

FILE

DESCRIPTION

NEWARK

FILE

SUBJECT THOMAS BLACK

FILE NO. 65-4074

VOLUME NO. 3

SERIALS 243

THRU

LAST SERIAL

## **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.**

File No: 65-4074Re: Thomas BlackDate: 3/78  
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
243	8/23/50	NK REPORT TO HQ	1	0	See Bufile 65-59181 SS SS
244	9/7/50	BA REPORT TO HQ	1	0	
245	10/3/50	serial transfer sheet	1	1	
246	9/14/50	HQ LETTER TO BA	1	0	See Bufile 65-59181 SS SS
247	9/13/50	BS LETTER TO HQ	1	0	
248	10/30/50	serial transfer sheet	1	1	xeroxed with 245 above 1 291/9-19-78 59395-2
249	9/19/50	PH LETTER TO HQ	1	0	See Bufile 65- <del>59181</del> SS SS
250	8/24/50	NY REPORT TO HQ	1	0	
251	10/3/50	NK LETTER TO HQ	1	1	PROCESS ADMIN. DATA.
252	6/19/50	PERSONNEL SECURITY QUESTIONNAIRE ANOTHER GOVT AGENCY	2	-	Referral
253	8/4/50	LETTER TO NK	1	+	Referral
254	11/15/50	HQ LETTER TO NK	1	0	See Bufile 65-59181

File No: 65-4074 Re: Thomas BlackDate: 3/78  
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
255	11/27/50	NK LETTER TO NAVY 291/9.22.78	1	1	
256	12/5/50	NK REPORT TO HQ RE: J. ROSENBERG	1	1	Bung processed - cover page only in file See Bufile 65-59181
257	12/13/51	SA MEMO TO SAC	1	1	
258	6/16/53	COMPLAINT FORM	1	1	
259	6/18/53	NK TELETYPE TO PH, SE	1	0	See Bufile 65-59181
260	6/29/53	NK LETTER TO HQ RE: 3RD PARTY	4	0	{ }
261	6/24/53	NK TELETYPE TO HQ RE: 3RD PARTY	1	1	
262	6/25/53	NK TELETYPE TO HQ, PH, SE	2	2	
263	7/16/53	SE LETTER TO HQ	3	0	See Bufile 65-59181
264	10/22/53	SE LETTER TO HQ	1	0	{ }
265	4/28/55	PH LETTER TO HQ	3	0	{ }
266	6/30/55	PH LETTER TO HQ	2	0	{ }



File No: 65-4074Re: Thomas BlackDate: 3/78  
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
267	5/12/55	HQ LETTER TO PH	1	0	see Bufile 65-59181
268	8/30/55	serial charge-out slip	1	1	
269	7/22/55	NK LETTER TO HQ	1	0	see Bufile 65-59181 SS SS
270	8/8/55	PH LETTER TO HQ	1	0	
271	8/9/55	SA MEMO TO SAC	1	1	
272	9/30/55	SA MEMO TO SAC	1	1	
273	9/30/55	PH LETTER TO HQ	3	0	see Bufile 65-59181
274	11/23/55	SA MEMO TO SAC RE: 3RD PARTY	1	1	
275	11/10/55	PH LETTER TO HQ	1	1	
276	12/5/55	PH LETTER TO HQ	1	0	see Bufile 65-59181
277	1/16/56	PH LETTER TO HQ	1	0	}
278	1/30/56	NK LETTER TO HQ	1	0	

File No: 65-4074Re: Thomas BlackDate: 3/78  
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
279	2/13/56	PH LETTER TO HQ	2	0	See Bufile 65-59181
		COPY OF			
279	2/13/56	PH LETTER TO HQ	2	0	
280	3/8/56	NK LETTER TO HQ	2	0	
281	3/27/56	PH LETTER TO HQ	5	0	
282	4/3/56	HQ LETTER TO NK	1	0	
283	4/20/56	NK LETTER TO HQ	2	0	
284	5/4/56	PH LETTER TO HQ	2	0	
285	5/7/56	HQ TELETYPE TO NK, PH	1	0	
286	5/3/56	NK AIRTEL TO HQ	2	0	
287	5/10/56	Jersey Journal News Clip	1	1	
288	5/16/56	SA MEMO TO SAC	2	2	
289	5/17/56	PH LETTER TO HQ	2	0	See Bufile 65-59181

File No: 65-4074 Re: Thomas BlackDate: 3/78  
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
290	5/20/56	Newark Sunday News Clip	1	1	
291	5/22/56	Newark Star Ledger Clip	2	2	
292	5/22/56	SA MEMO TO SAC	1	1	
293	5/24/56	HQ LETTER TO NK	2	0	See Bufile 65-59181
294	5/17/56	Newark Evening News	2	2	
295	5/10/56	Newark Star Ledger	2	2	
296	5/11/56	NK AIRTEL TO HQ	2	0	291/9-18-78 See Bufile 65-59181-394
297	5/16/56	NK AIRTEL TO HQ	2	0	55 291/3-18-78 See Bufile 65-59181-397
298	5/16/56	SA MEMO TO SAC	1	1	
299	5/18/56	Newark Star Ledger	3	3	
300	5/21/56	Newark Evening News	1	1	
301	5/24/56	Newark Star Ledger	2	2	

File No: 65-4074Re: Thomas BlochDate: 3/78  
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
302	5/21/56	NK TELETYPE TO HQ, PH	1	0	see Bufile 65-59181
303	5/28/56	SA MEMO TO SAC	2	2	
304	4/27/56	MEMO	3	3	
305	5/9/56	HQ LETTER TO NK	1	1	
306	5/17/56	SENATE HEARING PROCEEDINGS	39	39	
307	5/31/56	PH LETTER TO HQ RE: 3RD PARTY	4	0	see Bufile 65-59181
308	1/30/46	MEMO TO FILE	12	12	
309	5/31/56	HQ LETTER TO NK	1	0	see Bufile 65-59181
310, 311	NOT DATED	serial transfer sheet	1	1	
312	5/31/56	Jersey Journal Clipping	1	1	
313	6/4/56	SAC MEMO TO FILE	1	1	
314	6/4/56	NK AIRTEL TO HQ	1	0	see Bufile 65-59181

File No: 65-4074Re: Thomas BlackDate: 3/78  
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
315	5/31/56	Newark Evening News Clip	1	1	
316	6/8/56	NK TELETYPE TO HQ	1	0	see Bufile 65-59181
317	6/14/56	SA MEMO TO SAC	1	1	
318	6/12/56	HQ LETTER TO NY	1	0	see Bufile 65-59181
319	6/14/56	NK LETTER TO HQ	2	0	SS SS
320	6/11/56	3RD PARTY LETTER TO NK / W/ ENVELOPE	1/1	2	
321	6/14/56	HQ TELETYPE TO NK	1	0	see Bufile 65-59181
322	6/15/56	NK LETTER TO 3RD PARTY RE: 3RD PARTY	1	1	
323	6/18/56	SA MEMO TO SAC	1	1	
324	7/2/56	NY REPORT TO HQ	1	0	see Bufile 65-59181
325	7/6/56	PH REPORT TO HQ	1	0	SS SS
326	7/13/56	NK REPORT TO HQ	1	0	SS SS

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(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
327	6/10/56	N.Y. Sunday Mirror Clip	3	3	
328	6/13/56	Daily Mirror News Clip	3	3	
329	6/14/56	Daily Mirror News Clip	2	2	
330	6/15/56	SS SS	2	2	
331	10/22/56	ANOTHER GOVT. AGENCY LETTER TO NK	2	2	
332	11/1/56	PH LETTER TO HQ RE: 3RD PARTY	2	0	See Bufile 65-59181
333	11/26/56	NK LETTER TO HQ	1	1	
334	12/4/56	PH LETTER TO HQ	2	0	See Bufile 65-59181
335	12/13/56	NK LETTER TO HQ	1	0	{ }
336	12/27/56	NK LETTER TO HQ	1	0	
337	1/8/57	PH LETTER TO NK	1	1	
338	1/15/57	NK LETTER TO NY	1	0	see NY file 65-15338

File No: 65-4074Re: Thomas BlackDate: 3/78  
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
		Re: MOCASE			
339	1/31/57	NK LETTER TO HQ	1	1	
		PHOTOSTATIC COPIES OF			
340	2/7/57	NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS	20	20	
341	2/6/57	NY LETTER TO NK	1	0	see NY file 65-15338
342	2/13/57	NK LETTER TO HQ	1	0	see Bufile 65-59181
343	10/1/57	NY LETTER TO NK	1	0	see NY file 65-15338
		RE: 3RD PARTY			
344	10/15/57	SA MEMO TO SAC	1	1	
345	10/16/57	SA MEMO TO SAC	1	1	
346	10/22/57	SEARCH SLIPS	3	3	
347	10/15/57	NK LETTER TO 3RD PARTY	1	1	
348	10/10/57	3RD PARTY LETTER TO NK/W/ENK	1	2	
349	10/6/59	SA MEMO TO SAC	1	1	
350	4/19/62	NK LETTER HEAD MEMO	4	4	

File No: 65-4074Re: Thomas BlackDate: 3/78  
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
351	4/19/62	NK LETTER TO HQ RE: 3RD PARTY	2	2	
352	7/23/62	NK LETTER TO HQ RE: 3RD PARTY 291/9-22-78	2	2	
353	10/31/74	NY AIRTEL TO HQ RE: 3RD PARTY	2	1	Being Processed see NY file 65-15338
354	11/12/70	NK AIRTEL TO HQ RE: 3RD PARTY	3	0	see Bufile 65-59181
355	11/15/74	NK AIRTEL TO HQ RE: 3RD PARTY	3	0	S C (presumptive release) 291/9-20-78
356	12/20/74	NK LETTER TO HQ RE: 3RD PARTY	1	0	see NY file 65-15338-268
357	2/6/75	NK AIRTEL TO HQ RE: 3RD PARTY	2	0	see Bufile 65-59181 (presumptive release) 291/9-20-78
358	5/19/75	NK AIRTEL TO HQ RE: 3RD PARTY	1	0	see NY file 65-15338-272
359	7/10/75	NY AIRTEL TO HQ RE: 3RD PARTY	2	0	see Bufile 65-59181
360	7/16/75	NK AIRTEL TO HQ re meenopol vs Bell	3	0	see Bufile 65-59181 H. Drey 291/9-18-78
NR	5/17/77	HQ Airtel TO AL 291/9-18-78	1	-	dated 5-17-77 See CG 100-28385 - unrecorded (last document in vol. 1)



U. S. Department of Justice

MATERIAL MUST NOT BE REMOVED FROM OR ADDED TO THIS FILE

FEDERAL BUREAU

of

INVESTIGATION

Bureau File Number

65-59181

PAGES OF REPORTS DESTROYED PER MRR.  
2/27 GAP

80 Nos.

Serials

Volume Number

2413

III

RIC

7/16/75

Quinn 4/14/76  
Closed 12/24/74  
Crooks 6/16/75  
Jones 12/24/74  
Crooks 11/8/74  
Lue

Director, FBI

October 5, 1950

✱ SAC, Newark

THOMAS L. BLACK, was.  
ESPIONAGE - R  
(Bufile 65-59111)

Reference is made to the report of SA LOUIS C. TURNER dated 7-20-50 captioned as above.

It was set forth on page 32 of rerep that during a search conducted on premises of the Spruce Chemical Company, 177 East Railway Avenue, Paterson, New Jersey on June 16, 1950, there were removed two reels of 35 mm photo record film. Subsequent examination reflected this film to be published technical film strips entitled "The Role of the Wool Alcohols in Emulsion Ointment Bases" by MICHAELS.

Since the above-mentioned material appears to have no evidentiary value in this case, it is suggested that the film be returned to the Spruce Chemical. Unless advised to the contrary by the Bureau or Philadelphia within thirty days, the film will be returned to JACOB I. FASS of the Spruce Chemical Company.

cc: Philadelphia (65-2332)

LGT:CEK:SK  
65-4074

*Film returned to  
Jacob I. Fass 11/14/50.  
See receipt in 1A serial.*

65-4074-251

Newark, New Jersey

In Reply Please Refer  
to Our File 65-4074  
DCG/AMed

November 29, 1950

Captain D. C. Hamberger, USN  
District Intelligence Officer  
Third Naval District  
Building #152  
New York Naval Base  
Brooklyn 1, New York

Re: Ernest G. Segessemann  
Your Case No. 3ND 045219d)

Dear Captain Hamberger:

Reference is made to your letter dated August 4,  
1950, concerning the above named individual.

A review of the files of this office reflect that  
an investigation is presently being conducted by the Federal Bureau of  
Investigation on Segessemann. It is suggested that you contact this  
Bureau's Headquarters in Washington, D. C., for information concerning  
Segessemann.

The above is being furnished for your confidential  
information and is not to be distributed outside of your agency.

Very truly yours,

*etc*  
S. K. McKee  
Special Agent in Charge

65-4074-255

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW YORK

NK FILE NO. 65-4123 as

REPORT MADE AT <b>NEWARK</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>12/5/50</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>11/17,18,20-22,24/50</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>LOUIS G. TURNER</b>
TITLE <b>JACOB ISRAEL FASS, Was.</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>ESPIONAGE - R INTERNAL SECURITY ACT OF 1950</b>

## SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

During interview 11/18/50 FASS reiterated ignorance of espionage or CP activities of THOMAS L. BLACK subsequent to 1933. FASS denied any CP or espionage activity on part of himself. Admitted meeting HARRY GOLD but denied ever meeting ABRAHAM BROTHMAN. As a result of publicity in BROTHMAN's trial, BLACK no longer associated with Spruce Chemical Company. U

- RUC -

## DETAILS:

*do not fax*

JACOB ISRAEL FASS voluntarily appeared at the Newark Office of the FBI on November 18, 1950, at which time he was interviewed by SA JOHN R. LYONS and the writer. FASS stated he had read newspaper accounts of the testimony of HARRY GOLD at the trial of ABRAHAM BROTHMAN currently being conducted in New York City. FASS pointed out that the name of THOMAS L. BLACK, an associate of FASS in the Spruce Chemical Company, Paterson, New Jersey, had figured prominently in GOLD's testimony as being the individual responsible for GOLD's introduction into Soviet espionage in 1935. U

In view of the above, FASS explained that he desired to reiterate his ignorance of any behavior on the part of BLACK since 1933, which might be considered as subversive and farther to explain his own involvement and association with BLACK, GOLD and others. U

It is to be noted that on July 17, 1950 FASS provided a signed statement in which he admitted learning from BLACK U

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
		65-4074-256	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT		original 65-4123	
5 Bureau (65-59181)			
3 New York			
3 Philadelphia (65-4415)			
3 Newark			
cc to 65-4074			


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.

FILE # 65-4074

SUBJECT THOMAS BLACK

SERIAL 353 DATE 10/31/74

CONSISTING OF 2 PAGES *of which*  
*page 2*

is exempt from disclosure, in its entirety,  
under (b)(1) as it has been classified pursuant  
to Executive Order 11652 as it contains  
information which would disclose an intelligence  
source. This serial bears the Classification  
Officers number 

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : S. K. MC KEE, SAC  
FROM : SA JOHN R. LYONS  
SUBJECT: JULIUS ROSENBERG, ET AL  
ESPIONAGE - R

DATE: DEC 13 1951

Rebulet 10/30/51 which is contained in 65-4085-139.

The Bureau advises that a stop notice has been placed by the dept. with the INS on the individuals mentioned below:

WELDON BRUCE DAYTON  
MAX ELITCHER & WIFE, HELENE  
WILLIAM PERL  
WILLIAM DANZIGER  
MICHAEL SIDOROVICH AND WIFE ANN  
VIVIAN GLASSMAN  
THOMAS L. BLACK  
ISIDORE G. NEEDLEMAN  
BENJAMIN SMILG  
HENRIETTA SAVIDGE  
JAMES M. MC INERNEY

The Asst. Attorney General in charge of the Criminal Division has indicated that the Dept. only desired notification of the intended departure from this country of any of the aforementioned persons, and mentioned that INS should take no steps to detain any of these individuals, with the exception of WILLIAM PERL, who is presently under indictment on the charge of perjury in the Southern District, New York.

In the event that any office receives notification from INS of the actual or intended departure of any of the above mentioned persons from the U. S., the Bureau should be immediately advised, so that the Criminal Division can be requested to furnish an opinion on the action desired.

cc: WELDON BRUCE DAYTON (65-4292)  
MAX & HELENE ELITCHER (65-3998)  
WILLIAM PERL (65-4100)  
WILLIAM DANZIGER (65-4119)  
MICHAEL SIDOROVICH (65-4107)  
VIVIAN GLASSMAN (100-23342)  
THOMAS L. BLACK (65-4074)  
ISIDORE G. NEEDLEMAN (100-32171)  
BENJAMIN SMILG (65-4167)

JRL:mp  
65-4085

65-4074-257

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
JAN 3 1952	



Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice

FD-71  
(7-80-46)



IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO

FILE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

COMPLAINT FORM

JOHN DOWNING

Subject's Name and Aliases

UNKNOWN

Address of Subject

Character of Case

DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECT:

WALTER A. DI SALVO

Name of Complainant  
237 Prospect Ave.,

Address of Complainant  
N. Arlington, NJ

Telephone Number of Complainant  
KE 3-0597

Date and Time Complaint Received

6/16/53 - 12:45 PM

FACTS OF COMPLAINT: DI SALVO telephonically advised that he had received a letter from JOHN DOWNING, a former fellow employee, regarding the furnishing of an affidavit by DI SALVO concerning DOWNING'S association with one TOM BLACK. DI SALVO Advised that he understood that DOWNING had been questioned by FBI agents, place not stated, concerning his, DOWNING's association with BLACK. BLACK stated that he had the affidavit sent by DOWNING and wanted an agent to come to his house to pick it up. He stated that he cannot come to the Nk office. He also advised that he would be home on Tuesday, 6/16/53 after 8 PM and that he would be home on Wednesday 6/17/53 after 6PM.

ACTION RECOMMENDED BY AGENT:

Assign agent to pick up affidavit and anything of a background nature that complainant can furnish concerning DOWNING or BLACK.

REFERENCE ON JOHN DOWNING - 65-4074-234-186  
Reference on WALTER A. Di Salvo - 678-0-8655, A Prof.

*employee Nope known to Black*  
*65-4074-258*  
*applied for pass - 1948*  
*a diehard in Bm.*  
*ass. identical*

Special Agent	
SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 16 1953	
FBI - N. WARK	



NET:MEM

NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

6-24-53

116-37713

DIRECTOR, FBI

AIR TEL

JOHN JOSEPH DOMINGO - SA-2515, AIAA. RE NEWARK AIR TEL JUNE 12, 1953, CAPTIONED "THOMAS L. BLACK, WAS., ESPIONAGE - R, MISPRISION OF ESPIONAGE." FURTHER REVIEW OF NEWARK FILES REFLECTS ONE JOHN JOSEPH DOMINGO, CAPTIONED AS ABOVE, IS SUBJECT OF AIAA MATTER, SEE BULETS TO SAN FRANCISCO 7-17-52, TO NEWARK AUGUST 5, 1952 AND JANUARY 21, 1953 AND FEBRUARY 25, 1953. SEE ALSO REPORTS OF FRED V. CROWLEY AT NEWARK DATED 10-23-52 AND 2-18-53. COPIES OF FORTHCOMING NEWARK LETTER COVERING INTERVIEW OF WALTER DI SALVO AS SET OUT RETEL HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED FOR DOMINGO'S FILE. SINCE NEWARK WILL NOT SUBMIT SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT ON DOMINGO.

ROSTETTER

2 - CC PHILADELPHIA (116-31693)

2 - CC SEATTLE

1 - CC NK 65-4074

END

Searched

Serialized

Indexed

Filed



NY 116-39713

NYT:ham

NEWARK, NJ

6/25/53

AIR TEL

URGENT

DIRECTOR, FBI (116-349212), AND SAC, PHILADELPHIA (116-31693), AND SAC, SEATTLE  
JOHN JOSEPH DOWNING - WA - 20515, AAAA. ROLAND KAPP, 321 W. PROSPECT  
AVE., NEWARK, NJ, CHEMIST FOR NOPCO CHEMICAL CO., HARRISON, NJ, INTERVIEWED  
AT HIS REQUEST, 6/24/53. KAPP FURNISHED FOR PHOTOSTATING LETTER POSTMARKED  
6/12/53, RICHLAND, WASH., ADDRESSED TO HIM AT RESIDENCE FROM 411 COTTONWOOD  
DR., RICHLAND, WASH. LETTER SIGNED JOHN. KAPP ADVISED HE BELIEVES JOHN TO  
BE JOHN DOWNING, FORMER FELLOW EMPLOYEE AT NOPCO. LETTER TYPED ON  
STATIONERY BEARING LETTERHEAD "UNITED STATES ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION,  
HANFORD OPERATIONS OFFICE, P.O. BOX 550, RICHLAND, WASHINGTON" BEARS AS  
FOLLOWS: DEAR ROLAND: I SUPPOSE YOU ARE AWARE THAT I AM WITH THE AEC  
HOLDING THE POSITION OF ASSISTANT CHIEF OF SOURCE-FISSIONABLE MATERIALS  
ACCOUNTABILITY. A QUESTION HAS ARISEN CONCERNING THE EXTENT OF MY ASSOCIA-  
TION WITH ONE BLACK WHOSE INTIMATE INVOLVEMENT WITH THE HARRY GOLD-KLAUS  
FUCHS ESPIONAGE RING HAS BROUGHT UNWELCOME REFLECTED NOTORIETY TO ALL WHO  
KNOW HIM. (PARAGRAPH) I WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE IT IF YOU FOUND YOURSELF  
WILLING AND ABLE TO GIVE ME A STATEMENT (PREFERABLY NOTICED) OF MY  
POLITICAL ATTITUDES AS YOU OBSERVED THEM DURING MY PERIOD OF EMPLOYMENT  
WITH YOU, TOUCHING ON SUCH POINTS AS THE FACT THAT FUCHS ESPIONAGE AGENTS  
WEAR THE ORDEAL OF THE RED BANNER DURING WORKING HOURS AND THAT BLACK DID NOT  
EXPRESS HIMSELF AS EITHER A COMMUNIST OR A RECRUITER OF SPIES. IF YOU

CC: (65-4082) ROLAND KAPP  
(65-4074) THOMAS L. BLACK

AIR TEL

END PAGE ONE

Searched  
Serialized  
Indexed  
Filed

15-4674-31-2

PAGE TWO

FEEL THAT MY CONTACTS WITH TOM WERE CASUAL AND NOT NOTABLE, PLEASE SO STATE.

I REALIZE THAT IF YOU SHOULD RUN FOR PRESIDENT THIS STATEMENT MAY BE USED AGAINST YOU BUT THE CHIEF CHARACTERISTIC OF THIS POST WAR ERA OF GOOD WILL IS THAT WE EACH SHALL BEAR WITNESS FOR EACH OTHER. SOON NO ONE UNINVESTIGATED WILL BE FREE OF SUSPICION - IT MUST BE A POOR LOYALTY WHICH HAS NEVER BEEN DOUBTED. (PARAGRAPH) PLEASE GIVE MY BEST REGARDS TO MARY AND IF

PERSONAL NEWS IS OF INTEREST HELEN AND I ARE WELL, HAPPY, AND THE PARENTS OF 2.13 CHILDREN, KEVIN, ROSEMARY, AND AN ADDED STARTER. AS YET ANXIOUS.

JOHN, 411 COTTONWOOD DRIVE, RICHLAND, WASHINGTON. KAPP STATED HE VAGUELY

RECALLS HAVING KNOWN DOWNING WHEN DOWNING WAS EMPLOYED AT NOPCO ABOUT FOUR

YEARS AGO. KAPP ALSO ADVISED HE KNEW BLACK AS A FELLOW EMPLOYEE. WAS

UNABLE TO FURNISH INFORMATION RE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DOWNING AND BLACK.

KAPP ADVISED HE KNOWS OF NO DEROGATORY INFO RE DOWNING'S LOYALTY. KAPP

ADDED HE WAS UNAWARE THAT DOWNING IS QUALIFIED TO HOLD POSITION PERTAINING

TO HANDLING FISSIONABLE MATERIALS. ABOVE FOR INFO OF BUREAU AND SEATTLE.

PHILADELPHIA ADVISED BECAUSE OF INTEREST IN CASE ENTITLED "THOMAS L. BLACK,

IA., ES-1", PHILA. FILE 65-4322. BUREAU FILES REFLECT JOHN DOWNING WAS

FELLOW EMPLOYEE OF BLACK AT NOPCO AND AT ONE TIME DOWNING AND HIS MOTHER

OCCUPIED BLACK'S NEARBY APARTMENT. NO INFO RE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DOWNING

AND BLACK ON OTHER THAN PROFESSIONAL LEVEL.

HOSTETTER

END

CHA E-OUT SLIP

FD-5  
(3-23-54)

FILE 65 4074 8/30/55  
Class Number Last Serial Date

Serials 268 \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Serials now serial # 1 of \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Serials 105-2463 \* \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Employee: \_\_\_\_\_

RECHARGE

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

To: \_\_\_\_\_ From: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
EMPLOYEE

\_\_\_\_\_  
LOCATION

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, H. G. FOSTER (65-4074)

DATE: August 9, 1955

FROM : SA JAMES A. MARLEY, Jr.

SUBJECT: THOMAS L. BLACK  
IS - C

On 8/1/55, THOMAS BLACK was contacted by SA JAMES A. MARLEY, Jr. He advised that he would not want to have further contacts made in the Englishtown area. He stated that he would rather come to the Newark Office whenever there was need for him to give any information. He stated that this would be very convenient because he works on a daily basis in the Newark area. BLACK stated that he is presently employed at the Atlas Refining Co., in Newark, telephone number Market 2-7143, ext. 15. BLACK stated that he would like to have an appointment set with the Newark Office as soon as possible and that the agent contacting him should identify himself as a friend of Mr. MARLEY, the original contacting agent and that an appointment with BLACK can be arranged this way. BLACK advised the agent that he will meet him at a particular time in the Newark Office.

The assignment card for this file has been returned with serial 268 so that it can be re-assigned to a Newark agent and contacts made with BLACK as soon as possible. It is noted that BLACK was very cooperative and apparently wishes to continue on as friendly basis as possible and realizes that the FBI has further need of his services.

JAM: PJH  
(R)

65-4074-271

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 9 1955	
FBI - NEWARK	

*[Handwritten signature]*

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC

DATE: 9/30/55

FROM : F.C.Zinck

SUBJECT: THOMAS L. BLACK  
Source of Information

Origin in this case was transferred to Newark from Philadelphia since the source moved to New Jersey. He is not being considered a source of information but will be contacted by the writer whenever requests are received from other offices to exhibit pictures to him etc.

The Philadelphia Office is at present reviewing exhibits in this case to determine what material can be returned to Black, h/w having requested the return of certain material taken from him.

When Philadelphia forwards this material it will be returned to Black and then this case will be closed; however, until then the case will be maintained in a pending status.

FCZ:fcz

*Tom Black*

65-4074-272

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FBI - NEWARK	



## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC H.G.FOSTER (65-4074)

DATE: 11-23-55

FROM : SA F.C.ZINCK

SUBJECT: THOMAS L. BLACK  
Source of Information

The Philadelphia Office is still reviewing exhibits in this case to determine what material can be returned to Black. When the material has been received and returned to Black, this case will be closed.

On 11-23-55 Black was interviewed by the writer at the Newark Office at which time he was shown pictures of individuals in connection with leads in two espionage cases, namely 65-4800 and 65-4799.

FCZ/fcz

*Post  
H.C.*

65-4074-27

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 23 1955	
FBI - NEWARK	

DIRECTOR, FBI (65-59134)

11-10-55

SAC, PHILADELPHIA (65-0)

EMANUEL DAVID LOCKE, was.  
ESPIONAGE - R  
ISA 1950

Rerep SA WILLIAM L. BYRNE, JR., Los Angeles, 10-31-55  
with lead for Philadelphia to display photograph to THOMAS LESSING  
BLACK.

BLACK now resides within the Newark Division. Newark  
cover lead. Both copies rerep and two photographs enclosed.

NSH:emo  
(2 Bu 1 SF 2 Hk 1 Ph)  
Encls. to Newark (4)

cc: SF (65-4184)(RM)  
Hk (RM)

REGISTERED MAIL

*orig in 65-4800  
pgy*

65-4074-275

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 10 1955	
FBI - PHILADELPHIA	

# Did Hudson Man Spy For Reds?

## Senate Probers Debate Naming Mystery Witness

Security probers for the United States Senate today debated whether to disclose the identity of an American chemist who had confessed 17 years of industrial spying for Russia.

Their declaration that they had called him on the strength of testimony by Harry Gold, convicted atomic spy, immediately recalled that Gold had charged industrial spying to a chemist named Thomas L. Black, formerly of Jersey City.

The witness, whom the Senate committee would neither confirm nor deny as being Black, said he slipped Soviet agents the chemical secrets of American concerns for which he worked from 1933 to 1950.

### COMPANY SOLD OUT

Black, according to Gold, worked for the Holbrook Manufacturing Co., Coles Street and 15th, Jersey City. The company, which manufactured castile soap, sold out about 10 years ago. The Advance Solvent Co. was its successor.

Chief Counsel Robert Morris of the committee said the witness not only testified on industrial espionage but he told of a plot of a Russian police agent, allowed to run free as a Soviet Red Cross representative, to do violence to an exiled Russian leader.

The witness reneged at violence, Morris said.

The chemist said he worked under the direction of Galk Badalovich Ovakimian, chief of the Soviet secret police in this country, from 1932 to 1941. Ovakimian was arrested by the FBI in 1941, claimed immunity as a Soviet official, and was diplomatically deported.

### GOT GOLD A JOB

Gold, convicted with Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, who were electrocuted as atomic spies, testified on April 26 that Black gave him a good job during the depression in 1933 when he worked for the Holbrook company in Jersey City.

Black was a Communist who persuaded him to steal the industrial secrets of his employer, the Pennsylvania Sugar Co., Gold told the committee. The stolen information was turned over to Soviet spies, Gold testified.

After hearing the testimony on Black, the committee summoned the secret witness.

JERSEY JOURNAL  
Jersey City, N.J.

Date 5-10-56 Page 1

Edition City Journal

SUBMITTED BY THE  
NEWARK FIELD DIVISION

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65-9074-287  
SEARCHED Pat INDEXED  
SERIALIZED Pat FILED  
MAY 10 1956  
FBI - NEWARK



## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO

SAC, N.Y. (65-4074)

DATE:

5/16/56

FROM

J. L. Barry

Rough Draft

SUBJECT:

THOMAS L. BLACK  
ESPIONAGE

Arthur Frederick Schroeder, President and Raymond Peter Seaman, Texas & Secy., Atlas Refinery Inc., 142 Lockwood St., Newark, N.J. Tel. # WA. 2-7143 came into the office on 5/16/56. They disclosed that they have a written contract with P. H. HELIE Co., Holden St., Worcester, Mass. to manufacture textile softening chemicals for Helie; that in connection with this process they have an employee of Helie Co. working in their plant, who is the subject. They added that today they learned that Black had been mixed up with Harry Gold and others in giving information to the Russians. They were attending a conference of personnel in another building. They were about to leave for this office in an attempt to determine whether Black is a security risk. ~~that Black~~ when they received word from one of their employees that Robert Morris of the Capitol City in Washington D.C. had attempted to reach Schroeder; that Morris is supposed to be connected with the State Department Commission, and he wished to speak with Schroeder about Black.

Schroeder & Seaman stated that they had been in contact with the Air Corps and the Army & Navy Department.

65-4074-288

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FBI - NEWARK	
MAY 16 1956	

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO :

DATE :

FROM :

SUBJECT :

*p. 2*  
and that they are experimenting for the Air Force in jet-fuel oils. They said that they did not want to jeopardize their contracts or business in any manner, and did not want to have Black in their plant if there was any question of his loyalty to the U. S.

Schroeder and Black came into the office about 4:15 p.m., & indicated that they were rushed for time, that they had an appointment to keep at 5 p.m. as well as contact Mr. Morris in Washington, at his request.

They desired to discuss this matter ~~with~~ to disclose further details about Black and requested that an Agent contact them at their place of business or they could arrange, if desirable, to return to this office and speak with someone familiar with the case.

# Plant Bars Helpful Ex-Red

## Told Senators of Soviet Spies

A Newark plant has barred an ex-Communist chemist who won praise from the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee for testifying about Soviet spy activities.

The action, taken against Thomas L. Black, 48, at once drew criticism from Robert Morris, subcommittee counsel.

Morris said the move was an "outrage" and a "great Soviet victory." He said it would seal the lips of many ex-Communists who might otherwise be willing to reveal details of Soviet penetration in this country. Morris said the subcommittee will undoubtedly take further action in an effort to protect Black.

### Confirmed by Firm Head

The company involved is the Atlas Refining Co. of 142 Lockwood St.

The action against Black was confirmed yesterday by Arthur F. Schroeder Jr., president and treasurer of Atlas. Black is employed by the P. H. Hellie Co. of Worcester, Mass., and was assigned to the Newark plant under a contract with Atlas.

Percy H. Hellie, president of the Hellie firm, said at his home in Worcester, last night, that he is coming to Newark tomorrow to confer with Atlas officials.

"I don't want Tom Black to get a raw deal," Hellie said. "I hope Tom calls me before I leave here tomorrow morning. I hope he doesn't think I am unfriendly to him because I'm not. He's a very good man. I've known him about eight years."

### Knew About Ties

Hellie said he knew about Black's activities as a Communist in the past, but added he had not known all the details.

Hellie also revealed that Morris had telephoned him to express disapproval of the Atlas action. Hellie said he could not say what action he would take until after the conference tomorrow.

Schroeder said that the company's action was decided upon Friday a day after Black testified in Washington that he had been a Soviet spy from 1931 to 1946. Black told the subcommittee that he enlisted Harry Gold, convicted atomic spy, into the Soviet spy network. The subcommittee commended him for his testimony.

### "Breach of Confidence"

The Atlas company, Schroeder said, took the position that Black's past activities represented a "breach of confidence."

"We feel we no longer can exercise the kind of faith and trust we had in him as far as our

## Ouster Attacked as 'Outrage'

operations are concerned," he said.

Black, Schroeder said, worked in the Atlas plant on quality control and also was active in product development on new phases of chemicals. As a chemist working on new products, he added, Black would know before management about the developments of new chemicals.

"We take the position we would like to continue our association with Hellie and are well equipped to do so with our own chemists," Schroeder said. "But we will make it clear to Hellie that we can no longer allow Black to be associated with our operations."

### "No Use For Reds"

Schroeder said "Atlas has no use for Communists, whether they're reformed or not." He said he believed "most Americans feel that way."

Schroeder said he also talked with Morris and asked whether the government would hire Black, knowing of his past association. Schroeder said Morris told him the committee would, but that Morris was not definite about the reaction of Civil Service.

The Atlas firm, refiners of marine and animal oils, was founded in 1880 by Schroeder's grandfather. Schroeder became president in 1947.

NEWARK SUNDAY NEWS  
Newark, New Jersey

Date 5-21-56 Page 1

Edition General

SUBMITTED BY THE  
NEWARK FIELD DIVISION

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65-4078-20-90

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# Firm cancels Black firing

By BILL MADDEN

A Newark firm promised yesterday to readmit an ex-Communist whom it had ordered out of the plant Friday after his testimony as a government witness before the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee.

In an about-face, Arthur F. Schroeder Jr., president and treasurer of Atlas Refinery Inc., 142 Lockwood St., said Thomas L. Black can return to his job as a consulting chemist once he passes government security checks.

Black, who is 48 and lives at 708 High St., testified before the Senate committee Thursday, revealing that he helped recruit imprisoned atomic spy Harry Gold into the Red espionage network.

## WAY BARRED

When he reported back to work Friday, he found the way barred by Schroeder who said he and other officials of the

(Continued on Page 11)

NEWARK STAR LEDGER  
Newark, New Jersey

Date 5-22-56 Page 1

Edition 4

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NEWARK FIELD DIVISION

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☐ C #3 ☐ C. CLERK

291  
65-4074-2  
SEARCHED INDEXED  
SERIALIZED FILED  
MAY 22 1956

plant had "no use for Communists whether they're reformed or not."

Schroeder's announcement drew an immediate blast from the chairman of the Senate committee, Sen. James O. Eastland (D-Miss.) who called it an "ignoble decision."

Eastland also dispatched Nelson Frank, a committee staff member, to call on Schroeder at his plant yesterday. Joining the huddle was P. H. Helie, head of the Worcester, Mass., company which employs Black and has assigned him to work in Atlas for the past year.

#### ISSUES STATEMENT

As a result of the conference, Schroeder issued the following statement:

"Atlas Refinery Inc. has no intention of penalizing Thomas L. Black for his cooperation with the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee.

"Our concern was and is for the security of our plant and our country. We wish to cooperate fully and have asked the subcommittee to help obtain for us written security clearance for Thomas L. Black from the Army, Navy and Air Force for whom this company furnishes materials.

#### RETAINED ON PAYROLL

"If these clearances are obtained and if our study of the transcript of Thomas L. Black's testimony before the sub-committee proves satisfactory, we will consider readmitting him to our plant.

"Meanwhile, we are advised by the P. H. Helie Company that Thomas L. Black will be retained on the payroll."

While the statement was being issued, Black, who claims he has lived in fear of his life since deserting the Communist cause in 1946, was at his High St. apartment. He would make no comment.

Helie, reiterating his faith in Black, said "I will keep him on my payroll regardless of how long it takes for the government to give him clearance."

Helie described his company of being practically a one-man sales organization of which Black was the only other employee. He said he sent Black to Atlas to help make the product which Helie sells.

"He is one of the finest workers in his line," Helie said of Black, describing him as a \$100-a-week consulting chemist. Regarding Black's statement that he made \$78 a week, Helie said "that is his take-home pay."

DGLR

rsey

80

SUBMITTED BY THE  
NEWARK FIELD DIVISION

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, N.Y. (65-4074)

DATE: 5/21/56

FROM : J. J. Harrington

SUBJECT: THOMAS L. BLACK  
ESPIONAGE

Re my memo 5/16/56

On 5/21/56, Mr. Schroeder advised that he learned the following from Mr. Decker, an employee of Atlas Refinery Inc., with whom Black lived in Englewood, N.J. Since the press release of Black's testimony before the Senate Investigating Comm., Decker recalled that about 6 months ago, while Black was at the dinner table, Black put his head into his hands and remarked that he was at a loss as to what to do about the future; that his job with Helic did not appear secure because Helic's product was not selling, and it may be necessary for Helic to drop Black from the payroll. That Black was considering whether to accept a job with a firm who wanted him to go to Russia as a chemist. Mr. Schroeder did not know whether Black mentioned to Decker the name of the firm that was considering sending Black to Russia. Mr. Schroeder did not know any more of the details concerning this conversation between Decker & Black.

Mr. Commons advised  
he was done for background  
in his unit do B. - no other  
action taken by him.  
BW

65-4074-292

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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MAY 24 1956	
FBI - NEWARK	
ZINCK	12

## Spy Stories

# Monmouth Data in Moscow; Newarker Tells Aid to Reds

WASHINGTON (NS)—A refugee Russian scientist has told Senate investigators that the Soviet secret police relayed "thousands" of U.S. Army Signal Corps secrets to him in Moscow in 1944.

His testimony was made public today after Thomas L. Black, a chemist of Newark, N.J., told the Senate internal security

witness, who, he said, could not appear publicly for "security" reasons.

### Data From Ft. Monmouth

Andriyev's testimony stated that "many" of the Signal Corps documents came from Ft. Monmouth, N.J., while many other

electronic documents "bore the trademark of RCA."

Ft. Monmouth was the scene of a lengthy search by Sen. McCarthy (R-Wis.) in 1953 and 1954 for Soviet espionage, and incidents bearing on that in-

(Continued Page 2, Column 3)



THOMAS L. BLACK  
Spied for Russians

subcommittee of his own spying for the Soviets out of "fear" that Red agents would kill him if he broke away. Black's address was given as 708 High St.

The testimony on radar and other American electronic data flowing to Russia during World War II came from a witness who testified secretly Wednesday under the name of "E. Andriyev."

Subcommittee chief counsel Robert Morris, who read the testimony into the record,

*cc: Pls transfer this serial  
to 65-4074 sub 5-1*

*do we have  
2-65 cases  
where?  
R.F.*

NEWARK EVENING NEWS  
Newark, New Jersey

Date May 17 1956 Page 1

Edition 11:00 PM

SUBMITTED BY THE  
NEWARK FIELD DIVISION

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65-4716-90

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SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 17 1956	
FBI - NEWARK	

quiry touched off the Army-McCarthy controversy.

Newsman asked Morris after the hearing whether the secrets that Andriyve referred to were stolen or come through normal lend-lease channels during World War II. Morris said he could only point to the witness' assertion that he got them from the Soviet secret police.

#### Related to Radar

Andriyve said the papers ace to him while he was a researcher at the Russian Army's signal corps Military Research Institute in Moscow. He said his job was to examine foreign language documents of which "90 per cent" came from the United States.

The Russian, who came to the United States in 1951, said:

"I received them from the secret police section . . . a part of the documents had to do with high power, super high frequency and ultra high frequency tubes that are used for radar. I would classify them to be sent to the factories and institutions which dealt with tubes.

"The other part would deal with telephone communications and field conditions . . . still other documents would deal with purely scientific matters which had, at least to our viewpoint at that time, no immediate technical application . . ."

#### Fearful Being Harmed

Disclosure of his testimony followed the public questioning of Black, on Communist espionage activities in the 1930s and 1940s.

Black, named by Harry Gold as the man who started him on the road to atomic espionage, said he became "disaffected" from communism in 1936, but kept up contacts with Soviet agents for another 10 years because he was "fearful" he would "get better protection" through having "come out in the open" than if he had kept his "anonymity."

Black, who admitted having introduced Gold to a Soviet agent in the early 1930s, said he himself was a member of the Communist party only from 1931 to 1933.

#### Stole Secrets as Spy

He said he quit the party because he wanted to travel to the Soviet Union and was told by a Russian spokesman in the U.S. that he could not do so as a Communist. He did not explain the point.

The witness said that Red agents at Amtorg, the Russians trading office in New York, told him he would have to show his "usefulness" to Russia by co-operating in other ways. And that, he said, was how he became a spy in 1934.

Subsequently, he said, he

stole "technical secrets" for a series of agents with whom he was in contact and underwent four years of "training" in espionage techniques.

Black said he made his final contact with a Soviet agent in 1946 by giving a "non-committal" answer on whether he would take a further assignment.

NEWARK EVENING NEWS  
Newark, New Jersey

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

Edition \_\_\_\_\_

SUBMITTED BY THE  
NEWARK FIELD DIVISION



# ***Stole U. S. industrial secrets for Red spies, chemist admits!***

Testimony  
bared by  
senators

*This is Thomas Block*

WASHINGTON, May 9 U.P.  
—An American chemist has confessed to the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee he stole U.S. industrial secrets for a Russian spy ring from 1933 until 1940, it was disclosed today.

Subcommittee sources declined to identify the scientist for the time being. But they predicted he would be asked to testify publicly sometime in the near future.

NEWARK STAR LEDGER  
Newark, New Jersey

Date 5-10-48 Page 1

Edition Final

SUBMITTED BY THE  
NEWARK FIELD DIVISION

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65-4074-275

They said the chemist told the subcommittee in recent closed-door testimony that after his break with the Soviet apparatus in 1940, he was contacted two or three times by Russian authorities, the last time in 1950.

These sources emphasized that the scientist never was employed by the government. They said the data he slipped to the Russians was not government-classified information but industrial techniques and secrets then unknown to the Russians.

One source said the scientist told the subcommittee he was once given an assignment that "involved violence." But this source said the scientist refused to carry out his instructions.

Subcommittee sources said the chemist was not part of an American spy ring such as those described by Elizabeth Bentley, confessed courier for a wartime apparatus. They said he operated as a "lone wolf" on behalf of the Russians.

The industrial data was slipped to the Soviet authorities, they said, through the Amtorg Trading Company, the former Soviet purchasing agency in this country, the Russian Red Cross and an unidentified Russian official.

NEWARK STAR LEDGER  
Newark, New Jersey

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_

Edition \_\_\_\_\_

SUBMITTED BY THE  
NEWARK FIELD DIVISION

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, H. G. FOSTER (65-4074)

DATE: 5/16/56

FROM : SA JOSEPH P. CARRIG

SUBJECT: HOLBROOK MANUFACTURING CO.  
Jersey City, N.J.; THOMAS  
L. BLACK  
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Mr. TOM O'CONNOR, a reporter for the "Jersey Journal" of Jersey City, N.J., on 5/10/56, said that he had been attempting to determine whether the above firm ever existed in Jersey City; and that he was attempting to learn whether BLACK, an industrial chemist, was working for this firm.

Mr. O'CONNOR was advised that a check of the available directories of Hudson County was made and that these directories failed to indicate any information on either the HOLBROOK MANUFACTURING CO. or THOMAS L. BLACK.

JPC/cll  
(1)

65-4074-297

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SERIALIZED	FILED
FBI - NEWARK	
2-2-57	

*[Handwritten signature]*

# Refugee testifies Moscow got Monmouth secrets

By TOM BUCHANAN

WASHINGTON, May 17 — The Senate internal security subcommittee today disclosed testimony given by a former Soviet research technician in Moscow who examined "thousands" of secret documents on radar and other electronic ~~devices~~ stolen from Fort Monmouth and the Radio Corporation of America's laboratories by Red spies in 1944 and 1945.

The witness, whose true identity and whereabouts are a closely guarded secret, testified under the alias of E. Andriyve. As a technician with the Soviet signal Corps military research institute he said he examined secrets stolen from the United States, France and England and channeled by them among various Soviet institutions for reproduction.

The testimony, given during an executive session of the subcommittee on Wednesday, was read into today's public hearing in order to protect "the life of the witness" from Soviet vengeance. He has been a permanent resident of the



Thomas L. Black  
(AP WIREPHOTO)

U.S. since 1951, and is on his way to U.S. citizenship.

## BLACK TESTIFIES

This testimony followed the appearance of Thomas L. Black of 708 High St., Newark, a chemist who recruited atomic spy Harry Gold into Soviet espionage while working for the Holbrook Manufacturing Co. of Jersey City in 1933. Gold is presently serving 15 years in federal prison at Lewisburg, Pa., for his part in the Rosenberg spy ring.

Andriyve, holder of a doc-

NEWARK STAR LEDGER  
Newark, New Jersey

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Edition Final

SUBMITTED BY THE  
NEWARK FIELD DIVISION

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# Soviets got Monmouth secrets

(Continued from Page One)

the west," he said. "I received them from the secret police section."

He said that a "batch of documents" would be given to him practically every day during 1944 and 1945 for perusal, examination and determination of their technical nature before he forwarded them to other Soviet agencies.

## FRESH DOCUMENT

When questioned by subcommittee counsel Robert Morris on whether the documents he handled seemed to be freshly acquired, Andriyev answered, "Yes, sir, the documents I dealt with were fresh and sometime very fresh."

He said many photographs of equipment such as radar, telephone, telegraph, radio apparatus and other ultra high frequency communications methods also were sent to Moscow, bearing classification marks of "secret," "top secret" and "confidential."

He said the grand total of such documents turned over to his section at the Moscow Institute in 1944 coming from Fort Monmouth and RCA was somewhere in the "thousands," but that he did not know how many more were being translated and analyzed by other sections.

"I will tell you how I know about the many other sections," Andriyev said. "First of all, the flow of documents which usually came to me was pre-classified by somebody, or pre-channelled by somebody, because I never got documents on matters irrelevant to the electronics and to the radar line. I never had any 'irrelevant' documents. All documents were in 'material' of work, so some-

body pre-sorted that before sending it to the institute I worked in."

## HELPED C. OF C.

Andriyev added that he had also "done a few pieces of work" for the Moscow Chamber of Commerce by translating American pieces of apparatus in aviation—the ground control approach landing system — artillery devices and many other things for publication in Soviet journals.

Meanwhile, in public testimony given by Black, the Newark chemist detailed the "life of fear" that kept him from leaving the Communist party as a spy after he had become disillusioned with the Soviets over the Moscow purge trials in 1936.

All told, however, Black, a short and stocky individual who testified in a meek voice that was normally ever scarcely above a whisper, told how he joined the Communist Party in 1931 in New York, was later transferred to units in Jersey City and Newark and did not leave the party until 1950 when he went to the FBI.

## GOT RED THREATS

The last five years of that time, Black said, he was no longer in sympathy with the Communist movement but implied threats on his life by Soviet agents in the U.S. kept him at their bidding.

Black's testimony detailed how the inner workings of the Russian spy apparatus operated in the U.S. and the chilling fate that was the lot of Communists who had broken with Moscow.

In this category, Black placed Leon Trotsky, whose

assassination he was ordered to arrange but refused; Carlo Tresca, an anti-Communist radical murdered by Soviet agents in January 1943 while leaving a New York City office building, and Walter Kravitsky, a former Red spy in Germany also murdered by Soviet agents after breaking with the party.

## DECRIED TRESCA DEATH

Black said he spoke to a Soviet agent he knew only as "Jack" Katz about the Tresca murder, pointing out that "it gave the Communist movement a very bad name and I didn't approve of that kind of thing."

But Black said Katz told him Tresca had been tried in Moscow in absentia as an "enemy of the working class" and had not been murdered but executed by Soviet agents in accordance with the verdict of the Russian court.

The Newarker also disclosed that a Soviet agent here in the U.S. as a member of the Russian Red Cross, whom he knew as "Dr. Schwartz" but later identified as Dr. Gregor Rabinowitz, had ordered him to go to the Mexico City suburb of Cuoyacan to join other Soviet agents in Trotsky's household who would tell him what to do.

"When I found out that I was to arrange for the assassination of Trotsky, I refused the assignment," Black said. "I got out of it by telling Dr. Schwartz that it would look suspicious if I suddenly left the country and did not appear before a workmen's compensation board on an accident case I was involved in."

Black also identified Rebecca Greche as the "Communist

LEDGER  
Jersey

Page

BY THE  
DIVISION

tor's degree in electronics from a Moscow university, testified that 90 per cent of the stolen documents he handled were of "four general shapes," printed matter, typewritten books or pages, photocopies or photostats and enlargements which were blown up from microfilm. He said that the majority bore the trademark of Fort Monmouth and RCA.

#### FROM MONMOUTH

"I remember in general very many documents dealing with radar at that time, so whether these were signal corps or any other branch, I really cannot tell," he said.

He added that while some of the documents came from other parts of the U.S., most of them which he examined came from Fort Monmouth and the RCA institutions and laboratories.

"Such documents are usually kept in the secret police section, attached to this or that Soviet institution, and every major Soviet institution has a secret police section which is called in Russian 'Spetsotdel,' which is a very well-known word in Russian and also in

(Continued on page 16)

Party organizer in Newark, and Soviet agents Sam Semenov ("George") believed to have been an official of Amtorg Trading Corp., G. Ovakimian, chief resident agent of the Soviet secret police in the U.S. during 1933 and 1934 who masqueraded as an official of Amtorg and an agent he knew only as "Paul Peterson."

#### STOLE DOCUMENTS

To test his usefulness to the Soviets, Black said he stole industrial secrets for producing textiles and tanning processes which Ovakimian told him were of "no value."

He said this assignment came after he expressed a desire to Rebecca Greche to work in the Soviet Union in 1933 and was told that he could work anywhere in the world, but not ever in the "worker's paradise."

After an angry discussion with "Peterson" in 1938 in which Black said he expressed dissatisfaction with communist and his intention of joining up with the Trotskyites, he was told to infiltrate the Socialist Party of America and keep "Peterson" informed on the activities of the leaders of the Trotsky faction.

"I accepted the assignment because of fear for my life," Black said. "I wanted to break away from communism but Peterson and others made implied threats that weren't hard to understand."

#### WENT TO FBI

His last contact with the Soviet spy apparatus came in 1950, Black said, when he received a phone call telling him to contact "Miss Watkins," the code phrase indicating a meeting with Katz in front of the Trans-Lux theater in New

York. Instead, Black said, he went to the FBI with his story.

Black moved into a \$60 a month three-room apartment, at 708 High St., Newark, about April 1. Prior to that he lived in Englishtown in Monmouth County.

Other residents in the apartment described him as being about 5 feet nine inches, 180 pounds with dark brown hair. He lived alone and never had visitors.

In the morning, Black would be picked up by a lame youth, about 17, who apparently would drive him to work in a chemical plant which Black described as being located in the "Downneck section."

(In the 1930's Black was employed by a chemical company located on Coles St., which was then known as the Downneck section, now known as the Ironbound.)

#### MADE \$78 WEEKLY

One neighbor recalled that Black said he made \$78 a week. He added that Black had told him he had once lived at the YMCA in Newark.

Last weekend, Black was not in his apartment. He said he had gone to Philadelphia on a visit.

Another resident in the apartment house at 708 High St., said that last week, someone had been in the apartment making inquiries about Black, but the resident hadn't thought anything about it at the time.

Black, identified by imprisoned Harry Gold as the man who made him a Russian spy, testified after subcommittee counsel Robert Morris assured him his public appearance would afford him more protection against assassination than he would have by remaining hidden.

# Muster Aid For Ex-Red

## Senate Group and Boss of Black Concerned on Job Trouble

A staff aide of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee is in Newark today checking the barring of Thos. L. Black of Newark from his job here after he testified last week about former spy activities for Russia. The subcommittee commended the ex-Communist chemist for his courage in testifying.

Robert Morris, chief counsel of the subcommittee, said in Washington that the subcommittee was "very concerned" about the dismissal of Black and would consider what action to take at a meeting today. He said the committee's aide, Nelson Frank, was in Newark and would report back by phone to the committee.

Black was barred from his job Friday at the Atlas Refining Co. by the Newark company's president, Arthur F. Schroeder. Black had been assigned to the plant by the P. H. Hellie Co. of Worcester,

Mass., his employer. The Hellie firm has a contract with Atlas, which refines marine and animal oils.

### Surprised by Action

Morris said he was surprised by Schroeder's action because, he said, Schroeder had "assured me Friday in a telephone conversation that no decision would be made until today."

Schroeder said: "I have no use for Communists, whether they're reformed or not." The Atlas president said Black worked in the plant on developments of new chemicals and on quality control.

The president of the Hellie Company, Percy H. Hellie, also was coming to Newark today to confer with Atlas officials in an effort to have them retain Black in the assigned job here.

### Lauded by Employer

Hellie said he knew about Black's activities as a Communist in the past. He said he thought Black did an honorable thing in testifying and commented, "I don't want Tom Black to get a raw deal."

Subcommittee chairman James O. Eastland (D-Miss) said yesterday: "Reprisals against Black for his courageous testimony against the Soviet conspiracy can only aid the Communist cause and discourage other witnesses from coming forward."

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# Ex-Red's firing to be probed

By RALPH MAHONEY

Robert Morris, chief counsel to the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, told The Star-Ledger yesterday a committee representative will come to Newark to investigate the "ignoble decision" of a Newark firm to discharge a repentant ex-Communist who recently testified for the government.

Morris, speaking in Washington in behalf of the committee chairman, Sen. Eastland (D-Miss.), said the company's ban on Thomas L. Black, 48, of 408 High St., "can only aid the Communist cause and discourage other witnesses from coming forward."

## FEARED FOR LIFE

Black, who has lived in fear of his life since deserting the Communist party, testified before the committee recently that he recruited imprisoned atomic spy Harry Gold into the Red espionage network. He almost became a part of the plot to assassinate Leon Trotsky in Mexico, he said.

He is employed by the P.H. Hellie Co. of Worcester, Mass., as a chemist and, until late last week, was assigned to work in the plant of the Atlas Refining Co., 142 Lockwood Ave., with which Hellie has a contract.

## REVEALED SECRETS

Black revealed his secrets to the Senate committee Thursday. When he reported for work at Atlas Friday, he was ordered out of the plant by Arthur F. Schroeder Jr., president and treasurer, who said:

"I have no use for Communists whether they're reformed or not."

Schroeder said Atlas officials had taken a vote and decided "Black had to go whether the company lost its account with Hellie Co. or not." He said the company felt there had been a breach of contract because At-

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(Continued from Page One)  
of Black's Communist background.

Percy H. Hellie, president of the Hellie firm, said, however, that he wanted to get all the facts, adding:

"If Tom Black was honorable enough to go down to Washington and testify for the good of the country, I wouldn't do him any harm."

Hellie is due in Newark today to discuss the Black case with Atlas officials.

#### 'EASTLAND CONCERNED'

In his statement yesterday, Morris quoted Eastland as saying:

"The Internal Security Subcommittee of the U.S. Senate views with great concern the statement of Arthur Schroeder that he plans to ban Thomas L. Black from employment in the Atlas Refining Co. of Newark.

"At the same time it commends the tolerant and charitable viewpoint of Percy Hellie.

"Black was a witness before the Internal Security Subcommittee and reprisals against him or his courageous testimony against conspiracy can only aid the Communist cause and discourage other witnesses from coming forward.

#### TO INVESTIGATE HERE

"We are sending a staff member to Newark to investigate fully all the circumstances surrounding this ignoble decision."

Black, who lived in Englishtown before coming to Newark April 1, joined the Hellie Co. in 1954 and has worked at the Atlas factory since then.

Hellie said he knew Black revealed his former involvement in the Communist Party to the FBI but was not aware how deeply Black was implicated.

#### WON'T COMMENT

Reached at his home in Summit last night, Schroeder refused to comment on the Eastland statement.

Asked if he thought his views on Black represented an "ignoble decision," he said:

"I'm not sure I know what the term means; do you?"

He again said "no comment" when asked his reaction to an-

tive coming to Newark to investigate the case.

In the past, high government officials, including FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover and William F. Tompkins of Mapewood, assistant U.S. Attorney General, have criticized firms that have discharged ex-Communists who have testified for the government.

Tompkins has said that any Communist who has honestly renounced communism and de-

sires to rehabilitate himself and cooperate with his government as a good American citizen should not be penalized for giving help to the government.

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Newark, New Jersey

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SUBMITTED BY THE  
NEWARK FIELD DIVISION

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, H. G. FOSTER (65-4074)

DATE: 5/28/56

FROM : SA, JAMES E. HARVEY

SUBJECT: THOMAS LESSING BLACK  
ESPIONAGE - R  
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THOMAS LESSING BLACK personally appeared at this office at approximately 10:00 p.m. on 5/20/56 to advise that arrangements had been made for him to meet a representative of the New York "Daily News" or New York "Mirror" on 5/21/56 concerning an article or series of articles on his life. BLACK stated that ROBERT MORRIS, Chief Counsel to the United States Senate Sub-Committee on Internal Security had made the arrangements with the newspaper and insisted that BLACK carry them through. BLACK stated that this was something beyond his control and that he was calling at the FBI Office to determine if this agency had any objection to his meeting the press or whether the FBI desired to approve of any articles he might write before they were turned over to the press. BLACK recalled that agents in the past expressed the desire that he advise the FBI if he had any editorial aspirations.

BLACK also advised that several times since 1936 he had advised HARRY GOLD to get out of espionage for the sake of his family. BLACK stated that he asked agents to confirm these statements with GOLD after GOLD was incarcerated. BLACK stated that he never obtained an answer from the agents regarding GOLD's answer and he never pursued the issue. Now, BLACK stated, that he desired to know the results of this inquiry with GOLD so that in his forthcoming articles he could portray himself in a better light by stating that GOLD corroborated his remarks, if such were the case.

BLACK was requested to call the writer on 5/21/56.

A telephone call was made to the Philadelphia Office and by return call, Supervisor NORRIS HARZENSTEIN advised that Philadelphia files contained no information reflecting that BLACK was in possession of any information which could not be revealed, with the possible exception

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NK 65-4074  
Memo to SAC, H. G. FOSTER

5/28/56

RE: THOMAS LESSING BLACK  
ESPIONAGE - R

of information concerning JOSEPH KATZ, an espionage subject who fled to France.

Information in the possession of Newark reflects that the Bureau recently advised that BLACK did not have to withhold any information from the Sub-Committee before which he recently appeared. This included information concerning KATZ.

It was further noted that newspaper articles concerning BLACK's public testimony before the Sub-Committee reflected he did identify KATZ as "JACK", a former espionage agent in the service of the USSR in this country.

BLACK was advised on 5/21/56 by the writer that the Bureau had no desire to censor his forthcoming articles but he was requested to adhere to the facts concerning his relations with the FBI. He was further advised that this office was not permitted to reveal to him any information obtained as a result of previous interviews with HARRY GOLD.

BLACK was very cordial in both contacts with the writer.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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**Name** BLACK, THOMAS LESSING  
**Aliases** Dr. Thomas L. Black, Tasso Lessing Black, Tom Black, Lessie Black, Tom Wright, Tom Jones, Harold L. Jones, George Williams, Bob, "Doc"  
**Nationality** American  
**Description** (Photo available)

**Sex** Male  
**Race** White  
**Age** 48 (1956)  
**Born** 7-5-07, Bloomsburg, Pa.  
**Height** 5'8 $\frac{1}{2}$ "  
**Weight** 200 lbs.  
**Build** Heavy  
**Eyes** Blue; wears glasses  
**Hair** Light brown, wavy  
**Complexion** Light, ruddy  
**Scars and marks** Burn scars on entire left arm and shoulder, front of neck and left ear.  
**Peculiarities** High, square forehead; flat feet; incessant smoker; uses long, black cigarette holder

**Marital Status** Single

**Occupation** Chemist

**Employment**

American Cyanamid Co., Linden, N.J. (1929-30)

Holbrook Manufacturing Co., Jersey City, N.J. (1930-33)

National Oil Products Co., Harrison, N.J. (1933-44)

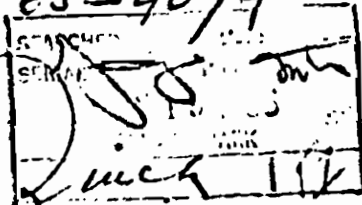
Consultant, Fine Organics, Inc., New York City (1944-45)

Consultant, Spruce Chemical Co., Paterson, N.J. (1946)

Consultant, Chas. W. Berg Laboratories, Philadelphia, Pa. (1945-55)

Atlas Refinery, Inc., Newark, N.J. (1955-

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

**Organizations**

Member, CP, USA under name of Harold L. Jones (1932-33)

Member, Socialist Party (1937)

Member, Socialist Workers Party under name of Tom Jones  
(1938-41)

**Residence**

265 East St., Bloomsburg, Pa. (1907-29)

577 Madison Ave., Elizabeth, N.J. (1928- )

112 Westfield Ave., Elizabeth, N. J.

116 Anna St. Elizabeth N.J.

654 Bergen Ave., Jersey City, N.J.

57 Sip Ave., Jersey City, N.J.

Mayflower Apts., 65 Tonnell Ave., Jersey City, N.J.  
( -1933)

55 Oxford St., Newark, N.J. (1933-37)

17 Oxford St., Newark, N.J. (1937-49)

Majestic Hotel, Philadelphia, Pa. (part time)

1749 N. Mascher St., Philadelphia, Pa. (1945-46)

43 W. Gravers Lane, Philadelphia, Pa. (1946)

2124 Spruce St., Philadelphia, Pa. (1947-48)

1908 Dallas St., Philadelphia, Pa. (1948-50)

1929 N. 6th St., Philadelphia, Pa. (1950-1954)

530 West Berks St., Philadelphia, Pa. (1954-1955)

R.D. 1, Englishtown, N.J., c/o Victor Decker, Jr. (1955-1956)

708 High St., Newark, N.J. (1956- )

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

#### Education

Pennsylvania State College (1925-29-not graduated).

#### Espionage Activity

In 1934, Black contacted Gaik B. Ovakimian (Soviet espionage agent) at Amtorg Trading Corp., New York City to obtain employment in USSR at which time he was recruited into Soviet intelligence. Altho claiming to have been an unwilling and uncooperative agent, Black has admitted furnishing unclassified industrial information (including data concerning penicillin and sorbitol) to Ovakimian and to subsequent Soviet superiors, Paul Petersen, "Carl," "George" (Semen Markovich Semenov), Dr. Robert Swartz (Gregori L. Rabinovitch), "John" (Nikolai N. Erchov) and "Jack" (Joseph Katz) during 1934-47. In 1935, he was instrumental in recruiting Harry Gold into Soviet intelligence, introducing him to his then Soviet superior, Paul Petersen.

According to Black, he joined the Socialist Workers Party (Trotskyite) at Petersen's suggestion to serve in an intelligence capacity. He also stated that in 1938 Gregori Rabinovitch urged him to go to Mexico to work his way into the home of Leon Trotsky (assassinated in 1940), which assignment he had refused.

In 1943-44, Black served as courier between Joseph Katz and William W. Stapler (deceased), delivering message and funds to latter, an employee of Hercules Powder Co., Wilmington, Delaware, who had allegedly sold technical information to the Soviets.

Black has admitted having received funds, gifts and laboratory equipment from his various Soviet superiors.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SAC, Newark

May 9, 1956

Director, FBI (100-342424)

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Enclosure 1

- cc-2-Chicago (100-18106) (Enclosure 1)
- cc-2-Los Angeles (100-23657) (Enclosure 1)
- cc-2-New York (100-80005) (Enclosure 1)
- cc-2-Portland (100-6600) (Enclosure 1)
- cc-2-San Francisco (100-25335) (Enclosure 1)
- cc-2-Seattle (100-18224) (Enclosure 1)
- cc-2-Washington Field (100-17841) (Enclosure 1)
- cc-1-Newark file (65-4074) (Thomas Lessing Black) (Enclosure 1)

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Vol. 40

# The United States Senate

## Report of Proceedings

Hearing held before

Subcommittee to Investigate the Administration of the  
Internal Security Act and Other Internal  
Security Laws, of the Committee on the Judiciary  
SCOPE OF SOVIET ACTIVITY IN THE UNITED STATES

May 17, 1956

Washington, D. C.

WARD & PAUL

1760 PENNSYLVANIA AVE. N.E.  
WASHINGTON, D. C.



C O N T E N T S

TESTIMONY OF

PAGE

Thomas L. Black,  
708 High Street,  
Newark, New Jersey

2648

HRO - CW

## SCOPE OF SOVIET ACTIVITY IN THE UNITED STATES

Thursday, May 17, 1956

United States Senate,  
Subcommittee to Investigate the Administration  
of the Internal Security Act and Other  
Internal Security Laws, of the  
Committee on the Judiciary,  
Washington, D. C.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to call, at 10:35 o'clock  
a.m., in the Caucus Room, Senate Office Building, Senator  
William E. Jenner, presiding.

Present: Senator Jenner (Presiding)

Also Present: Robert Morris, Chief Counsel; William A.  
Rushner, Administrative Counsel; Benjamin Mandel, Research  
Director; and Robert McManis, Research Analyst.

Senator Jenner: The hearing will come to order.

Mr. Morris: Mr. Black, will you come forward? Will you  
be seated there?

Senator Jenner: Will you be sworn to testify?

Do you solemnly swear that the testimony given in this  
hearing will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but  
the truth, so help you God?

Mr. Black: I do.



Senator Jenner. You will proceed, Mr. Morris, with the questioning of the witness.

Mr. Morris. Senator, this hearing is being held in connection with the series being conducted by the Internal Security Subcommittee in connection with the nature and scope of Soviet activity in the United States.

The specific subject this morning will be Soviet espionage.

Mr. Black, will you give your name and address to the reporter, please?

TESTIMONY OF THOMAS L. BLACK

1708 HIGH STREET

NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

Mr. Black. Thomas L. Black, 1708 High Street, Newark, New Jersey.

Mr. Morris. Where were you born, Mr. Black?

Mr. Black. Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Morris. In what year?

Mr. Black. July 5, 1907.

Mr. Morris. What is your business or profession?

Mr. Black. I am a chemist.

Mr. Morris. For how long have you been a chemist?

Mr. Black. All my working life, approximately 26 years.

Mr. Morris. Now, Mr. Black, have you ever been a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. Black. Yes, sir.

0W3 Mr. Morris: When did you join the Communist Party?

Mr. Black: Approximately 1931.

Mr. Morris: Will you tell us what unit, branch and section of the Communist Party you joined?

Mr. Black: I joined the Communist Party in New York City Section Two, Unit Two-B, located on the lower East Side.

Mr. Morris: How long did you remain a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. Black: Approximately two years.

Mr. Morris: Will you sketch for us very briefly your career in the Communist Party?

Mr. Black: I don't believe I quite understand your question.

Mr. Morris: Did you attend meetings of the Communist Party with any regularity?

Mr. Black: Yes, sir.

Mr. Morris: Did you pay any Communist Party dues?

Mr. Black: Yes, sir.

Mr. Morris: Did you get to know any other Communists?

Mr. Black: Quite a number of them.

Mr. Morris: Was there any other unit or branch that you subsequently joined, other than the one you describe here?

Mr. Black: I was transferred to a unit in Jersey City and later to a unit in Newark.

Mr. Morris: You left the Communist Party two years after



you joined it?

Mr. Black: Yes, sir.

Mr. Morris: Will you tell us why you left the Communist Party?

Mr. Black: I wanted to go to the Soviet Union to work, about 1933, and I discussed this with the Communist organizer in Newark, Rebecca Grecht.

Mr. Morris: Will you spell that for the committee, please?

Mr. Black: That is G-r-e-c-h-t.

Mr. Morris: What did she tell you, and what did you ask her?

Mr. Black: I told her that I wanted to try to get a job in the Soviet Union, and that I wondered what arrangements could be made.

She told me that I could go to work any place in the world, but not in the Soviet Union, that she would make any arrangements that might be necessary, but that as a Party member, I could not work in the Soviet Union ever.

Mr. Morris: Was a result of that decision made by your Communist superiors, you decided to leave the Party?

Mr. Black: That is right.

Mr. Morris: Did your interest in the Soviet Union continue?

Mr. Morris: Will you tell us what form it took?

Mr. Black: After I had been out of the Party some months I went to Amtorg Trading Corporation in New York City and inquired about employment in the Soviet Union.

Mr. Morris: Now, whom did you meet at Amtorg Trading Corporation?

Mr. Black: Gail Ovakimian.

Mr. Morris: You know that he has been identified by Mr. Rostyrov as a person who was a chief resident agent of the Soviet Secret Police in the United States?

Did Gail Ovakimian introduce himself by that name?

Mr. Black: Yes, he did.

Mr. Morris: What was his job with Amtorg?

Mr. Black: I was never quite certain as to the duties he had with Amtorg, but I believe he was connected in some way with petroleum products, oils, and so on.

Mr. Morris: What did he tell you he wanted?

Mr. Black: He told me that if he were to recommend me for employment in the Soviet Union, I would have to produce evidence of usefulness. Otherwise he could not personally make a recommendation.

Mr. Morris: I see.

What did he ask you to do?

Mr. Black: He asked me to give him some information of a technical nature, which would tend to indicate my



CWO

usefulness to the Soviet technology.

Mr. Morris: Did you, conforming with his request, begin to supply him with information of a technical nature?

Mr. Black: I did.

Mr. Morris: Will you tell us for the record what material you gave him?

Mr. Black: I gave him information concerning the processes for producing textile auxiliaries and tanning material, other products of that nature, with which I was familiar. I wrote the processes up for producing these things, and included information on their uses and applications.

Mr. Morris: Now, on how many occasions will you speak up, Mr. Black?

Now, on how many occasions did you meet Mr. Ovakimian and give him the information you have just described?

Mr. Black: Possibly three occasions.

Mr. Morris: Where did you meet him on these occasions?

Mr. Black: In New York City. We met in restaurants.

Mr. Morris: Can you tell us with particularity what restaurants in which you met him?

Mr. Black: I don't recall what restaurants we met in, but they were rather good restaurants. In the Times Square area.

Mr. Morris: Where did you get the information you im-

cw7

Mr. Black: I had a great deal of it in my head, but what I didn't know I supplemented with information that was available to me on the job.

Mr. Morris: Was Ovakimian's interest in the information itself, or was his interest in the fact that he was testing you to see whether or not you were going to supply that and other information, and render other services for the Soviet Union?

Mr. Black: He told me after he had gone over this information that it was of no particular interest to him, because they had other sources of such information, and that this was not particularly valuable.

Have I answered your question?

Mr. Morris: I missed the very last thing you said, Mr. Black.

Mr. Black: He indicated that the information I had given him was of no particular value because it was rather elementary.

Mr. Morris: However -- you added something more, didn't you?

Mr. Black: I don't believe that I quite understand.

Mr. Morris: I didn't know whether I had his full answer Senator.

Mr. Black: did you break off your relationship with Mr. Ovakimian?



cw8

Mr. Black: No, I didn't break it. He introduced me to someone else.

Mr. Morris: In other words, he gave you a different assignment.

Mr. Black: That is correct.

Mr. Morris: What year was this?

Mr. Black: You joined the Communist Party in 1931, stayed in until 1933. You met Gail Ovakimian in 1933?

Mr. Black: Either late 1933 or early 1934. I can't be sure of the exact date.

Mr. Morris: At what point, now, was Ovakimian's transferring you to another Soviet agent?

Mr. Black: I believe that it was about the middle of 1934, or perhaps early spring.

Mr. Morris: Will you tell us the circumstances whereby you were transferred by Ovakimian to another agent?

Mr. Black: Ovakimian told me that he was very busy, and that he wanted me to meet a friend of his who would meet with me occasionally.

He said that he had too many other tasks to take care of, and that this fellow would see me and he assured me that the person I was to be introduced to was a friend of his, and I could speak freely with him.

Mr. Morris: Who was this friend of his?

cw9

Mr. Morris. Was that his true name?

Mr. Black. I am sure that it was not, although I have no way of knowing.

Mr. Morris. How long did you deal with the man known to you as Paul Peterson?

Mr. Black. I would say up until about 1938.

Mr. Morris. Now, what was the nature of your relation with Peterson? Was he asking you to supply information, or was he training you for still some other assignment?

Mr. Black. He was training me for some other assignment.

Mr. Morris. Do you know a man named Harry Gold?

Mr. Black. Yes, sir.

Mr. Morris. Did you introduce Harry Gold to a Soviet agent at any time?

Mr. Black. Yes, sir.

Mr. Morris. The Harry Gold who testified before this committee, two or three weeks ago, was the same Harry Gold you know?

Mr. Black. That is correct.

Mr. Morris. I wonder if you would tell us your relationship with Paul Peterson?

Just tell us what happened.

You said that you believed he was training you for some assignment. Give us the specifics about that particular



CW10

assignment.

2 Mr. Black. The first several meetings with Peterson were purely social. We met in New York City and we had dinner, and the conversation revolved around small talk. Nothing particular was said about anything. In other words, in those early meetings he was getting acquainted with me, and seeing what kind of a person I was, sizing me up generally.

Mr. Morris. Did he give you assignments?

Mr. Black. No, sir, not then.

Mr. Morris. What did he do?

Mr. Black. Well, gradually the talk started to revolve around how I could be useful to the Soviet Union, and I think that it was at that time that I first realized that he was intending to train me for espionage, although that was certainly never mentioned at that time.

Mr. Morris. Tell us the nature of the training he gave you.

Mr. Black. The training consisted of discussing various aspects related to espionage, and this was done during long walks which we used to take together on the sidewalks of New York, mostly. Never in restaurants or any place like that.

Mr. Morris. Now, what aspects of training were covered by him in his relationship with you?

cwll

Mr. Black: How do detect surveillance by FBI agents, and how to avoid it; what to do in case the surveillance was detected; how to collect information and write reports; how to microfilm them; how to condense information into the fewest possible words and yet make it complete enough to be useful.

That general sort of thing. I don't know --

Mr. Morris: Did he go into the importance of appointments and rendezvous?

Mr. Black: Yes, in general.

Mr. Morris: Will you tell us something about that?

Mr. Black: I am not quite sure that I understand what information you want.

Mr. Morris: Did he explain to you how appointments were made between Soviet agents?

Mr. Black: Yes, he did.

Mr. Morris: Will you tell us briefly something about that?

Mr. Black: The Soviet superior would always do the contacting, and the lesser agent never had any way of knowing how or when or where he could contact his superior.

Mr. Morris: Is there anything else on that point you can tell us, Mr. Black?

Mr. Black: Well, some arrangements for the next meeting were always made, and then the actual time was generally set.



cw12

by a telephone call. The place and the time were pre-arranged, but the date was generally made by telephone a few days before.

Mr. Morris: From what period did you work with Peterson?

Mr. Black: Until about 1938 -- 1937 or 1936.

Mr. Morris: From 1934 to 1938.

During that period, the time was consumed principally in training you for espionage work?

Mr. Black: That is correct.

Mr. Morris: No specific assignments were given to you at that time, were they?

Mr. Black: Yes, but they were not in connection with espionage.

Mr. Morris: In secret?

What was the nature of those assignments?

Mr. Black: In 1936, at the time of the first Moscow trials, I lost sympathy with the Communist movement, and I told Peterson that if this terror was going to continue in Moscow, I would become a Trotskyite.

Mr. Morris: How did he react to that disclosure by you?

Mr. Black: He became violently angry, and we parted on very bad terms.

Mr. Morris: Now, did he ever drop you as a contact?

Mr. Morris. What happened?

Mr. Black. A period of time elapsed -- I don't recall just how long. Possibly a few months. Then I got a phone call from him, and in the telephone conversation he seemed rather friendly. He asked me to meet him. I kept that appointment.

Mr. Morris. Did you meet him in New York?

Mr. Black. Yes, sir.

Mr. Morris. Did he give you another assignment?

Mr. Black. Yes, he did. He told me that he had been thinking over what I had told him about becoming a Trotskyite, and he thought that was a very good idea. So he instructed me to join the Socialist Party, the Trotskyist faction.

Mr. Morris. Is that the Socialist Party, Trotskyist faction? What was the name of that party?

Mr. Black. Socialist Party of America. That was before the Socialist Workers Party.

Mr. Morris. So your relationship at that time was that you joined the Trotskyist Party on the instruction of the Soviet agent?

Mr. Black. That is right.

Mr. Morris. Did you at the same time keep your contact and keep reporting to him?

Mr. Black. Yes, sir.



w14 Mr. Morris: Will you tell us, Mr. Black, precisely what happened?

Mr. Black: I was instructed to be a good party member and to ingratiate myself with the leadership of the party.

Mr. Morris: That is the Trotskyist Party?

Mr. Black: That is right.

Mr. Morris: Meanwhile you completely disassociated yourself for many years now, with the Communist Party?

Mr. Black: That is correct.

Mr. Morris: Were you reading things like the Daily Worker?

Mr. Black: No, Sir. Only occasionally, because I had been instructed not to.

Mr. Morris: Were you seeing your old Communist friends?

Mr. Black: No, Sir. I had been instructed to break all contacts with them also.

Mr. Morris: Now will you tell us the nature of your assignment with the Trotskyist party?

Mr. Black: The only definite assignment I had was to become friendly with the leading Trotskyists.

Mr. Morris: And to report back to Peterson?

Mr. Black: Just to keep contact with him. Not to report anything specific to him. As a matter of fact, he was not interested in what was going on in the Trotskyist move-

w15 Mr. Morris: Was Peterson the agent now for whom you were working at that time?

Mr. Black: I believe so. I know that Peterson was the one that assigned me the task.

Mr. Morris: Now, at what point did Peterson break off and another agent take his place?

Mr. Black: I believe that was probably the latter part of 1937, or the early part of 1938.

Mr. Morris: Who was the new agent who moved in?

Mr. Black: I think -- I can't be quite sure of this, but I think it was a fellow I knew as George, and who later I identified as Semenov.

Mr. Morris: What is Simon Semenov?

Mr. Black: That is right.

Mr. Morris: He was also of Amtorg Trading Corporation?

Mr. Black: I don't know. I don't really know what his connection was.

Mr. Morris: Now, he succeeded Peterson as your contact in the year 1937?

Mr. Black: I believe so. For a very short period.

Mr. Morris: Now, when you worked under him, were you still in the Trotsky organization?

Mr. Black: Yes, sir.

Mr. Morris: What you were doing, then, was developing friends among the Trotskyists?



0/16

Mr. Black: That is right.

Mr. Morris: Who succeeded Semenov as your senior agent?

Mr. Black: I believe it was a person that I knew as Jack, although I can't be quite certain of that, either.

On second thought, I think the person that succeeded the Semenov was a fellow that I knew as Dr. Schwartz. His correct name was Gregor Rabinowitz.

Mr. Morris: Under what cover did Gregor Rabinowitz operate?

Mr. Black: He was an employee of the Soviet Red Cross.

Mr. Morris: And he was here under that cover?

Mr. Black: That is correct.

Mr. Morris: How were you assigned to him? Will you tell us the circumstances leading up to your transfer to Rabinowitz?

Mr. Black: The first time I recall seeing Rabinowitz was in the hospital. I had been confined in the hospital for some weeks, due to an accident. He came to visit me there, and he introduced himself as Dr. Schwartz.

Mr. Morris: Was he a medical doctor?

Mr. Black: He was.

Mr. Morris: And actually you have since learned that his name is Dr. Gregor Rabinowitz?

Mr. Black: That is correct.

cw17

Soviet Red Cross?

Mr. Black: That is right.

Mr. Morris: And did you tell him what your assignment had been under previous agents?

Mr. Black: No, sir; he knew more about that than I did I guess.

Mr. Morris: Did he give you an assignment?

Mr. Black: Yes, sir, when I was released from the hospital. He told me that he wanted me to quit my job and make arrangements to go to Coyoacan.

Mr. Morris: Would you spell that for us, please?

Mr. Black: I am sorry. I can't spell it.

Mr. Mandel: That is C-o-y-o-a-c-a-n.

Mr. Morris: He wanted you to go down there?

Mr. Black: That is right.

Mr. Morris: Did he state for what purpose?

Mr. Black: Not specifically. He said that he wanted me to go down and join Trotsky's household.

Mr. Morris: In other words, he wanted you to join the household itself?

Mr. Black: That is correct.

Mr. Morris: And keep contact with him.

Mr. Black: That is right.

Mr. Morris: Did you learn what Rabinowitz's plan was



cw18

Mr. Black: No, not at that time. I asked some questions, and he told me that the questions the nature of which I was asking did not need to concern me then. I would get instructions later.

First I was to go to Coyoacan, and there would be other Soviet agents in Trotsky's household; and I asked him who they would be.

He said I would find out that when the time came.

I asked him what I was supposed to do, and he said I would be told when the time came. He refused to answer any questions about what the nature of the work was.

Mr. Morris: Did you subsequently find out what the nature of that assignment was?

Mr. Black: Yes, sir.

Mr. Morris: What was the nature of that assignment?

Mr. Black: To arrange for the assassination of Trotsky.

Mr. Morris: Did you take that assignment?

Mr. Black: No, sir.

Mr. Morris: Why did you not take that assignment?

Mr. Black: Because, as I stated previously, in 1936 I had lost complete sympathy with the Communist movement and the Soviet Union, and I was trying to break away from these Soviet agents. Incorrectly, but I was still trying to make a break.

cw19

appear here today and tell us that you were disassociated ideologically with the Communists, and yet you kept accepting these assignments?

Mr. Black: I did it because of fear.

Mr. Morris: Will you tell us briefly about that, Mr. Black?

Mr. Black: Well, when Peterson and other agents, many times, made threats to me -- never direct threats, but always by implication or innuendo -- implied threats.

Mr. Morris: Did you have a fear for your life?

Mr. Black: That is correct.

Mr. Morris: Fear for bodily harm?

Mr. Black: That is correct.

Mr. Morris: Now, what reason did you give Rabinowitz for not going to Coyoacan?

Mr. Black: I told him that it would look very suspicious if I were to suddenly leave the country without appearing before the Workmen's Compensation Court which was to settle my accident case. He accepted that.

Mr. Morris: I see.

Now, what was your next assignment after that?

Mr. Black: After that, after the assassination of Trotsky, I didn't see any more of Rabinowitz. But I was contacted by another agent, the one I believed I knew as

Jack



cw20

Mr. Morris: Do you know what his name was?

Mr. Black: Yes, sir. His last name was Katz.

Mr. Morris: Is that K-a-t-z?

Mr. Black: Yes.

Mr. Morris: What assignment did he give you?

Mr. Black: Well, a period of some months had elapsed. Then he finally contacted me by a method which had been pre-arranged by other agents.

Mr. Morris: Would you tell us about that?

Mr. Black: Well, I got a telephone call. I didn't know who was calling, but the nature of the conversation indicated to me that I was supposed to be at a certain place at a certain time and supposed to be carrying some form of identification.

Mr. Morris: I am sorry. I didn't hear you.

Mr. Black: I got a telephone call which indicated to me that I was supposed to be at a certain place at a certain time carrying some form of identification, whatever it was that had pre-arranged.

I believe some current issue of a magazine. That is how I met Jack. He identified himself to me after picking me out.

Mr. Morris: What year is this?

Mr. Black: I believe that this must have been about 1940. The reason I believe that is that in checking some

w21

Trotsky had been assassinated in 1940. This was after the assassination of Trotsky, I am almost certain.

Mr. Morris. Now, what was the nature of the assignment received from Katz?

Mr. Black. Well, in the first several meetings, I didn't receive any assignment. It was just keeping contact. Then he asked me to get him some technical information.

Mr. Morris. From where did he ask you to get the technical information, or did he leave that up to you to get it?

Mr. Black. He left it up to me, because he had reason to believe that I had been trained enough by Peterson that I could be on my own.

Mr. Morris. I see. Did you get the technical information for him?

Mr. Black. I did get him some, and I wrote him some reports.

Mr. Morris. Is it your testimony that at this time you still had the disaffection that you have described toward the Communist movement?

Mr. Black. That is correct.

Mr. Morris. But you still carried out the assignment from Katz because of the fear you have described?

Mr. Black. That is correct.

Mr. Morris. In your dealing with Katz, you mentioned in executive session that you had a conversation with him about



ew22  
Carlo Tresca.

Mr. Black. That is right.

Mr. Morris. Will you tell us what that conversation was about? Who was Carlo Tresca?

Mr. Black. Carlo Tresca was an anti-Communist radical who had been active for a great many years. I don't know what his political philosophy was. I believe he was an Anarchist, but I am not sure.

Mr. Morris. What did Katz say about Carlo Tresca?

Mr. Black. Carlo Tresca was murdered in New York as he was leaving an office building.

Mr. Morris. Was that in January 1943?

Mr. Black. I think so.

The Trotskyists accused the Communists of the murder. In the press, of course. So I asked Katz what the story was there. I told him that it was my opinion that that sort of thing gave Communism a very bad name, and I didn't approve of it.

Mr. Morris. What did he tell you about Tresca?

Mr. Black. He told me that Tresca was an enemy of the working class, and that as such he had received a fair trial in Moscow.

Mr. Morris. He had been tried in Moscow?

Mr. Black. He had been tried in Moscow in absentia.

cw23

Mr. Morris. He said that he had been tried and found to be an enemy of the working class; is that it?

Mr. Black. That is correct.

Mr. Morris. Did the disappearance of Julius Stuart-Poyntz ever come up?

Mr. Black. I don't believe so.

Mr. Morris. You knew, of course, that he disappeared in 1937?

Mr. Black. Yes, sir.

Mr. Morris. But you know nothing about that disappearance?

Mr. Black. No, sir.

Mr. Morris. Did that make an impression on you?

Mr. Black. Yes, it did.

Mr. Morris. Now, how long did you take assignments from Katz?

Mr. Black. Well, there was a brief period in the early 1940's, and then I didn't hear from him again until about 1945, or possibly 1946.

He contacted me by telephone, and I kept an appointment with him.

He said that since it had been a long time since he had seen me, he wanted to know if I would still cooperate with him. He said that times change and people change, and he wanted to know where I stood.

Mr. Morris. Was this in 1946?



CW24

Mr. Black: I believe so. It possibly was 1945.

Mr. Morris: When he said he wanted you to cooperate, what did you say to him?

Mr. Black: I gave him a non-committal answer and told him that I hadn't changed. I was afraid to tell him anything different. So he said he would contact me again.

Mr. Morris: Were you still fearful of the consequences of your encounters with these people?

Mr. Black: More so than ever.

Mr. Morris: Why was that?

Mr. Black: Because of events that had taken place in the meantime, such as the assassination of Trotsky and the murder of Tresca and the murder of Walter Krivitsky.

Mr. Morris: However, did you receive another assignment after that time from Katz?

Mr. Black: No, sir.

Mr. Morris: Did you have any other contact with any other Soviet agent?

Mr. Black: No, sir.

Mr. Morris: Didn't you tell us about an assignment in 1950?

Mr. Black: I was contacted by telephone in 1950, but I did not keep that.

Mr. Morris: Will you tell us about that?

cw25

Miss Watkins. That was the code word that indicated that I was to meet a Soviet agent --

Mr. Morris. When was this worked out?

Mr. Black. In 1946.

Mr. Morris. In 1946 you worked it out with whom?

Mr. Black. With Katz.

Mr. Morris. With Katz you worked out a pre-arranged meeting whereby a phone call would come in to you and a party would announce herself as Miss Watkins.

Mr. Black. That is right.

Mr. Morris. And you didn't receive that phone call until 1950?

Mr. Black. That is right.

Mr. Morris. Four years later, and the call came in?

Mr. Black. That is right.

Mr. Morris. What were the other pre-arrangements about that?

Mr. Black. When I got a phone call from Miss Watkins, I was supposed to go on the Tuesday following the phone call to the Trans-Lux Theater and wait under the marquee for three minutes, from seven-fifteen until seven-eighteen, I believe, and identify myself by the color of necktie and the current issue of some magazine, I have forgotten which.

Mr. Morris. This had all been worked out four years earlier?



CW26

Mr. Black. That is right.

Mr. Morris. And you remembered the directions?

Mr. Black. Pretty well, yes.

Mr. Morris. That had to be quite precise, to wait three minutes from seven-fifteen to seven-eighteen under a theater marquee.

Mr. Black. That is right.

Mr. Morris. And you remembered that?

Mr. Black. That is right.

Mr. Morris. When this call came through, did you comply with the call?

Mr. Black. No, sir.

Mr. Morris. By failing to take the call, you broke off your relations with the Soviet agents?

Mr. Black. That is right.

Mr. Morris. Have you received any contact from that time?

Mr. Black. No, sir.

Mr. Morris. When we asked you to testify publicly, did you express some fear of doing that?

Mr. Black. Yes, sir.

Mr. Morris. Were you given assurances by this subcommittee that if you came forward and told your story, the committee would commend you for that, and by doing so you

would get even more protection than you would have by

ow27  
remaining in an anonymous state?

Mr. Black. Yes, Sir.

Mr. Morris. And you have made full disclosure of all your activities in Soviet espionage?

Mr. Black. Yes, Sir, insofar as I can remember. A period of some twenty years has elapsed since my original contact. Of course, it is impossible to recall all details over that period of time.

Mr. Morris. How long have you been cooperating with the FBI?

Mr. Black. Since 1950.

Mr. Morris. You have made, to the best of your knowledge, full disclosure to them?

Mr. Black. That is correct.

Mr. Morris. In view of the witness' very responsive attitude to the questions that have been asked him, and because of his voluntarily testifying about other things he was not asked about, I would like the record to show that the Committee should commend him for his testimony before the committee.

Senator Jenner. The committee does commend you, Mr. Black, and furthermore, let me state that it is unusual for this committee to get a man who has had past affiliations with the Communist Party such as you have had to come out openly and help this committee in their search to stop this



cw28

Communist conspiracy.

This particular phase of our study is to look into Communist tactics, how they operate in our country. We know they are operating today. We know the method of operation continues to change.

It is our duty as a subcommittee of the Judiciary Committee, a Subcommittee on Internal Security, to try to keep abreast of their machinations.

I want to commend you, and I want to thank you for your cooperation here, and I do believe that the fact that you have come forward will give you more protection from the fears you have expressed in the past.

Furthermore, you may encourage others to do the same.

Thank you very much.

Mr. Black. Thank you.

Senator Jenner. You may be excused.

Do you have any other witnesses?

Mr. Morris. Apropos of this testimony today, we took testimony yesterday from a witness who for security reasons contended that he cannot make a public appearance here this morning.

I would like to read excerpts from this particular testimony, Mr. Chairman, into the record, because it bears on the particular testimony we heard today.

cw29

Mr. Morris: I will read the questions, and Mr. Mandel will read the answers of Mr. Andriyve.

(The excerpt from the testimony of E. Andriyve, May 16, 1956, was read into the record, the questions being read by Mr. Morris, the answers being read by Mr. Mandel, and was as follows:)

Mr. Morris: Did you receive your Doctor's degree in electronics in the University of Moscow?

Mr. Andriyve: That was not in the University of Moscow but that was in Moscow.

Mr. Morris: In Moscow?

Mr. Andriyve: Yes.

Mr. Morris: Were you employed in the Soviet Union during the war?

Mr. Andriyve: Yes, sir.

Mr. Morris: What position did you have? Describe the position you held at that time.

Mr. Andriyve: Well, that depends on time. Since late 1943 I was in the Red Army, mobilized along with millions of other people, and during 1944, and probably January 1945, I do not remember exactly, I was employed with the Signal Corps Military Research Institute in Moscow, in the capacity of researcher. That is all so far.

Mr. Morris: Now, what were the functions of that job?



cw30

"Mr. Andriyve: Well, my particular job consisted of editing and seeing that the technical magazine of the Institute was properly published, so that is editorial and publishing functions within the Institute.

"In addition to it, I had the function of, I would say, examining a series of documents, very many of them, all of them in foreign languages. I would say 90 per cent of them, of American origin, and 10 per cent of British and French origin.

"Mr. Morris: Where did these documents come from?

"Mr. Andriyve: I received them from the Secret Police Section, which is with every Soviet agency, including our Institute.

"Mr. Morris: These documents would be turned over to you by individuals who came from the Section of the Secret Police?

"Mr. Andriyve: Yes; such documents are usually kept in the Secret Police Section, attached to this or that Soviet institution, and every major Soviet institution has a Secret Police Section which is called in Russian 'Spetsotdel,' which is a very well-known word in Russian and also in the West.

"So, the batch of the documents would be given to me practically every day for perusal, examination, and deter-

cw31

the task to determine how should they be channeled among the Soviet institutions dealing with this particular type of science or engineering.

"That means a part of the documents had to do with high power, super-high frequency and ultra-high frequency tubes that are used for radar. I would classify them to be sent to the factories and institutions which dealt with tubes.

"The other part would deal with telephone communications and field conditions. I would classify them to be sent along to the Signal Corps Institute, who dealt with telegraphy.

"Still other documents would deal with purely scientific matters which had, at least to our viewpoint at that time, no immediate technical application. I would classify them separately and to be sent to some pure science organization, and so on.

"That was the type of work I had been doing there for over a year.

Mr. Morris: Now, was there anything to indicate the point of origin of these documents? You say 90 per cent came from the United States?

Mr. Andriyev: Yes; 90 per cent came from the United States. That was clear and open, because they bore some U. S. town mark or organization mark, or just the letterhead



cw32

"Now, the shape of the documents were -- pardon me. The documents were of, I would say, four general shapes. Number 1, printed matter; Number 2, typewritten books or pages; Number 2, it would be the photocopies or photostats that evidently came in originally from the United States; and, Number 4, the enlargements, blowups from microfilms. And of them, very many were printed on the Soviet photo-paper. So we could safely assume that the microfilms got into Russia from America and were developed and enlarged at some local Soviet level.

"And that was the sort of documents I dealt with, and their appearance.

"Mr. Morris: Was there anything on any of the documents that indicated the particular place or origin of the documents?

"Mr. Andriyev: I would say that many documents, probably most of them, had the indication of the particular place where they originated.

"Mr. Morris: Now, what were some of the places where they originated?

"Mr. Andriyev: Honestly, it is already twelve years after the event, and I forgot a lot except for maybe two, both of them because I saw them quite often on the documents. One was Fort Monmouth and the other is RCA. I could not tell

cw33

because I just do not remember it.

"Mr. Morris. But you do remember that some documents did come from RCA?

"Mr. Andriyve. I do remember that many documents bore the trade-mark of RCA.

"Mr. Morris. Did many of them bear the trade-mark of Fort Monmouth?

"Mr. Andriyve. I would say many.

"Mr. Morris. Many?

"Mr. Andriyve. I would say so.

"Mr. Morris. You do not know whether it was the Signal Corps, whether they were Signal Corps documents or just generally Fort Monmouth?

"Mr. Andriyve. I remember in general very many documents dealing with radar at that time, so whether these were Signal Corps or any other branch, I really cannot tell.

"Mr. Morris. But there is nothing more that you can tell us about the Radio Corporation of America documents?

"Mr. Andriyve. I am afraid not.

"Mr. Morris. Is there anything more you can tell us about the Fort Monmouth documents? Did appear in quantity?

"Mr. Andriyve. Pardon?

"Mr. Morris. Did documents from both places appear in quantity?

"Mr. Andriyve. I would say yes, in quantity.



cw34

"Mr. Morris. And what year was this, now?

"Mr. Andriyve. That was 1944. After 1944 I was transferred to the other business, doing other business within the radar part. But I saw a friend of mine who was doing the same type of work -- I saw him repeatedly in 1945 -- and we talked on the general state of affairs of his work and my work, so he said that the flow of document continued.

"Mr. Morris. And were they contemporaneous documents; I mean, did the dates that appeared thereon indicate they were freshly acquired?

"Mr. Andriyve. Yes, sir, the documents I dealt with were fresh and sometimes very fresh.

"Mr. Morris. Now, were there any photographs involved?

"Mr. Andriyve. You mean the photographs -- pictures of some humans?

"Mr. Morris. Of equipment.

"Mr. Andriyve. Equipment, oh, yes, very much.

"Mr. Morris. There was?

"Mr. Andriyve. Very much.

"Mr. Morris. There were pictures of the equipment.

And in addition to radar equipment, what else was described?

"Mr. Andriyve. Quite a lot of equipment. As I said, some description of Signal Corps, like telephone; telegraph; radio apparatus; some purely theoretical papers.

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offhand when you haven't dealt with the subject in a long time. I remember, for example, one theoretical paper which we were not particularly interested in, but which proved quite useful later here in the West and also in Russia, and that was the simultaneous use of two carrier waves of the same frequency shifted by phase. That is a highly technical thing, and at that time it looked like a curiosity to us, but now it is quite commonly used here and there.

"Mr. Morris. Did any of these documents bear a classification mark: secret, top secret, confidential?"

"Mr. Andriyev. Very many of them had classification marks. I would say the vast majority had some classification, either secret, or top secret, or confidential."

"Mr. Morris. And how they came into your possession, you do not know, except for the fact they were given to you by the secret police?"

"Mr. Andriyev. I had no way of knowing that. The only thing I could tell you, was just in a facetious vein, I would tell to the secret police officer, 'Where did you steal them, and he would say, 'Shut up, it is none of your business. Your business is to try to find out how to use them, and it is our business now to get them.'"

"Mr. Morris. And you say that these documents appeared in great numbers?"

"Mr. Andriyev. Yes, sir."



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"Mr. Morris. These classified documents?

"Mr. Andriyve. Yes, sir.

"Mr. Morris. From the United States.

"Would you estimate how many such documents? I know it is a hard thing, but I wonder if you could estimate approximately how many were turned over to your Section by the Secret Police?

"Mr. Andriyve. The grand total for 1944 --

"Mr. Morris. Of course, that is a big order. Could you give us an approximation?

"Mr. Andriyve. Thousands.

"Mr. Morris. Thousands?

"Mr. Andriyve. Yes, Sir.

"Mr. Morris. To your knowledge, were there other sections which were translating and analyzing American confidential and classified documents?

"Mr. Andriyve. Yes. I could say that undoubtedly there were, and many of them.

"Mr. Morris. Did you know any of them?

"Mr. Andriyve. I will tell you, indirectly, yes, and I will tell you now. First of all, the flow of documents which usually come to me was preclassified by somebody or prechanneled by somebody, because I never got any documents on matters irrelevant to the electronics and to the radar.



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were in that line of work, so somebody presorted that before sending it to the Institute I worked in.

"On the other hand, I done a few pieces of work for the Chamber of Commerce in Moscow. This was editorial work, editing certain translations made for the Chamber of Commerce.

There was a lot of descriptions of American pieces of apparatus in aviation, in aeronautics, in what they call this thing -- wait a moment -- when they bring down the airplane to the earth --?

"Mr. Rusher. Ground Control?

"Mr. Andriyev. Ground Control Approach.

-- ground control approach, artillery devices, and many other things. So although I have never dealt with those things, I positively know that they existed.

"(Whereupon, at 2:55 o'clock p.m., the subcommittee adjourned.)"

Senator Jenner. Are there further witnesses?

Mr. Morris. No.

The next testimony will be at 10:30 a.m. tomorrow morning, Senator, when we will again analyze facts about the Soviet redefection campaign.

Senator Jenner. The committee will stand recessed until that time.

"(Whereupon, at 11:35 o'clock a.m., the committee re-

cessed to reconvene at 10:30 o'clock a.m. Friday, May 18,

January 30, 1946

## CARLO TRESCA

It will be recalled that Carlo Tresca who for years was a notorious figure in New York's Italian colony was killed at 9:45 P.M. on January 11, 1943, as he was leaving the offices of his newspaper, "Il Martello," at 96 Fifth Avenue, New York City, in the company of a friend, Giuseppe Callabi. Because of the prominent part he played in the American labor movement in the first quarter of the century and his colorful role in Italian-American politics, intense interest was aroused by his death. Since for decades he had the equal faculty of making friends and enemies in all strata of society, possible suspects were legion. Tresca, never neutral but always violently and wholeheartedly championing one cause or another, has been said to "take a pot shot at anyone he feels like." Tresca's vigorous journalistic battles conducted principally against Communist and Fascist sympathizers opened broad avenues of speculation in which were sought the reasons as well as the individual who directly or indirectly caused his death. To better understand the scope of Tresca's activities, his early activities and biographical data are hereinafter set forth.

### Background Information

Carlo Tresca was born in the town of Sulmona, Province of Abruzzi, Italy, in 1879. It has been reported that prior to his departure from that country, he was editor of "Il Gaudio," a revolutionary, Socialist paper which was published in his native village, Sulmona, Italy. Tresca reportedly served in this capacity from 1900 to 1904, during which period he was imprisoned many times.

In 1903 subject was elected secretary of the Syndicate of Firemen and Railroad Engineers, the largest labor organization then existing in Italy.

Prior to coming to the United States, Tresca was sentenced to a prison term of two years for creating political agitation in Italy. Rather than complete his prison service, he escaped from Italy and proceeded to Switzerland.

### Early Years in the United States (1904-1925)

Tresca is reported to have arrived in this country in August, 1904, on the SS Touraine. From the outset the subject was considered an anarchist.

In the textile strikes in Lawrence, Massachusetts, in 1912, he was active as an IWS organizer and played a prominent part in the disorder that occurred in that city.

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In January, 1913 Tresca, with Elisabeth Gurley Flynn, was an active leader in the New York City Hotel Workers' strike. This strike was accompanied by a considerable amount of rioting and disorder. Following the termination of the strike the subject assisted in organizing the Barbers of New York City in a similar strike.

In 1913 he was one of the leaders of a strike which occurred in the silk mills at Paterson, New Jersey. Tresca was allegedly responsible for the disorder that resulted therefrom, inasmuch as the strike was attributed in the main to his speeches and personal activity. One of the strikers in Paterson was killed and at the grave Tresca was called upon to speak. Several of the New York newspapers of April 23, 1913, have quoted him as saying at this time, "Fellow workers, do not forget the principle of the toilers who came from Italy. For blood, you must take blood." The subject was indicted in New Jersey for his participation in the Paterson strike. He was charged with making seditious utterances and with causing a riot. He was acquitted of the first charge on July 1, 1914, but was found guilty of the latter offense and was subsequently sentenced in the Lower Court to sixty days imprisonment. However, upon appeal, the conviction was dismissed.

In 1914 Tresca was active in New York City where he was associated with Alexander Berkman and other radicals. Taking advantage of the unemployment situation, demonstrations were staged throughout New York City by the subject and his companions. These demonstrations usually were culminated with the formation of processions and on one occasion in April, 1914 after a demonstration had been made in Union Square, Tresca declared to newspaper reporters that the New York City police were afraid to interfere with his actions.

Tresca was also an associate of Caron, Hanson, and Berg, three anarchists who were blown to pieces while making a bomb in a house on Lexington Avenue, New York City. Following the demise of these three men, Tresca was one of the speakers at a meeting held in their honor. He was interviewed on that occasion by a newspaper reporter who quoted the subject as saying, "I have no fault to find with him (Caron). I believe in violence. I believe he was justified in what he intended to do. Nothing can make me believe any other way than Caron did." On this occasion Tresca led the reporter to believe that the bomb which the three men were making was intended for Mr. John D. Rockefeller.

In 1914, Tresca filed suit for divorce, alleging that his wife was not a proper person to retain the custody of their child. Mrs. Tresca filed countersuit for divorce, naming as correspondent Elisabeth Gurley Flynn, but Mrs. Tresca was refused a divorce. It has been reported many times that Elisabeth Gurley Flynn, a high national and New York State functionary of the Communist Party, was Tresca's mistress.

In 1915, Tresca was active in the defense of Carbone and Arbanio, who were convicted of placing a bomb in St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York City. When interviewed by a reporter of the New York "World" as to the probable guilt of the defendants, Tresca is alleged to have said, "If these defendants are guilty, I want to see them convicted. I believe in violence, but only in violence when it advances the cause of labor." The aforementioned quotation appears in the April 3, 1915, issue of the New York "World." During the trial of Carbone and Arbanio, an inspector of the New York Police Department testified that when Carbone was questioned subsequent to his apprehension, he advised the inspector that "he got the idea of planting bombs while attending anarchist meetings and hearing fellows like Tresca speak."

Tresca was closely associated with and a friend of Luigi Galleani, the leader of the then well-known Galleani group of anarchists in the New England district.

In 1916, while Tresca was active in the iron ore mines strike in Minnesota, one of the strikers was shot and killed. At his burial Tresca is alleged to have administered the following oath to the persons present: "Fellow workers, I want you to take the following oath, 'I solemnly swear that if any Oliver gunmen shoot or wound any miners, we will take a tooth for a tooth, an eye for an eye, or a life for a life.'"

In a speech made by Tresca on November 30, 1913, during an iron ore strike in Minnesota, he is reported to have told the strikers that they had just begun their fight and that they could only call themselves victors when they had planted the red flag on the mining properties. He is alleged to have said "not the rag with the stars and stripes, but the red flag of our redemption." He is stated to have closed his speech by saying that when they have won this strike and returned to work, the miners should save their money and instruct their children to save their money in order to buy cartridges with which to take the mining properties away from the "ruffians and dirty bosses" and give the property back to humanity to whom it belonged.

In July, 1916 Tresca was indicted in Minnesota in connection with the death of Deputy Sheriff J. C. Myron, who was killed in the iron ore strike of 1913. In December, 1916 he was acquitted of all charges.

For many years Tresca has been the editor of various radical Italian publications. Prior to 1924 and up to the time of his assassination on January 11, 1943, he was the editor and publisher of "Il Martello" (The Hammer) in New York City.

In addition to the publication of "Il Martello," Tresca has also engaged in the distribution of a considerable number of books and pamphlets which have dealt with the subject "Anarchy."

The subject is alleged to have been extremely active as a worker and speaker on behalf of the Sacco-Vanzetti Defense Committee.

In the issue of "Il Martello" dated April 26, 1919, there appears an editorial referring to the deportation of a number of Russians. From that editorial the following is quoted: "We curse your bourgeois Republic. You may imprison us, you can blind us but ideas cannot be deported. The ideas we have sown with a full hand will germinate -- will bear fruit. It will be those ideas which will enlighten the slaves on whose aching, curved shoulders your pretorians are today resting. Ideas are not imprisoned; are not deported; they remain. We curse you, oh lying Republic. We denounce you before the world."

In the May 1, 1921, issue of the same newspaper, the following appeared: "To aid it (Communism) according to us, it is necessary and sufficient that all be free and that all possess the means of production; that no one impose his own will on another and that no one shall oblige another to work for him. And it is to realize these conditions that we believe in the necessity of the violent revolution. Once the material obstacle (the Government) is overthrown, all violence will be useless, harmful, and criminal."

In "Il Martello" of September 17, 1921, there appeared an article captioned "Wolf in Sheep's Clothing" which, in its own words and by way of quotation from the Italian anarchist paper "Umanita Nuova," was said to be an incitement to assassination of the Italian Fascist deputy Fottai, who was then in the United States.

On May 14, 1922, the subject is reported to have addressed a gathering of radical Italians at Swatara, Pennsylvania, and in the course of his address he allegedly stated that all governments were corrupt and that the people as a whole would be better off without any government at all. At this point in his speech one of the persons present asked Tresca if he were a Socialist, and in reply Tresca stated that he was not a Socialist but an anarchist.

In the summer of 1923 Tresca was taken into custody and charged with mailing and delivering unailable matter through the United States mail. At his arraignment the then Congressman Fiorello LaGuardia appeared as his counsel. The obscene matter which formed the basis for his arrest was said to be of an extremely improper and vile nature which appeared in the May 5, 1923, issue of "Il Martello." On December 8, 1923, he was sentenced to one year and one day and the Circuit Court of Appeals evidently affirmed the decision of the District Court, for Tresca was incarcerated in the Atlanta Penitentiary on January 7, 1925. However, he was released from the institution by commutation of sentence on May 6, 1925. During the trial Tresca admitted or said that his wife was Elizabeth Gurley Flynn and he admitted that he had been living with her for a period of twelve years, having been separated from his first wife.



### More Recent Activities of the Subject (1925-1943)

From 1925 until the time of his death the subject reportedly continued his activities as agitator, anarchist, author, and editor. All during this period he edited "Il Martello," an anarchist newspaper with offices located at 2 West 15th Street, New York, New York.

During the course of his lifetime, Tresca is reported to have been arrested on 36 occasions on such charges as conspiracy, inciting to riot, unlawful assemblage, blasphemy, slander, libel, disturbing the peace, murder, and criminal obscenity.

From the information available it does not appear that the subject ever filed a declaration of intention to become a citizen of the United States. In 1926 the Italian Government was reported to have started proceedings in Rome, in order to deprive Tresca of his Italian citizenship. This alleged action on the part of the Italian Government was attributed to the anti-Mussolini and anti-Fascist activities of the subject in the United States.

Information has been received to the effect that on May 13, 1927, Tresca "raided" the offices of the Alliance Fascisti Il Duce in the Bronx and he demanded, at the point of a gun, that 150 applications for membership on file in the safe be handed over to him. Thereafter he was arrested on a charge of felonious assault. This charge was dismissed by the Grand Jury on March 15, 1928. In the same year, 1927, according to the November 3, 1927, issue of the "New York Times" he was the head of the Anti-Fascisti Alliance of North America.

According to the "World-Telegram" of December 27, 1928, the postal authorities barred several issues of his paper from the mails. The basis for this action on the part of the Post Office Department has not been established. On June 28, 1933, the New York "World-Telegram" reported that Tresca was arrested on that date in Philadelphia following a meeting wherein a clash resulted between the Fascists and the Communists in Eastern Pennsylvania. Tresca was discharged by the local police on the same day.

The subject was reported to be a member of the American Committee to Defend Leon Trotsky in 1937 and 1938.

Tresca is reported as being definitely anti-Fascist, living as he said "for the day Mussolini is run out of Italy and I can return to die in peace."

In recent years Tresca is reported to have ceased active participation in labor troubles, devoting the majority of his time to a crusade against Fascism.

At the time he was slain the subject was reportedly working with the Office of War Information to form an Italian-American Victory Committee, which allegedly would have embraced all anti-Fascists and anti-Nazi groups, including Communists. Tresca had in the past been a leader in the movement that barred Communists from membership in the Mazzini Society and in keeping with his beliefs was reportedly opposed to the inclusion of Communists in the Italian-American Victory Committee. Tresca outwardly indicated his opposition to the acceptance of persons whom he considered as pro-Fascist in the Committee, naming specifically Generoso Pope, editor of the "Il Progresso Italo-Americano," whom he branded as a former apologist of Fascism and dictatorship.

### Murder of Carlo Tresca

Tresca's death received a tremendous amount of publicity in the various New York publications. Speculations and accusations appeared in many publications, Tresca's friends charging that the Communists were responsible for his murder, whereas the Communists countered with the allegation that an agent of the OVRA (Italian Secret Police) had committed the crime.

Communist responsibility was implied by Luigi Antonini, vice-president of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, a close associate of the dead man and by Antonini's followers. Their account stressed Tresca's part in frustrating Communist attempts to gain admission to the Mazzini Society and to the OWI sponsored victory councils. Communists, on the other hand, placed the blame for the murder upon former Fascist sympathizers chief among whom was said to be Generoso Pope, editor of the New York daily "Il Progresso Italo-Americano." This explanation was elaborated upon in a speech delivered by Enzo Tassi at a Tresca commemoration rally on February 14, 1943, and was later distributed in pamphlet form.

"Il Kartello" for January, 1943 carried a rehash of the accusations, counter-accusations and gossip which briefly summarized appears as follows:

In December of 1942 an unknown person presented Tresca with a case of imported Chianti and thereupon behaved so suspiciously that Tresca is said to have become quite upset. About that period of time he is said to have confided to his friends and intimates that he had been threatened with death. On December 30, 1942, in a meeting of the New York section of the Mazzini Society Tresca bitterly attacked Fascism and demanded that Fascist elements be eliminated from society. On January 8, 1943, Tresca sent four letters to members of the new committee of the Mazzini Society. It was further said that on January 11, 1943, Tresca invited some important people to be present at the meeting. These individuals are unknown. (The above referred to letters will again be discussed hereinafter.)

"Il Martello" pointed out that Ezio Taddi after first accusing the Stalinists changed his story and then accused individuals in the underworld connected with the Fascists and with Genovese Pope. Further, trouble had arisen between the two great garment unions during which Tresca allegedly showed his willingness to cooperate for peace. In Taddi's pamphlet "The Tresca Case" he described the connections between the leaders Buonanno, Garofalo, and Carmine Galante and Pope and he pointed out among other things that the girl friend of Garofalo was Miss Dolores Faconti, Assistant Attorney General (sic). Taddi described the banquet at the Manhattan Club of September 8, 1942, and said that among those present were Coral, Pope, Garofalo, Dolores Faconti, "politicians, the underworld, Fascists....."

"Il Martello" quoted a January issue of the "New York Post" as stating that Tresca had opposed the formation of an Italian national committee "Council of Victory" which had been joined by Stalinists and Fascists, including the Fascist-Democrats. The "Post" charged "This Council of Victory was to be launched on January 14, 1943, three days after the crime. The fact remains that Carlo was opposed to the entrance of Stalinists and the Fascists and especially the 'dear' friend of Antonini, Pope." "Il Martello" as well as various other New York publications featured as suspects Garofalo, Carmine Galante, Frank Rucio, Jesus Sormante Vidali, also known as Carlos Contreras, as well as Giuseppe Nudi. In addition to these individuals some speculation also concerned one Frank Citrano, alias Chick Wilson.

#### Carmine Galante

Carmine Galante, with alias Carmine Galante, alias Bruno Russo, alias Charles Russo, alias Charles Bruno, was born in 1908. At the time he was taken into custody of the New York Police Department for questioning, he was employed as a helper on a truck operated by the Enickelocker Trucking Company, 520 Broadway, New York City. Available information reflects that apparently Galante, an ex-convict and the subject of frequent arrests, appeared at the office of the Parole Division, 80 Centre Street, New York City, an hour and a half before Tresca's murder to make his weekly report, inasmuch as he was under parole supervision until 1945, he recently having completed the service of a twelve-and-one-half-year sentence for armed robbery. Two investigators from the parole board are reported by the New York "Daily Mirror" of January 14, 1943, to have placed Galante under surveillance immediately after he left their office. Galante is said to have dashed to an automobile which was parked nearby with the motor running with another man behind the wheel. Parole officers are said to have taken the license number which license number was said to be the same carried by the automobile in which the assassin and his accomplice made their escape. Despite intensive questioning by the New York Police Department, Galante denied any implication of the crime.

Jesus Sorrento Vidal

Vidal better known as Carlos Contreras, has also been known by the following aliases: Enea Sorrenti, Carlos Sorrento, Carlo Contreras and Jesus Sorrento Vidal.

From available data, it appears that Contreras in 1923, a year after Mussolini seized control of Italy, fled his own land and came to the United States where he aligned himself with Communist elements. At a later date he is said to have proceeded to Mexico from which country he was deported. Thereafter he turned up in Spain where he fought as commandant of the Fifth Regiment in the Spanish Loyalist Army in the Spanish Civil War. Tresca at one time made an accusation that while Contreras was in Spain he murdered a man in Barcelona.

The New York "Journal-American" for January 15, 1943, reported that "when Franco defeated the Loyalists, Contreras succeeded in getting back to Mexico and soon thereafter Tresca charged him with a murder in that country." Tresca further accused Contreras of killing a young woman who had succeeded in learning a great deal about Contreras' activities.

It has been reported that Contreras, an Italian, has posed as a Spanish refugee in Mexico where he is said to be at the present time. It has also been alleged that he was a leading figure in bringing about the purge of laborers and Campa from the Communist Party in Mexico. It has been said that he is closely connected with Vincente Lombardo Toledano, Mexican labor leader, and he has been referred to as a Comintern functionary and one of the principal influential contact men between "Free Germany" and the Mexican Communist movement. On several occasions he has been alleged to be an OGPU operative in Mexico City.

Immediately after Tresca's murder a rumor was heard in New York to the effect that Contreras had been in New York during that time and many were of the opinion that Contreras had either killed or caused Tresca's death. Information subsequently developed showed that on the night Tresca was killed Contreras was attending a dinner in Mexico City. In addition, it might be said that no record of his entrance into the United States was found at the border crossing points on the American-Mexican border.

Giuseppe Rudi

Immediately after Tresca's assassination, an individual later identified as Giuseppe Rudi directed a communication to Contreras in Mexico in which he indicated that he, Rudi, might possibly have been connected with the crime in some manner.



On September 1, 1943, Nudi criminally attacked and stabbed Ettore Manfredi, an Italian anti-Fascist radio commentator and a close friend of Carlo Tresca. Although Nudi was rabidly anti-Tresca and may have had a motive for committing the crime, information on hand indicates that on the night Tresca was killed Nudi was in fact confined in the New York State Hospital, Central Islip, Long Island, New York. On September 21, 1943, he was committed to the Matteawan State Hospital for the Criminal Insane at Beacon, New York. It is to be noted that Nudi is apparently familiar with the activities of the Italian criminal element in and around Mulberry Street in New York City.

Frank Citrano, alias Chick Wilson

On February 11, 1942, an anonymous letter alleged that Citrano who resided at 250 Mott Street, New York City, and who operated a place of business at 44 Prince Street, New York City, belonged to an underworld mob. This letter stated that "he is a bootlegger and crime incorporated." The anonymous correspondent further pointed out that he and his mob held meetings at 250 Mott Street; maintained a supply of guns in the cellar of his residence; was connected with the United Citizens Club, Inc.; and had a powerful political pull with New York leaders and judges.

At one time it was said that Citrano made collections for Carmine Galante.

Frank Garofalo

Information is at hand indicating that Frank Garofalo is the head of a large syndicate known as the Castellammarese gang of which Frank Buccio is a member. Garofalo is reported to be a big-time racketeer in New York City who allegedly is in control of the Italian section of the New York underworld. Buccio, who has been arrested on many occasions, chiefly in the operation of stills and in the sale of illegal alcohol, is said to be a close friend of Carmine Galante who is reported to be a gunman and also a close associate of Garofalo.

Information on hand also indicates that Garofalo is a one-time associate of Charles (Lucky) Luciano. Although he is reportedly not dangerous from a political sense, he is thought to be criminally dangerous. It is known that at a dinner held in the Manhattan Club Hall in New York City on September 10, 1942, by the War Savings Bond Committee of Americans of Italian Extraction, Tresca upon seeing Garofalo present is said to have stated, "Even that gunman is here." Tresca immediately arose and left the room.

Garofalo allegedly threatened Tresca's life in 1931. Garofalo is said to have had several motives for killing Tresca, the chief one being the fact that Tresca had criticized Garofalo's girl friend, Miss Dolores Faconti, Assistant United States Attorney in the Southern District of New York, for associating with "that gunman."

#### Mazzini Society Meeting

An informant has advised that on the Thursday prior to Tresca's murder he visited the office of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union and spoke to August Bellanca and to Giovanni Sala. It is to be noted that August Bellanca is the head of the Italian section of the Amalgamated Clothing Union and his wife, Dorothy Bellanca, is the sister of Sydney Hillman of the Political Action Committee. Tresca is said to have told Bellanca and Sala that he was going to hold a meeting at his office on January 11 for the purpose of giving greater impetus to the activity of the Mazzini Society towards supporting the war effort. At the same time Tresca expressed himself as being unalterably opposed to the inclusion of Genoroso Pope in the activities of the Mazzini Society as had been desired by Luigi Antonini. An invitation to the Mazzini Society meeting was sent to Sala which he claims did not reach him until January 12, 1943. Other individuals to whom these invitations were sent were Guiseppe Callabi, who was with Tresca when he died, Vanni Montana, an assistant to Luigi Antonini, and another individual who was employed by the "Daily News" in New York City. When speaking to Bellanca and Sala, Tresca is said to have related that he had a curious dream that someone had died and that he felt quite depressed.

Another source indicated that shortly before the homicide Tresca had had a conversation with someone at the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union and when he left he was quite pale and upon returning to his own office he remarked that he was "through." At the time of the receipt of the above information it was further stated that Bellanca, Antonini and Pope used the services of members of the same gang for strong arm purposes. However, this informant did not believe that any of these individuals would have been interested in causing Tresca's death. It was said that Tresca used to boast that he was friendly with a number of the "strong arm" men and for that reason he had nothing to fear. Just prior to Tresca's death there was said to be a rumor to the effect that Tresca had been approached by one Giovanni Mancalaviati, a Brooklyn gangster friendly to Tresca, who warned him that things were not going so well and that he had better take care of himself. Mancalaviati is said to be a friend of Bruno Bellia, an organizer of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union who resides in Asbury Park, New Jersey.

### Tresca's Alleged Bastard Son

Shortly after Tresca's death information was received that in the 1920's when Tresca was living with Elizabeth Carloy Flynn another member of the household was Elizabeth's younger sister, Vina Flynn. During this period, Vina Flynn is said to have met a young man who had been in Leavenworth Prison during the last war, having served there for quite a long period. This man's first name was believed to be Bronco, Rocco or Romeo. His last name was believed to be Volga, Bolga or Volba. Vina and Rocco were later married and it was some time after this that Vina was known to be living "up in the country" at the Flynn place. It seemed that in the meantime Vina had spent some years in Italy and when she was located at the Flynn place she had a six-year old child. The child was said to be that of her sister's husband, to wit, Carlo Tresca, and the story was that she had gone through hell in Italy during the period of pregnancy. Rocco was allegedly quite devoted to Vina and on her return to this country, they had several more children. Rocco during this time was reported to have been doing certain illegal work and was making large sums of money. His activities were concerned with smuggling Italians from Canada into the United States outside of the quota. It is believed that Vina died in or around the year of 1942 and Rocco was reported to be on the west coast, possibly San Francisco. Vina's son by Carlo Tresca, said to be twenty years old in 1943, was reportedly living in New York City at the time of his father's death. This informant concluded her story by stating that she felt that some of these parties would have a good reason for killing Tresca.

### Miscellaneous

On January 19, 1943, an anonymous communication was received which read as follows:

"Gentlemen: Kindly check immediately for unusual activities: Edmund Haines Insurance Business. Office 230 Atlantic St. Stamford, Connecticut. Has some means of communications with foreign agents abroad. Has some connections with group or party involved in the 'Carlo Tresca' matter in New York City. Believe me to follow. Is advocating nonreading of 'Pope' papers. Still makes it a point to listen to foreign broadcasts nightly by short wave. Is very interested in Stamford Harbor. Has maps of same and plants, also docks. Is a graduate of some foreign navigation school on Italy. Is connected with some group of subversive workers in Port Chester, New York and Stamford. Both his home and office should be thoroughly checked."

In the summer of 1945, information was received to the effect that Carlo Tresca accused Louis R. Harkavy and Shachno Epstein, alias Joseph Berson, of having been implicated in the disappearance of Juliet Stuart Poyntz, prominent Communist, on June 5, 1937. Both Harkavy and Epstein were reputedly OGPU agents. Harkavy is a former pharmacist who is generally referred to as "Doctor." He was the husband of Minna E. Harkavy, sculptress and reported Communist. He was born April 10, 1882, at Kirt, Russia, and resided at the Hotel Ansonia, 2104 Broadway, New York City, in June, 1944. He was naturalized in the United States District Court, Eastern District of New York at Brooklyn, New York, on July 26, 1905. He is possibly identical with one Louis Harkavy who was once connected with "Morning Freiheit." He was registered with Local Board No. 24, 200 West 71 Street, New York City, in 1942. His description was:

Age	60
Height	5' 8 1/2"
Weight	121 pounds
Eyes	hazel
Hair	gray
Complexion	light
Occupation	retired

Epstein, reportedly an intimate of Juliet Stuart Poyntz, was reported to have returned to Russia after 1937 where he was involved in some difficulty. During the investigation into the disappearance of Juliet Stuart Poyntz, New York newspapers reported that Carlo Tresca furnished the United States Attorney with the name of a suspect. It is believed that the name furnished may have been either that of Harkavy or Epstein.



Charge-out  
FD-5 (10-10-55)

FILE

☐ Pending

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Classification	65-	Case No.	4074	Last Serial		Date	
Serials and dates requested							
310, 311							
These serials have been transferred to 105-736 as serials 23 and 24 respectively.							
RECHARGE							
To		From		Employee		Date	
		T6 P11-1-25					
Employee				Location			

## Ousted Ex-Rec Gets Job Back

NEWARK (UP) — Chemist Thomas L. Black, former Jersey City chemist who was barred from the Atlas refinery here after he testified about his former activity in a Soviet spy ring, is slated to return to work in the refinery tomorrow.

Atlas President Arthur F.

Chroeder said the firm decided to readmit the 48-year-old chemist after studying his testimony before the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee and having a "very satisfactory" conference with FBI agents.

The suspension was slapped on Black May 18, after he told the Senate group in Washington he had been a Soviet spy in the 1930s.

JERSEY JOURNAL  
JERSEY CITY, N.J.

Date 5-31-56 Page 2

Edition City Final

SUBMITTED BY THE  
NEWARK FIELD DIVISION

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65-4074-312

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 31 1956	
FBI - NEWARK	

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : FILE

DATE: 6/4/56

FROM : SAC H.G.F.

SUBJECT: THOMAS L. BLACK  
ESPIONAGE - R

On 5/10/56, Mr. Al Clark of the New York Times called to inquire if we could furnish any information concerning BLACK, identifying him as a chemist of the Holbrook Chemical Company, Jersey City. Mr. Clark was advised that we could furnish him no information.

HGF:ets *ets*

65-4074-313

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JUN 4 - 1956	
FBI - NEWARK	

*Zinck* *F.2.*

# Ex-Red Gets His Job Back

**Black Reinstated by  
Atlas After Parley  
With FBI**

Thomas L. Black of Newark, chemist who was barred May 18 from working in a Newark plant after testifying before a Senate committee about former activities as a Communist agent, will be permitted to return to his job there tomorrow.

Arthur F. Schroeder Jr., president of Atlas Refinery, Inc., said in a statement yesterday that his concern decided to readmit Black after a study of a transcript of his testimony and after a "very satisfactory conference held with the FBI." Black, who lives at 708 High St., had been assigned to work at Atlas by his employer, P. H. Helie Co., of Worcester, Mass., under a special service contract.

Atlas' original decision to bar Black brought protests from the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee and its counsel, Robert Morris. A committee aide and Black's employer, Percy Helie, came to Newark to intercede for Black. Schroeder then said he would reconsider if he got satisfactory security clearance on Black.

In announcing that Black would be readmitted, Schroeder said the company had accepted an offer of Morris to speak to the employees, "since many of the employees of the company have expressed real concern about work-

ing with Mr. Black under the circumstances." He said Morris is expected to attend a meeting at the Atlas plant tomorrow.

On May 17, Black testified before the committee that he had been a Communist agent and had recruited convicted atom spy Harry Gold. He said he withdrew from the party in 1946.

NEWARK EVENING NEWS  
Newark, New Jersey

Date 5-31-56 Page 17

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NEWARK FIELD DIVISION

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MAY 31 1956	
FBI - NEWARK	



## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, H. G. FOSTER (65-4074)

DATE: 6/14/56

FROM : SA, FREDERICK C. ZINCK

SUBJECT: THOMAS L. BLACK, was.  
ESPIONAGE - R  
OO: NEWARK

On 6/8/56, THOMAS BLACK advised that at approximately 5:00 p.m., on 6/7/56, the mother of ALEXANDER BIELAWSKI, 127 West 19th Street, Bayonne, N.J., received a telephone call from an unknown man who told her to tell her son to keep away from TOM BLACK, because he was going "to get his."

BLACK advised that BIELAWSKI works at the Atlas Refinery, Incorporated, 142 Lockwood Avenue, Newark, where BLACK is employed, and in the mornings BIELAWSKI drives by BLACK's apartment at 708 High Street, Newark, has breakfast with him, and then drives him to work. He described BIELAWSKI as:

Age	26 (appears to be about 18)
Height	6'
Weight	180 lbs.
Hair	Blonde
Eyes	Blue
Characteristics	Has a pituitary gland deficiency, causing him to limp and also has a baby face, making him look much younger than he is.

BLACK was advised to report this matter to the Newark Police Department, since it involves him and he lives and works in Newark. It was also suggested that BIELAWSKI report the matter to the Bayonne, N.J. Police Department.

On the same date, the writer furnished the facts in this matter to Identification Officer MC CABE, Secretary to Chief of Police LACEY, Newark Police Department, and to Detective GEORGE SEELY, in charge of the Detective Bureau of the Bayonne Police Department.

The Bureau was advised of this matter by Teletype on 6/8/56.

FCZ:fa  
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65-4074-317

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CAREY, SCHENK & JARDINE

RAYMOND COMMERCE BUILDING

NEWARK 2, N.J.



Mr. H. C. Foster, Chief Agent  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
1180 Raymond Boulevard  
Newark, New Jersey

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CAREY, SCHENK & JARDINE

RAYMOND COMMERCE BUILDING

NEWARK 2, N. J.

MITCHELL 2-4582

ROBERT CAREY, JR.  
HENRY F. SCHENK  
THOMAS V. JARDINE

FLEMINGTON OFFICE  
1 MAIN STREET  
FLEMINGTON 555

June 11, 1956

Mr. H. G. Foster, Chief Agent  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
1180 Raymond Boulevard  
Newark, New Jersey

Dear Sir:

Re: Thomas L. Black - Atlas Refinery, Inc.

I am writing to you on behalf of Atlas Refinery, Inc., 142 Lockwood Street, Newark. As you may know, a little over a week ago the Company readmitted Thomas L. Black, formally Soviet spy, to its plant premises here in Newark. Mr. Black's return to the job has been without incident except for the matter which came to our attention last weekend. Here are the facts as they are given to the writer:

1. The Company has been advised that on Thursday, June 7th, some unknown person called the home of a young laboratory assistant employed by Atlas. This boy, Alexander Bielawski, is friendly with Mr. Black and, in fact, drives Mr. Black back and forth from his home to work. Alexander's mother answered the 'phone and was told by this unknown person that Alexander should stay away from Thomas Black because Thomas Black was "going to get his."

2. Of course Black was advised of this by Alexander, and we are informed went directly to your office. We are told further that local police in Newark and in Bayonne where Alexander lives were alerted.

3. Thomas Black called Mr. Schroeder, president of the Atlas Refinery, Inc., last Saturday, June 9th, and advised him of all of the foregoing. As counsel for Atlas Refinery I have advised the Company to suggest to Mr. Black that he secure from your office and from the Senate Subcommittee all possible assistance for his personal protection. I am told Mr. Black believes he should be given a gun permit. This matter, too, I have advised should properly be taken up with your office and with the Senate Subcommittee. As far as the Company is concerned, it is most willing to cooperate in any proper measures that may be felt necessary in that connection for Mr. Black's safety.

If there are any steps which you feel the Atlas Refinery should take in this matter, please let me know right away.

Very truly yours,

CAREY, SCHENK & JARDINE

*Thomas V. Jardine*  
Thomas V. Jardine

1836 Raymond-Commerce Building  
Newark 2, New Jersey

June 15, 1956

Mr. Thomas V. Jardine  
Carey, Sohenk and Jardine  
Raymond-Commerce Building  
Newark 2, New Jersey

Dear Sir:

Your letter of June 11, 1956, has been received.

Please be advised that Thomas Black appeared at our office on June 8, 1956, and furnished in detail all the information set forth in your letter.

The providing of bodyguards or other protection for individuals receiving threats, such as in this case, is a matter for local police authorities, who should be informed of all details and any subsequent developments.

I am not in a position to advise as to what steps, if any, your client should take in connection with Mr. Black's safety, as this, too, is a matter for your client and local police authorities.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has no jurisdiction in connection with the issuance of gun permits, which is also within the province of local authorities.

Any information or advice you may desire from the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee should be obtained by you directly from that Committee.

Very truly yours,

H. G. Foster  
Special Agent in Charge

cc: 1-Bureau (65-59181) (info)

NK 65-4074

FCZ:AM

(3) *Am*

*Par*



## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, H. G. POSTER (121-653)

DATE: 6/18/56

FROM : SA WILLIAM T. HAZELWOOD

SUBJECT:

JAMES KUTCHER, Aka.  
Clerk, Veterans  
Administration,  
Newark, New Jersey  
SGE

Re: Philadelphia airtel to Newark 6/12/56

This is to advise that on 6/14/56, THOMAS L. BLACK appeared at the Newark Office and furnished signed statements to SA FREDERICK C. ZINCK and the writer concerning his knowledge of JAMES KUTCHER and information substantiating that "The Militant" is the official organ of the SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY.

These statements are filed as serials 121-653-1A-3 and 1A-4.

1- 121-653 (JAMES KUTCHER)  
①- 65-4074 (THOMAS L. BLACK)  
1- 100-33270 (JAMES KUTCHER)

WTH:emt  
(3)

65-4074-323

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FBI - NEWARK	

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# 'I WAS A RED SPY!'

## First Step Taken on Road Leading To Lifetime of Agonized Remorse

By THOMAS L. BLACK and EUGENE LYONS

For a dozen years—until the blessed day in 1950 when I made a clean breast of it to the FBI—I was tangled in the web of Soviet spying in the United States.

I took orders meekly from a succession of mysterious foreign agents whom I knew only under code names like Paul or Jack. Though they were familiar with the most intimate details of my life, I was never allowed to know anything about them. What is more, I could only guess at the real purposes of the assignments and the intensive training they gave me.

At first I served them willingly, even with a sense of pride in being part of something big, important and noble. Then, as my doubts about the Soviet paradise gradually turned into disillusion and hatred of communism, I felt myself trapped, held fast by sheer animal fear.

NOT ONCE in those years did the sinister word "espionage" cross my lips. We talked instead about "working for the cause" and "helping the Soviet Union." Such phrases had a hypnotic effect on the true Communist believer. After I ceased to believe, however, they became bitter ashes on my tongue. I suffered the humiliation of a helpless puppet and the agonies of remorse which will be my lot for the rest of my life.

My only consolation today is that, through circumstances which I shall recount, I gave little if any tangible help to the apparatus which manipulated me. Thus I did little if any tangible harm to my own country.

The only important contribution I made to Soviet espionage, I suppose, was that I pulled Harry Gold into the net—the same atom spy case involving Julius and Ethel Rosenberg. But Gold, after all, was a very minor cog in a vast machine.

### Misdirected Idealism

ALL THE SAME, I consider it my duty to tell the whole story, as accurately as I can after the passage of so much time, to my fellow Americans. My hope is that I may help them comprehend the scope and nature of the Red conspiracy in our midst. Here does a native American, brought up with a middle-class background and a good education, become fouled up in Red spy operations?

The answer is not easy. It involves so many elements that cannot readily be made convincing to people who have not been through it. The main ingredient, certainly in my own case, was misdirected idealism. But it was mixed up, I must admit in retrospect, with an itch to hold my eye by playing a bigger role in the world.

WHATEVER MY MOTIVES, greed was not one of them. On the contrary, out of my modest earnings as a chemist I contributed money to the cause. Personally I knew of only one instance where an American worked in Soviet espionage just for pay—and his superior did not trust him. As one of them explained to me, a mercenary will crack too easily or sell out to "the enemy" for a higher price.

### Normal Childhood

It is primarily by their heartstrings that confused Americans are pulled into the quag-

### How Could It Happen?

What could turn an ordinary American youth with a typical

small-town background into a Soviet spy, a cog in the vast sinister apparatus that sought to pervert our scientists and athletes and siphon off our secrets? For 12 long years, Thomas L. Black served



Red masters—until revolution sent him to the FBI. Here, in a series of articles of which this is the first, he tells of the driving force which drew him in—and the nightmare reality that held him.



"This time the woman actually smiled. 'Well, Canada, we've decided to take you in,' she announced."

(Illustration by the Authors)

until he remarried ten years later.

My childhood and young manhood were normal, almost typical. I attended the local high school, then specialized in chemistry at college. If I differed from most small-town boys, it was in my love of serious reading in economics, sociology, philosophy. At an early age I was familiar with the writings of Marx, Engels and Lenin, as well as crusaders like Henry George.

I began to earn my own living in 1929, when I was 22. My first job was at a plant near Linden, N. J. About a year later I moved to a better job with a

company. I joined the friends of the Soviet cause in New York and then Henry Gold, like the John Reed Club and Red and Hoover. Incredible as it now seems, I am to prove to some of them as Communist fronts.

Who recruited me into the Communist Party? That question comes up repeatedly. The truthful answer is that I recruited myself.

A series of articles in a party magazine convinced me of the decision that had been shaping up in my mind. The articles lashed out at "intellectuals" who stood aside from the great struggle for a better world and

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My only consolation today is that, through circumstances which I shall recount, I gave little if any tangible help to the oppressors who annihilated me. When I did little if any tangible harm to my own country.

The only important contribution I made to Soviet espionage, I suppose, was that I polished the door into the net — the same net which caught Julius and Ethel Rosenberg. But Gold, after all, was a very minor cog in that machine.

ALL: THE SAME, I would like to help to tell the whole story as accurately as I can after the passage of so much time, to my fellow-Americans. My hope is that I may help their consciences read the scope and purpose of the Red conspiracy in our midst.

HOW DOES A NATIVE AMERICAN like myself, with a middle-class background and a good education, become fooled up to his eyes with this?

The answer is that very few of the values in many elements that cannot readily be made convincing to people who have not been through it. The most important certainly in my own case, was substituted medication. But it was mixed up. I must admit to be disappointed with an idea to be after my ego by playing a bigger role in the world.

pleased was not one of them. Of the contrary, out of my modest earnings as a chemist I contributed money "in the cause." Personally I know of only one instance where an American worked in Soviet espionage just for pay—and his paymasters did not trust him. As one of them explained to me, a mercenary will work too easily for not just "the enemy" for a higher price.

### Normal Childhood

It is primarily by their heart strings that confused Americans are pulled into the quagmire of Red Treason.

But let me reconstruct my unhappy career from the beginning.

I WAS BORN in Elmhorst Pa. on July 3, 1907, of English stock with a dash of Pennsylvania Dutch through a grandmother. My father was a teacher, a fine scholarly man, and his all-American background. Because my mother died when I was three, he raised me with the aid of a sister of his, a



um 4. der Yehonah'schen den 1. 1875

My childhood and young manhood were normal, almost typical. I attended the local high school, then specialized in chemistry at college. If I desired I could have moved to New York, it was in my line of work. Reading in economics, sociology, philosophy. At an early age I was familiar with the writings of Marx, Engels and Lenin, as well as considered like these figures.

I began to earn my own living in 1923, when I was 22. My first job was at a plant near Linden, N. J. About a year later I moved to a better job with the Holbrook Manufacturing Co. in Jersey City. The firm made industrial scales. Though my wages were modest, I was pleased to be on my own in a small plant and to have my own equipment.

THE DEPRESSION did not affect me directly. Yet the seriousness of distress and despair could not be avoided. I began reading the Communist press, especially the more serious theoretical

introduction. I joined the Friends of the Slave Union, in New York, and then literary efforts like the Indian Reed Club and Pen and Quill, etc. I was one of the first to see.

Who recruited me into the Communist Party? That question stumped my lawyer. The truthful answer is that I recruited myself.

A series of articles in a party paper inspiring the notion that had been slaying up in my mind. The articles looked just as if the officials who stood with them the great strength for a better world and urged them to join the Communist Vanguard of Humanity. I took the bait.

One weekend in early 1934 I took her to the ballroom and cabaret of the party on E. 32nd St., N. Y. The woman who talked to me hadly convinced her astonishment when I said I wished to join up. Her eyes narrowed in suspicion. She took down my name, address and place of em-

Continued on Page 24

## Ex-Spy Tells How It Started

(Continued from Page 2)

program and indicated that perhaps I would hear from them.

### Long Investigation

I DID SEVERAL months later. In the meantime, as I later recalled, I was being carefully investigated. On a Saturday afternoon a girl of about my own age came up to my apartment and introduced herself as a Communist. As a sample of Red mentality, she was far from convincing. She had thin, dark hair—combed and attractive clothes were taken.

My cat didn't approve of the girl. After a long discussion she informed me that I lacked understanding of the movement and was crawling with "pet-bourgeois prejudices." But again, maybe I would hear from them, postcard this time.

A couple of months passed. Then the card arrived instructing me to appear at headquarters. This time the woman actually smiled. "Well, Comrade, we've decided to take you in," she announced.

I was assigned to District 2, Section 2, Unit 2-B, on the lower East Side of Manhattan. There, she explained, I would have the best chance of being properly "re-educationalized." The unit commander, Comrade Brown, was expecting me and would take me in hand.

From the chrysalis of a small town American, there emerged "Comrade Jones" under the tutelage of a Red master. His first meeting with the top Soviet dignitary here is described in the last article of this series. In Monday's MIRROR.

N.Y. Sunday Mirror  
N.Y.  
Date 5/10/56

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FBI - NY



# 'I WAS A RED COPY'

## '36 Purge Trial Shakes His Faith, But Trainee Finds It's Too Late

How a Soviet spy-master trains his American dupes—with threats and promises, tips on the FBI, tricks of the trade—is detailed here in the fourth of a series of articles by Thomas L. Black, who served the Reds for a dozen years. Was it their plan to make him a cat's-paw in the murder of Trotsky? He tells how he fell into this sinister assignment.

By THOMAS L. BLACK with EUGENE LYONS

For about two years—until May, 1936, when the first of the blood-purge trials in Moscow gave my life a new twist—I was the object of a sort of slow-motion training course in the tricks of the espionage trade as perfected by the Soviets.

Never before, I am sure, had there been such a fantastic "trade school." One professor, one pupil, with the academics of New York as classroom and lessons conducted in a waiting. Professors saw two ordinary men, stealing along, engaged in earnest conversation. But the conversation was of microfilming, stolen secrets, the science of meeting new "contacts."

To sum up the course would require a fat textbook. Here I can only give a few random samplings. Once I remarked about the danger of being caught. "It's counter-revolutionary, even to think of being caught," Paul snapped. "Our methods have been tried all over the world. They're foolproof." Then he added pointedly, "Only those who violate instructions are caught. Remember that!"

THE RENDEZVOUS of secret meeting was, of course, basic in the course. The precise day, time and place are set in advance—but not the week. It might be "Thursday, at 6:47, in front of the Public Library." This did not mean next Thursday, but the Thursday following a phone call by the superior agent.

The call might not come through for a month or a year, but when it did, the prearranged time and place still held good. The caller, naturally, talked of trivial things like your health. He might even ask you to get together on Saturday—but it still meant next Thursday.

When the agents ordered to get together as strangers to one another, the procedures are more complicated. They must go about their roles like ordinary people doing ordinary things. A tie of a certain color, a current magazine under the right arm, might be the initial identification.

### Leorns FBI Methods

THE SECOND STEP might be an innocent question—like "What time is it, please?"—and an equally innocent answer, like "Sorry, I don't have a watch." The technique amounted to a series of simple, inconspicuous acts in a prescribed sequence to rule out the remotest chance of coincidence.

Normally, when two agents met, a third unknown to both of them was "accidentally" around. By means of some simple action, such as dropping a newspaper into a trash can or handing him, from a certain way if he were in a car, he was warned of danger.

I was taught to detect surveillance and shadow, and how to elude them. That Paul had an intimate knowledge of FBI methods was evident in the counter-measures he explained to me. The typical FBI observer, I recall him saying, was a well-dressed young



Normally, when two agents met, a third unknown to both of them was "accidentally" around. By means of some simple action, such as dropping a newspaper into a trash can, he warned of danger.

the palm of my hand in 10 seconds.

I feel certain in this day that I was being prepared for a vital espionage post. Paul, a subordinate of the great Oskanin, would hardly have invested some 50 meetings without a good reason.

The other half of my training to which Paul brought no less zeal was political. Patiently he expounded the party line of the moment, analyzing events in Moscow and elsewhere. The picture was of ruthless Fascists, Nazis and capitalists plotting to destroy the Soviet land. The moral was that we must be no less ruthless in our work for the

### First Negging Doubts

THE TRUTH IS the temperance of my communism was falling so slowly that I was scarcely conscious of it. In defiance of orders I had read a few "anti-Soviet" books, and I could not avoid some awareness of slave labor and other horrors in the "workers' paradise."

I suspect now that Paul detected tremors of doubt in me even before I was myself aware of them. Certainly, as time went on, the overtones of threats in his attitude became more and more

instructions you won't have any future to worry about. The hint struck to my mind like a hammer.

My faith in Stalinism—what was happening in Russia, as distinct from communism in theory—was ebbing. With every month it was harder to battle down the inner turmoil of doubts and objections. This searching came to a head with the shocking news of the first big purge trial in May, 1936. I simply couldn't swallow the story that so many of my Soviet heroes had been assassinated, accused agents of Fascist

FOR THE FIRST TIME, I then stood up to Paul. The blame charges against the Founding Fathers I said were undermining the revolution. We had a long and heated session. At the end of a lot of shoe-leather. For once I did not pretend to be convinced. "I said, things continue," I said. "They might make me a Trotskyist."

Paul blew his top. I had committed the great sin of invoking the name of the official deity. We parted on such bad terms that I thought this was the end of the line.

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learned. He might even ask you to get together on Saturday—but it still meant next Thursday.

When the agents ordered to get together are strangers to one another, the procedures are more complicated. They must go about their roles like ordinary people doing ordinary things. A tie of a certain color, a current magazine under the right arm, might be the initial identification.

### Learns FBI Methods

THE SECOND STEP might be an innocent question—like "What time is it, please?"—and an equally innocent answer, like "Sorry, I don't have a watch." The technique amounted to a series of simple, inconspicuous acts in a prescribed sequence to rule out the remotest chance of coincidence.

Normally, when two agents met, a third unknown to both of them was "accidentally" around. By means of some simple action, such as dropping a newspaper into a trash can or honking his horn a certain way if he were in a car, he warned of danger.

I was taught to detect surveillance and shadows, and how to elude them: That Paul had an intimate knowledge of FBI methods was evident in the countermeasures he explained to me. The typical FBI observer, I recall his saying, was a well-dressed young man reading a newspaper in a parked car.

MY LONG-STANDING interest in photography gave us common ground for interesting sessions on microfilming and, even more important, the swift spooling of such films at the first sign of danger. I practiced the duplication of keys, with the help of soft wax, until I could get a perfect impression in my pocket or in

dropping a newspaper into a trash can, he warned of danger.

(Illustration by Don Marwood)

the palm of my hand in 10 seconds.

I feel certain to this day that I was being prepared for a vital espionage post. Paul, a subordinate of the great Ovakimian, would hardly have invested some 50 meetings without a good reason.

The other half of my training, to which Paul brought no less zeal, was political. Patiently he expounded the party line of the moment, analyzing events in Moscow and elsewhere. The picture he drew was of ruthless Fascists, Nazis and capitalists plotting to destroy the Soviet land. The moral was that we must be no less ruthless in our work for the cause.

### First Nagging Doubts

THE TRUTH IS the temperature of my communism was falling, so slowly that I was scarcely conscious of it. In defiance of orders I had read a few "anti-Soviet" books, and I could not avoid some awareness of slave labor and other horrors in the "workers' paradise."

I suspect now that Paul detected tremors of doubt in me even before I was myself aware of them. Certainly, as time went on, the overtones of threats in his attitude became louder, less subtle. They were never expressed — yet always there, in hints and looks. It might be a casual reference to the late "deserters" deserved, or a chuckling allusion to what happened to someone who "sold out to the enemy."

Once I allowed myself a joking remark that "this business hasn't much of a future." In the same kidding vein Paul cracked: "If you don't follow

instructions you won't have any future to worry about." The hint stuck to my mind like a burr.

My faith in Stalinism — what was happening in Russia, as distinct from communism in theory — was ebbing. With every month it was harder to batten down the inner turmoil of doubts and objections. This soul-searching came to a head with the shocking news of the first big purge trial in May, 1936. I simply couldn't swallow the story that so many of my Soviet heroes had been scoundrels, assassins, agents of Fascist countries.

FOR THE FIRST TIME, I then stood up to Paul. The bizarre charges against the Founding Fathers, I said, were undermining the revolution. We had a long and heated session, at the cost of a lot of shoe-leather. For once I did not pretend to be convinced. "If such things continue," I said, "they might make me a Trotskyist!"

Paul blew his top. I had committed the great sin of invoking the name of the official devil. We parted on such bad terms that I thought this was the end of the line.

When the familiar call for a rendezvous did not come through for a month, then a second and a third, I was filled with a glow of joy. A great weight seemed to lift from my spirits.

THEN THE CALL CAME, and once more I was pounding the pavements at Paul's side. Considering our last parting, he was strangely friendly. He got down to business quickly. That remark about becoming a Trotskyist, he

Continued on Page 22

## Faith Shaken By 1936 Purge Trial

Continued from Page 1

and packed a good idea in fact, that was my immediate reaction to join the Trotskyist movement.

"You mean to report on the American Trotskyists?"

"No, no, we don't care about those dogs," Paul replied.

"Don't ask questions — you'll get your instructions when we're ready. Meanwhile your job is to ingratiate yourself with the Trotskyist leaders here, so that they value and trust you."

The tone of his voice left no room for argument. In short order, therefore, I enrolled in the Trotskyist wing of the Socialist Party, and then when this wing decided to form the Socialist Workers Party headed by James Cannon, I was among the founders.

Why had I been ordered to infiltrate the Trotskyist movement? At this point I had not the slightest inkling.

A secret Communist worker in the Trotskyist camp, Black tells how he dodged a sinister, perhaps murderous, assignment, in the fifth article of this series. Read it in Thursday's JOURNAL.

Daily Mirror

N.Y., N.Y.

Date 6/13/56

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 13 1956	
FBI - NEW YORK	



# 'I KNEW A RED SPY!'

## Tom Barely Escapes Involvement In the Trotsky Death Plot

The Reds pull strings—and the murderous web tightens around a sick old man, the Communist arch-foe, Trotsky, in Mexico. Was a gullible American chemist slated to swing the fatal ax? How he struggled out of the arrangement is disclosed here by Thomas L. Black, 32-year member of the Soviet spy net, in the fifth of a series of articles.

By THOMAS L. BLACK with EUGENE LYONS

I was in the Trotskyist camp as a "sleeper," to be yanked into action by my Soviet puppet-masters when they wished. The strings were not pulled for more than two years. Meanwhile, my original orders stood to ingratiate myself with Trotsky's most important American friends.

Except for a sinking sense of guilt over my double role, the assignment was really to my taste. I had in fact come close to the Trotsky viewpoint in my thinking. Now, mixing with his disciples and reading their literature, I easily identified myself with their movement.

When it came to lambasting Stalin and his crimes, in true Trotskyist style, I could put my whole heart into it. The continuing bloodbath of the big purges, turning the Soviet dream into an obscene nightmare, made that easy and heart warming.

MY MEETINGS with Paul tapered off. Evidently he was seeing me just often enough to make sure the strings were still firmly attached. Somewhere along the line, without a fond farewell, he vanished and I was never to see him again. The agent who took his place was "George"—whom I now know to have been another Amtorg employee named Semion Semionov. Harry Gold also worked under Semionov about the same time.

I was able to report truthfully to Paul and then to his successor—that I was making friends in the anti-Stalin party.

One obvious way to ingratiate myself was by donating generously to Trotskyist papers and causes. My spy-chiefs considered this a legitimate expense and gladly gave me small sums, to which I added more out of my own pocket. I took a certain ironic pleasure in using "Soviet gold" to help finance Trotskyism.

### Enter "Dr. Schwartz"

EARLY IN 1935 I suffered a serious accident in my plant and was confined in a hospital for 20 weeks. I still carry the scars on my arm. But the uglier scars are on my conscience. For it was at the hospital, when I had been there about 10 weeks, that Red espionage reached out for me again.

One day a mysterious "Dr. Schwartz" came to my hospital room. From the way he read the bed-chart and examined my burns it was clear he was really a physician. No word passed to suggest that it was anything but a medical call. Yet I knew at once he was a Soviet agent, come to look me over.

Some time after my return to work, I was called to the next prearranged rendezvous. I expected Semionov, but found instead my hospital visitor. The new "contact" called himself Robert or some such name.

More than a decade later, when I was cooperating with the FBI, I identified Robert from photographs. I then learned he was really Dr. Gregor Rabinovich,



"One day a mysterious 'Dr. Schwartz' came to my hospital room. From the way he read the bed-chart and examined my burns, it was clear that he was really a physician... yet, I knew at once that he was a Soviet agent, come to look me over."

Dr. Rabinovich into the Mexican murder plans.

To me, Robert was just another of the faceless, nameless faces whose orders I must obey—no else. After a few exploratory meetings he got down to brass tacks. This was to be the payoff for my long cultivation of friendship in the Trotskyist movement.

"Tom," he announced, "the time has come for action. You're to quit your job immediately and proceed to Coahuacan near Mexico City. Your Trotskyist friends should be able to help you enter Trotsky's household. We have people there already who will help if necessary."

A chill went down my spine. So that was what I was being reserved for—to join the Communist villagers hovering around the exiled leader in Coahuacan! "Why must I go there?" I countered. "It's not easy on such short notice."

"That's no concern of yours. You'll get contacted and told what you need to know when the time comes. Use your Trotskyist connections to gain admittance. We'll do the rest."

I PROTESTED that I must think it over. "I'll do the thinking," Robert snarled. This was an order, and the penalty for disobedience would be drastic.

We agreed to meet within a week, when I would presumably have completed preparations. I reached my brains for a plausible

blow to his plans. But he was forced to admit the logic of my argument. That was the end of this episode, and my last meeting with the alien doctor.

For nearly two years thereafter the Soviet espionage bravos chose to let me alone. Once more I was convinced they had given me up as useless. I now worked in the Trotskyist ranks with a clearer conscience.

In August, 1938, I read the sensational news that Trotsky had been killed in his Coahuacan stronghold by a man who posed as a disciple and friend. I realized with a shudder that, but for the grace of God, I might have been implicated in the killing.

IT WAS NO COINCIDENCE that the strings were pulled again soon after the crime of Coahuacan. With the example of Trotsky's murder vivid in my imagination, I had no doubt about my own danger. The network was making certain I was still safely on leash.

The "contact" was now a faceless Jack. As we walked in midtown Manhattan, I reassured him about my "loyalty."

To make sure, he continued to summon me at fairly frequent intervals until early in 1942, though sometimes a substitute, "John," kept his appointments. Jack, I believe, was a Czechoslovak, and John probably Russian. Both spoke with distinctive accents.

329



I was sitting at my desk, and I was looking at the clock. It was 10:10. I was looking at the clock. It was 10:10. I was looking at the clock. It was 10:10.

My meetings with Paul tapered off. Eventually he was seeing me just often enough to make sure the strings were still firmly attached. Somewhere along the line, without a word, he vanished and I was never to see him again. The agent who took his place was "George"—whom I now know to have been another Army employee named Benjamin Semitov. (Harry Gold also worked under Semitov about the same time.)

I was able to report truthfully—to Paul and then to his successor—that I was making friends in the anti-Soviet party.

One obvious way to ingratiate myself was by donating generously to Trotskyist papers and causes. My sponsors considered this a legitimate expense and gladly gave me small sums, to which I added more out of my own pocket. I took a certain ironic pleasure in using "Soviet gold" to help finance Trotskyism.

#### Enter "Dr. Schwartz"

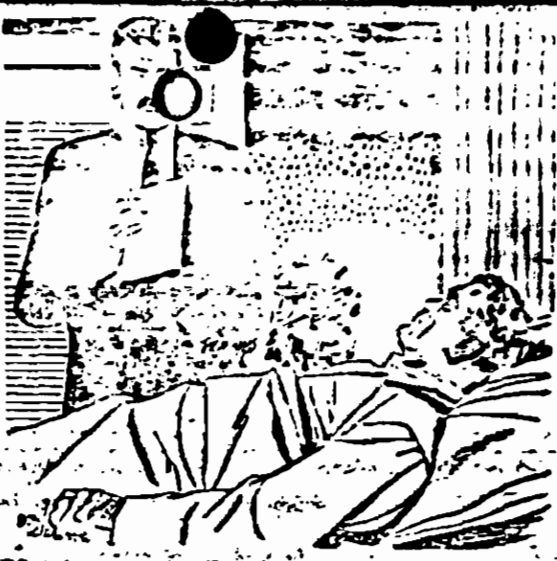
EARLY IN 1953 I suffered a serious accident in my plant and was confined in a hospital for 20 weeks. I still carry the scars on my arm. But the uglier scars are on my conscience. For it was at the hospital, when I had been there about 10 weeks, that Red espionage reached out for me again.

One day a mysterious "Dr. Schwartz" came to my hospital room. From the way he read the bedsheet and examined my burns, it was clear he was really a physician. He never passed to suggest that it was anything but a medical call. Yet I knew at once he was a Soviet agent, come to look me over.

Some time after my return to work, I was called to the next prearranged rendezvous. I expected Semitov, but found instead my hospital visitor. The new "contact" called himself Robert or some such name.

More than a decade later, when I was cooperating with the FBI, I identified Robert from photographs. I then learned he was really Dr. Gregor Rabinovich, with a string of punitive murders in Europe to his credit. He was in the U. S. ostensibly as a representative of the Soviet Red Cross.

IN HIS RECENT BOOK, "Soviet Espionage," Dr. David Rabin writes that this Russian doctor had been sent to the U. S. at the height of the purge with the assignment of investigating Trotskyites and organizing the assassination of Leon Trotsky. Louis Budenz, in his testimony after breaking with the party, also described



"One day a mysterious 'Dr. Schwartz' came to my hospital room. From the way he read the bedsheet and examined my burns, it was clear that he was really a physician... yet, I knew at once that he was a Soviet agent, come to look me over."

Dr. Rabinovich into the Mexican murder plans.

To me, Robert was just another of the countless nameless men whose orders I must obey—no else. After a few exploratory meetings he got down to brass tacks. This was to be the payoff on my long cultivation of friendships in the Trotskyist movement.

"Tom," he announced, "the time has come for action. You're to quit your job immediately and proceed to Corvallis near Mexico City. Your Trotskyist friends should be able to help you enter Trotsky's household. We have people there already who will help if necessary."

A chill went down my spine. So that was what I was being reserved for—to join the Communist vultures hovering around the exiled leader in Corvallis?

"Why must I go there?" I ventured. "It's not easy on such short notice."

"That's no concern of yours. You'll get contacted and told what you need to know when the time comes. Use your Trotskyist connections to gain admittance. We'll do the rest."

I PROTESTED that I would think it over. "I'll do the thinking," Robert snarled. This was an order, and the penalty for disobedience would be drastic.

We agreed to meet within a week, when I would presumably have completed preparations. I racked my brains for a plausible alibi for not going. Fortunately I found one ready-made. I was waiting to be called before the Workmen's Compensation Board in connection with substantial claims on my accident. My sudden resignation from a good job coupled with failure to show up before the board I argued, would be reckless conduct. It was sure to arouse suspicion, especially among fellow-workers who might already suspect my politics.

Robert was angry and unhappy. He muttered that it was

a blow to his plans. But he was forced to admit the logic of my argument. That was the end of this episode, and my last meeting with the killer-ducks.

For nearly two years thereafter the Soviet espionage harvest came to let me alone. Once more I was convinced they had given me up as useless. I now worked in the Trotskyist ranks with a clearer conscience.

In August 1940 I read the sensational news that Trotsky had been killed in his Capotaormenches by a man who posed as a disciple and friend. I realized with a shudder that, but for the grace of God, I might have been implicated in the killing.

IT WAS NO COINCIDENCE that the strings were pulled again soon after the crime of Capotaormenches. With the example of Trotsky's murder vivid in my imagination, I had no doubts about my own danger. The network was making certain I was still taken on board.

The "contact" was now a faceless Jack. As we walked in midtown Manhattan, I reassured him about my "loyalty."

To make sure, he confided to surman an alibi for frequent intervals until early in 1941, though sometimes a substitute, "John," kept his appointments. Jack, I believe, was a Czechoslovak and John probably Italian. Both spoke with distinctive accents.

Soviet Russia had by then become our ally in the big war. I must suppose my "contacts" were minor figures to be assigned to holding a petty agent like Tom Black in line. There were more important jobs—Soviet spies were then enjoying a field day under cover of war tactics.

Nevertheless, at terror of sudden death, and his efforts to get free of the spy network are described by Black in the sixth and final article of this series, in Friday's MIRROR.

# 'I WAS A RED SPY!'

## The Nightmare Years Finally End, Tom Reveals Self to the FBI

The nightmare night in its bold—no more pretense of idealistic service, but only fear of sudden death keeps a deeply entangled American in the service of the Red spy network here. Thomas L. Black, a Soviet puppet for 12 years, tells of his disillusionment with the "workers' paradise" and how he was freed at last—in the final article of a series.

By THOMAS BLACK with EUGENE LYONS

My spy supervisor of the final period, Jack, was not as demanding as Paul had been. But he did give me more assignments than I had received in the past. They were trivial chores, but presumably essential.

On one occasion, for instance, I delivered a letter to someone in Philadelphia, which necessitated the use of those elaborate techniques for recognizing strangers. Another time I served as go-between in paying off an agent in another New Jersey factory.

Jack also reminded me of the very beginning of my service, by suddenly demanding that I supply him with technical information in my field—an any subject I thought useful for Soviet industry. I decided to concoct reports which would not contain a single line of "secret" data and feel some satisfaction in sabotaging my tormenters.

MY METHOD WAS to search out new things in technical publications and in recent U. S. patents. I still possess a carbon copy of one such "document." It made impressive reading and I did not get complaints, but any type of a check could have dug up its contents in the library.

This routine of simply spaced meetings came to an end early in 1942. Then, for about three years, I was a free man again. But it was a freedom shot through with bolts of panic. Rightly or wrongly, I felt I had known too many Kremlin agents and too much of their methods to be let off the hook.

In addition to the Trotsky murder there had been the mysterious death in a shabby Washington hotel room of Walter Krivitsky, a high Soviet intelligence official who had defected. In January, 1943, Carlo Tresca, a famous Italian syndicalist and passionate enemy of communism, was shot in broad daylight on a New York street. I was, aware of others—Julia Stuart Poyns in the U. S., Boris Danilov and Ignat Pribin in Switzerland—who had been "liquidated."

THE TERROR in my heart was real and deep. I want to emphasize this, though it reflects little glory on me. The urge to go to the authorities and tell all was never far from my mind, but my dread of sudden death always won out over good intention.

A conversation with Jack in one of our last meetings, soon after the Tresca murder, remained fresh on my nerves. I remarked that Tresca's friends were blaming the Communists.

Far from denying the allegation, my "contact" grinned cryptically. "The crime."

Tresca was an enemy of the working class," he said in substance. "He was a serious obstacle to the Italian Communist movement. This was not a murder—it was an execution. Tresca received a fair trial—in Moscow."

Did he make this up to brighten me, to suggest that I too might get a "fair trial" in Moscow? Or was there an element of truth in what he said? If his purpose was to intimidate me, he succeeded in full measure.

SOMETIME AT THE END of 1942 or the beginning of 1943, the phone call I dreaded came through. Jack was still on the job. We met. Merely a checkup after a long separation, his manner suggested. "You know how it is," he said. "Times change, people change. We want to know whether you've changed." I reassured him on this score.

This was after the war when Whittaker Chambers with our late Soviet ally had set in Congress was beginning to ask questions about Red spying. No doubt Jack was checking on me as part of a larger reconnaissance to determine which of the former agents or "slaves" might kick over their traces.

### Net Closing on Gold

I heard nothing more for four years—until, after the arrests of Dr. Klaus Fuchs in England and Harry Gold here. In the meantime I had dropped out of the Trotskyist fold, a sadder and wiser man. I had come to hate communism of any and all brands.

IN THE MEANTIME, too, the dramatic revelations about Soviet espionage by Whittaker Chambers, Elizabeth Bentley and others had been making head lines. Naturally I read every word of the news, afraid that somehow my name would crop up. I wanted only to forget my

past and live at long last a normal life with no more of a shadow.

Soon after the arrest of Dr. Fuchs, I received an excited phone call from Harry Gold. He indicated, in a frantic tone, that we were that very evening. Gold was in a distraught condition.

"You've read about the arrest of Fuchs," he said. "And that the FBI is searching for his American contacts." He paused for a long moment, then hurried: "Tom, I am that contact."

"I have only two courses," he went on. "I can try to flee the country, or commit suicide."

I TRIED TO DISSUADE him or both alternatives. Whether my arguments had any effect I could not know. I never saw him again. Some time later I read of Gold's arrest. Since I had recruited him, I realized my secret would soon be known to the authorities.

Within days after Gold's arrest, Soviet espionage contacts of mine again—for the last time. The code word set four years before was "Watkins." When a Miss Watkins phoned, I recalled the arraignment, a reader-bought under the marquee of the Translux Theatre on Broadway, between 7:15 and 7:45 A. M. last Tuesday. I had no objection to meeting. But the decision was taken out of my hands by my own arrest. FBI agents called on me that very Tuesday.

They merely questioned me about Gold's activities of which, of course, I knew little or nothing. I did not tell all at once, and the FBI understandably did not press me. But I knew that I must find the courage to "come clean" without reservations. So far as treasonable acts were concerned, my conscience was clear—or nearly so. I had far more to fear from Stalin's executioners than from my own government.

I MADE UP MY MIND, phoned the FBI and made an appointment at its Philadelphia office. At long last I had taken the only step that would disentangle me from the Red spy network and still give the reasonable assurance of dying a natural death. To any ex-Communists who may read these words my advice is: "Don't walk, but in the nearest office of the FBI. You will be treated with understanding and consideration. Just as I was treated. More important, you will be doing your part to help keep America free."

My long walk was over. It was a relief to talk at last, fully. I have cooperated with the FBI ever since. Later I received my story to a Federal grand jury, and again, this year to the Senate Internal Security Committee. Said Sen. Flanders at the conclusion of the

### Price War Is Bogus Princes

Phones from everywhere are showing up as noblemen in the U. S. Be sure to read the low down on how titles of princes, dukes and counts are being bought and sold overseas.



### THE LUCKIEST KID IN THE WORLD

Here's an exciting color photo story of a 13-year-old schoolboy who turned big game hunter on an eight-months safari through

[illegible]

A conversation with Jack in one of our last meetings, soon after the Treaca murder, remained fresh on my mind. I remarked that Treaca's friends were blaming the Communists

This was after the war, when Goldhamer, with our late Soviet ally had set in Congress was beginning to ask questions about Gold's going. No doubt Jack was checking on me as part of a larger reconnaissance, to determine which of the former agents or "chevrons" might kick over their traces.

I heard nothing more for four years - until after the arrest of Dr. Klaus Fuchs in England and Harry Gold here. In the meantime I had dropped out of the Trotskyist fold a sadder and wiser man. I had come to hate communism of any and all brands.

IN THE MEANTIME, too, the dramatic revelations about Sacco and Vanzetti by William C. Sullivan, Elizabeth Bentley, and others had been making headway. Naturally, I read every word of the new, afraid that somehow my name would crop up. I wanted only to feel safe.

"I have only two courses," he said, "and it is to face the country or commit suicide."

I TRIED TO DISUADE him, on both alternatives. Whether my arguments had any effect I could not know; I never saw him again. Some time later I read of Gorda's arrest. Since I had recorded him, I realized my record would soon be known to the authorities.

William day. After 7:45, a  
dark, short explosion occurred  
on the again—for the last time.  
The club ward on time great  
before was "Hullin." When a  
Miss Watkins, ignored, I heard  
of the arrangement: a ready  
you under the influence of the  
Travelling Theatre on Broad  
way, between 5:11 and 5:21  
p. m. next Thursday.

I had no intention of sleeping.  
But the decision was taken out  
of me hands in any case—  
even if FBI agents called on me  
that very Thursday.

"They merely questioned me about Gold's activities, of which, of course, I knew little or nothing. I did not tell all at once, and the FBI understandably did not press me. But I knew that I must make the charge in 'Come Crack' without reservations. So far as treasonable acts were concerned, my conscience was clear—or nearly so. I had far more to fear from Stalin's executioners than from my own government."

printed the FBI and made an appointment at its Philadelphia office. At long last I had taken the only step that could disengage me from the fed spy network and still give me reasonable assurance of doing a natural drain. To any ex-Communists who may read these words, my advice is: "Don't walk, run, to the nearest office of the FBI. You will be treated with understanding and consideration, just as I was treated. Since I'm afraid you will be doing your part to help keep

My long ordeal was over. It was a relief to talk openly, fully. I have cooperated with the FBI ever since. Later I repeated my story to a Federal grand jury, and again, this year to the Senate Internal Security Committee. Said Sen. Jenner at the conclusion of the hearings:

"I want to commend you and to thank you for your cooperation."

There is no American influence on  
Americans about Soviet espionage.  
I am sure of it.

Phonies from everywhere are showing up as noblemen in the U. S. Be sure to read the lowdown on how titles of princes, dukes and counts are being bought and sold over-



There's an exciting colorphoto story of a 13-year-old schoolboy who turned big game hunter on an eight-month safari through darkest Africa to capture wild animals on film.

JUNE 17M



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
Immigration and Naturalization Service  
1004 Broad Street  
Newark 2, New Jersey

File No. A1 130 679 (JSC)

October 22, 1956

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
U. S. Department of Justice  
1836 Raymond Commerce Building  
Newark 2, New Jersey

Dear Sir:

Will you please inform me whether an investigation by this Service of the person named below will interfere with any action you contemplate or are already taking?

Name: FLACK, Thomas L. (NOT FURTHER IDENTIFIED)

FLACK, formerly of the Address:  
Philadelphia area, known  
Reader in the Socialist Former Addresses:  
Workers Party reported by  
Philadelphia FBI office  
to be residing in N.J.

SA Going of the Philadelphia office referred this  
Service on 10/8/56 Date of Arrival in the United States:  
to the Newark office  
for present address Occupation:  
and clearance to interview  
him as to his knowledge Name and Address of Last Employer:  
of one Monroe A. Scythos  
(ur 100-34657)

Will you also inform me as to what your records show concerning the subject's loyalty to the United States and subversive activities or tendencies, if any, and supply any other available data which may affect his immigration or nationality status?

In the event your report is negative, it will suffice if you will so indicate at the bottom of this letter.

Very truly yours,

*H. J. Hardier*  
District Director

999999/11/1956

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
by

15-4074 - 331

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SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 23 1956	
FBI - NEWARK	



## RECORD OF INFORMATION FURNISHED OTHER AGENCIES

ORALLY ☒BY TELEPHONE ☐

Date: 11/5/56

Information Requested Concerning:

Thomas L. Black

Information Furnished from File, Serial and Page Number:


65-4074-315

Information Furnished to:

Alex M. O'Quinn, INS

Remarks:

Arrived at subject's address as shown.

  
Special Agent

DIRECTOR, FBI (100-378225)

11/26/56

SAC, NEWARK (100-34657)

GEORGE ALBERT SCYTHES, was.  
SM - SWP  
(OO: Milwaukee)

Re: Philadelphia letter to Bureau, 11/1/56

On 11/14/56, THOMAS L. BLACK was contacted by SA FREDERICK Z. ZINCK. BLACK is still employed at the Atlas Refinery Company, Newark, N. J. and resides at 708 High Street, Newark.

BLACK advised that he is available to testify concerning his knowledge of the subject. He advised that he knew SCYTHES as GEORGE HOLLEY in the Newark Branch of the SWP and that SCYTHES paid his SWP dues to him (BLACK) when he was treasurer of the branch. He recalls that SCYTHES told him that he was recruited into the Troyskyite movement while he was at the University of Toronto by MAURICE SPECTOR and also under SPECTOR's direction he joined the CP in Canada. He recalls that SPECTOR drove him (BLACK) and other SWP members to Trenton and Leonia, N. J., probably in 1937.

On 10/15/56, Mr. ALEX MC GARRY of Immigration and Naturalization Service, Newark, N. J., advised that INS, Milwaukee had requested the Newark Office of INS to interview BLACK and if he is willing to testify, obtain a sworn affidavit from him. Mr. MC GARRY advised that he would contact BLACK in the near future.

- 2 - Bureau (REG. MAIL)
- 1 - Milwaukee (100-11113)(RM)
- 1 - Philadelphia (info)(100-38224)(RM)
- 2 - Newark
- (1 - 65-4074 - THOMAS BLACK)

FCZ:ldm  
(6)

Searched  
Serialized  
Indexed

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, NEWARK (65-4074)

CEW  
Jm FROM : SAC, PHILADELPHIA (65-4332)

SUBJECT: THOMAS L. BLACK, was.  
ESP - R

DATE: 1/8/57

ReNKlet, 12/27/56.

Referenced letter set forth that BLACK advised he doubts that he will ever be recontacted by the Soviets in view of the publicity given his testimony plus the publication of articles by him.

Newark is requested to advise whether BLACK has published any articles as yet. If BLACK has published or written any articles, Newark is requested to obtain copies for information of Bureau and Philadelphia.

2 - NEWARK (65-4074)

1 - PHILADELPHIA (65-4332)

CS:HPS  
(3)

Re Open  
+ Assign  
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wf

65-4074-397

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FBI - NEWARK	

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1/31/57

AIRTEL

REGISTERED MAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-352385)

FROM: SAC, NEWARK (65-3887)

MOCASE  
ESPIONAGE - R  
OO New York

Re New York airtel to Bureau 1/25/57;  
Bureau airtel dated 1/29/57.

On 1/31/57 THOMAS L. BLACK was interviewed by SA FREDERICK C. ZINCK. BLACK was shown all the photographs forwarded with New York airtel dated 1/21/57. In pertinent cases, he was furnished with background information from the descriptive summaries forwarded. The only one of these persons whom BLACK identified is JOSEPH KATZ. BLACK advised that he is unable to supply any information concerning KATZ in addition to that previously furnished by him when he identified a photograph of JOSEPH KATZ as one of his Soviet superiors, known to him only as "JACK." He stated that he never heard of nor saw any of the other individuals whose photographs were exhibited.

BROWN

- 3 - Bureau (REGISTERED MAIL)
- 1 - New York (65-14702 Sub D) REGISTERED MAIL
- 2 - Newark
- 1 - 65-4074 (THOMAS BLACK)

PCZ:ejm  
(6)

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65-4074-339



# 'I WAS A RED SPY!'

## First Step Taken on Road Leading To Lifetime of Agonized Remorse

By THOMAS I. BLACK, with EUGENE LYONS

(Copyright 1950 N. Y. Mirror)

For a dozen years—until the blessed day in 1950 when I made a clean breast of it to the FBI—I was tangled in the web of Soviet spying in the United States.

I took orders meekly from a succession of mysterious foreign agents whom I knew only under code names like Paul or Jack. Though they were familiar with the most intimate details of my life, I was never allowed to know anything about them. What is more, I could only guess at the real purposes of the assignments and the intensive training they gave me.

At first I served them willingly, even with a sense of pride in being part of something big, omnipotent and noble. Then, as my doubts about the Soviet paradise gradually turned into disillusion and hatred of communism, I felt myself trapped, held fast by sheer animal fear.

NOT ONCE in those years did the sinister word "espionage" cross our lips. We talked instead about "working for the cause" and "helping the Soviet Union." Such phrases had a hypnotic effect on the true Communist believer. After I ceased to believe, however, they became bitter ashes on my tongue. I suffered the humiliation

CLIPPING FROM THE

*Mirror*

DATED 6/10/50 :p. 5  
FORWARDED BY THE DIVISION

of a helpless puppet and the agonies of remorse which will be my lot for the rest of my life.

My only consolation today is that, through circumstances which I shall recount, I gave little if any tangible help to the spymasters who manipulated me. Thus I did little if any tangible harm to my own country.

The only important contribution I made to Soviet espionage, I suppose, was that I pulled Harry Gold into the net—the same atomic spy case involving Julius and Ethel Rosenberg. But Gold, after all, was a very minor cog in a vast machine.

### Misdirected Idealism

ALL THE SAME, I consider it my duty to tell the whole story as accurately as I can after the passage of so much time, to my fellow-Americans. My hope is that I may help them comprehend the scope and menace of the Red conspiracy in our midst.

How does a native American like myself, with a middle-class background and a good education, become fouled up in Red spy operations?

The answer is not easy. It involves so many elements that I cannot readily be made convincing to people who have not been through it. The main ingredient, certainly in my own case, was misdirected idealism. But it was mixed up, I must admit, in retrospect, with an itch to bolster my ego by playing a bigger role in the world.

WHATEVER MY MOTIVES, greed was not one of them. On the contrary, out of my modest earning as a chemist I contributed money "to the cause." Personally I knew of only one instance where an American worked in Soviet espionage just for pay—and his superiors did not trust him. As one of them explained to me, a mercenary will crack too easily or sell out to "the enemy" for a higher price.

### Normal Childhood

It is primarily by their heart-strings that confused Americans are pulled into the quagmire of Red treason.

But let me reconstruct my unhappy career from the beginning.

I WAS BORN in Bloomsburg, Pa., on July 5, 1907, of British stock with a dash of Pennsylvania Dutch through a grandmother. My father was a teacher, a fine scholarly man proud of his all-American background. Because my mother died when I was three, he raised me with the aid of a string of housekeepers



This time the woman actually smiled. Well, comrade, we've decided to take you in, she announced.

(Illustration by Don Sherwood)



until he remarried ten years later.

My childhood and young manhood were normal almost typical. I attended the local high school, then specialized in chemistry at college. If I differed from most small town boys, it was in my love of serious reading in economics, sociology, philosophy. At an early age I was familiar with the writing of Marx, Engels and Lenin, as well as crusaders like Henry George.

I began to earn my own living in 1929, when I was 22. My first job was at a plant near Linden, N. J. About a year later I moved to a better job with the Holbrook Manufacturing Co. in Jersey City. The firm made industrial soaps. Though my wages were modest, I was pleased to be on my own in a small but pleasant apartment.

THE DEPRESSION did not affect me directly. Yet the awareness of distress and despair could not be avoided. I began reading the Communist press, especially the more serious theoretical

journals. I joined the Friends of the Soviet Union in New York, and then literary outfits like the John Reed Club and Pen and Hammer. Incredible as it now seems, I was too naive to recognize them as Communist fronts. Who recruited me into the Communist Party? That question comes up repeatedly. The truthful answer is that I recruited myself.

A series of articles in a party-line magazine clinched the decision that had been shaping up in my mind. The articles lashed out at "intellectuals" who stood aside from the great struggle for a better world and urged them to join the Communist vanguard of humanity. I took the bait.

One weekend in early 1931, I betook me to the national headquarters of the party on E. 13th St., N. Y. The woman who talked to me hardly concealed her astonishment when I said I wished to join up. Her eyes narrowed in suspicion, she took down my name, address and place of in-

Continued on Page 20

plyment and indicated that perhaps I would hear from them.

### Long Investigation

I DID SEVERAL months later. In the meantime, as I later realized, I was being carefully investigated. On a Saturday afternoon a girl of about my own age came up to my apartment and introduced herself as a Communist. As a sample of Red femininity, she was far from enticing. Austerity was then the line—cosmetics and attractive clothes were taboo. My caller didn't approve of me either. After a long discussion she informed me that I lacked understanding of the movement and was crawling with "petit bourgeois prejudices." But again, maybe I would hear from them by postcard this time.

A couple of months passed. Then the card arrived instructing me to appear at headquarters. This time the woman actually smiled. "Well, Comrade, we've decided to take you in," she announced.

I was assigned to District 2, Section 2, Unit 2-B, on the lower East Side of Manhattan. There, she explained, I would have the best chance of being properly "proletarianized." The unit organizer, Comrade Brandt, was expecting me and would take me in hand.

### How Could It Happen?

What could turn an ordinary American youth with a typical



small, low background in to a Soviet spy, a cog in the vast sinister apparatus that sought to pervert our scientific and technological achievements for 12 long years? For Thomas L. Black served Red masters until revolution sent him to the FBI. Here, in a series of articles of which this is the first, he tells of the shining lure which drew him in and the nightmare reality that held him.



# 'I WAS A RED SPY!'

## 'Comrade Jones,' in an Attempt To Get to Russia, Meets Boss Spy

Misguided to begin with, then carefully nurtured by Red masters, an ordinary American emerges as 'Comrade Jones,' ready to help the Communists in all their aims and trained to ask no questions. His first fatal step over the line from party hackwork to the secret net of the Soviet spymaster is detailed here by Thomas L. Black, who served the Reds for a dozen years before the bitter awakening. This is the second of a series of articles on his experience.

By THOMAS L. BLACK, with EUGENE LYONS

My first meeting of a party "neighborhood unit" was rather an anticlimax. It didn't match my romantic notions of the revolution in action. The 15 or 20 men and women in the shabby room were working people, with whom I did not feel entirely at ease, and the evening's business concerned petty matters like finances and subscriptions to the Daily Worker.

But I emerged from the session as "Comrade Jones," the first of several aliases inscribed in my dues book. I selected the name myself—almost the only act of free choice allowed by party discipline.

Comrade Brandt, a former merchant sailor, evidently was well briefed about me. He was sympathetic with regard to my "political backwardness" and gave a lot of time to curing it. Part of his method was to test my devotion by loading me down with routine and often disagreeable chores, like distributing "party literature" and ringing doorbells.

ONCE, FOR INSTANCE, he assigned another comrade and me to visit a list of Italian residents in the area, under the pretext of soliciting signatures on a Communist nominating petition. Our task was to engage the Italians in political argument and show them the error of their ways. We made no converts and tolerated plenty of abuse, including threats of a beating if we didn't scam.

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R. C. Holman



At a "fraction" meeting (caucus) of the Friends of the Soviet Union I now discovered who pulled the strings, and how. I was now one of their dedicated company. Perhaps a dozen of us managed to steer the activities of some 250 members, without their quite knowing it. The pattern held true in the other Red fronts to which I was attached.

Suddenly I was neck deep in activities: meetings, assignments, indoctrination, sessions with Brandt, money raising, parties, lectures. The very memory of a private life, of a free evening or weekend, began to fade out. There was, at first, at least, a kind of intoxication in this furious round of activity in the company of other dedicated souls.

### Gets Teaching Post

WITHIN A YEAR I was apparently considered "proletarianized" enough to leave Brandt's supervision. One of the party bigwigs, a member of the national Central Committee, himself instructed me to transfer to a party unit in Jersey City.

"It's a unit of intellectuals," she told me. "You can help educate them. Just as Comrade Brandt helped you."

It seemed to me a promotion. I was no longer a newsboy or signature collector. My unit comrades included an unemployed pharmacist, several dentists, a woman, concert pianist, several writers. Few of them seemed to know what it was all about, but all were enthusiastic, keyed up to save the world.

MEANWHILE, at the Holbrook plant, my fellow-workers did not know that I was a Communist. I had gotten the knack of talking communism without ever using the word. In the Spring of 1933, in the depth of the depression, I was offered a better-paying job in Harrison, N. J. Someone suggested that I recommend a young chemist-unemployed and in desperate need—to take my place. That was how Harry Gold

came into my life, and vice versa. He came to see me, I introduced him to the plant manager, and he was hired. Gold was pathetically grateful. Actually, he held the job only briefly, returning soon to his previous job with a Philadelphia sugar company. We met from time to time. At this point, he called himself merely a Socialist, though he was sympathetic to the "great experiment" in Soviet Russia.

MY NEW WORK involved moving to Newark and a transfer to a Newark unit of the party. By



THOMAS L. BLACKETT



"We made no converts and collected plenty of abuse, including threats of a beating if we didn't scram."

Illustration by Doug Peters

the time, however, I was becoming more and more bored with the party treadmill. It all seemed so tame and futile compared with what was happening over there, in the workers' fatherland. As a chemist, it occurred to me I should be in Russia doing my bit for the Five Year Plan.

The idea of going to the Soviet Union began to obsess my mind. I talked about it to Harry Gold, among others. Finally I went to see Comrade Rebecca Grecht, sure that she would help me.

### Longs to Visit Soviet

To my surprise, she treated my proposal as if it were a desertion. Our Soviet comrades, she argued, don't need American Communists; they have plenty of their own. If my yen for foreign adventure was that strong, I could

be assigned to fighting fronts in Europe or Asia. But my duty was here at home. I left her depressed but not convinced.

**VAGUELY I FELT** my chances of getting to Russia would be better if I cut loose from the party. So I simply stopped attending meetings. No one, strangely, came to inquire about my disappearance. Possibly the party was used to sudden exits.

My party membership had taken more than two years out of my life. I had to become accustomed again to being master of my own time. I did not cease to be a Communist, one does not cast off a deep political faith overnight.

But the focus of my allegiance

Continued on Page 12

was now Soviet Russia where, as the Red press put it, a bright new world was in construction.

IN NOVEMBER of 1933, about six months after dropping out of the party, I applied for a Soviet job through regular channels. At the Amtorg Trading Corp. on Fifth Ave. I told the receptionist my problem. Soon a stocky, dark-complexioned man came out. He was immaculately dressed, soft-spoken and affable.

I asked whether they could use a first-class chemist and a good Communist in the Soviet Union. He smiled understandingly. We must discuss it at leisure, he said. How about dinner some time? He would phone me.

"My name," he said, "is Galk Ovakimian, and I'm purchasing representative of a Soviet chemical trust."

### Meets Spymaster

NOT UNTIL YEARS LATER did I realize that I had met one of the top Soviet spymasters: the Chief Resident Agent of Soviet Intelligence in America. Among the teeming agents under his command were Julius Rosenberg and the notorious Jacob Golos, under whose direction Elizabeth Bentley worked. He also took part, according to ample evidence, in the preparations for Trotsky's murder.

From 1932 to 1941 Ovakimian was boss-spy over a whole galaxy of apparatuses. In May, 1941, he was arrested. But he was never brought to trial.

The State Department allowed him to depart in exchange for a promise by Moscow to release six American citizens held in the USSR. A good deal — only Moscow didn't keep its promise!

But of all this, of course, I knew nothing. To me he was an attractive Amtorg official, not unfriendly to my plan. I left him feeling happy. That was how casually I met my first espionage contact and embraced my tragic destiny.

The spy contact, who fully makes a conspirator Black, is described in the third article of this series in Tuesday's MIRROR.



# 'I WAS A RED SPY!'

## Novice Meets His 'Trainer,' Walks Into Sinister Web of Espionage

Behind the affable mask of a minor purchasing agent was the ruthless, crafty master of a Soviet spy net, to whom technological espionage and murder were alike parts of his daily job. How he drew an ingenious American into betraying his country for the Reds is told here in the third article of a series confessing Thomas L. Black's dozen years in the Communist service.

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P. J. R.

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FBI - NEW YORK  
Chelms Rm



By THOMAS L. BLACK with EUGENE LYONS.  
Gaik Ovakimian, generalissimo of Stalin's spies in America, phoned me several weeks after our initial acquaintance and we dined at a good restaurant in the Times Square



The suggestion seemed entirely reasonable. At the next meeting, while faking a friendly wall, I handed him several reports. I was proud of them having dug up a lot of published information and added data available in my plant on tanning procedures which might not be known in Russia. He wanted more and I came through.

"NOT ESPECIALLY valuable," he told me sadly later. "We are already receiving this type of information from other sources."

Still, he thought the reports were competently drawn. Unfortunately, he was too busy to pursue the matter and must turn the negotiations over to a colleague whom I could trust. Implicitly, just then, sure enough, the "colleague" appeared and Ovakimian left us abruptly. I never saw him again.

### Drift to Espionage

The newcomer, my second and most durable contact, introduced himself as Paul Peterson. Later, the surname was tacitly dropped. He was simply Paul—one of the short code names favored by Soviet espionage.

Harry Gold in due time testified he had known this agent as Paul Smith, and that, similarly, the Smith part was quickly for-

Our meetings were now carefully prearranged, timed to the minute and surrounded with elaborate precautions. (Illustration by Don Wood)

We made small talk in a cordial, chatty spirit. I took it for granted he was sizing me up, that the business could not be rushed.

At a second dinner meeting he took me, as it were, into his confidence. He hesitated to recommend me to Moscow, he said, until he was sure I could contribute to Soviet technology. So, why didn't I, by way of a test, make reports on some aspects of American industrial chemistry?

gotten. Though Paul indicated it was in the U. S. on a Danish passport, I judged from his accent and manner that he was a Bavarian German.

PAUL AND I thereafter met frequently. For a while, I still broached my wish to go to Soviet Russia, but in time this was pushed aside. The real question, he convinced me, was how and where I could be of most value to that country. There was work of the highest importance to be done right here—the kind of work Okavimian and he were doing.

Beyond that, he didn't specify. Subtly, with a skill that amazes me when I think back to that time, he put our relations on a conspiratorial basis, in which prying questions were ruled out. Our meetings were now carefully prearranged, timed to the minute and surrounded with elaborate precautions.

I began to understand that what was involved was espionage of some sort. Before long, this was a definite conviction, though it was never mentioned in so many words. Why did I go along? Part of the answer was, indeed, I had allowed myself to drift into the relationship. For the rest, could at that time see no more wrong in espionage. To a Communist, anything that supports

his cause seems not merely permissible but a matter of duty and honor.

FLATTERY WAS PAUL'S long suit. He assured me that I had the intelligence and personality to take over his own responsibilities. After all, a native American, rather than a foreigner, should be doing his job. Why come to think of it, couldn't I succeed him when he returned home? All I needed was training—yes, a lot of arduous training—and he intended to give it to me.

At a starter, I must stop reading Communist publications, stop seeing Communists, and refrain from political discussion. Any Red literature I had at home must be immediately destroyed—not by burning, which might attract notice, but by tearing into pieces and flushing down the toilet. A breach of these orders would be regarded as gross disloyalty.

At one time, probably near the end of 1934, Paul asked whether I knew any other friend of the Soviet Union who would like to go there. "Yes," I said, "another chemist—a fellow by the name of Harry Gold." We arranged that I bring him to the next rendezvous, if possible.

### Two-Year Training

GOLD, WHEN I PROPOSED the idea, readily consented. Paul met us at an agreed spot near Pennsylvania Station and motioned me to leave them alone, which I did. What transpired at that meeting, I could not know. Though we were both ordered never to see one another again, Gold and I continued to meet at long intervals. But the weight of our involvement was like a muzzle on both of us, so that we avoided mention of Paul and his schemes.

I met Paul continually, some times weekly, other times with long breaks, in the years that followed.

The assumption that I was slated to succeed him in his "important" but still undefined post became the foundation stone of our relationship. Our every meeting became a lesson in the course of "training" that went on for about two years.

A fantastic "trade school" in the tricks of the espionage trade, as operated by the Red apparatus in America, is described in the fourth article of this series, in Wednesday's **MIRROR**.

# 'I WAS A RED SPY!'

## '36 Purge Trial Shakes His Faith, But Trainee Finds It's Too Late

How a Soviet spymaster trains his American dupe—with threats and promises, tips of the FBI, tricks of the trade—is detailed here in the fourth of a series of articles by Thomas L. Black, who served the Reds for a dozen years. Was it their plan to make him a cat's paw in the murder of Trotsky? He tells how he fell into this sinister assignment.

By THOMAS L. BLACK with EUGENE LYONS



For about two years—until May, 1936, when the first of the blood-purge trials in Moscow gave my life a new twist—I was the object of a sort of slow-motion training course in the tricks of the espionage trade as perfected by the Soviets.

Never before, I am sure, had there been such a fantastic "trade school." One professor, one pupil, with the sidewalks of New York as classroom and lessons conducted while walking! Pedestrians saw two ordinary men strolling along, engaged in earnest conversation. But the conversation was of microfilming, stolen secrets, the science of meeting new "contacts."

To sum up the course would require a fat textbook. Here, I can only give a few random samplings. Once I remarked about the dangers of being caught. "It's counter-revolutionary even to think of being caught!" Paul snapped. "Our methods have been tried all over the world. They're foolproof." Then he added pointedly, "Only those who violate instructions are caught. Remember that!"

THE RENDEZVOUS or secret meeting was, of course, basic to the course. The precise day, time and place are set in advance—but not the week. It might be Thursday, at 6:42, in front of the Public Library. This did not mean next Thursday, but the Thursday following a phone call by the superior agent.

The call might not come through for a month or a year, but when it did, the prearranged time and place still held good. The caller, naturally, talked of trivial things like your health. He might even ask you to get together on Saturday—but it still meant next Thursday.



Normally, when two agents met, a third unknown to both of them was 'accidentally' around. By means of some simple action, such as dropping a newspaper into a trash can, he warned of danger.

(Illustration by Don Sheppard)



When the agents ordered to get together are strangers to one another, the procedures are more complicated. They must go about their roles like ordinary people doing ordinary things. A tie of a certain color, a current magazine under the right arm, might be the initial identification.

### Learns FBI Methods

THE SECOND STEP might be an innocent question—like "What time is it, please?"—and an equally innocent answer, like "Sorry, I don't have a watch." The technique amounted to a series of simple, inconspicuous acts in a prescribed sequence to rule out the remotest chance of coincidence.

Normally, when two agents met, a third unknown to both of them was "accidentally" around. By means of some simple action, such as dropping a newspaper into a trash can or honking his horn a certain way if he were in a car, he warned of danger. I was taught to detect surveillance and shadows and how to elude them. That Paul had an intimate knowledge of FBI methods was evident in the countermeasures he explained to me. The typical FBI observer, I recall his saying, was a well-dressed young man reading a newspaper in a parked car.

MY LONG-STANDING interest in photography gave us common ground for interesting sessions on microfilming and, even more important, the swift spooling of such films at the first sign of danger. I practiced the duplication of keys with the help of soft wax, until I could get a perfect impression in my pocket or in

the palm of my hand in 10 seconds.

I feel certain to this day that I was being prepared for a vital espionage post. Paul, a subordinate of the great Ovakimian, would hardly have invested some 50 meetings without a good reason.

The other half of my training, to which Paul brought no less zeal, was political. Patiently, he expounded the party line of the moment, analyzing events in Moscow and elsewhere. The picture he drew was of ruthless Fascists, Nazis and capitalists plotting to destroy the Soviet land. The moral was that we must be no less ruthless in our work for the cause.

### First Nagging Doubts

THE TRUTH is the temperament of my communism was falling so slowly that I was scarcely conscious of it. In defiance of orders I had read a few anti-Soviet books and I could not avoid some awareness of slave labor and other horrors in the "workers' paradise."

I suspect now that Paul detected tremors of doubt in me even before I was myself aware of them. Certainly, as time went on, the overtones of threats in his attitude became louder, less subtle. They were never expressed—yet always there in hints and looks. It might be a casual reference to the late "deserters," deserved, or a chuckling allusion to what happened to someone who "sold out to the enemy."

Once I allowed myself a joking remark that "this business hasn't much of a future." In the same kidding vein Paul cracked: "If you don't follow

instructions, you won't have any future to worry about." The hint stuck to my mind like a burr.

My faith in Stalinism—what was happening in Russia, as distinct from communism in theory—was ebbing. With every month it was harder to batter down the inner turmoil of doubts and objections. This soul-searching came to a head with the shocking news of the first big purge trial in May, 1938. I simply couldn't swallow the story that so many of my Soviet heroes had been accused of assassinating agents of Fascist countries.

FOR THE FIRST TIME I then stood up to Paul. The bizarre charges against the Founding Fathers, I said, were undermining the revolution. We had a long and heated session at the cost of a lot of shoe leather. For once I did not pretend to be convinced. "If such things continue," I said, "they might make me a Trotskyist."

Paul blew his top. I had committed the great sin of invoking the name of the official devil. We parted on such bad terms that I thought this was the end of the line.

When the familiar call for a rendezvous did not come through for a month, then a second and a third, I was filled with a glow of joy. A great weight seemed to lift from my spirits.

THEN THE CALL CAME, and once more I was pounding the pavements at Paul's side. Considering our last parting, he was strangely friendly. He got down to business quickly. That remark about becoming a Trotskyist, he

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said, packed a good idea in fact that was my immediate assignment to join the Trotskyist movement.

"You mean to report on the American Trotskyists?"

"No, no, we don't care about those dogs," Paul replied.

"Don't ask questions — you'll get your instructions when we're ready. Meanwhile, your job is to ingratiate yourself with the Trotskyist leaders here so that they value and trust you."

The tone of his voice left no room for argument. In short order, therefore, I enrolled in the Trotskyist wing of the Socialist Party, and then, when this wing seceded to form the Socialist Workers Party headed by James Cannon, I was among the seceders.

Why had I been ordered to infiltrate the Trotskyist movement? At this point I had not the slightest inkling.

A secret Communist worker in the Trotskyist camp, Black, tells how he dodged a sinister, perhaps murderous, assignment in the fifth article of this series. Read it in Thursday's MIRROR.

# 'I WAS A RED SPY!'

## Tom Barely Escapes Involvement In the Trotsky Death Plot

The Reds' pull strings—and the murderous web tightens around a sick old man, the Communists' arch-foe, Trotsky, in Mexico. Was a gullible American chemist slated for wing the fatal fix? How he struggled out of the assignment is disclosed here by Thomas Black, 12-year member of the Soviet spy net, in the fifth of a series of articles.

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By THOMAS L. BLACK with EUGENE LYONS

I was in the Trotskyist camp as a "sleeper," to be yanked into action by my Soviet puppet-masters when they wished. The strings were not pulled for more than two years. Meanwhile my original orders stood: to ingratiate myself with Trotsky's most important American friends.

Except for a sinking sense of guilt over my double role, the assignment was really to my taste. I had in fact come close to the Trotsky viewpoint in my thinking. Now, mixing with his disciples and reading their literature, I easily identified myself with their movement.

When it came to lambasting Stalin and his crimes in true Trotskyist style, I could put my whole heart into it. The continuing blood-bath of the big purges, turning the Soviet dream into an obscene nightmare, made that easy and heart-warming.

MY MEETINGS with Paul tapered off. Evidently he was seeing me just often enough to make sure the strings were still firmly attached. Somewhere along the line, without a fond farewell, he vanished and I was never to see him again. The agent who took his place was "George"—whom I now know to have been another Amtorg employe, named Semion Semionov. (Harry Gold, also worked under Semionov about the same time.)

I was able to report truthfully to Paul and then to his successor—that I was making friends in the anti-Stalin party. One obvious way to ingratiate myself was by donating generously to Trotskyist papers and causes. My spy-chiefs considered this a legitimate expense and gladly gave me small sums, to which I added more out of my own pocket. I took a certain ironic pleasure in using "Soviet gold" to help finance Trotskyism.

### Enter 'Dr. Schwartz'

EARLY IN 1938 I suffered a serious accident in my plant and was confined in a hospital for 20 weeks. I still carry the scars on my arm. But the uglier scars are on my conscience. For it was at the hospital, when I had been there about 10 weeks, that Red espionage reached out for me again.



One day a mysterious Dr. Schwartz came to my hospital room. From the way he read the bed chart and examined my burn, it was clear that he was really a physician. Yet I knew at once that he was a Soviet agent, come to look me over.

(Illustration by Don Sherwood)

One day, a mysterious "Dr. Schwartz" came to my hospital room. From the way he read the chart and examined my burns it was clear he was really a physician. No word passed to suggest that it was anything but a medical call. Yet I knew at once he was a Soviet agent, come to look me over.

Some time after my return to work, I was called to the next prearranged rendezvous. I expected Seminov, but found instead my hospital visitor. The new "contact" called himself Robert or some such name.

More than a decade later, when I was cooperating with the FBI, I identified Robert from photographs. I then learned he was really Dr. Gregor Rabinovich with a string of punitive murders in Europe to his credit. He was in the U. S. ostensibly as a representative of the Soviet Red Cross.

**IN HIS RECENT BOOK "Soviet Espionage,"** Dr. David D. Iln writes that this Russian doctor "had been sent to the U. S. at the height of the purge with the assignment of investigating Trotskyites and organizing the assassination of Leon Trotsky." Louis Budenz, in his testimony after breaking with the party, also led

Dr. Rabinovich into the Mexican murder plans.

To me, Robert was just another of the faceless, nameless men whose orders I must obey—or else. After a few exploratory meetings, he got down to brass tacks. This was to be the payoff on my long cultivation of friendships in the Trotskyist movement.

"Tom," he announced, "the time has come for action. You're to quit your job immediately and proceed to Coyoacan near Mexico City. Your Trotskyist friends should be able to help you enter Trotsky's household. We have people there already who will help if necessary."

A chill went down my spine. So that was what I was being reserved for—to join the Communist vultures hovering around the exiled leader in Coyoacan?

"Why must I go there?" I ventured. "It's not easy on such short notice."

"That's no concern of yours. You'll get contacted and told what you need to know when the time comes. Use your Trotskyist connections to gain admittance. We'll do the rest."

I PROTESTED that I must think it over. "I'll do the thinking," Robert snarled. This was an order, and the penalty for disobedience would be drastic.

We agreed to meet within a week, when I would presumably have completed preparations. I racked my brains for a plausible alibi for not going. Fortunately, I found one ready-made. I was waiting to be called before the Workmen's Compensation Board in connection with substantial claims on my accident. My sudden resignation from a good job, coupled with failure to show up before the board, I argued, would be reckless conduct. It was sure to arouse suspicion, especially among fellow workers who might already suspect my politics.

Robert was angry and un-

happily muttered that it was

a blow to his plans. But he was forced to admit the logic of my argument. That was the end of this episode, and my last meeting with the killer-doctor.

For nearly two years thereafter the Soviet espionage bravos chose to let me alone. Once more I was convinced they had given me up as useless. I now worked in the Trotskyist ranks with a clearer conscience.

In August, 1940, I read the sensational news that Trotsky had been killed in his Coyoacan stronghold by a man who posed as a disciple and friend. I realized with a shudder that but for the grace of God, I might have been implicated in the killing.

**IT WAS NO COINCIDENCE** that the strings were pulled again soon after the crime of Coyoacan. With the example of Trotsky's murder vivid in my imagination, I had no doubts about my own danger. The network was making certain I was still safely on leash.

The "contact" was now a faceless Jack. As we walked in midtown Manhattan, I reassured him about my "loyalty."

To make sure, he continued to summon me at fairly frequent intervals until early in 1943, though sometimes a substitute, "John," kept his appointments. Jack, I believe, was a Czechoslovak, and John probably Italian. Both spoke with distinctive accents.

Soviet Russia had by then become our ally in the big war. I must suppose my "contacts" were minor figures to be assigned to holding a petty agent like Tom Black in line. There were more important jobs. Soviet spies were then enjoying a field day under cover of war tasks.

Disillusionment, terror of sudden death, and his efforts to get free of the spy network are described by Black in the sixth and final article of this series in Friday's MIRROR.

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**'I WAS A RED SPY!'**  
**The Nightmare Years Finally End,**  
**Tom Reveals Self to the FBI**

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#6

Charles R. R. R.



The nightmare tightens its hold—no more pretense of idealistic service, but only terror of sudden death keeps a deeply entangled American in the service of the Red spy network here. Thomas L. Black, a Soviet puppet for 12 years, tells of his disillusionment with the "workers' paradise" and how he was freed at last—in the final article of a series.

By THOMAS BLACK with EUGENE LYONS

My spy superior of the final period, Jack, was not as demanding as Paul had been. But he did give me more assignments than I had received in the past. They were trivial chores, but presumably essential.

On one occasion, for instance, I delivered a letter to someone in Philadelphia, which necessitated the use of those elaborate techniques for recognizing strangers. Another time I served as go-between in paying off an agent in another New Jersey factory.

Jack also reminded me of the very beginnings of my servitude by suddenly demanding that I supply him with technical information in my field—on any subject I thought useful for Soviet industry. I decided to concoct reports which would not contain a single line of "secret" data, and felt some satisfaction in sabotaging my tormentors.

**MY METHOD WAS** to search out new things in technical publications and in recent U. S. patents. I still possess a carbon copy of one such "document." I made impressive reading, and I did not get complaints, but any tyro of a chemist could have dug up its contents in the library.

This routine of empty spaced meetings came to an end early in 1943. Then, for about three years I was a free man again. But it was a freedom shot through with bouts of panic. Rightly or wrongly, I felt I had known too many Kremlin agents and too much of their methods to be let off the hook.

In addition to the Trotsky murder there had been the mysterious death, in a shabby Washington hotel room, of Walter Krieger, a high Soviet intelligence official who had defected. In January, 1943, Carlo Tresca, a famous Italian syndicalist and passionate enemy of communism, was shot in broad daylight on a New York street. I was aware of others—Julia Stuart Poyntz in the U. S. for instance, and Ignatz Reiss in Switzerland—who had been "liquidated."

**THE TERROR IN** my heart was real and deep. I want to emphasize this, though it reflects little glory on me. The urge to go to the authorities and tell all was never far from my mind, but my dread of sudden death always won out over good intentions.

A conversation with Jack in one of our last meetings, soon after the Tresca murder, remained fresh on my nerves. I remarked that Tresca's friends were blaming the Communists.

Far from denying the allegation, my "contact" grabbed credit for the crime.

"Tresca was an enemy of the working class," he said in substance. "He was a serious obstacle to the Italian Communist movement. This was not a murder—it was an execution."

Tresca received a fair trial—in Moscow.

Did he make this up to frighten me, to suggest that I too might get a "fair trial" in Moscow? Or was there an element of truth in what he said? If his purpose was to intimidate me, he succeeded in full measure.

**SOMETIME AT THE END** of 1945 or the beginning of 1946, the phone call I dreaded came through. Jack was still on the job. We met merely a check-up after a long separation. His manner suggested, "You know how it is," he said. "Times change, people change. We want to know whether you've changed." He reassured him on this score.

This was after the war, when disillusionment with our late Soviet ally had set in. Congress was beginning to ask questions about Red spying. No doubt Jack was checking on me as part of a larger reconnaissance, to determine which of the former agents or "sleepers" might kick over their traces.

### Net Closing on Gold

I heard nothing more for four years—until after the arrests of Dr. Klaus Fuchs in England and Harry Gold here. In the meantime I had dropped out of the Trotskyist fold, a sadder and wiser man. I had come to hate communism of any and all brands.

**IN THE MEANTIME** too, the dramatic revelations about Soviet espionage by Whittaker Chambers, Elizabeth Bentley, and others had been making headlines. Naturally I read every word of the news, afraid that somehow my name would crop up. I wanted only to forget my

past and live at long last a normal life.

Soon after the arrest of Dr. Fuchs, I received an excited phone call from Harry Gold. He insisted, in a frantic voice, that we meet that very evening. Gold was in a distraught condition.

"You've read about the arrest of Fuchs," he said, "and that the FBI is searching for his American contact." He paused for a long moment, then blurted: "Tom, I am that contact."

"I have only two courses," he went on. "I can try to flee the country, or commit suicide."

**I TRIED TO DISSUADE** him on both alternatives. Whether my arguments had any effect, I could not know. I never saw him again. Some time later I read of Gold's arrest. Since I had recruited him, I realized my secret would soon be known to the authorities.

Within days after Gold's arrest, Soviet espionage contacted me again—for the last time. The code word set four years before was "Watkins." When a Miss Watkins phoned, I recalled the arrangement: a rendezvous under the marquee of the Translux Theatre on Broadway, between 7:15 and 7:18 p. m. next Tuesday.

I had no intention of obeying. But the decision was taken out of my hands in any case—several FBI agents called on me that very Tuesday.

They merely questioned me about Gold's activities, of which, of course, I knew little or nothing. I did not tell all at once, and the FBI understandably did not press me. But I knew that I must find the courage to "come clean" without reservations. So far as reasonable acts were concerned, my conscience was clear—or nearly so. I had far more to fear from Stalin's executioners than from my own government.

**I MADE UP MY MIND** to phone the FBI and make an appointment at its Philadelphia office. At long last I had taken the only step that could disentangle



me from the Red spy network and still give me reasonable assurance of dying a natural death. To any ex-Communists who may read these words my advice is: Don't walk, run, to the nearest office of the FBI. You will be treated with understanding and consideration, just as I was treated. More important, you will be doing your part to help keep America free.

My long ordeal was over. It was a relief to talk openly, fully. I have cooperated with the FBI ever since. Later I repeated my story to a Federal Grand Jury, and again, this year, to the Senate Internal Security Committee. Said Sen. Jenner at the conclusion of the hearings:

"I want to commend you and to thank you for your cooperation."

Let no American suppose the disclosures about Soviet espionage have ended its menace. I am convinced it is today more widespread and deeply entrenched than ever before. It must be rooted out.

THE END

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, NEWARK (65-4123)

FROM : SA WILLIAM T. HAZELWOOD

SUBJECT: JACOB ISRAEL FASS, was.,  
ESPIONAGE - R  
ISA of 1950

DATE: 10/15/57

This is to advise that FASS was interviewed by the writer at FASS's place of employment, the Spruce Chemical Company, 177 East Railway Avenue, Paterson, N. J., on 10/4/57 in connection with information he furnished the Newark Office on 11/20/50 concerning The FREEFIELD family, which is set out on page 12 of serial 9 of FASS's subject file. This interview was in connection with an applicant investigation which was being conducted by the writer, Newark file 77-6565, entitled "ELAINE FREEFIELD, aka Elaine Freefield", Dapli, and the results of the interview are contained in the writer's report in the 77- case.

During the interview FASS stated that all information he had concerning the FREEFIELD family came to him from THOMAS L. BLACK and he suggested that BLACK be interviewed concerning the FREEFIELD family. The writer does not recall, but it is possible that the writer advised FASS that the writer contemplated interviewing BLACK regarding the FREEFIELD family.

On 10/14/57 the writer was advised that FASS had contacted the office during the week of 10/7-12/57, requesting that he be recontacted by the Agent who had interviewed him regarding the FREEFIELD family.

The writer telephonically contacted FASS at his place of employment on 10/14/57, at which time FASS stated he had desired that the writer advise BLACK that FASS no longer would pay the storage charges on certain papers of BLACK's in which the Bureau had had an interest in 1950, inasmuch as FASS did not know how to contact BLACK and the storage company now desires to sell BLACK's papers for the storage arrears. FASS stated that he had located BLACK, however, through a friend of BLACK's, and had conveyed to BLACK the information.

The above is submitted to be made a matter of record.

- 1 - Newark
- 1 - Newark (77-6565) (Freefield)
- 1 - Newark (65-4074) (Black)

WTH:LAB

(3)

65-4074-344

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OCT 15 1957	
FBI - NEWARK	

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, NEWARK (65-4074)

DATE: 10/16/57

FROM : SA WILLIAM T. HAZELWOOD

SUBJECT: THOMAS L. BLACK, was.  
ESPIONAGE-R

THOMAS L. BLACK was interviewed in the Newark office by the writer on September 27, 1957, at which time he furnished information concerning the relatives of ELAINE FREIFELD, including MAX FREIFELD. This information was put in the form of a signed statement and BLACK returned to the Newark office on September 30, 1957 and signed the statement. The statement is maintained in the exhibit envelope of Newark file 77-6565 and information contained therein is set out in the writer's report in that case.

BLACK was residing at 708 High Street, Newark, New Jersey, unlisted telephone number Market 2-7603, and was employed as a chemist by the Percy H. Helie Company, home office 53 Holden Street, Worcester, Mass., although his work at the time was performed at irregular intervals in the vicinity of Lodi, New Jersey.

BLACK appeared completely cooperative, seemed to possess a very good memory of people and information he had known and had furnished a great many years ago, and agreed to testify before a Security Hearing Board if his service were needed.

- 1 - Newark
  - 1 - 100-34177 (MAX FREIFELD)
  - 1 - 77-6565 (ELAINE FREIFELD)
- WTH:LAT  
(3)

65-4074-345  
AK AS  
Zink P2

*Irving Holding Co.  
Secretary  
Black, J. J.*

65-4074-346

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SERIALIZED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FILED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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FBI - NEWARK	

*th*



80

89

TO: CHIEF CLERK

Date

Subject: (1) *Black James Loring* (4) *Black Thomas L.*  
 Alias: (3) *"", Theodore* (5) *"", Tom*  
 Address: (3) *"", Thomas* Birth Date: Birthplace:

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exact Spelling                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Main Criminal Case Files Only                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Restrict to Locality of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> All References                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Criminal References Only                                     |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Main Subversive Case Files Only | <input type="checkbox"/> Main Subversive (If no Main, list all Subversive References) |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Subversive References Only      | <input type="checkbox"/> Main Criminal (If no Main, list all Criminal References)     |  |

File & Serial Number	Remarks	File & Serial Number	Remarks
7(1) 65-4014*			
-3123-136-17			
-4080-20-3			
-4077-12-4			
2			
(2) 28-29-(con.)			
7(3) 87-1700* (con.)			
7(4) 65-3887-60-21			
7(5) 88-666-479-71 (con.)			

Requested by: Squad: Extension: File No:

Searched by: (date)  
 Consolidated by: (date)  
 Reviewed by: *RA* 10 28 57 (date)



Post Office Box 1158  
Newark 2, New Jersey

October 15, 1957

Sandles and Sandlos  
9 Clinton Street  
Newark, New Jersey

RE: IVY HOLDING COMPANY, INC.,  
92 Howard Street,  
Newark, New Jersey

Dear Sirs:

Your letter of October 10, 1957, was received.

Please be advised that this Bureau has no interest  
in the material stored at 92 Howard Street, Newark.

I appreciate your interest in bringing this to  
our attention.

Very truly yours,

*h.*  
Bernard C. Brown  
Special Agent in Charge

1 addressee  
1 Newark

FCZ:maj  
(2)  
*my*

Searched \_\_\_\_\_  
Serialized \_\_\_\_\_  
Index \_\_\_\_\_  
File \_\_\_\_\_

65-4074-347

LAW OFFICES  
**SANDLES & SANDLES**  
8 CLINTON STREET  
NEWARK, N.J.  
TEL. MITCHELL 8-6166

LESTER SANDLES

E.J. LANSING SANDLES

October 10th, 1957.

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Federal Square  
Newark, New Jersey

Dear Sirs:

Re: Ivy Holding Co., Inc.  
92 Howard Street  
Newark, New Jersey.

We represent Ivy Holding Co., Inc. which has this day sold premises commonly known as 92 Howard Street, Newark, New Jersey.

It has been brought to our attention that certain papers initially deposited by one T. L. Black for storage purposes have heretofore been examined by you, and that you may have an interest therein.

Inasmuch as our client has sold the subject premises, we are obliged to remove all storages.

Heretofore, we are advised, that client has been receiving payment for storages from the Spruce Chemical Co. of 177 East Railway Avenue, Paterson, New Jersey. We have communicated with the latter with respect to the removal of the goods and the payment of the arrearages with respect to storages and find that at this point they repudiate any responsibility for same, notwithstanding that payments have heretofore been received from them regularly.

We contemplate advertising the papers for sale under the Warehousemen's Act in order that we may dispose of our liability of retaining said goods.

Our efforts to contact Mr. Black have been unsuccessful.

If you have any further interest in these instruments, please advise immediately so that our action does not in any way jeopardize your concern or interest in these papers, if same exists.

Very truly yours,

Searched

Serialized

SANDLES & SANDLES

By: *Lisa K. Riddle*

LS/AMC.

348

100-4274-34

Harold  
11-4-57  
202  
CONCURRENCE



LAW OFFICES  
**SANDLES & SANDLES**  
9 CLINTON STREET  
NEWARK 2, N.J.



Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Federal Square  
Newark, New Jersey.

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, NEWARK (65-4074)

DATE: 10/6/59

FROM : SA FREDERICK C. ZINCK

SUBJECT: THOMAS LESSING BLACK  
ESPIONAGE - R

On 10/1/59, BLACK, who has been very cooperative in recent years, advised that he is moving the first of November. He has been living at 708 High Street, Newark, and has been interviewed on several occasions.

BLACK is now working at Sparta, N.J. He advised that he will move to Milford - Creameary Road - Andover Township, Sussex County, N. J. He will have no home phone and desires no mail be sent to that address but can receive mail at P. O. Box 1185, Sparta, N.J.

If necessary to get in touch with him, he can be reached at the office, phone number Parkway 9-6185. He requested that discretion be used in what is said when contacting him at his employment.

The writer has been the contact with BLACK since he came to New Jersey and will continue to contact him when necessary.

FCZ:vwb  
(1)

*Black called 10/15/59  
said address - in 4  
family house on  
Pleasant Place -  
commonly referred to  
as Milford - Creameary Rd  
in NJ. Left entrance  
to Milford - Creameary Rd  
to Andover Township  
Sparta, NJ. Black employed at  
Sparta, NJ. Black's phone # as  
above. FCZ.*

65-4074-349

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OCT 6 1959	
FBI - NEWARK	

4-5-62 - Black working at  
HAWK Corp. 589 Ferry St. N.J.

STILL LIVES IN SPARTA - PH. DUPONT 3-4571



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Newark, New Jersey

April 19, 1962

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

✓ ✓ ✓  
THOMAS L. BLACK  
ESPIONAGE - R

65-4074\*  
+ new  
65 refs

Thomas L. Black was interviewed on April 5, 1962  
by Special Agents Paul J. Blasco and Robert W. Coholan.

At the outset of the interview, Black stated he was  
still living in Sparta, New Jersey and is presently employed  
by the Havex Corporation, 589 Ferry Street, Newark, N. J.,  
as a chemist.

Black was shown photographs of various individuals  
who were involved in the Rosenberg case, including Julius and  
Ethel Rosenberg, David and Ruth Greenglass, Joel Barr, Alfred  
Sarnat, William Perl, Vivian Glassman and Morton Sobell. He  
advised that he did not know anyone of these individuals and  
the only information he could offer would be what he read  
in the newspapers at the time of the arrest and subsequent  
trial of the Rosenbergs. He also advised he did not know Morris  
or Lona Cohen.

Concerning his own activities, Black stated from  
approximately 1940 to May, 1945, his Soviet principal was  
Joseph Katz. During this period he also had other principals  
for short periods of time, but he felt that they were more or  
less filling in for Katz, who was unavailable. He could not  
recall the names of these principals. Black stated his recollec-  
tion was somewhat hazy due to the lapse of time and the only  
principals whom he recalls real well were Gaik Ovakimian, Paul  
Peterson, Dr. Gregori Rabinovich, Karl, John, Semenov and Joe  
Katz.

In showing Black pictures of the Rosenberg group, a  
photograph of Alexander Raev was placed among the pictures.  
Raev was the only individual Black stated he had ever met.  
He identified Raev's photograph as being identical with an  
individual whom he met on two occasions sometime between 1939  
and May, 1945. Black stated he believed he was introduced to  
Raev by Joe Katz. However, he is not certain of this and it

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FBI - NEWARK	

**THOMAS L. BLACK**

could possibly have been someone else. He believed the first meeting occurred in a restaurant in midtown Manhattan. While dining, Raev set up a date for a future meeting.

According to Black, the next meeting occurred about one month later and they met in front of the information booth in Penn Station, New York City. This second meeting was merely a get-acquainted meeting and Black does not recall receiving any assignments. He believed they had dinner together at a restaurant near Penn Station and he did not see Raev any more after this meeting.

Black recalled Raev as the type of person who always seemed to wear a smile. He had a pleasant personality and he impressed Black as being a novice in the "spy business". Black explained this by stating that he felt Raev violated a breach of security by arranging for a meet in front of the information booth at Penn Station. Black felt that a more experienced agent would not select such a place for a meet.

In response to an inquiry as to why he hedged on a prior identification of Raev, Black stated that whatever he said at any previous time would have been true to the best of his recollection as of that time. He recalled being previously questioned concerning Raev and recalled stating that he did not know whether or not he had ever met him. In an effort to determine when he met Raev, Black stated that it would have been sometime between 1939 and May, 1945. When he was told that Raev did not enter the United States until February, 1944, Black stated that in that case it would have been between February, 1944 and May, 1945.

Black also stated that from 1933 to May, 1945, he lived in three different apartments on Oxford Street in Newark, N. J. These apartments were owned by the Prudential Insurance Company. He does not recall the addresses on Oxford Street where he lived, but he said that he resided in two different apartments in the same building. He further stated that the purpose of these moves was to break away from the Soviets, which he had been trying to do since 1936. When he moved he would have his telephone number changed to an unlisted number. In addition, he also had his telephone number changed on other occasions without actually moving from an apartment on Oxford Street.



**THOMAS L. BLACK**

However, Joseph Katz was always able to find him and Katz intimated to him that he had a source in the telephone company for finding unlisted numbers.

The last time he saw Joseph Katz was sometime around May, 1945, after Black moved from Newark, N. J. to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to work for Berg Laboratories. He did not know how Katz was able to find out where he was working, but in any event, while absent from Berg Laboratories one day, he received a phone call from a Miss Watkins. When this message was relayed to him, he recognized it as a prearranged signal and came to New York to see Katz. Black stated that this was the last time he saw Katz or any Soviet principal.

In connection with William Stapler, Black said he first met him about 1943 and believed he was introduced to Stapler by Katz. However, he is not certain of this and it could have been someone else. Black believed this meeting took place in New York City, but is not certain of same. After this initial meeting, Black met Stapler on two other occasions, both at Penn Station, Newark, N. J. and both meetings took place within a six-week period. At the first meeting at Penn Station, Newark, Black gave Stapler a sealed envelope containing over \$100. Stapler complained to Black about money and said the Hopewell reports were worth more than he was receiving. The second meeting occurred about six weeks later and nothing unusual transpired at this meeting. Black described this meeting as merely a maintaining contact meeting. In trying to estimate the year when these two meetings occurred, Black recalls Stapler telling him that his son was then 21 years of age and was in the U. S. Army.

Black further stated that he lost his job at Nopco in 1944, after ten years employment there. He told Joseph Katz he was jobless, whereas actually he was working a few days a week for Fine Organics in Lodi, N. J. and later for Berg Laboratories in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Since Katz thought he was out of work, Black received \$100 a month for at least six months. Black was certain that he did not receive only \$500 and he believes it is possible that he could have received \$700.

At the conclusion of the interview, Black stated that he was sorry that he could not be more specific on dates,

**THOMAS L. BLACK**

that he finds it difficult to relate events that occurred almost twenty years ago.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. 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.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (65-58038)

FROM: SAC, NEWARK (65-3906) (RUC)

SUBJECT: [REDACTED] b1

DATE: 4/19/62

Re Bulet to Newark 3/19/62 and New York letter to Bureau, 9/28/61.

Enclosed for the information of the Bureau and for possible dissemination are six copies of a letterhead memorandum captioned "THOMAS L. BLACK, ESPIONAGE - R". Copies of the letterhead memorandum are also being furnished offices receiving copies of this communication.

[REDACTED] b1

[REDACTED] b1

[REDACTED] b1

BLACK admitted meeting RAEV on two occasions during a period which had to occur between February, 1944 and May, 1945 (assuming RAEV never had a prior surreptitious entry into the United States).

[REDACTED] b1

BLACK admitted living in three apartments on Oxford Street in Newark from 1933 to 1945 and having his phone changed

- 2 - Bureau (Enc. 6) (RM)
- 1 - New York (65-14843) (Info) (Enc. 1) (RM)
- 1 - San Francisco (65-3939) (Enc. 1) (Info) (RM)
- 1 - Los Angeles (65-4778) (Enc. 1) (Info) (RM)
- 1 - Washington Field (65-5044) (Enc. 1) (Info) (RM)
- 2 - Newark (1 - 65-4074)

RWC:eng

Sub. Acc  
Serialized

65-4074-351  
65-4074-35

**NK 65-3908**

**to unlisted numbers in an effort to break off relations with the Soviets.**

**The Newark Office will conduct no further investigation in this matter until additional instructions are received from the Bureau.**



DIRECTOR, FBI (103-93021)

7/23/62

SAC, NEWARK (105-10908) (MCC)

BURGE VLADIMIR SHERBIN, Aka.  
IS - R  
(CO: Los Angeles)

On 7/13/62 THOMAS L. BLACK advised he has been employed at Dorne Chemical Co., 632 South Front St., Elizabethport, N. J., for about two weeks. He said his former employment at Havez Corp., Newark, N. J., terminated in April, 1962, since this company was going out of business.

BLACK examined all photographs of subject as furnished by Los Angeles. BLACK advised that the photographs with the date 1939 on the rear bore a good resemblance to Unsub., Aka. CARL, but did not feel that the person in this photograph was identical with the person he knew as CARL. BLACK did point out that he has not seen CARL since 1939 and that since that time his recollection of CARL is becoming fuzzy. BLACK, however, eliminated the remaining photographs of the subject.

BLACK in further commenting on the subject's photographs dated 1939 said he felt the person in this photograph bore a good resemblance to CARL since both subject and CARL had light wavy hair, were tall and slim, both had blue eyes, and both had generally the same facial features. BLACK said, however, that he recalls CARL as younger in age than subject, at least 6'4" in height, as one with very deep "baby blue eyes", a pronounced square jaw, and one whose origin was Scandinavian rather than Russian. BLACK said CARL was a very cultured person who undoubtedly was very well educated. He said that from his conversations with CARL, it was his opinion CARL had a cultural education in the liberal arts rather than a technical field. He said CARL spoke excellent English although there was a trace of an accent, believed by BLACK to be a Scandinavian accent, not a Russian accent.

- 3 - Bureau (RM)
- 2 - Los Angeles (100-10085) (RM)
- 1 - New York (100-17473) (Info) (RM)
- 2 - Newark
- (3) - 65-4074

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NK 105-10908

BLACK said he had met with CARL perhaps six times during 1939 in New York City. He said one significant thing he recalled about CARL was that he was a lover of semi-classical music and particularly fond of Gilbert and Sullivan's operettas. BLACK recalled mentioning to CARL that the famed "D'Oyle Carte Opera Company" noted for their performances of Gilbert and Sullivan operettas in England, was coming to the U.S. to perform and that BLACK, also an admirer of Gilbert and Sullivan, was looking forward to seeing this group perform. BLACK recalls CARL stating that he, in the recent past, had seen this group perform in the Gilbert and Sullivan operettas at the Savoy Theater in England. BLACK said he would guess that CARL had seen this performance during the period from 1935 - 1939.

In view of BLACK's comment that subject's 1939 photographs bore a good resemblance to Unsub., Aka. CARL, although he did not feel subject and CARL to be the same person, it is suggested that when the Los Angeles Office interviews subject, the topic of music should be inserted into the conversation and mention made of Gilbert and Sullivan operettas. BLACK mentioned that CARL could speak for hours on music and was well orientated in Gilbert and Sullivan operettas.

This may aid in determining whether subject is or is not identical with Unsub., Aka. CARL.

10/31/74

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (65-57913)

~~TOP SECRET~~

FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (65-14913)

SUBJECT: JOSEPH KATZ aka  
ESP-R  
(OO:NY)

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING  
SLIP(S) OF *Classification*  
DATE *10/31/78 JSP/RS*

ReNYteletype, 10/15/74. *U*

For the information of NK, KATZ and wife, REBECCA GETZOFF, both presently residing in England, visited US in September, 1974, and attempts to obtain subject's cooperation were negative. *U*

During interviews with SA ROBERT G. JENSEN, THOMAS L. BLACK (Bufile 65-58934) in June, 1950, (Report of SA JENSEN, page 8 and 9, 7/21/50, Philadelphia, Pa. in KATZ case), BLACK told of meeting with KATZ in NYC after WW II, possibly 1948 or earlier. At this meeting, KATZ said "they" had a contact through which they could learn what the FBI knew about BLACK. *U*

~~TOP SECRET~~

CLASSIFIED BY 5806

EXEMPT FROM GDS, CATEGORY 3

DATE OF DECLASSIFICATION INDEFINITE

- 2 - Bureau (RM) *2923 me*
- 3 - Newark (65-3933) (RM)
- ① - 65-4074 (THOMAS L. BLACK) *U*
- 1 - New York (65-15338) (THOMAS L. BLACK)
- 1 - New York

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(8)

Classified by *1259*  
Exempt from GDS, Category *2, 3*  
Date of Declassification Indefinite



*65-4074-353*

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FBI-NEWARK	

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