYERS advised that the son was interested in aviation and they believed that he was employed by the Kellog Engineering Company in Newark, New Jersey, doing some type of experimental work in connection with aviation. Mr. and Mrs. AYERS were unable to furnish any additional information regarding STAPLER or his family.

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E. I. Dupont de Nemours and Company, Inc., vorified the fact that STAPLER was employed as a chemist at the Dupont Company at one time. He made available the employment record for STAPLER which reflects that the latter was employed as a chemist from August, 1915, to November 11, 1920, at which time he was laid off because of lack of work. This record reflects that STAPLER's birth date was November, 1889, and disclosed that he received a B.S. degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Illinois in 1915. The file reflects that STAPLER stated that prior to coming to the Dupont Company, he did analytical and research work in dyestuffs. He listed previous

employment in the Pennsylvania Steel Company, Steelton, Pennsylvania, as a stenographer for one year; with Pusey and Jones Company, Wilmington, for six months; and three months as a stenographer for the Senate of the Delaware State Legislature during the 1910 session, apparently acting as stenographer for one GEORGE W. SPARKS. The file contained no additional information.

The records of the Health Department, Wilmington, Delaware, contain a birth certificate for STAPLER reflecting his full name as WILLIAM WEBB STAPLER. The complete birth data corresponds with that reflected in the Hercules Powder Company records, as set forth previously in this report.

The files of the Credit Bureau of Wilmington, Inc., contained no information concerning STAPLER.

The files of the Wilmington Police Department contained no record for WILLIAM W. STAPLER.

# REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

#### ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

The information contained in the investigative section of this report has been furnished previously to the Bureau and interested offices by teletypes on various dates. It is noted that the photographs of BLACK displayed to WHITTAKER CHAMBERS included pictures contained in the motion picture film forwarded to Baltimore by Philadelphia letter to the Bureau, Baltimore and New York dated June 5, 1950.

Reference is made to Philadelphia teletype to the Bureau, New York, Newark and Baltimore, dated June 3, 1950 containing a lead for the Baltimore Office to advise of logical plants in the vicinity of New Castle, Delaware, in which BIACK might have been interested, as well as any logical co-conspirators whose names could be obtained. This lead was based on information furnished by HARRY COLD to the effect that BIACK made regular trips to New Castle, Delaware, in 1940 to obtain information. Investigation was conducted in the vicinity of New Castle, Delaware, and it was ascertained that the only plant in which BIACK, as a chemist, might have been interested, would apparently have been the Delaware Rayon Company.

The Baltimore Office furnished the Bureau, New York and Philadelphia this information by teletype dated June 5, 1950, and at the same time advised that another plant located at Wilmington, Delaware, in the vicinity of New Castle, is the Minquadale Research Pest Control Laboratory, operated by the Dupont Company, which employs several chemists. The teletype advised, however, that the Biochemical Research Foundation, Franklin Institute endowed, located at Newark, Delaware, appeared to be the most logical location in which BLACK may have been interested. It is noted that this Foundation was formerly located at Philadelphia and began operation at Newark, Delaware, in 1940. During this investigation, inquiries were made at hotels at New Castle and Wilmington for possible information concerning BLACK during the years 1940 or 1941, but no records were available.

The Bureau and interested offices were further advised that the Baltimore Office would endeaver to obtain, as seen as possible, a list of chemists at the Biochemical Research Foundation for sources of possible contacts of BLACK, The investigation at New Castle, Delaware was discontinued in view of subsequent developments in instant case, as reflected in Philadelphia teletype to the Bureau, New York, Newark and Baltimore on June 16, 1950, regarding BLACK's Delaware contact, WILLIAM W. STAPLER.

65-5981-77

#### ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

Photographs of handwriting and handprinting which apparently is that of STAPLER, were obtained from his personnel file at the Hercules Company and were forwarded to the Bureau by Baltimore letter dated June 16, 1950. Film containing photographs of STAPLER obtained at the Hercules Company, was also sent to the Bureau for development and printing by Baltimore letter dated June 16, 1950. The Bureau was requested to furnish interested offices copies of STAPLER's photograph.

A copy of this report is being designated for the Washington Field Office inasmuch as the report of SA LOUIS G. TURNER, Newark, dated June 12, 1950, reflects that Washington Field has an interest in this case.

#### REFERENCE:

Philadelphia teletypes to the Bureau, New York, Newark and Baltimore dated June 2, June 3, June 16, June 17 and June 27, 1950.

Baltimore teletypes to the Bureau, Philadelphia, Newark and New York dated June 4, June 16, June 21 and June 28, 1950.

Baltimore teletype to Bureau, New York and Philadelphia dated June 5, 1950.

Baltimore teletype to the Bureau, Newark and Philadelphia, dated June 21, 1950.

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FEDER. BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1 [HIS\_CASE ORIGINATED AT

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

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**5-1** 751

	Baltimore, Md.	DATE WHEN	релю рол which made 6-4,5,6,16-22, 0 27-50		JOSEPH C. TRAINOR	: AC
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SYNOPSIS OF FACTS

Subject unknown to WHITTAKER CHAMBERS. Records of the Dupont Co., Wilmington, Del, contain no record of an employment application for BLACK. Records of Hercules Powder Co., Wilmington, Del, reflect that WILLIAM W. STAPLER, identified as a contact of BLACK, was employed as a chemist from November, 1933, until his death 8-15-47. Background information re STAPLER set out. Check of records of Technical Library, Hercules Powder Company, revealed only two charge-out cards for period 8/31 to 9/45, which cards reflected that Hopewell Reports were charged out to STAPLER.

a social acquaintance of STAPLER, advised she does not recall any unusual request made by STAPLER for files. She further advised that none of the Hopewell Reports contained any Government restricted information. Other Library employees and a Hercules Company official advise that they do not recall STAPLER's having had access to any Government classified material. Mr. and Mrs. A. STANLEY AYERS, brother-in-law and sister of STAPLER, interviewed. They state they can furnish no information regarding STAPLER's activities or contacts.

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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.

## Office Memorandum . United STATES GOVERNMENT

TO Director, FBI

DATE: July 10, 1950

FROM

SAC, Philadelphia

BUBIRCT:

THOMAS L. BLACK, was:

Espionage - R

Rerep SA WILLIAM C. TOWER dated 6-26-50 at Seattle, Washington, and Seattle letter dated 6-26-50. The rerep indicates that two brothers who are friends of the subject visited with SANFORD and his wife during 1944. These brothers are probably CHARLES M. and BEN REEFIELD. CHARLES M. FREEFIELD lived with Subject Black in Newark and was a member of the SWP along with BLACK around 1938 to 1941. Both CHARLES and BEN PREEFIELD served in the Armed Forces during World War II.

There is being forwarded to the Seattle Office as an enclosure with this letter a photograph of HARRY GOLD taken in the Philadelphia FBI Office. No photographs of GOLD taken around 1938 are available to this office. BLACK, during the course of his interview, has admitted much of his past activities and dealings with the Soviets. For that reason it will not be necessary for the Seattle Office to further interview SANFORD regarding BLACK.

ERNESP SEGESSEMAN, mentioned in referenced Seattle report, has already been located and interviewed.

The Newark Office should disregard lead to interview Dr. K. T. STEIK at this time, inasmuch as BLACK admitted preparing a false report for the Russians in which he alleged Dr. KARL T. STEIK to be his source of information. This particular report dealt with STEIK'S antiseptic ointment known as Uforsan. STEIK will be interviewed at a later date regarding this allegation.

Re JORGE GURA GILGUN, there appears to be no specific reason to believe that BLACK has been connected with this individual. However he will be questioned as to whether or not he is acquainted with GILGUN.

WBW: AVM 65-4332

cc - Nowark
Seattle - Enc. - AIR MAIL

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIO U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE COMMUNICATIONS SECTION JUN 15 1950 TELETYPE 一次2000年前間標本の AR HOST S. XII. \_\_\_ 46 .5-49 PH EDST .. DIRECTOR AND SACS PHILADELPHIA, NEW YORK AND NEWARK URGENT THOMAS L'BLACK, WAS., ESPIONAGE R. RE PHILA TELITHIS DATE INVESTIGATION AT HERCULES CO., WILMINGTON, DELAWARE, REVEALS WIL NOTAPLER AS POSSIBLE IDENTICAL WITH WILLIAM MENTIONED IN REFERENCED TEL. STAPLER ORIGINALLY EMPLOYED BY HERCULES CO., DEC ELEVEN. THIRTYTHREE. STAPLER BORN NOVEMBER ELEVEN, EIGHTEEN EIGHTYNINE A wilhington, del. , height five feet ten, weight one fortynine, BROWN. EYES BROWN. STAPLER DIED AT RIVERDALE. N. J. IN FORTYSEVEN. AT TIME OF DEATH STAPLER WAS STILL EMPLOYED BY HERCULES CO. STAPLES wife is ethel nextapler, riverdale, morris county, new jersey STAPLEES SISTER IS EDITH STAPLER, SIX HAUGHT TWO SPRINGER STREET. WILMINGTON, DELAWARE, WITH WHOM, ACCORDING TO RERCULES FILES, MADE HIS HOME WHILE LOCATED AT WILMINGTON." <del>whereabouts not as vet determined. An acent-from the vilmington resi</del> AGENCY WILL REPORT TO THE PHILA THE REPLECENCE AND LESS CONTRACTORS DFFICE THIS DATE WITH PHOTOS OF STAPLER TO BE DISPLAYED TO HARRY BLACK. NEVARK, NEW YORK CITY, AND BUREAU CHECK INDUCAS ON STAPLER AND SUTEL RESULTS PHILA. BALTO INDICES NEGATIVEE MC FARLIN END COPIES DESTROYED -- R 47 NOV 81 1960 ack=plsp= WA ZA R 4 WA LEA PH OFOURTH LINE FROM BOTTOM PLS REPEAT 14 TH LINE HOLD LINE PLSQ DENT AGENCY WILL REPORT TO THE PHILA initials, PLS NY Juny 3 5

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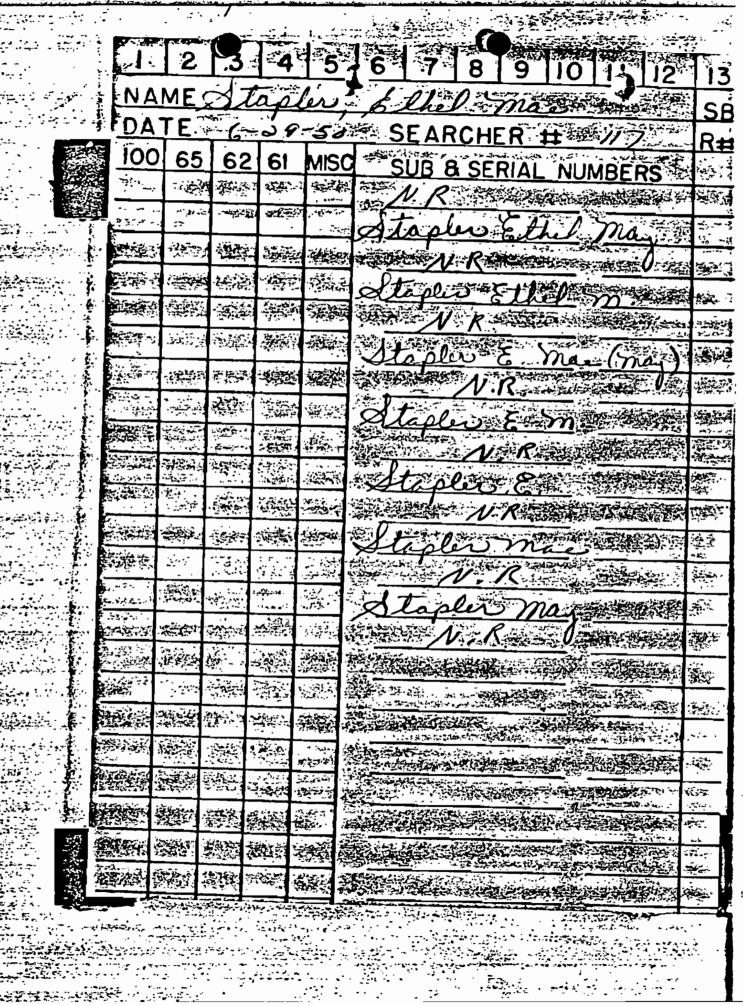
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SAC, Philadelphia

Director, 'FBI

THOMAS L. BLACK, Was., ESPIONACE - R.

65-59181-79

Re Baltimore tel June 16, 1950, requesting a check of the Bureau

Indices on William W. Stapler.

A report of Special Agent Paul W. Haviland dated August 30, 1941, at Baltimore, re Armand Labis Feldman, was, et al, Bufile 7574, reflects that the E. I. duPont de Nemours and Company, Wilmington, Delaware, reported that they had no record of Caik Ovakimian contacting the company. However, their records reflected that in October, 1938, Paul K. Laurence of the Organic Chemical Department had advised the company that he had been contacted by a man, whom he did not name, who had informed Laurence that he had been approached by a man named George connected with the

Rockefeller Institute who offered Laurence's informant a job in Russia. Laurence's informant also claimed that the Rockefeller Institute wanted to purchase trade information from him, such as secret processes used. Laurence informant also said that George had indicated that information was being to be being the content of the dePont Company.

obtained by them from an official of the dePont Company

advised that because their lile was so jumbled and incomplete concerning this matter that they would reinterview Mr. Laurence. Upon reinterview Laurence advised that he could not remember the details very well but that in about August or September, 1938, he ran across an old acquaintance with whom he had been employed previously at the duPont Rye Works. This person had left the duPont Company several years previously and had harbored a grudge against the company ever since. Laurence's acquaintance advised that he was then after lancing, acting as a consultant for miscellaneous clients and selling information to various parties, some of whom were foreign governments. Laurence's informant also advised the had been selling a good bit of

information and on one occasion had been told by the Rockefeller crowd that they had paid as much as \$22,000 for technical data. This information was given to a Russian whose first name was 'George', then employed by the Rockefeller Institute in New York City; that the Rockefeller Institute employment of 'George' was largely a blind and that 'George' in reality was an agent of the Soviet Government. He also informed Laurence Chap 'George'

was an agent of the Soviet Government. He also informed Laurence that feorgathad a contact in the duPont Company, inferring that it was a high-up official from whom 'George' was obtaining information on duPont chemical processes.

oc - SAC, Baltimore

JUL 7 1950

Offart

The duPont Company decided they had no right to force Laurence to divulce the identity of his acquaintance. In this connection of the duPont Company confidentially advised that he recalled one occo Allemann, a Swiss chemist

donildentially advised that he recalled one outo Allemann, a Swiss chemist who had been identified with the German Dye Industry prior to World War I and later with the Swiss and British Chemical Interests prior to his employment by the duPont Company in 1919. Allemann had resigned from the duPont Company in 1934 or 1935 to accept a position with the Soviet Government in Russia. This source recalled that Allemann's wife, Else, had remained in Wilmington for ab a year after her husband had gone to Russia and had said that he had secured hts Soviet job through someone named Ovakimian, for someone who preceded him who had some connection with either the Rockefeller Institute or the amtorg! Trading Corporation. This source also recalled that Kise Allemann bad mention a person named Smolianinoff as having some connection with the deal by which Allemann went to Russia. This source stated it was his best recallection that Smoliam noff had either preceded or succeeded Ovakindan at either the Rockefeller Institute or with the Amtorg Trading Corporation. This source eaid that Allemann had been suspected as being the type of person who would sell confidential information. He pointed out that Allemann had first resigned from the duPosit Company in about 1929 after he had made about a quar of a million dollars in the stock market and that following the stock market crash, in which Allemann lost heavily, he re-applied to the duPont Company

When Laurence was contacted by the Bureau, he identified the informant as William W. Stapler, who was then living in North Jersey and employed by the Hercules Powder Company. Laurence stated that Stapler had been let out during the 1921 depression and had not had a job of any consequence with the became employed by the Hercules Powder Company about five years ago, he has stated that Stapler had been born and raised in Wilmington and that he considered Stapler a one hundred per cent patriotic American and a man of years high integrity.

It would appear that the "George" who contacted William W. Stapleris possibly identical with Gaik Ovakimian, known Soviet agent.

It would appear that the "George" who contacted William W. Stapleris

From Soviet agent 1. Frederick Rauterman dated November 27.

1942, at Newark re "Hans Gropp, was., Bufile 9932-10, reflects that the interviewed a Fordham J. Walsh, Cedarmilli Road, Riverdale, New Jersey, in connection with a complaint made on or about the second state of the second sta

June 2, 1942, concerning Walsh's reported suspicious activities of a pro-Nazi nature at the Triangle Grill on Route 23, Pequannock, New Jersey. Walsh advised that he was President of the Chemical Specialties and Research Corp., 50 Church Street, Montclair, New Jersey, which had been formed about a year ago" and that Mr. and Mrs. William Stapler and John D. Brown, a lawyer at Montclair, New Jersey, were associated with him in this business. Walsh explained that he was promoting a formula for the removal of carbon from combustion engines, which he had offered to the Government as well as about a dozen other mechanical and chemical devices, none of which had been accepted. Investigation sencountered some

investigator considered Walsh to be investigator considered with the walsh to be inv

It might be noted that the investigation of Gropp was initiated in 1940 by the Newark Office on the basis of a complaint that Gropp's business establishment had a peculiar wiring arrangement. No evidence of subversive activities was uncovered and the case was closed by Newark report dated March 9, 1940. This case was re-opened in December, 1940, on the basis of an anonymous communication to the Bureau which alleged that Gropp's Tavern was a meeting place of foreign agents. This case was closed by Newark report dated Jamary 27, 1944, since the investigation found no basis in fact for the complaint.

Submitted for the information of the Philadelphia, Newark, and Baltimore Offices.

No information was located in the Bureau's files which could be identified with William W. Stapler's wife, Mrs. Ethel May (Mae) Stapler, or with their son, William Mead Stapler.

# Office Memor Endum • United STA S GOVERNMENT

Director, FB1

DATE: June 22, 1950

APROM : SAC, Philadelphia

THUSAS L. MLACE; was; ESPIONAGE - R

Attention: | commical Section - Photographic Laboratory

In examination of the material belonging to the subject in the above case, agents of the Philadelphia Office found a number of 3" x 5" cards bearing names and addresses and various financial information. From information previously secured from BIACK, it is believed that these are names, etc., of people who were members of the Socialist perhaps barby in the Negark area about 1939.

There is enclosed herewith a 25-foot roll of Fodd microfile film containing approximately 50 exposures of these cards and some slips of paper which are possibly names of subscribers to a Socialist workers Farty publication.

It is requested that the Bureau develop the enclosed film, making two prints of each frame enlarged to 8" x 10" size and send the negative and prints to the Hewark Division for information in their investigation of the Socialist Workers Farty in the Hewark area. It is not uccessary that any of this material be sent to Philadelphia.

หสัI/ฮูเรก 65–5332

Enclosura (ACCISTERED MAIL)

cc: ocwasti

12.0. MCONDED . 5965 - 59.

Act Stoph Pm C John JUL 7, 1950

Justo Justo

Cit. Philadolphia July 7, 1950 Director, FDI Thoras L. Mack, was. Japiongo - R Reference is made to your letter deted June 22, 1950, transmitting one roll of film portaining to the above-captioned matter. In accordance with your request, prints have been made and they are being forwarded together with the film to the Hemeri. Field Office. on Bountk (under separate registered cover) RCR:CT 7 1950

DIEECTOR FBI

THUMAS LESSING BLACK, WAS.

Est Ionios - B

(Department File 146-41-15-WW; JES:WEF:am)

Reference is made to your memorandum of Ame 30, 1950, in which you indicate that upon the basis of the information available to you prosecution does not appear to be possible.

The following additional information has been developed and in Submitted for your further consideration in this matter.

On June 20, 1950, while being interviewed, subject Black related that in 1931 in New York City he met one M. Mergolin whom he described as a Communist employed by the City of Eaw York. Empolin asked Black for the names of all poliniations who were chemists in high positions and sympathetic to the Soviet Valon. Black oculd name only one, a Dr. Louis Christman, then Director of Joseveh for the American Cynnimic Company who Black and was reported to be a predical. Although not acquainted with Christman, Black arranged a meeting bytween Christman and Margolin. It developed, Black said, that Christman winted to talk politics, but Margolin preferred to keep their conversation on a social level. Following their meeting, Margolin and Christman left Black's Described to talk politics, but Margolin this interview that he suspected for bucking involved in Soviet espionare and that interview that he suspected for bucking acquainted with Christman. Further investigation of Margolin and Christman is being conducted. (Phila tel 6/21/50,12:01 AM, pages 2 and 8)

Ch Jums 21, 1950, Fordinand Phillip Hollor was interviewed at Philadelphia. He related that at his second meeting with Gaik Ovakimian in about 1934, Plack accompanied Hellor and told Ovakimian that he, Black, had formulations on sulphonating cile. Ovakimien replied he would have them picked up later on. Hellor recalled these formulas were subsequently typed by Vera theme on a Suniay at Kene's apartment in New York City. Kanawas a close personal friend of Pellor, and through Heller an acquaintence of Black. Hellor Explained Plack had brought his hendwritten notes to Kane's apartment the free loss Saturday. It was Hellor's belief that he himself gave Paul Petersen he formulas on Monday and that exching advised Black that he had done so. Hellor admitted that included in the material he gave Petersen was some information he himself prepared regarding lacquers obtained as the result of his previous caployment at the France-American Sugar Company, PHILA tel 6/21/60,8:53 PM

For your information, Vern Kane has been interwighed, and to date has denied any knowledge of the Soviet espioners activities by Heller or Black. The stated she might have done some typing for black or Zoller, but none of the material was such as that described by Heller. Further intervious with Kane or are to be conducted. (NY tol 6/19/50, 11:11 PM)

ETB:ha nc. 11181 21 2 700 65-59181

DECLISCIPIED BY 4915 APING ON 1-31-78 65-59191-81

On June 21, 1950, a further interview with Black developed the following information: On March 10, 1938, while an employee of the Faticanl Oil Products Company, Black was severely burned in an explosion in that company's laboratory and was hospitalized at Kearney, Hew Jorsey, for minetom weeks and six days. Block stated that during his confinement he feared reprisals by the Soviets because he had not furnished information conserning the Trotakyites and the Socialist Workers larty as he had been instructed to do. About one month before his release from the hospital he was visited by a man who introduced himself as Dr. Belwarts, a physician and friend of "Jack." Somests wrs very solicitous for Black's physical condition and offered him 🗟 financial assistance to insure his complete recuperation and provide: for a period of rest thereafter. Black stated he declined these offer of noncy. After Black was released from the hospital, but was still: confined to his home, he not with Schoolts following the latter's A and tolophono call. Schrartz insisted that Black have the best of medical? care, saying money was no object. During the interview, Black schitted eccepting from Solwarts one hundred dellars in ten-dellar bills. He reluted that Schwarts informed him he wanted Black to take a long 3 vacation at Solmarts' expense, advising that the cost was immaterial. Solwarts said Black was to go to Coyooan, the residence of Leon Trotaky in Howico and there join Trotsky's household, where he was to learn all of Trotoky's habits and associates and familiarize himself with the Ame surrounding eros. Black advised he pointed out to Schwartz that his! status in the Socialist Workers Party at that time was not high enough for him to undertake such an essignment, but Sohwarts was adoment. A However, he edvised Solwarts he would make whatever arrangements he could, but realized in his own mind that the assignment was impossible for him, and secondingly, he made no attempt to carry it out. (Phila tel

Black subsequently identified ir. Schwarts as Dr. Robert Rabinovich was, who is known to this Bureau to have been in the United States from October, 1934, to Pocember, 1930, as head of the Russian Red Cross. A reliable confidential informent lowered from an official of Amtorg that Rabinovich was the head of the GPU in the United States at that time.

(Phila tel 6/28/50,11:50 PM; 65-57981-17;

To illustrate that he did not intend to endeavor to escape during the course of this investigation, Black related the following informations. He learned that on the date believed to be Henday, May 22, 1950, a call for him was resolved in his absence at the Berg laboratories from a "miss" Watkins." This call, Black said, was a summone from the Soviets to an internal call.

coorgoncy meeting which he knew by proarrangement with "Jack" was to be in front of the Trens Lux Theater on Chestnut Street near 16th in Philadelphia. Black said the arrangement was made when he last saw "Jack," a year and a half ago. At that time "Jack" gave him one-half of a New York subsey transfer which he was to carry to the emergency meeting as a means of identifying himself to the person who would contact him. Black said he has since destroyed his portion of the transfer. He asserted that he did not go to the meeting, but believes its purpose was either to warm him of Gold's impending arrest or to dispose of him. (Phila tel 8/22/50, 12:47 AM)

Black was again interviewed on Jume 22, 1950, and the following information was developed. He referred to his contact in 1959 with Dr. William Plosdorff, which is described in my memorandum to you of Jume 28, 1950. Black qualified his previous information by pointing out that Plosdorff had had provious dealings with the Bussian Red Cross and that "Jack's" instruction to him was to find out if Plosdorff was going to work again with the Eussian Red Cross. In a previous interview Black stated "Jack" had told him Dr. Flosdorff had worked with Amtorg and that he desired Black to inquire if Plosdorff would work with Amtorg again. Black, on Jume 22, 1950, continued that upon contacting Flosdorff the latter said he had had previous acalings with the Eussian Red Cross and was willing to discuss the matter further with a representative.

With respect to a convention of the Socialist Korkers Party which Black said he attended in Chicago in 1939, he advised "Jack" had instructed him to get himself elected as a delegate. Black esserted he made no efforts in this regard and when he told "Jack" he was going to the convention only as a member and visitor, "Jack" said Black would receive no expense memory, since as a visitor he would not be entitled to vote in the caucuses nor to speak. After the convention Black reported to "Jack" only on the agenda of the convention since "Jack" proviously had told him other Seviet delegates would report as to who was present. "Jack" reimbursed Black for expenses incurred in entertaining other Socialist Forkers Farty numbers, but did not reimburse him for his rail fare or hetel bill.

Referenced momerandum of June 26, 1950, reflects information recovered from Entry Gold on June 15, 1950, concerning a rust-proofing, process which Gold said Black furnished to the Seviets in 1940. In this connection, during the interview with Black on June 22, 1950, he

related that in 1939 Ferdimand Phillip Heller told him of finding in the American Chemical Paint Company files an unenswered letter from Antorg which requested from the American Chemical Point Company information concerning thermoil granedin, known ocumonly as the Parkerizing Process. Beller asked if Black could arrange for the Soviets to be given the information they desired as indicated in the letter. Black explained to Hollor that the thermoil gramadin process was an old one for which a new use had been discovered and concerned # a treatment of bearing surfaces to shorten the breaking period. Black agreed to transait the information to the Soviets and Heller produced the patent information and formula written on a library card, together: with instructions for use. Black informed that he end Heller wrote up this information in intelligible form, the final report of which was typed by Vera Kans, and was given by Black to "Jack" senetime leter, in a Child's Restaurant in New York City. Black stated he believed the report probably was expticated "Twot-proofing Process," and stated he received no compensation for it. (Phila tel 6/23/60, 12:10 AM)

follows: In approximately 1941 the Seviets seemed to less interest in the Secialist Series Party following the death of Leon Trotsky on Argust 10, 1940. Instead, "Jack" pressed Black to secure employment in a chemical plant. At "Jack's" insistence Plack furnished him in 1943 with a report on the manufacture of corbitel from serbese, the source of vitemin C. The report was accompanied by a culture of sorbitel. Black stated he gave the report and culture to "Jack" at the New Yorker Hotel, New York 'ity, in the fall of 1943. The only renumeration he received was his actual expenses of eight or nine deliars, five deliars of which represented the cost of a jug to provide a container for the culture. Black stated the material for this report was secured by him from a fellow employee of the National Cil Products Company who did not know Black's purpose. (Phila tel 6/23/50, 11:50 PM)

For your information, inquiry of the Hational Oil Products Company has displosed that the development and manufacture of sorbitol never was considered by that company to be classified; that research was conducted on sorbitol concerning its use in various industries but it never was developed or sold under government contract. (Phila tel 6/26/50, 2:21 PM)

As noted in my manorandum of June 16, 1950, to the Attorney General, Pleck, on June 15, 1950, admitted furnishing to "Jack" a detailed, written report on penicillin. During the interview of June 25, 1950, Black referred to his report on penicillin which be said was written after the public amountment of the discovery of penicillin, and advised that "Jack" paid him less than ten dellars for the report. He asserted this amount covered only his actual expenses.

Black related that after submitting the report on remicillin there followed a period of insctivity during which "Jack" principally urged Black to leave the Estional Oil Products Company and get a jeb in a key chamical plant. After Black's discharge in June, 1944, by the Hational Oil Products Company he lived on his income as a consultant for Fine Organics, Inc., which emounted to three thousand dollars per year. Black explained that "Jack" did not know of Black's association with Fine Organics, Inc., and assumed Black was unemployed. Accordingly, "Jack" offered him monthly payments to finance him so he could take all the time necessary to secure acceptable employment. In the interview plack admitted that for six months he accepted one hundred dollars monthly paid to him by "Jack" in each and in small bills. According to Black, "Jack" particularly urged him to apply to the Fallox Corporation for employment, giving him instructions as to the remain to see and the story to tell, but Black addies he did not apply for such work. (Phila tel 6/23, 1150 PM)

Inquiry by this Bureau of the Hellex Corporation, Box York City, disclosed that no record could be located indicating subject had applied for work there. (NY tel 8/22/50, 12:16 AN)

Also, on June 23, 1950, Block informed that about two years previously, on a Spring day, he mot "Jack" in New York City in response to a tole, here call. "Juck" asked if Black were willing to work for him again and Slack soid he was. Black explained that he was afraid to ejemly refuse "Jack," but that he fabricated a story to "Jack" that the YEI had been inquiring about him, for which reason he believed it unwise to resume working for "Jack." He related that "Jack" agreed with him and proceeded to give him detailed instructions for a subsequent contact to be initiated by a call for him from "Fiss Setting" which would be directed to the Borg laboratories." As hotel above, Black claimed that such a wall was received on May 22, 1950, by the Borg Laboratories from "Miss Watking," but that he did not respond.

It is to be noted that in my nomorandum of June 26, 1950, there is set cut information received from Black concerning his contact with Milliem Stapler, now deceased, which was arranged in 1946 by "Jack." When reinterviewed on Auno 26, 1950, Black said his contact with Stapler began in late 1944 and recelled that "Jack" described Stepler as "entirely mercenary." Block related that his first meeting with Stapler was in or near the Pennsylvania Stabion in New York City where "Jack" introduced him to Staplor as "Bob." At the meeting "Jack" instructed that thereafter Black would be Staplor's ecutaet man and that they should make their own appointments. According to Black, Stapler told him that for the provious ten years he had been selling to the Coviets monthly progress reports of the Bercules Powder Company plant at Morewell, Virginia. Stapler explained that his activities in this regard started after he had gone to interg in New York City with an offer to scoure information and that for each of these reports he aff received sums ranging from one hundred dellars to one hundred fifty ! dollars. (Phila tel 6/27/50, 12:44 AH)

Inquiry of the Hercules Powder Company, Wilmington, Delaware, by this Bureau determined that according to charge-out records Stapler charged out Repowell Files No. 62 and to. 65 from August 1930, to Deptember, 1945. File No. 62 concerned cooking action linters with detergents. File No. 65 concerned cotton collulose purification on a small scale. The Administrative Assistant in charge of these reports at the Technical Library of the Hercules Powder Company advised that the Reposell reports for no classification. (Baltimore tel 6/28/50, 2:42 PM)

ocnowring whom information has been furnished to you by separate memoration reflecting Erctiman's usecciation with Harry Told. In this interview, Black stated he first heard of Erothman in 1962 when Gold, who expected to be drafted, told Black he had a contact who was an expert on mixing mechinery and continuous processes. Gold said Brothman had given him much valuable information for the Ecviete and Gold wanted Black to take ever this contact. Black informed, however, that he refused. He advised that in the Fall of 1944 he and Told had a social visit with Brothman in the latter's office in long Island City. At that time Black learned that Brothman was an expert on mixing machinery and continuous processes. Black continued that in 1947 he went with Gold one evening to Brothman's laboratory one was told Brethman was designing a penicillin production plant for Tussia. Brothman offered Brock a jeb on his project as a

consultant since Protiman meeded someone who was familiar with formentation processes. Brothmen said such a job might require Black's traveling to Bussic to get the plant in operation. It is Block's recollection that Brothmen intimated he was being paid by the Soviets tem per cent of the cost of the plant, and that Brothmen offered block half of his proceeds. Not desiring to make the trip to Bussic, Black stated he declined the offer and that Brothmen did not press it further. According to Black, at the time of Brothmen's being investigated by a Grand Juny in 1947, Gold said Brothmen had the idea that Black was either the master mind of Soviet espionage in the United States or that Black had informed on Brothmen. Black noted he had inconsultant for the Stanton Laboratories in Philadelphia.

telephonic request from Albuquerque, New Mexico, for money was received by him after the explosion of the test atom bomb but before atom bombs were used in the war against Japan. He demied that Gold ever telephoned him from Chicago for funds and that he received any other calls from Gold from How Mexico. Black did not recall sending any funds to Gold at either Chicago or Albuquerque. He asserted that Gold, after returning from How Mexico, teld him he had been sent there by the Seviets to observe the effects of the explosion of the atom bomb and that when it occurred he was hiking in some hills fifty miles away. (Phila tel 6/27/50 pm)

A further interview with Black was conducted on June 28, 1860. The advised that in 1938 or 1936 Paul Peterson offered to send him to the California Institute of Technology for a graduate degree. Peterson proposed a liberal expense account and suggested Plack take a light schooled of courses so as to prolong his attendance there. Peterson said projects being studied at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the California Institute of Technology were of great interest to the Poviets but the work at the latter institution was more verificated advised he did not, however, apply for admission to the california Institute of Technology. (Phila tel 6/29/50, 12:15 AM)

Investigation in this matter is continuing and you will be advised of further developments. Your advice is requested as to whether the additional information furnished above, together with that previously subsitted, constitutes a basis for prosecutive action.

(The above reflects review of teletypes in the case of Thomas L. Black, Esp-R, through Newark teletype 7/2/50, 12:15 AM, and of teletypes entitled Fordinand Phillip Heller, Esp-R, through July 1, 1950)

(PD-72 1-10-49)

# FEDERA BUREAU OF INVEST. STION

form No. 1 [Hi] CASE ORIGINATED AT PHILADELPHIA

NH

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NEW HAVEN	7/117/50	6/26,30/50	PRUNCIS X. MC BRIDE	
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YIRA			CHARACTER OF CASE	,
THOMAS L. BLACK,	was.	i	ESPIONAGE - R	
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PYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Records American Cyanamid Research Laboratories, Stamford, Conn., reflect Dr. LUDWIG J. CHRISTMANN, aka, LOUIS, originally employed at the Warner Laboratories in Linden, N.J. on 3/1/25. CHRISTMANN transferred to Stamford, Conn. in 1937 where he is employed as Director of Basic Nitrogen Division. CHRISTMANN resides 9 Center Knolls, Bronxville 8, NY. New Haven office indices contain no information identifiable with Dr. CHRISTMANN. NH informants have furnished no information relating to activities of CHRISTMANN.

RUC

Investigation conducted by the Philadelphia office has revealed that subject THOMAS L. BLACK has advised that while in New York City in 1931 he was requested by one M. MARGOLIN to furnish the identity of all his acquaintances who were chemists in high positions and who are sympathetic to the Soviet Union. Subject BLACK recalled one Dr. LOUIS CHRISTMANN, who was then Director of Research for the American Cyanamid Corporation. BLACK has advised that he was not acquainted with CHRISTMANN but made arrangements for CHRISTMANN to meet with M. WARGOLIN at his, BLACK'S, apartment.

Research Laboratories, 1937 West Main St., Stamford, Conn., advised that the main personnel file relating to Dr. CHRISTMANN is retained by the Cyanamid Corp.'s New York office at 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York City.

pointed out that information available at Stamford indicates that Dr. LUDWIG J. CHRISTMANN, who is also known as LOUIS, was originally employed on 3/1/25 as a research

FORW MEDICALLA M. W. W. C.	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE EP	CES
TES DESTROYED		
NOV 21 1900 5-Bureau corins or this agront 1-Newark (info)(65-4074) 3-New York (65-15338)(info) 3-Philadelphia (65-4332) 2-New Haven	JUL 13 1950 24 FOR STAT. SEC.	CORDED - 85

FROFERTY OF TBI - 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.

NH 65-1332

chemist to work for Warner's Laboratories in Linden, New Jersey. CHRIST-MANN was transferred to the Stamford Laboratories about 1937. He is now serving as Director of the Basic Nitrogen Division.

vised that Dr. CHRISTMANN currently resides at 9 Center Knolls, Bronxville, 67 8, New York City, telephone Beverly 7-6950. She pointed out that to the best of her recollection, Dr. CHRISTMANN has at no time ever resided in the state of Connecticut.

On 6/30/50 the Stamford, Conn. "Advocate" newspaper carried a news clipping entitled "Long Service Employees of the Cyanamid Co. Feted at Dinner Meet". The newspaper clipping revealed that LUDWIG J. CHRISTMANN was one of several recipients of a 25 year service emblem award made on the evening of 6/29/50 at the Piccadilly Restaurant in Stamford.

The New Haven office indices contain no current identifiable information relating to Dr. LUDWIG J. CHRISTMANN, also known as LOUIS CHRISTMANN.

New Haven Confidential Informants T-1, T-2, T-3, T-4, T-5, and T-6 ell of known reliability and all of whom are in a position to possession information relating to Dr. LUDWIG J. CHRISTMANN.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

- 2 -

65-5981-82

nh 65-1332

### **ADMINISTRATIVE**

On 6/26/50 American Cyanamid Research Laboratories, made available a photograph of Dr. CHRISTMANN, which was taken in the fall of 1946 for a publication prepared by the American Cyanamid Laboratories in Stamford.

photograph is a true likeness of the individual and that his appearance has not changed to any degree during the past 15 years. The photograph in question was forwarded to the Philadelphia office by the New Haven letter to the Bureau dated 6/27/50, copy of which was designated for Philadelphia.

Dr. JOHN D. ROBINSON, an employee of the American Cyanamid Laboratories, advised SA FRANCIS X. MC BRIDE, while referring to the dinner which was held for long-service employees of Cyanamid in Stamford, Conn. on 6/29/50 that Dr. LUDWIG J. CHRISTMANN is a "character", and indicated that CHRISTMANN can usually be found on Thursday of each week getting drunk at the Chemist's Club in New York City. Dr. ROBINSON was not questioned concerning his reference to CHRISTMANN as a "character" in view of the fact that ROBINSON is not aware of the Bureau's interest in Dr. CHRISTMANN.

It is to be noted that the investigative section of instant report reflects that the New Haven office indices contain no current identifiable information relating to Dr. CHRISTMANN. The word "current" has been used in view of the fact that there is one possible reference to Dr. CHRISTMANN in a plant informant file in the 99 classification, which file has been destroyed in accordance with Bureau policy.

Copies of instant report have been furnished Newark and New York for information in view of subject's former employment in New Jersey and current residence in New York. No investigation is being requested by these offices.

## INFORMANTS

In the report of SA FRANCIS X. MC BRIDE dated 7/11/50 at New Haven the following informants were utilized:

T-1	CNHT-2	29
T-2	синм-	29
T-3		
T-4		- 371
T-5		
т-6		

REFERENCE: New York teletype to New Haven, 6/23/50

# DER BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

#### PHTLADELPHT A

65-1332 md

NEW HAVEN	7/11/50	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 6/26,30/50	FFANCIS X. MC BRIDE	•
THOMAS L. BLACK, W	las.	· · · · · ·	ESPIONAGE - R	:

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Records American Cyanamid Research Laboratories, Stamford, Conn., reflect Dr. LUDWIG J. CHRISTMANN, aka, LOUIS, originally employed at the Warner Laboratories in Linden, N.J. on 3/1/25. CHRISTMANN transferred to Stamford, Conn. in 1937 where he is employed as Director of Basic Nitrogen Division. CHRISTMANN resides 9 Center Knolls, Bronxville 8, NY. : New Haven office indices contain no information identifiable with Dr. CHRISTMANN. NH informants have furnished no information relating to activities of CHRISTMANN.

### RUC

DETAILS:

Investigation conducted by the Philadelphia office has revealed that subject THOMAS L. BLACK has advised that while in New York City in 1931 he was requested by one M. MARGOLIN to furnish the identity of all his acquaintances who were chemists in high positions and who are sympathetic to the Soviet Union. Subject BLACK recalled one Dr. LOUIS CHRISTMANN, who was then Director of Research for the American Cyanamid Corporation. BLACK has advised that he was not acquainted with CHRISTMANN but made arrangements for CHRISTMANN to meet with M. MARGOLIN at his. BLACK'S. apartment.

American Cyanamid Research Laboratories, 1937 West Main St., Stamford, Conn., advised that the main personnel file relating to Dr. CHRISTMANN is retained by the Cyanamid Corp.'s New York office at 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York City. pointed out that information available at Stamford indicates that Dr. LUDWIG J. CHRISTMANN, who is also known as LOUIS, was originally employed on 3/1/25 as a research

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

Office Memo, and um · united states DIRECTOR, FBI June 7, 1950 SAC, PHILADELPHIA SUBJECT: THOMAS L. BLACK, was, ESPIONAGE - R Remylet 6/3/50 to which was attached a copy of the signed statement executed by HARRY GOLD, dated 6/2/50. containing information concerning the above captioned subject Attached hereto for the use of the Bureau and the New York Office are copies of the signed statement taken from the HARRY GOID, dated June 4, 1950, and June 5, 1950, concerning the above captioned subject. The Bureau's attention is directed to Philadelphia teletype dated 6/4/50 wherein the Philadelphia office set forth the pertinent portions of the signed statement taken from HARRY GOLD on that date. WBW/jgb 65-4332 (Special Delivery) Enclosures New York (Enclosures) LOSURE ATTACES RECEIVED 學基AUG 10199的

Philadelphia, Penna.

ment to T. SCOTT MILIER, JR., and RICHARD E. BRENNAN, who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of The Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice. No threats or promises have been made to me, and I have been advised that any statement I make may be used against me in a Court of Law, and that I do not have to make any statement at all. I have been advised that I have the right to counsel.

"In addition to statement which I gave on June 2, 1950, concerning THOMAS L. BLACK, I wish to make the following additions thereto.

"Sometime in early 1942, the Soviet Union was interested in getting information on penicillin, I believe, and HLACK was attempting to get this information for the Soviet Union. It is my impression that from talks I had with HLACK that during the early 1940's HLACK, in general, was engaged in obtaining information on biologicals for the Soviet Union. In this connection, BLACK took trips to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; New Castle, Delaware; and Chicago, Illinois. He turned over the information he received on these trips to representatives of the Soviet Union, in New York City.

"On occasions it was necessary for me to borrow money in order to finance my espionage activities. On occasions I would borrow this money from BIACK, since he would not ask any questions as to why I needed it. BIACK knew that I was engaged in Soviet espionage. I told BIACK in 1945 that I had been to the southwestern part of the United States in connection with my activities on behalf of the Soviet Union, and told him that I was having trouble getting time off to make my second trip to the Southwest. BLACK knew that this was an important assignment that I was on, but he knew no details whatever.

"As I recall, it was on a Friday in February of this year that KLAUS FUCHS' name appeared in the papers, and the news of his arrest in England. On the following Monday, I met TOM HIACK, and we went for a walk. During this walk I told BIACK that I was

the person to thom FUCHS gave information for transfer to the Soviets.

"BIACK and I then decided that in the future we would meet only at the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia. This arrangement was agreed upon by both of us, since there would be no suspicion attached to our meeting at this place. This arrangement was made so that if I was picked up, HIACK would not be discovered.

"Also, at the time that I told BLACK about my conmection with KIAUS FUCHS, he was horror-stricken, but he did not
express any concern at being himself implicated or involved because of his known friendship for me; his principal concern
seemed to be for my welfare.

"I have read the above statement consisting of this and two additional pages and am signing each page as all the information contained therein is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

/s/ "HARRY GOLD
Philadelphia, Penna.
June 4, 1950."

Witnessed:

*3* 

T. SCOTT MILIER, JR. Special Agent - P.B.I. Justice Phila., Penna., June 4, 1950.

RICHARD B. BRENNAN
Special Agent, F.B.I., Justice
Philadelphia, Penna.
June 4, 1950.

"June 5, 1950 Philadelphia, Pa.

"I, HARRY GOLD, make the following voluntary statement to T. SCOTT MILIER, JR., and RICHARD E. BRENNAN, who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice. No threats or promises have been made to me and I realize that I do not have to make any statement at all. I realize that any statement I do make may be used in a Court of Law. I have been advised that I have the right of counsel.

"This is a supplement to the statement I gave the F.B.I. on June 4, 1950, relative to THOMAS L. BLACK.

"In February of 1950, I saw BLACK shortly after the newspapers carried the story of the arrest of KLAUS FUCHS in England. The story broke on a Friday and I believe that I saw BLACK on the following Monday in Philadelphia. BLACK had read the FUCHS' story. I told him that I was the individual to whom KLAUS FUCHS gave the information on atomic energy here in the U.S. and that I had passed the information to my Soviet contact.

"I also told him that I had visited FUCHS' sister who lived here in Cambridge, Mass., and that the F.B.I. would surely locate her and that she could probably identify me. To this, BLACK said that if I was picked up or questioned, I should deny everything because it would be my word against that of another person. I don't think that I told him the name of FUCHS' sister.

"The reason BLACK was so horror-stricken when I told him of my association with FUCHS was because BLACK knew of my obtaining information for the Soviet Union and of my past activity for the Soviets. He also realized the gravity of the situation, because of the type of information I had transmitted to the Soviet Union.

"I also told BLACK that FUCHS knew me very well and could positively identify me. We even discussed the possibility that FUCHS might be brought over to the U.S. to stand trial and would point me out in a Court of Law. Here again BLACK told me that while that would be very bad, still it was essentially only. FUCHS' word against mine.

"My principal concern was for my family and I told BLACK were I apprehended, would be try to see them and cheer them up. Since I knew that I had completely concealed my espionage activities from my family, I knew that my arrest would be a terrific blow to them. Also, at the time that BLACK and I spoke, I was emotionally very overwrought, and was not thinking very clearly.

"In addition we speculated in great detail (I did most of the speculating) on the matter of who (or how) FUCHS might have been exposed. We came to no satisfactory conclusion whatever and BLACK thought it wiser not to continue to think about this phase of the matter.

"I have read the above statement consisting of this and two other pages, and am signing each page as all the information contained therein is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

/s/ "HARRY GOLD

Philadelphia, Penna.
June 5. 1950.

Witnessed:

T. SCOTT MILIER, JR. F.B.I. Justice 6-5-50, Phila., Pa.

RICHARD F. BRENNAN
Special Agent, F.B.I. Justice
June 5, 1950, Philadelphia, Pa.

65-59181-83

Philadelphia, Penn. June 2, 1950

I, Harry Gold, hereby make the following voluntary statement to T. Scott Miller, Jr. and Richard B. Bremman, who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice. No threats or promises have been made me and I realise that I do not have to make any statement at all, and any statement I do make can be used against me in a court of law. I realise that I have a right to counsel.

In about Feb., 1933 I was given a position with the Holbrook, Manufacturing Company in Jersey City, N.J. I took the job of Thomas L. Black who had resigned to accept another position.

Shortly thereafter I attended a Communist Party meeting in Jersey City, N.J. at Black's request, and with Black. Black attempted to get me to join the Communist Party; this attempt was in a very tentative fashion.

In the Spring or Summer of 1935, Black was employed as a chemist by the Matienal Oil Products Co., Harrison, N.J. At that time I was employed by the Pennsylvania Sugar Company, Phila., Penn., and had continued my association with Black out of gratitude for his getting me a job during the depression. At this time Black asked me if I could get information from the Pennsylvania Sugar Company relative to processes. Black said that the Russians would be interested in getting the information. Black explained to me that he was in contact with a Russian who was with Amtorg, I believe, and that he (Black) had been giving this Russian chemical processes of the Matienal Oil Products Co., his employer.

Black explained to me that I would have a chance in this way to help the Soviet Union along the read to industrialisation. From the first time Black mentioned this, until the latter part of 1935, we had several discussions about supplying the Russians with information. We discussed how we could get material blue printed and photostated.

In the latter part of 1935 I went to New York City with Black, where he introduced me to a man by the name of Paul Smith, who was either a Russian or a Dane. We met in the vicinity of Penn. Station and shortly thereafter Black left Paul and me. Paul and I walked down 7th Ave during which time Paul told me that the Soviet Union was interested in solvents and particularly in a process involving the manufacture of absolute ethyl alcohol on which Dr. Gustav Reich, the chief chemist at Pennsylvania Sugar Company, was working. Paul set the time and place for our next meeting which was about 3 weeks later.

During my association with Paul which lasted until the early part of 1937, I furnished him with information on chemical processes, principally those used by the Franco-American Chemical Works, a subsidiary of Pennsylvania Sugar Go.

At this initial contact, Paul told me that I was never to see Black except on his (Paul's) instructions. However, throughout the years I did see Black on infrequent occasions in violation of these instructions. During one of these times Black described his Russian contact to me and I am sure that it was my Russian contact who I knew only by the name of Sam, and with whom I was associated from about 1941 to 1944 with a lapse of about 7 months from the Spring to the Fall of 1941.

On several occasions Black told me that he had lost contact with the Russians and wanted to know if I knew how he could get in touch with them. I was never able to tell him how he could do it.

During the period of 1937 to the fall of 1938 Black let drop the information that he was engaged in trying to hunt out Trotsky's principal contacts in this country; this was on behalf of the Russians.

As far as I know from what Black very infrequently may have told me, his last contact with the Russians was sometime in 1944.

The last time that I saw Black was about six weeks ago.

I have read the above statement consisting of this and three and additional pages and am signing each page inasmuch as all of the statements contained therein are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Witnessed: Richard B. Brennan Special Agent, F.B.I., Justice Philadelphia, Pa., June 2, 1950 /s/ Harry Gold
Philadelphia, Penna.
June 2, 1950.

T. Scott Willer, Jr.
Special Agent F.B.I. Justice
Phila., Penn, June 2, 1950.