

The Director

February 4, 1949

Mr. D. M. Ladd

JAY DAVID WHITTAKER CHAMBERLAIN, WAS.;
ALGER HISS
PERJURY - ESPIONAGE - R

Attached hereto is a memorandum setting forth information from the Bureau's files on Alger Hiss, with particular respect to his reported participation in Communist espionage in Washington in the 1930's as alleged by Jay David Whittaker Chambers.

Further developments in this connection will be summarized together with the information contained in the attached memorandum in a brief now in the course of preparation on the entire Chambers case.

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JAY DAVID WHITTAKER CHAMBERS, WAS.;
ALGER HISS
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January 28, 1949

-
Memorandum on Alger Hiss

Kisseloff-24974

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JAY DAVID WHITTAKER CHAMBERS, WAS.;
ALGER HISS
PERJURY
ESPIONAGE - R

January 28, 1949

Memorandum on Alger Hiss

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Director, FBI

January 28, 1949

Mr. D. M. Ladd

JAY DAVID WHITTAKER CHAMBERS, was
ALGER HISS
PERJURY
ESPIONAGE - R

The information which follows has been obtained from the Bureau's files and pertains to Alger Hiss, one of the individuals who has figured prominently in the allegations of Jay David Whittaker Chambers concerning the existence of a Communist underground espionage apparatus in Washington, D. C. in the 1930's.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Alger Hiss was born November 11, 1904 at Baltimore, Maryland. He attended the public schools of Baltimore, Maryland and Powder Point Academy in Duxbury, Massachusetts. He was granted a Bachelor of Arts degree by Johns Hopkins University in 1926 and a Bachelor of Law degree by Harvard University in 1929. Hiss is married to Priscilla Fansler Hobson Hiss and has one son, Anthony, and a stepson, Timothy Hobson.

Following his graduation from Harvard, Hiss became Secretary to Associate Justice Oliver W. Holmes of the United States Supreme Court and remained in that capacity until October, 1930. From that time until May, 1933 he practiced law in Boston, Massachusetts and New York City. Hiss was then employed from May, 1933 until April, 1935 as Assistant to the General Counsel and as Assistant General Counsel of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration at a salary of \$6,000 to \$7,000 per year. During a portion of this period he served as a legal assistant to the Senate Munitions Investigation Committee, remaining in that position until August, 1935. During the succeeding year until August, 1936 Hiss served as Special Attorney in the Office of the Solicitor General in the Department of Justice at a salary ranging from \$6,000 to \$7,500 a year. He was appointed Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of State at \$5,600 per year on September 1, 1936, and on June 1, 1939 his salary was increased to \$5,800 per year. In 1942 he was reported to be Assistant to the Adviser on Political Relations in the Department of State. On February 19, 1945 Hiss, then Deputy of the Office of Special Political Affairs in the Department of State, was indicated as the successor of Edwin G. Wilson as Director of that office upon the assignment of Wilson as Ambassador to Turkey. Hiss served as Secretary General of the United Nations Conference at San Francisco in 1945. He resigned from the Department of State in January, 1947

to become President of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. As a result of the disclosures of Jay David Whittaker Chambers concerning Hiss, Hiss is presently on a ninety-day leave of absence with pay from his post with the Carnegie Endowment, pending a clarification of the controversy which has arisen between him and Chambers. (101-2668-10)

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INVESTIGATION PRIOR TO CHAMBERS' ALLEGATIONS

Alger Hiss was investigated in the latter part of 1941 and the early part of 1942 in accordance with the provisions of Public Law #135 (Hatch Act). At that time Hiss had been reported to be a member of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action according to the House Committee on Un-American Activities. It was determined, however, that the name of Alger Hiss did not, in fact, appear in the active indices of that organization but that the name of his wife did. Since Hiss was then Assistant to the Adviser on Political Relations in the Department of State, a copy of the report on this investigation was furnished to the Secretary of State by letter dated March 24, 1942. This report set forth information furnished by a former fellow-employee of Hiss in the Agricultural Adjustment Administration to the effect that Hiss and his associates in the AAA, if not Communists, were fellow travelers. No other unfavorable information was developed and Hiss himself denied in a sworn statement that he had ever been a member of the Communist Party, the Washington Committee for Democratic Action, or of any other organization which advocated the overthrow of the Government.

By letter dated March 26, 1942 G. Howland Shaw, Assistant Secretary of the Department of State, advised that Hiss was well and favorably known to a number of the higher officials of the Department and was a valued employee. Mr. Shaw's letter stated that the FBI report, mentioned above, afforded "no basis for administrative action." (101-2668-5, 6; 65-56402-695)

CHAMBERS' ALLEGATIONS ON MAY 13, 1942

On May 13, 1942 Jay David Whittaker Chambers advised Special Agents of the FBI that Alger Hiss and his brother, Donald Hiss, were members of the Communist Party underground organization in Washington which was headed by Harold Ware. Chambers described Alger Hiss as a former employee of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration who had later served in the Government's investigation of the Munitions Industry and had subsequently become an Assistant Solicitor General of the United States. Chambers further explained that the same Hiss had later become an assistant to the Assistant Secretary of State. (100-25824-22)

INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED

The Bureau's files do not disclose that any investigation was conducted in 1942 following Chambers' allegations concerning Hiss. It may be noted that Chambers' disclosures were not reported to the State Department by the FBI inasmuch as upon the occasion he furnished this information to FBI Agents, Chambers had first obtained approval to do so from Adolf A. Berle, Jr., then Assistant Secretary of State and had made it evident that he had already submitted similar details to Mr. Berle.

CHAMBERS' ALLEGATIONS IN BERLE NOTES OBTAINED IN JUNE, 1943

In June, 1943 the FBI obtained from the then Assistant Secretary of State, Adolf A. Berle, a copy of notes which he had made in 1939 in the course of an interview with Chambers. The portion of the Berle notes which pertained to Alger Hiss read as follows:

"Alger Hiss
Assistant to Sayre - CP - 1937
Member of the Underground Com. - Active
Baltimore Boys
Wife - Priscilla Hiss - Socialist -
Early Days of New Deal"

There is no record of any additional information having been furnished by Mr. Berle at the time he furnished a copy of his notes to a representative of the FBI. (100-25824-27)

At this point it should be noted that, as mentioned above, Alger Hiss in March of 1945, was employed by the Department of State. On March 24, 1945 an official of the FBI (Mr. E. A. Tamm, the Assistant to the Director) furnished orally the substance of a summary memorandum, dated March 21, 1945, concerning Alger Hiss to Robert Lynch, Special Assistant to the Secretary of State. This summary memorandum reflected that Chambers, a former member of the Communist Party, had reported that Alger Hiss had been a member of the underground organization of the Communist Party. This memorandum also mentioned that Hiss had been associated with Nathan Witt and Lee Pressman, who were also reported to have been recruited into the Communist underground in Washington, D. C. (61-7559; 100-25836-41; 101-2668-9, 12)

On March 27, 1945 a summary memorandum dated March 26, 1945, containing the information set forth in the preceding paragraph, was furnished to Mr. Frederick B. Lyon, Chief of the Division of Foreign Activity Correlation of the Department of State, by an official of the FBI (Mr. D. M. Ladd) pursuant to Mr. Lyon's request. (101-2668-10)

CHAMBERS' ALLEGATIONS ON MAY 10, 1945

When interviewed on May 10, 1945, Jay David Whittaker Chambers said that Hiss, who in the meantime had become General Secretary of the United Nations Conference at San Francisco, had met on several occasions with Harold Ware's group and that he had usually attended meetings of the group when they were held at Henry Collins' house. He said that when Hiss went with the Senate (Hye) Munitions Investigation Committee, Hiss had been segregated from the

group and had no more official contacts with them. Chambers said, however, that Hiss did meet socially with many of the group and was particularly close to John Abt's sister, Marian Bachrach. Chambers further stated that he had no reason to believe that Hiss had broken away from the Communist Party. As a reason for this belief, he explained that after he, Chambers, had broken with the Party, he had made a special trip to Hiss' home in the Georgetown Section of Washington for the purpose of persuading Hiss to leave the Party. Chambers explained that when he arrived there, Hiss' wife was the only one present and that while Chambers momentarily excused himself to go to the bathroom, he observed Hiss' wife going to the telephone "obviously to get in touch with Party members." Chambers immediately returned to the room and awaited the arrival of Alger Hiss. When Hiss arrived they had dinner together at his home following which Chambers said he talked with him all night in an endeavor to persuade Hiss to leave the Party. Chambers stated that, with tears streaming down his face, Hiss had refused to break with the Communists and had given as his reason for not breaking away, his loyalty to his friends and his principles. Chambers pointed out that in his opinion one of the strongest reasons for Hiss' maintaining contact with the Communist Party was the fanatical loyalty to the Communist Party on the part of his wife. In this connection Chambers explained that he had endeavored to persuade Hiss to leave the Communist Party because he personally had great regard for Hiss and considered him an intelligent and decent young man whose better judgment should have led him to leave the Communist Party.

INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED

Although no action was immediately taken concerning Chambers' additional information concerning Hiss, Hiss, as a result of the disclosures of Elizabeth Terrill Bentley in November, 1945, became a subject of the investigation conducted in the Silvermaster case. (100-25824-22, 27, 36)

ALLEGATIONS OF ELIZABETH TERRILL BENTLEY IN NOVEMBER - 1945

On November 7, 1945 Elizabeth Terrill Bentley voluntarily appeared at the New York Office of the FBI and furnished, at length, information concerning her own activities as well as the activities of other individuals in Soviet espionage which she stated had extended into agencies of the United States Government. She was thereafter interviewed on numerous occasions during the month of November, 1945 and on November 30, 1945 she signed a statement which set forth her allegations concerning the individuals named by her. It should be noted that Miss Bentley's allegations were the first indication received by the FBI that a Soviet espionage ring had existed in Washington.

Miss Bentley related that Harold Glasser had been working in Europe for the United States Treasury Department and that Victor Perlo had advised her that Glasser had asked him if he, Glasser, would be able to return to the Perlo Group. Bentley at a later date, in talking with Charles Kramer in New York City, brought up the matter of Glasser's return to activity in the Perlo Group and Kramer, at that time, stated that the person who had originally taken Glasser away from the Perlo Group and had turned him over directly to a Russian was a man named Hiss, who was employed in the Department of State. Miss Bentley subsequently was advised by her Russian contact named Jack that he had learned of the identity of Hiss. Miss Bentley indicated that the Hiss in question was an adviser to Dean Acheson of the Department of State named Eugene Hiss. (Subsequent inquiry pointed to the individual referred to as being Alger Hiss.) (65-56402-220)

INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED

Authority was requested of the Attorney General to install a technical surveillance on the residence of Alger Hiss, 3210 P Street, N. W., Washington, D. C., by memorandum dated November 28, 1945. The request was based on the allegation that Hiss was engaged in Soviet espionage. By memorandum dated November 29, 1945, the Attorney General asked if this individual was identical with the one employed in the State Department, and if so, what information the FBI had regarding him. In accordance to the Attorney General's inquiry, a memorandum dated November 30, 1945 was furnished to him concerning Alger Hiss. This memorandum set forth the allegations of Elizabeth Terrill Bentley concerning the individual named Hiss, who was employed in the State Department. This surveillance was authorized and installed. (65-56402-94)

It was ascertained that in March, 1946, Michael Greenberg, another individual mentioned by Miss Bentley as being connected with the espionage ring which she had described, addressed a letter to Alger Hiss, setting forth his qualifications and stating, "I expect to be in New York City next week and would appreciate any suggestions you might make. If it be possible to put me in touch with principal WFO people, I would appreciate it duly." (65-56402-1019)

Alger Hiss was interviewed at his request by a Bureau official, Mr. D. M. Ladd, on March 25, 1946. At that time Hiss explained that he wished to clear up any questions that might have arisen concerning his loyalty to the Government since it had been brought to his attention by the then Secretary of State, James F. Byrnes, that his name had been mentioned in connection with subversive organizations. Hiss, on this occasion, denied that he or his wife were ever members of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action. He mentioned the possibility that his wife could have been a member of the League

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of Women Shoppers because he thought that some of her friends had been members of that organization. Hiss further emphatically stated that at no time had he been a member of the Communist Party or had any association with it. He further declared that he knew of no friends of his who were members of the Party. Asked, whether he had any association with any person or persons who might be members of any subversive organizations which might have caused the belief to exist that he likewise was a member of such organizations, he replied that he knew of no association on his part with any persons which would lead to this conclusion. The results of this interview were made available to both the Attorney General and the Secretary of State on March 25, 1946. (65-56402-1123X)

Chambers was further interviewed on March 28, 1946 at New York City with specific reference to Alger Hiss. On this occasion he said he was unable to elaborate on any of the information concerning Hiss' connection with the Communist Party which he had furnished at the time he was interviewed in 1942 and again in 1945 by Bureau agents. He recalled that after 1937, being no longer actively associated with the Communist Party, he had lost all contact with Alger Hiss. He stated that as a matter of fact he had absolutely no information that would conclusively prove Hiss held a membership card in the Communist Party or that he was an actual dues-paying member of the Party, even while he was active prior to 1937. He declared that he knew in 1937 that Hiss was favorably impressed with the Communist movement and was of the belief that Hiss was then (1946) still of the same belief. He indicated that he did not have any documentary proof on which to base this belief, having based it solely on comments made by various Washington and New York newspaper writers at the time. (100-25823-33)

On December 20, 1946 it was determined through physical surveillance that Robert Talbott Miller, III, also mentioned by Miss Bentley as being involved in the spy ring reported by her, spent three hours at the office of Alger Hiss in the Department of State. (65-56402-2243)

On April 15, 1947 Robert Talbott Miller, III was interviewed by Special Agents of the FBI at which time he denied being a member of the Communist Party but acknowledged acquaintanceship with various members of the espionage group described by Elizabeth Ferrill Bentley, including Alger Hiss. He insisted, however, that he had no knowledge of any Communist sympathies on the part of any of the individuals he admitted knowing. (65-56402-2349)

Alger Hiss was interviewed by Special Agents of the FBI on August 2, 1947. He stated that he was acquainted with Charles Kramer, whom he had met while both were employed in the United States Department of Agriculture, but that he had not seen him for sometime. He denied knowing Nathan Gregory Silvermaster but acknowledged that he was acquainted with John Mt. He advised that he had met Victor Perlo in 1934 but did not recall him very well. He said

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that he had met Harold Glasser in an official capacity when Glasser was an official of the United States Treasury Department, but denied that he had ever placed Glasser in touch with any representative of the Soviet Government. He denied that he had any information to the effect that any individual, either in or out of the Government, had ever attempted to furnish any Government information to unauthorized persons. The individuals mentioned above were others who, according to Liss Bentley, were connected with Soviet espionage in the United States. On that occasion Liss also denied that he had any connection with the Communist Party and said that he was not acquainted with an individual named Whittaker Chambers. In a signed statement which he furnished he also mentioned knowing Leon Fressman and Henry Collins, both of whom had been mentioned by Chambers in connection with his allegations concerning a Communist underground apparatus in Washington. (65-56402-2530; 65-56402-113; 100-25324-30)

DISTRIBUTION OF FBI REPORTS CONCERNING ALLEGATIONS OF ESPIONAGE AND SUMMARY INFORMATION SUBSEQUENT TO NOVEMBER 7, 1945

Subsequent to the allegations which Elizabeth Terrill Bentley began to make to the FBI on November 7, 1945, information concerning Alger Hiss has been distributed to the White House, the Attorney General and his former employer, the State Department, as follows:

Information Furnished to White House and Attorney General

White House

On December 4, 1945, Brigadier General Harry W. Vaughan, Military Aide to the President, was furnished a summary (entitled "Soviet Espionage in the United States") dated November 27, 1945. This summary contained the allegations of Elizabeth Bentley concerning Soviet espionage in agencies of the U. S. Government. The name of Alger Hiss was mentioned therein.

A summary of information (captioned "Soviet Espionage in the United States") dated December 12, 1945, containing information concerning the allegations of Bentley, was furnished to Admiral William D. Leahy, Chief of Staff to the Commander in Chief of Army and Navy, the White House, by letter dated February 20, 1946. Hiss was named in this summary by Bentley as a member of Soviet espionage parallel operating in agencies of the U. S. Government. This summary was discussed by the A. G. with the President on July 24, 1946. (61-3492-225)

By letter dated February 25, 1946, a summary (entitled, "Underground Soviet Espionage Organization (RSD) in Agencies of the U. S. Government") dated February 21, 1946, wherein Hiss was mentioned, was made available to Brigadier General Harry W. Vaughan, Military Aide to the President. The information on Hiss included in this summary covered his suspected connections with Soviet espionage as alleged by Bentley and the results of the investigation conducted by this Bureau as of that date based on these allegations. This was discussed by the A. G. with the President on July 24, 1946. (65-54402-573)

On March 7, 1946, a memorandum (entitled, "The Comintern Apparatus") dated March 5, 1946, was furnished to Admiral William D. Leahy, Chief of Staff to the Commander in Chief of Army and Navy, the White House, which contained information regarding Miss Bentley's allegations about Soviet espionage in the U. S. Government. Alger Hiss was mentioned in connection with this summary. This summary was discussed with the President by the A. G. on July 24, 1946. (100-120625-2054)

On July 24, 1946, the Attorney General discussed with the President a summary (entitled, "Soviet Espionage Activity") dated February 6, 1946, in which brief mention was made of Soviet espionage agents in the U. S. Government as alleged by Miss Bentley. Alger Hiss was mentioned in this summary. The Attorney General was furnished this summary on February 7, 1946. (61-3499-213, 295, 296)

On July 24, 1946, the Attorney General discussed with the President a summary (entitled, "Underground Soviet Espionage Organization (RSD) in Agencies of the United States Government") dated February 21, 1946. This summary had to do with persons alleged by Miss Bentley to be engaged in Soviet espionage who were at that time employed in the U. S. Government. Alger Hiss was mentioned in this group. This summary was furnished the Attorney General on February 23, 1946. (65-54402-490; 61-3499-295, 296)

A summary dated July 25, 1946, (entitled, "Soviet Activities in the United States") was furnished to the Attorney General by memorandum dated July 25, 1946, pursuant to a request made of the Attorney General by Clark M. Clifford, Special Counsel to the President. Under the heading "Government Underground," Bentley's allegations were summarized naming the principal subjects employed in the U. S. Government who were engaged in Soviet espionage. Alger Hiss was included in this group. This summary was for the President's use in connection with the Paris conference on July 29, 1946. (100-345436-1)

By letter dated December 16, 1946, a summary (entitled "Underground Soviet Espionage Organization (UKVO) in Agencies of the U. S. Government") dated October 21, 1946, containing Bentley's allegations regarding Hiss and the results of the investigation conducted by this Bureau as of that date based on these allegations, was made available to George Allen, Presidential Advisor. (65-56402-1817)

Attorney General

On December 4, 1945, a summary (entitled, "Soviet Espionage in the United States") dated November 27, 1945, was furnished to the Attorney General. This summary contained Miss Bentley's allegations concerning Soviet espionage in the U. S. Government and mentioned the name of Alger Hiss. (100-7826-37)

On February 7, 1946, the Attorney General was furnished with a summary (entitled, "Soviet Espionage Activity") dated February 6, 1946, which briefly mentioned Soviet espionage agents in the U. S. Government as alleged by Miss Bentley, including Alger Hiss. This summary was discussed with the President by the Attorney General on July 24, 1946. (61-3497-213, 275, 296)

By memorandum dated February 23, 1946, the Attorney General was furnished with a summary memorandum dated February 21, 1946, (entitled "Underground Soviet Espionage Organization (UKVO) in Agencies of the U. S. Government") concerning the persons named by Bentley who were engaged in Soviet espionage and who were at that time employed in the U. S. Government. Hiss was included in this summary. This summary was discussed by the Attorney General with the President on July 24, 1946. (65-56402-490; 61-3497-275, 296)

By memorandum dated February 25, 1946, a summary (entitled "Underground Soviet Espionage Organization (UKVO) in Agencies of the U. S. Government") dated February 21, 1946, wherein Hiss was prominently mentioned, was made available to the Attorney General. The information on Hiss included in this summary covered his suspected connections with Soviet espionage as alleged by Bentley and the results of the investigation conducted by this Bureau as of that date based on these allegations. This summary was discussed by the Attorney General with the President on July 24, 1946. (65-56402-573; 61-3497-275, 296)

On March 7, 1946, a memorandum (entitled, "The Comintern Apparatus") dated March 5, 1946, was furnished to the Attorney General, which contained information regarding Miss Bentley's allegations about Soviet espionage in the U. S. Government. Alger Hiss was mentioned in connection with this summary. The Attorney General on July 24, 1946, discussed this summary with the President. (100-203581-5147; 61-3497-295, 296)

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By memorandum dated March 13, 1946, captioned, "Reorganization of State Department," the Attorney General was furnished with a summary of information dated March 12, 1946, contained in the FBI files concerning Alger Hiss. This summary reflected the allegations concerning Soviet espionage made by Elizabeth Terrill Bentley. (62-39749-602)

By memorandum dated March 25, 1946, the Attorney General was advised that Alger Hiss appeared at the FBI on March 25, 1946, at which time he was interviewed by an official of the FBI. He was asked to furnish any information in his possession which in his opinion might have led to the report that he was a member of any subversive organizations. There was enclosed a copy of the information which Hiss furnished to the FBI. (101-2663-20)

A summary of information (entitled, "Soviet Espionage in the United States") dated December 12, 1945, containing information concerning the allegations of Bentley was furnished to the Attorney General on July 24, 1946. Hiss was named in this summary by Bentley as a member of a Soviet espionage parallel operating in agencies of the U. S. Government. This summary was discussed by the Attorney General with the President on July 24, 1946. (61-3499-275, 276)

A summary dated July 25, 1946, (entitled, "Soviet Activities in the United States") was furnished to the Attorney General by memorandum dated July 25, 1946, pursuant to a request made of the Attorney General by Clark M. Clifford, Special Counsel to the President. Under the heading "Government Underground," Bentley's allegations were summarized naming principal subjects employed in U. S. Government who were engaged in Soviet espionage. Alger Hiss was included in this group. This summary was for the President's use in connection with the Paris conference on July 29, 1946. (100-345036-1)

By memorandum dated November 27, 1946, a summary dated October 21, 1946, (entitled, "Underground Soviet Espionage Organization (UWVO) in Agencies of the U. S. Government") containing Bentley's allegations regarding Hiss and the results of the investigation conducted by this Bureau as of that date based on those allegations was made available to the Attorney General. A copy of this summary was also made available to A. Devitt Vanech, Special Assistant to the Attorney General, by memorandum dated December 6, 1946. (65-53402-1756; 1537)

Information Furnished to Employing Agency

State Department

On December 4, 1945, the Secretary of State was furnished with a summary (entitled, "Soviet Espionage in the United States") dated November 27, 1945, which reflected the allegations of Elizabeth Bentley concerning Soviet espionage in the U. S. Government. This summary contained the name of Alger Hiss. A copy of this summary was made available to Spruille Braden of the State Department on December 7, 1945. (61-3499-193, 200; 62-76274-196)

On February 7, 1946, a summary (entitled, "Soviet Espionage Activity") dated February 6, 1946, was furnished to the Secretary of State via Mr. Frederick E. Lyon, Chief, Division of Foreign Activity Correlation, State Department. This summary briefly mentioned the allegations of Miss Bentley concerning Soviet espionage agents in the U. S. Government, including Alger Hiss. (61-347)-214)

By letter dated February 21, 1946, a summary concerning Alger Hiss containing the allegations of Bentley was furnished to the Secretary of State. (65-56402-528)

By letter dated February 25, 1946, a summary dated February 21, 1946, (entitled, "Underground Soviet Espionage Organization (USVO) in Agencies of the U. S. Government") wherein Alger Hiss was mentioned, was made available to the Secretary of State. The information on Hiss included in this summary covered his suspected connections with Soviet espionage as alleged by Miss Bentley and the results of the investigation conducted by this Bureau as of that date based on these allegations. A copy of this summary was made available to Mr. Fred Lyon, Chief, Division of Foreign Activity Correlation, Department of State, by letter dated March 13, 1946. (65-56402-573, 616)

On March 7, 1946, a summary (entitled, "The Comintern Apparatus") dated March 5, 1946, was furnished to the Secretary of State James F. Byrnes. This summary contained information concerning Miss Bentley's allegations of Soviet espionage in the U. S. Government. Alger Hiss was mentioned in this summary. (100-190625-2055)

By letter dated March 15, 1946, a summary, entitled, "Soviet Espionage in the United States") dated December 12, 1945, containing information regarding the allegations of Bentley was furnished to Mr. Fred Lyon, Chief, Division of Foreign Activity Correlation, State Department. Alger Hiss was named in this summary. (61-3499-239)

By letter dated March 25, 1946, the Secretary of State was advised that Alger Hiss appeared at the FBI on March 25, 1946, at which time he was interviewed by an official of the FBI. He was asked to furnish any information in his possession, which in his opinion might have led to the report that he was a member of any subversive organizations. There was enclosed a copy of the information which Hiss furnished to the FBI. (65-56402-695)

By letter dated November 25, 1946, another summary (entitled, "Underground Soviet Espionage Organization (USVO) in Agencies of the U. S. Government") dated October 21, 1946, containing the allegations of Bentley in which Alger Hiss was mentioned, was made available to the Secretary of State. A copy of this summary was furnished to Mr. Fred Lyon, Chief, Division of Foreign Activity Correlation, State Department, by letter dated December 12, 1946. This summary also reflected the results of the investigation conducted by this Bureau as of October 21, 1946, based on these allegations. (65-56402-1835, 1857)

CURRENT INVESTIGATION

Jay David Whittaker Chambers furnished a signed statement dated December 3, 1948, to Special Agents of the FBI at Baltimore, Maryland. In this statement Chambers said that he had become a defendant in a civil action brought against him by Alger Hiss in Federal Court at Baltimore, Maryland. This referred to a libel suit presently pending in the U. S. District Court for the District of Maryland which arose out of Chambers' comments concerning Alger Hiss on a radio program entitled, "Meet the Press." In a pretrial deposition taken at the request of Counsel for Hiss on November 17, 1948, in connection with this suit Chambers said he produced in evidence 65 typewritten documents and 4 small pieces of sheet paper on which there appeared handwriting that according to Chambers' recollection was the handwriting of Alger Hiss. Chambers said that the documents referred to were copies of State Department documents which were turned over to him by Alger Hiss during the latter part of 1937 and early part of 1938. He said that the documents had been in the possession of Nathan L. Levine, his wife's nephew, who is a resident of Brooklyn, New York, and a lawyer in New York City. Chambers said that he had asked Levine to hide these documents for him but in the event that any harm should befall Chambers, he told Levine to open them and make them public. Chambers further stated that Levine was unaware of the contents of the documents entrusted to him or of their original source. Chambers said that on November 14, 1948, he secured the return of these documents from Levine who in the meantime had hidden them in a dumb-waiter shaft in his mother's house in Brooklyn. Chambers explained that the envelopes containing the documents also contained three cans of undeveloped film, two strips of developed film and four yellow lined sheets of paper bearing the handwriting of Harry Dexter White. Chambers said he did not introduce the three cans of film in the deposition mentioned above because it was undeveloped, nor did he introduce the two strips of developed film because he wanted to keep all of the film together and possibly have the other film developed and made readable at a later date. He said he likewise did not introduce the sheets of paper bearing the handwriting of Harry Dexter White on the advice of counsel because it was thought to be irrelevant.

The three cans of undeveloped film and the two strips of developed negative film were turned over by Chambers, he said, to the House Committee on Un-American Activities on Thursday night, December 2, 1948, in response to a subpoena served by them at that time. Chambers then declared that he had no other documents whatever of the nature described above.

The 69 original documents produced by Chambers at Baltimore were turned over to the FBI by his attorney, Richard F. Cleveland, on November 29, 1948. (From a preliminary examination they appear to be copies and condensations of communications between the State Department and its foreign posts in Europe and the Far East. They deal generally with the various political, economic and military developments in 1938 which culminated in the world crisis of 1939. The files of the State Department are being checked as to which were actually confidential or otherwise restricted). The HCUA on December 14, 1948, made available to the FBI for examination, the five rolls of film which Chambers had given them. (These were found to contain photographs of what appear to be 62 pages of actual State Department documents of a like nature and blurred photographs of 79 pages of Navy Department correspondence and designs dealing with radio, airplane and other technical equipment).

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According to Chambers the undeveloped film contained photographs of original documents that had come from the State Department and the Bureau of Standards. He said the bulk of the documents from the State Department had been turned over to him by Alger Hiss. He said that the others were possibly turned over to him by Henry Julian Selloff.

Chambers also declared that the documents presented by him at the deposition mentioned above had been turned over to him by Alger Hiss during the latter part of 1937 and the first part of 1938 as indicated by the dates on the documents. These documents he said had been given to him for delivery to a Colonel Bykov who had been previously introduced to Alger Hiss at which time Hiss agreed to furnish the documents from the State Department to Chambers for transmittal to Bykov. Chambers said that Alger Hiss was well aware that Colonel Bykov was the head of the Soviet underground organization. He said that it was possible that some of the 65 documents presented at his deposition had been photographed and that copies of the photographs had been turned over to Colonel Bykov. Chambers stated he did not destroy the documents because he was preparing to quit the Communist Party in about April, 1938. Chambers said that some of the documents supplied by Hiss were copied on a typewriter in Alger Hiss' own home by Hiss or his wife and then turned over to Chambers. In other instances the original documents from the State Department were turned over to Chambers by Hiss and taken by him in most instances to photographers to be copied, the original documents then being returned to Alger Hiss on the same night in order to be returned by him to the State Department. One of these photographers was a Baltimorean named Felix, and it was Chambers' usual procedure to obtain documents from Alger Hiss and then meet Felix at some prearranged place either in Baltimore or Washington at which time he would give the documents to Felix for photographing. Felix would then return the documents to Chambers who would in turn give them back to Hiss. At a later date Felix would turn over the developed or undeveloped film which had been exposed and Chambers would deliver it to Colonel Bykov. He said that Alger Hiss was aware of the fact that the documents were being photographed for delivery to Colonel Bykov. Another photographer who was occasionally utilized in this manner was a man named David Carpenter, also of Baltimore.

As for Colonel Bykov, Chambers said that General Walter Krivitsky had said that he was with the 4th Section of the Red Army Intelligence. Chambers stated that J. Peters (Alexander Stevens) who had introduced him to Colonel Bykov at the end of 1936 or the first part of 1937 had appeared to be considerably disturbed because Bykov wanted to work his way into the American Communist Party's underground apparatus in Washington, D. C., as it would mean apparently, that Peters would ultimately lose control of this apparatus. However, he said that Peters was not able to do anything about it and Bykov began pressing for information about the personnel of the apparatus and requested that he meet some of them.

The first person that Ljlov met in the apparatus was Alger Hiss. In the spring of 1937, Chambers said he arranged a meeting between Hiss and Colonel Ljlov on the mezzanine floor of a theater in Brooklyn, N.Y. Chambers said similar meetings were arranged in Brooklyn between Ljlov and other members of the apparatus such as Harry Golding, George Silverman, and Harry Dexter White. Ljlov, according to Chambers, wanted to observe individuals he met in this manner to discuss present and future work for him with them and possibly also to check up on Chambers.

When Hiss met Ljlov the latter raised the question of procuring documents from the State Department and Alger Hiss agreed to do so. Following this meeting Alger Hiss began to supply a constant flow of material from the State Department such as the documents presented by Chambers at his pretrial deposition on November 17, 1948. Chambers said that he had never discussed the existence of the documents he presented at the pretrial deposition with anyone else nor had he told any other Government agency at the time about their existence.

Chambers on this occasion declared that in testifying to various Government agencies over the past ten years he had been influenced by two principles. The first was to stop 'the Communist conspiracy', the second was to try to preserve the human elements involved and for this reason he had not previously mentioned the procuring and passing of any documents. (report of SA Frank G. Johnston, 12-4-48, Baltimore)

(Nathan L. Levine of 966 Sterling Place, Brooklyn, New York, with two offices at 157 West 42nd Street, New York, N. Y., telephoned on December 15, 1948, to Special Agents of the FBI that he is the nephew of Esther Jerome Chambers, the wife of Whittaker Chambers. At that time he subsequently corroborated the earlier explanation of Chambers of the manner in which Chambers had turned over a sealed envelope to him in 1938 or 1939, hidden by Levine and eventually received by Chambers. Levine insisted, however, that the envelope had always remained sealed while in his charge and that his only knowledge of the contents thereof came from watching Chambers open the envelope immediately after he had given it back to Chambers.)

(report of SA Joseph M. Kelly, 12-23-48, N.Y.)

Chambers furnished another signed statement to the Special Agents of the FBI in New York City on December 3, 1948. On this occasion Chambers said that in connection with providing money or gifts to the various people who turned over information to him, he wished to state that no one as far as he knows has been given any money for the services they rendered. However, he did recall that probably at the end of 1936, Colonel Ljlov in one of his conversations with Chambers suggested that it might be a good idea to give Alger Hiss, Harry Dexter White and George Silverman a gift of some kind. After some discussion, Ljlov thought it might be advisable to present each of them with an expensive rug. Chambers said that he did not favor the idea but Ljlov became so persistent and as a result Chambers arranged for the purchase of three oriental rugs following inquiry made of an Armenian rug dealer in New York City. He said that Ljlov furnished him with the money to buy these rugs which cost approximately \$200 each and that as he recalled it the three rugs were sent by the Armenian rug dealer via American Airway Express to the home of George Silverman in Washington, D. C.

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Prior to the delivery of the rugs to Washington, Chambers said that he had informed Hiss, White, and Silverman that they were going to be presented with gifts as a token of gratitude for their activities for the American Communists. He said that White and Silverman appeared pleased with the fact that they were going to receive such a gift. Hiss, however, was more polite than pleased when he received his. It was Chambers' recollection that the rugs were delivered to Silverman's home because of the latter's close association with White and that Silverman delivered White's rug. The rug intended for Alger Hiss, as Chambers remembers, was brought by Silverman in his car one evening to a pre-designated point, a restaurant on Route 1 about three or four miles east of College Park, Maryland. Chambers said he accompanied Hiss in the latter's car to that point and upon arriving there he got out of Hiss' car, took the rug from Silverman's automobile and carried it to Hiss' car. (Report of SA Joseph M. Kelly dated 12-23-48 at New York)

(It may be noted that Henry Julian Madleigh has also admitted receiving an oriental rug from David Carpenter for similar reasons in this connection)

On December 15, 1948, Chambers was reinterviewed at the request of the Special Assistant to the Attorney General Thomas J. Donegan for the purpose of ascertaining his specific knowledge, if any, of the typewriter in the Hiss household together with the related facts concerning the transmission of documents by Hiss to Chambers. Chambers declared that he had never seen Priscilla Hiss operate a typewriter, that his "understanding" that she was making typewritten copies of State Department documents for transmission to Chambers came from Hiss and his wife and that he recalls no direct statement by either concerning such copying. Chambers said he is "quite sure" that he never had occasion to borrow a typewriter from either Alger or Priscilla Hiss and it is his present recollection that he himself did not own a typewriter during the period he was associated with Hiss and his wife. He did point out, however, that there was in his possession for part of that time a typewriter which had been given to him probably by J. Peters for use in connection with his work in the apparatus. Chambers said that he is positive that this machine was a portable typewriter and that it may have been a Remington. He mentioned that it may have been Colonel Bykov who furnished him with this machine but believed it came from J. Peters and that he ultimately disposed of it by abandoning it in a public elevator or public conveyance at a time and place he did not remember. Chambers believed that he got rid of the machine after leaving the Communist Party in April, 1938 but said that this is only a conclusion and not a definite recollection.

Chambers declared that he could best approximate the dates of various meetings with Alger Hiss by recalling that his last conversation with Hiss prior to the HCUA hearings in 1948 occurred in December, 1938, at which time he saw Hiss at the latter's residence on Volta Place in Washington and pleaded with Hiss to break with the Party as he himself had done eight months before. Chambers said that he fixed the date of this final meeting by remembering that Hiss asked him what kind of a Christmas his family was going to have and that Hiss gave him a small wooden rolling pin as a Christmas gift for Chambers' daughter. It is Chambers' best recollection that Hiss moved into his Volta Place residence early in the spring of

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1938 and although he has no definite recollection of having met Hiss there prior to the final meeting he feels he must have gone to see Hiss at the Volta Place address, basing this on his wife's recollection. He said meetings with Hiss in 1937 were frequent, and usually took place at the 30th Street house which Hiss occupied at that time. In explaining the exact method employed by Hiss and himself with respect to the documentary material being handled, Chambers stated that he would see Hiss usually at the end of the week and receive from him whatever material Hiss had obtained during the week. He said it was the practice of Hiss to extract each day certain material from the State Department, take it to his home where it would be copied on the typewriter, and return the original document to the Department the next day. Chambers would then take the typewritten copies of such material to Carpenter who would photograph this material. Chambers would turn over the microfilm thus produced to Colonel Bykov and would destroy the typewritten material.

With respect to the four small sheets containing the handwriting of Alger Hiss which are referred to above, Chambers explained that at the time he would make his weekly visit to Hiss' home some material might be in the form of handwritten notes which had not yet been copied on the typewriter. Rather than wait for this material to be typed, Chambers would take these penciled notes along with the typewritten material. However, Chambers stated that to the best of his present recollection all of the written information he gave to Colonel Bykov was on film and never was it the original documents or typed copies.

With respect to his reason for having in his possession in November, 1948, 65 typewritten sheets furnished him by Alger Hiss, Chambers explained that they were the last documents given him by Hiss and that shortly prior to the time he began receiving this particular group of documents he had already made up his mind to break away from the Communist Party and had decided to retain them for further use in the event it became necessary to have documentary proof that, in fact, not only Alger Hiss but the Communist Party was involved in espionage against the United States. Chambers made the observation that in all probability the 65 sheets of typewritten material referred to had been photographed in the usual manner and that the film developed had been delivered by him to Bykov.

With respect to the rolls of microfilm that were seized by the HCUA on December 2, 1948, at the Chambers' farm, (where they had been hidden in a pumpkin), Chambers explained that in all probability this was photographed material, the microfilm for which he had received at about the time he had definitely decided to leave the Communist Party and for that reason had not turned it over to Bykov. (New York report of SA Joseph M. Kelly of December 23, 1948)

Chambers was interviewed on December 31, 1948, by Mr. Ray Whearty of the Department of Justice and a Special Agent of the FBI in Mr. Whearty's Office. On this occasion Chambers furnished additional details concerning his espionage operations and again referred to Boris Bykov to whom he said he had been introduced by J. Peters. He repeated his statement that Bykov had met on a single occasion with Alger Hiss as well as with other individuals. Chambers again mentioned the underground group organized by Harold Ware among Government employees in Washington, D.C.

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in the early 1930's mentioning that the primary objective at first was to place Communists in important positions where they had opportunity for advancement in order to formulate or influence policies along lines favoring Communist interests. He again mentioned that this group included among others, Alger and Donald Hiss, Henry Collins, John Abt, Charles Krazer, Victor Perlo, Nathan Witt, and Lee Pressman.

Concerning early operations, Chambers recalled that in about 1935 Alger Hiss had furnished him with a set of State Department documents which Hiss had secured through his employment with the Nye (Munitions Investigation) Committee. Chambers said that he photographed these documents himself with a Leica camera supplied by J. Peters. He mentioned that Hiss had been instrumental in taking documents from the State Department furnished to the Committee in the usual course of business and observed that a man named Greene, a former professor of History at Princeton University who was then in the State Department, had unwittingly supplied these documents but subsequently became somewhat suspicious and as a result, the practice was discontinued.

Concerning Harry Dexter White, Chambers recalled that J. Peters had introduced him to George Silverman at an early date and that Silverman in turn had introduced him to White in about 1936. He recalled vividly he said that Harry White was a financial expert who had evolved a fiscal plan for Soviet Russia in which he was greatly interested. Chambers advised that in the summer of 1937 as he recalls, Alger and Priscilla Hiss took Chambers to White's summer home in New Hampshire to discuss this monetary plan with him. He remembered that they stopped the first night in Thomaston, Connecticut, drove to White's home the following day and returned by way of Peterborough, New Hampshire, where they attended the performance of a summer stock company. Chambers also remembered that White's brother from Boston, Massachusetts, was at White's summer place at the time.

Chambers again mentioned that Alger Hiss had conceived the idea that Noel Field would be a good source of information and had made a serious effort to recruit Field only to return to Chambers with the report that Field indicated he was already in a "parallel". Chambers also said he had a vague recollection that Hiss had related having made an effort to recruit Laurence Duggan also and had returned giving the impression that Duggan was already operating. Chambers said he recalls that Noel Field was the best friend of Laurence Duggan and he cannot but believe that Duggan was aware of the activity around him.

Chambers was questioned briefly about Harold Glasser, mentioned above in the allegations of Elizabeth Terrill Bentley. Chambers said that he was not aware that Glasser also furnished Alger Hiss with any information but understood that Glasser was a member of an underground cell. Against this statement is that of Miss Bentley to the effect that Charles Kramer once informed her that Glasser had been stolen from the Perlo Group by Hiss.

As a side light on Hiss, Chambers recalled that Priscilla Hiss had been a very close friend of Marian Bachrach and had continued to see her frequently after being forbidden to do so by the apparatus. Kisseloff-24993

Following the above interview Chambers on his way out of the Justice Building advised Special Agent Maurice A. Taylor that he was suspicious of William P. Marbury, the Baltimore Attorney who is representing Alger Hiss. Chambers stated that he thought Marbury may have ideological interest in the defense of Hiss which goes further than his ordinary interest as Hiss' counsel. He stated that Marbury had plenty of opportunity to withdraw from the case since the documents were produced but had appeared more interested than ever. He recalled that Marbury had questioned him at great length regarding Helen Ware and the meetings of the underground group in her violin studio at Washington, D. C. Chambers said he concluded that in view of the complete knowledge of Helen Ware evidenced by Marbury he must have been aware of the fact that she was the daughter of Ella Reeve Bloor. (Washington report of SA Maurice A. Taylor, January 4, 1949)

ALGER HISS INTERVIEWED DECEMBER 4, 1948

Alger Hiss furnished a signed statement to Special Agents of the FBI at Baltimore, Maryland on December 4, 1948. In this statement he referred to the 65 pages of typewritten material and four small sheets of paper bearing handwritten material which Chambers had introduced at a pretrial examination on November 17, 1948 in the office of Hiss' attorney, William L. Marbury in Baltimore in connection with the Hiss libel suit against Chambers. Hiss stated that there had been exhibited to him by the interviewing Agents photostatic copies of the documents referred to and that he was satisfied that they were copies of the documents actually produced by Chambers.

Hiss said he had read portions of the court reporter's transcription of the deposition of Chambers and said that according to a part of it, Chambers on November 5, 1948, had been asked whether he had ever obtained any documents from Hiss for transmittal to the Communist Party and Chambers had replied that he had not.

Hiss said that from a cursory examination of the typewritten material mentioned above he would say that they appeared to be authentic copies of U. S. State Department documents, or summaries of such documents, dated approximately from January to March, 1938. He admitted that documents similar to those in question normally passed over his desk during his employment as Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of State, the Honorable Francis P. Sayre. He said he had no independent recollection of having seen any of the questioned documents or document summaries while he was employed by the State Department. He said that by and large the documents do not appear to be documents of a very highly confidential nature and would not have been treated in the State Department with any special precautions at that time according to the security regulations then in effect. Hiss said that three of the four handwritten pages appeared to be in his own handwriting. The fourth page, consisting of five handwritten lines, Hiss said may or may not be in his handwriting, but does not look to him as if it were.

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Hiss stated he learned from his attorney and from reading the above-mentioned deposition that Chambers claimed the questioned documents and others like them had been obtained by Hiss from the State Department and that typewritten copies of the larger documents had been made on a typewriter in Hiss' home either by Hiss or his wife, Priscilla. He said he was also aware of Chambers' claim that Hiss would subsequently return such documents to the files of the State Department. He said he was also aware that Chambers alleged that on some occasions Hiss had turned over the actual State Department documents to him, that photographic copies would be made in a manner unknown to Hiss and that these documents would then be returned to Hiss for return to the State Department files.

Hiss denied that any of the above claims of Chambers are true. He also denied that he ever gave the originals of the handwritten documents to Chambers at any time for any purpose whatsoever. Hiss further denied that any of the claims of Chambers concerning a meeting between Colonel Rykov and Hiss are true. He said he had never met, and had never heard of any Russian named Peter or Colonel Rykov until he was told of the testimony given by Chambers.

Hiss did admit that he had a typewriter in his home in Washington during the period from 1936 to some time after 1938, which was an old-fashioned machine and was possibly an Underwood. He said that Mrs. Hiss, although not a typist, had used this machine somewhat as an amateur typist, but that he never recalled having used it. He claimed that Mrs. Hiss disposed of this typewriter to either a second-hand typewriter concern or a second-hand dealer in Washington, D. C. some time subsequent to 1938, the exact date and place being unknown to him. He denied having any knowledge of the present whereabouts of the typewriter, but explained that before it had come into the possession of his immediate family, it had been the property of Thomas Fansler, the father of Mrs. Hiss, who was an insurance agent in Philadelphia until his death in the early 1940's.

On this occasion, Hiss declared that until he met Chambers face to face at a sub-committee hearing of the House Committee on Un-American Activities on August 17, 1948, in the Hotel Commodore in New York City, he did not know whether he had ever previously met Chambers although he thought that newspaper pictures of him looked somewhat familiar. He acknowledged that when he first appeared before the HCUA on August 5, 1948, he had stated that to the best of his knowledge he had never met Chambers, explaining that at that time it had not occurred to him that Chambers might be "George Crosley." On August 16, 1948, he told a Sub-Committee of the HCUA in Washington that Chambers might be a person previously known to him as "George Crosley." Upon confrontation on August 17, he realized that Chambers and "George Crosley" were one and the same person. He related that he first met Chambers when he, Hiss, was employed

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as Legal Assistant to the Senate Munitions Investigation Committee about December, 1934 or January, 1935. At that time he said Chambers came to his office in the Senate Office building in Washington and stated that he was a free lance magazine writer who desired information for a series of articles on the munitions investigation. Chambers gave him the impression that he was making periodic trips to Washington from New York City where Hiss assumed he lived.

Between the turn of the year 1934-35 and the spring or summer of 1936 Chambers contacted Hiss perhaps six or eight times, always for the purpose of obtaining information for his magazine articles or of discussing the problems of munitions investigation. Hiss denied that he ever saw or heard from "Crowley" after the spring or summer of 1936 until he was confronted with him at the Sub-Committee hearing mentioned above.

Hiss said that during the period when Chambers periodically got in touch with him, he occasionally borrowed small sums of money from Hiss, totaling 20 to 30, obtained 4 or 5 at a time. Chambers appeared to be hard-pressed financially and furthermore, during this period sublet Hiss' apartment at 2331 - 24th Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. for himself, his wife and child, at \$60 a month. Hiss acknowledged that Chambers and his family spent two or three days on the third floor of his home at 2905 P Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. prior to taking over the apartment which he had just sublet and from which Hiss had just moved. It was Hiss' recollection that Chambers at the time declared that some of his furniture or other possessions had not arrived on time and that he and his family could not, therefore, move into the 24th Street apartment immediately. He said that as far as he knew, Chambers and his family lived in the apartment on 24th Street until the expiration of their lease on July 1, 1935. During the sub-tenancy of the apartment by Chambers, Hiss continued to pay the rent, he said, and Chambers has never reimbursed him for it nor has he repaid the small loans mentioned above. He declared that on one occasion Chambers did give him a rug which Chambers said he had received from a patron of his. Furthermore, while the Chambers family stayed at his house on P Street, Mrs. Chambers painted a portrait of Timothy Holton, the son of Mrs. Hiss by a former marriage, who was then eight years old.

Hiss claimed to have no clear recollection of the date of his last contact with Chambers but said it probably occurred in the spring or summer of 1936 while Hiss was employed as an attorney by the Department of Justice in Washington, D. C. However, he said that he does recall the meeting quite well and that on this occasion he told Chambers that he did not think the latter would ever repay the loans he had made to him and that he, Hiss, thought any further contacts should be discontinued. Hiss said he wished to state that Chambers never paid him any funds for any purpose. He said that during the period mentioned above, most of the contacts were made by Chambers either at Hiss' office or for lunch, with the possible exceptions that Chambers may have contacted him on several occasions at Hiss' residence.

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In connection with the sublease of the apartment, Hiss said he occasionally lent Chambers his 1929 Ford roadster. Some time after the summer of 1935, when he acquired a 1935 Plymouth Sedan, Hiss said he told Chambers that he could have the Ford Roadster, a car which he understood had a trade-in value of \$25. If Chambers used the Ford in the Fall of 1935 or the winter of 1935-36, it must have been only occasionally because, continued Hiss, he recalled it sitting on the streets of Georgetown during a number of months of that winter. He claimed that Chambers took permanent possession of the car under such circumstances some time before May or June, 1936. At that time or before he had turned over the Certificate of Title, he said, to Chambers but has no recollection of the occasion. The Certificate of Title for the Ford, he admitted, bears what appears to be his signature, witnessed under date of July 23, 1936 by Marvin Smith, a notary public, who was also employed in the same office as he was in the Department of Justice. Hiss said he could only assume that the Certificate was brought to him in his office in the Department of Justice by some one who said that he had disposed of the car without completing the legal technicalities required and that he signed it under those circumstances, asking Smith to witness his signature.

Hiss said he had endeavored personally and through counsel and private investigators to locate other persons who knew Chambers as "George Crosley" during the period from the turn of the year 1934 -35 to the Spring or Summer of 1936 but without success. He said he had discovered one person who claimed to know that Chambers at one time had submitted a manuscript to him for publication under the name of "George Crosley" but that that was during a much earlier period, approximately in 1926.

Hiss denied that he is or has ever been a member of the Communist Party or that he has ever attended any Communist Party meetings. Likewise, he denied that he has ever been a member of a Communist Party, espionage apparatus or underground group in Washington or any where else at any time. He said he never saw Chambers at any time in the State Department and knows of no opportunity which Chambers may have had, either in Hiss' State Department office or residence or any other place, to obtain any documents pertaining to State Department business during the period 1937-38 or at any other time.

He said he does not know whether Chambers personally obtained these documents from the State Department or whether he had some confederate who cooperated with him in obtaining these documents. He asserted that Chambers' entire story with respect to the matters outlined above which relate to Hiss is a complete fabrication, except as he had otherwise indicated. He said he does not know what motive Chambers could have for making such accusations against him but thinks that a thorough examination of Chambers' life and personal background might throw some light on the problem. (Source: Baltimore report of SA Frank G. Johnstone of 12/4/48) Kisseloff-24997

In addition to the above remarks which were contained in his signed statement, Hiss further stated that he believes that Chambers is a psychopathic personality and that all of his allegations relating to Hiss are fabrications. Both Hiss and his attorney, William L. Harbury, based their joint belief in this respect on the fact that in 1929 Chambers translated from the German a novel by Franz Werfel entitled "Class Reunion." The story recounted in "Class Reunion" has a striking counterpart in the present Hiss-Chambers controversy and it is evident that Chambers has used some of the exact phraseology in this novel in his testimony before the HCUA, as well as in his pretrial deposition at Baltimore, according to them.

Hiss and Harbury also advanced as a possible reason for Chambers' alleged fabrications involving Hiss that the story was of assistance to Chambers in obtaining his first position with Time Magazine. Hiss stated that Chambers first told the story involving him in about 1939 to Isaac Don Levine, Editor of "Plain Talk," an anti-Communist publication of New York City, but that Levine refused to publish it. Even at that time he pointed out most of the individuals named by Chambers were no longer in the employ of the Government, except Hiss who was advancing as a rather prominent official. Without the name of Hiss in the "expose" such a story would not be sufficiently sensational to attract the attention of Time Magazine, a prospective employer of Chambers at the time.

Hiss' story suggested the possibility that Chambers could have stolen the State Department documents in question himself, instead of having obtained them from Hiss. In support of this theory, Hiss said that his private investigation of Chambers' background had revealed that Chambers was possibly employed in Washington, D. C. in 1938 on a Railroad Retirement Project sponsored by the WPA and that this project had offices in an old theater building maintained as a storehouse for old Government records, located in the vicinity of the main State Department building. It was the thought of Hiss and Harbury that Chambers may have gained access to the State Department through familiarity with other buildings in the general locality where he was employed.

Hiss and Harbury both stated that they were particularly impressed by the fact that Chambers did not produce the documents involved in this case for patriotic reasons, but only "to save his neck in a libel suit." Hiss and Harbury assured the interviewing Agents of their desire to cooperate with the Government in every way in an effort to ascertain the true facts of this case. (Source: Baltimore report of SA Frank G. Johnstone, dated 12/14/43)

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PRISCILLA HISS INTERVIEWED DECEMBER 6 and 7, 1948

Alger Hiss' wife, Priscilla, was interviewed in the presence of her attorney, Edward C. McLean, by Special Agents of the FBI at New York City on December 6, 1948 and furnished a signed statement dated December 7, 1948, covering the substance of her remarks on the previous day. In this statement Mrs. Hiss said that some time in 1935 she let a man named "George Crosley" whom she now believes to have been Whitaker Chambers. She also mentioned that Chambers and his wife lived in a spare room in the Hiss residence at 2935 P Street, N.W. in Washington, D. C. while the Chambers family was waiting to move into the premises at 2831 - 28th Street, N.W. which had been sublet to Chambers by her husband. She said that as far as she knows, no lease was drawn for the subletting of these premises. She also admitted meeting Chambers on several occasions when he called at the Hiss home to visit her husband. She also recalled that Hiss gave a 1929 Ford automobile which he had owned to Chambers. She said that as far as she can remember, she has not seen Chambers since some time in 1936.

Mrs. Hiss denied that her husband ever turned over any Government documents to Chambers in her presence or so far as she knows, at any other time, for the purpose of having them photographed. She said that her husband while employed by the Government occasionally brought work home from his office but that she never personally examined any of this material and has no knowledge of its contents.

Concerning a typewriter which she possessed at one time, Mrs. Hiss said that some time in 1932 or 1933, as far as she can recall, her father, Thomas L. Fansler, who was in the insurance business in Philadelphia, had given her a typewriter which had belonged to him. She said she does not recall whether she had this typewriter while residing in New York City, nor does she recall the make of this machine or how she disposed of it. She said she was not a proficient typist, but did type several things on it, including part of a manuscript for a book which was later published by the Carnegie Corporation. She said she is of the belief that she prepared the rest of this manuscript in long hand. (Extensive investigation has failed to locate this manuscript.)

Mrs. Hiss stated that she has never heard her husband, Alger Hiss, or Chambers discuss any material which had been obtained from the Government or documents which Mr. Hiss may have had in his possession in his official capacity. She said that she has never been acquainted with an individual known as Colonel Nykov whom she understands Chambers claims to have introduced to her husband. She denied that she has ever copied or typed any U. S. Government documents for the purpose of giving them to Chambers. (source: New York report of SA Joseph L. Kelly, dated 12/23/48) Kisseloff-24999

INTERVIEWS WITH OTHER INDIVIDUALS

When Henry Julian Wadleigh was interviewed by Special Agents of the FBI on December 6, 1948 at Washington, D. C., he furnished a signed statement in which he gave the details of his activities as a member of the Communist espionage underground in Washington, D. C. in the 1930's while employed in the State Department.

Wadleigh said that during his employment in the Trade Agreement Division of the State Department, one of his colleagues was Alger Hiss who was then Assistant to Francis B. Sayre, Assistant to the Secretary of State, and was sufficiently acquainted with Hiss to know him by his first name. His duties brought him into fairly frequent contact with Hiss and he had occasion to discuss matters of official business with him. His personal contacts outside the office, he said, were confined to one luncheon date.

Wadleigh said that he never went to Hiss' home, nor did Hiss ever come to his. Wadleigh furnished no information which indicated that Hiss had been involved in Communist espionage. (Source: Washington report of SA Lambert G. Zander dated 12/7/48)

Wadleigh was again interviewed by Special Agents of the FBI at New York City on December 14, 1948, at which time he furnished another signed statement. In this statement he declared that when the Federal Grand Jury at New York had questioned him on December 11, 1948, one of the jurors asked him if he possessed a typewriter and if he had ever loaned it to Mrs. Hiss. Wadleigh said that he also affirmed the statement made on that occasion that he had never loaned a typewriter to Mrs. Hiss and added that he never lent one to Mr. Hiss. (Source: New York report of SA Joseph P. Felly dated 12/23/48)

Mrs. Hede Massing, also known as Hede Gumpertz, was interviewed by Special Agents of the FBI on December 7, 1948. At that time Mrs. Massing stated that for approximately one year, or at least for a period of time which included a winter and a summer, she had been endeavoring to persuade Noel Field, a State Department employee, to enter into the intelligence work she was performing on behalf of the Soviets or the Comintern. She stated that she was not certain that she was working for the Soviets nor did she know whether or not Noel Field understood that he was being recruited for the Soviets. However, she said, she is certain that he knew that he was to work in behalf of the Communist International cause. Mrs. Massing stated that she had proposed to Noel Field that he obtain information from the State Department and turn it over to her; she would then see to it that it was turned over to her superior, "Boris," who would send it either to Russia or to a representative of the Comintern. Mrs. Massing explained that she frequently went to Washington

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and stayed with Field and his wife at their apartment while she was "developing" him.

After about a year, and possibly in the winter of 1935-36, Noel Field told Mrs. Massing that someone else was also attempting to recruit him to do the same work and he did not know just what to do. Mrs. Massing told Field that she would like to meet this individual so that they could come to an understanding, whereupon Field said he would arrange a meeting.

About a week later, according to Mrs. Massing, Field gave a dinner party at his apartment in Washington. She said that Herta Field, Noel's wife, was present, together with Noel, herself and Alger Hiss. She cannot recall whether or not anyone else was present, indicating that there may have been a few others there. However, Mrs. Alger Hiss was not present. Noel Field then told Mrs. Massing that Alger Hiss was the person who was trying to recruit him. He told her this either before, or on the night of the dinner party. Mrs. Massing said that she was impressed by Hiss' good looks, charm, and intelligence, and that they got along very well. Immediately after the dinner and at the first moment when Mrs. Massing and Hiss could get together they had a conversation, which, to the best of Mrs. Massing's recollection, ran as follows:

Alger Hiss: Well, you are the famous girl who is meddling in my affairs.

Hede Massing: And you are the man who is meddling in my affairs.

Alger Hiss: What is your apparatus?

Hede Massing: I wouldn't ask that question of you. You shouldn't ask it of me!

(They both laughed at this)

Alger Hiss: Well, we'll fight it out to see who gets Noel.

Hede Massing: I'll beat you in this game because I'm a woman.

After this either Hede or Alger said, "What difference does it make who gets Noel, we're both working for the same boss."

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Mrs. Massing can not recall whether she made this latter statement or whether Alger Hiss made it. She said that to her the statement meant that they were both working for the same cause, namely the Communist International Movement. Mrs. Massing stated that there was no question in her mind that Hiss was working for some branch of Soviet intelligence or for the Comintern, and was trying to recruit Field to work for him and for a branch which was in competition with her group headed by "Foris."

Mrs. Massing stated that she got along very well with Alger Hiss throughout the evening and that they seemed to agree on everything. After the meeting Mrs. Massing returned to New York where she reported the results of her meeting with Hiss to her superior "Foris." "Foris" was delighted and slapped Mrs. Massing on the back, exclaiming, "Good girl!" He instructed her not to see Hiss in the future. Mrs. Massing stated that she never saw Alger Hiss either before or after this one dinner party at Noel Field's apartment. She stated that she has seen many photographs of Alger Hiss in the newspapers in recent months and that she is certain that it was Alger Hiss she met in Field's apartment, adding that she was probably staying at the Field apartment the night she met him. Mrs. Massing said that she eventually won Field and he "operated" for her group.

Arrangements were made to confront Alger Hiss with Mrs. Massing at the New York Office of the FBI on December 9, 1948. Neither Hiss nor Massing said anything on this occasion. Hiss was requested immediately prior to the confrontation to view Mrs. Massing long enough to satisfy himself with certainty as to whether or not he had ever seen her before. After he observed her for approximately two minutes, he indicated that he had satisfied himself and was, accordingly, escorted from the room. He then declared that he was positive he had never talked with the woman he had just seen at any time or place, that he had no recollection whatsoever of ever having met her and that the only qualification he would take in his denial of acquaintanceship or introduction to her was that it was barely possible that he might have been casually introduced to her at a large affair where hundreds of people might have been present and he might have been introduced briefly to a great number of persons. He declared that this contingency was an exceedingly remote possibility.

On the following day a second confrontation of Hiss with Mrs. Massing was arranged and on this occasion he was accompanied by his attorney, Edward C. McLean. This meeting lasted approximately 15 minutes, during which time Mrs. Massing attempted, by giving her recollection of the conversation reported above between herself and Hiss, to refresh his recollection. She stated, for instance,

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that she recalled definitely that this conversation took place at the home of Noel Field in Washington, that Field and his wife were present, that Alger Hiss was not accompanied by his wife, and that there may have been a few other persons present. She pointed out to Hiss that she remembered their private conversation apart from the others immediately after dinner.

Hiss, however, insisted that Mrs. Massing was surely mistaken in her identification of him as the man with whom she conversed on that occasion and very pleasantly thanked Mrs. Massing for attempting to "help."

After leaving the room where the above-described confrontation took place, Hiss expressed complete amazement that this woman would be so positive of her recollection of an event which he was equally positive never took place.

(Source: New York report of Special Agent Joseph M. Kelly dated 12/23/48.)

When the late Laurence H. Duggan was interviewed by Special Agents of the FBI at New York City, on December 10, 1948, he declared that he was unable to recall clearly any one named Hede Gumpertz, but acknowledged that he had possibly met her through Noel Field or Rodney Dutch, a newspaper man who had worked in Washington but who has since died. Duggan stated that if he had ever been recruited by Hede Gumpertz then he never recognized it and denied that he had ever gone to see her superior, stating that he never went to see anyone at her request.

Concerning Alger Hiss, Duggan stated that he first met him in Washington, D. C. probably around 1934 at which time Hiss was employed by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. He mentioned that later, probably around 1936, Hiss came to the State Department where he worked in the Trade Agreements Section and later in the Far Eastern Section. Duggan said that he and Hiss never worked in the same section of the State Department. He added that his friendship with Hiss was very casual and that they saw each other but once or twice a year, usually at social functions. He added that he did not know Hiss' political philosophy but was of the opinion that Hiss was a thoroughly loyal American. He added that he was surprised to hear of the charges made by

Chambers against Alger Hiss as nothing had ever come to his attention which would indicate that Hiss was a Communist or was engaged in espionage while employed in the State Department. He declared that Alger Hiss had never approached him at any time to do anything in behalf of the Soviets or of the Communist International.

Duggan also said that he knew Alger Hiss' brother, Donald Hiss, and felt the same about Donald as he did about Alger, stating that nothing had ever come to his attention concerning Donald which would indicate that he was a Communist or had been engaged in espionage. He further stated that Donald Hiss likewise had never approached him to work in the interests of the Soviet Union or the Communist International.

Duggan related that he believed Alger Hiss and Noel Field were acquainted and that it was his impression that they had known each other prior to 1936 and had become more friendly thereafter. Duggan said that so far as he could recall he had never attended a dinner party at which Alger Hiss and Noel Field were present and could not remember ever having seen them together.

Alexander Gregory-Graff Barmine is a former Russian diplomatic officer who defected from the Russians in 1937 in Athens, Greece and subsequently came to the United States where he became a citizen and is presently employed by the Russian Section of the Voice of America Division of the State Department.

On October 22, 1946 Fred B. Lyon, of the State Department, called the FBI and advised that he understood that Barmine reportedly had told some one that he, Barmine, had seen a list of foreign agents of the Soviets and that Alger Hiss' name was on this list.

As a result, Barmine was immediately interviewed by Special Agents of the FBI at New York City. He, however, claimed to be unaware of the identity of any actual Soviet agents in the United States and furnished no information concerning Hiss. He was given ample opportunity to mention having seen such a list as was reported, tho he was not directly questioned on the matter.
(100-176949-12,13,14)

On December 14, 1948 Barmine was again interviewed and specifically questioned concerning the possibility of his ever having seen the list referred to and in regard to his knowledge of Alger Hiss. Barmine denied that he had ever seen such a list or that he had ever seen the name of Alger Hiss on such a list. He did say that he had heard Alger Hiss referred to as being an agent of

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the Soviet Military Intelligence. In explanation of this, he said that in the early part of 1938 after his own defection from the Soviet Diplomatic Service he had visited Walter Krivitsky at the latter's hotel in Paris, France. Krivitsky had recently defected from the Soviet Intelligence Service and Barmine claimed that his visit to him was at the instigation of some mutual friends in the Socialist Party of France. Barmine said he was very suspicious of Krivitsky's defection and thought that he might, in fact, be a GPU Agent who was searching for Barmine in an attempt to kill him or return him to Russia. In an attempt to establish the reliability of the man, Barmine said he asked Krivitsky to supply him with the names of certain people in Moscow who should be known to him if he had been in the military intelligence. Krivitsky complied by naming a number of individuals, none of whom Barmine is able to recall at the present time.

Barmine, still uncertain, then asked Krivitsky to name some of the individuals who were working for the Soviet Military Intelligence in America. According to Barmine, Krivitsky then named about ten persons, including Alger Hiss, George Link and Harry Dexter White. Barmine said he could not remember the names of the others mentioned by Krivitsky. He claimed that Krivitsky gave no further explanation of this allegation and said that he had no further discussion along these lines with Krivitsky, either in France or the United States.

Barmine also recalled one other incident involving the name of Alger Hiss. He placed this as being some time in 1945 or 1946 and said that on this occasion he dined in the home of a couple, whose names he could not remember but who lived in Westchester County, New York. After dinner a discussion developed concerning the number of Communists working in the U. S. Government. Barmine said that the names of several people were mentioned but that the only one he specifically recalled was that of Alger Hiss. The latter, according to Barmine, was referred to by his acquaintances as being a Communist, and it was his recollection that they had described him as being Chief Counsel in the State Department. (New York report of Special Agent Joseph M. Kelly, dated 12/23/48, pages 88 and 89)

Louis F. Budenz, Assistant Professor at Fordham University and formerly Managing Editor of the Daily Worker, was interviewed in December, 1948 concerning Alger Hiss. He advised that he had never met Alger Hiss, but understood that he was a member of the Communist Party connected with the Washington group. Budenz stated that he could not place the date when he first heard of Hiss as a Party member. He added that he can recall two instances when Hiss was mentioned in a discussion by Party members. The first discussion

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took place during the Hitler-Stalin Pact at the National Headquarters of the Communist Party. Ludenz, Roy Hudson and Robert Minor were present and possibly others. They were discussing an attack on the Daily Worker and someone mentioned that Nathan Witt and Lee Pressman could not be too helpful because they were under attack at the time. Alger Hiss was then mentioned as someone who would be helpful and who was a good Comrade.

The second discussion recalled by Ludenz took place in Jack Stachel's office some time in 1945, on which occasion there were present: Stachel, Ludenz, Eugene Dennis and possibly Charles Krumbein. The subject of discussion on this occasion was the Macrasia Case. Dennis stated that Lieutenant Andrew Roth had suggested that Alger Hiss should be used to quash the case.

Ludenz stated that he had furnished the above information to the NSCM in Executive Session. He said he did not know whether or not Priscilla Hiss or Donald Hiss were members of the Communist Party.

In addition to the above information, Ludenz had mentioned in a previous interview on August 26, 1948 that during the Hitler-Stalin Pact Eugene Dennis had contacted him at the Daily Worker office and stated that he had a technical difficulty and wanted to know if Ludenz felt that Howard Hunter in Washington would help him. Dennis continued that he did not wish to contact Alger Hiss since Hiss was under a cloud at the time. Ludenz said it was his understanding that the technical difficulty mentioned by Dennis referred to Dennis' use of a fraudulent passport in the past. (Source: N.Y. report of SA Joseph H. Kelly, dated 12/23/48, page 91)

Max Yergen, a former leader in Negro Communist circles in New York who recently left the Communist Party and has become openly hostile to it, was interviewed at New York City on December 20, 1948. Yergen advised that he first saw Alger Hiss in April, 1945 at the San Francisco Conference of the United Nations at which time he believed Hiss was acting as Secretary to Edward H. Stettinius. He advised that he did not know whether or not Hiss is connected with the Communist Party, nor does he know the background of Alger Hiss. (It should be noted that according to George Hewitt, mentioned below, Yergen had information concerning Hiss.)

Yergen did advise that in the fall of 1946, Paul Robeson brought into his office at the Council of African Affairs a woman named Fleiner (phonetic) who said at the time that she was the sister-in-law of Alger Hiss. Robeson recommended her for employment and she was employed from September, 1946 to early 1947 as a representative of the Council of African Affairs, reporting on the daily activities of the United Nations at the United Nations Meetings. Yergen, however, said he had no information which would indicate that she was a Communist.

George Hewitt was interviewed on December 20, 1948 at New York City. He advised that he met Alger Hiss in 1937 or 1938 at a Party meeting, the purpose of which was to discuss the Negro question and the Communist Party infiltration of the West Indies. According to Hewitt, this meeting took place in an apartment house near West 21st Street in New York City and was attended by J. Peters, Rose Wortis, Jack Stachel, Ted Bassett, Max Steinberg, Bill Lawrence and the two Hiss brothers, Alger and Donald.

Hewitt further said that he met both Alger and Donald Hiss on one occasion in Washington about 1940, on the occasion of an organizational meeting of the National Negro Congress held in the rear of one of the Congress Halls on Pennsylvania Avenue. He said 35 or 40 others were present, including Max Yergen, James W. Ford, Rose Wortis, Max Steinberg and Bob Campbell. (In this connection, Yergen advised that he does not recall being at this meeting.) Hewitt stated that Alger Hiss left the meeting after a very short time. He said he did not know either Alger or Donald and has never spoken to them. He indicated that he thought they were "CI Agents;" that is, International Agents of the Communist Party whose duty it is to observe at such meetings and to report back to Moscow.

Following the interview Hewitt was taken to the vicinity of West 21st Street in an attempt to locate the apartment house mentioned by him. He advised that the apartment house at 8 West 16th Street is the building which he believes was the one where the meeting he described had been held and pointed out Apartment F-35 as the one in which the meeting took place. (Further inquiry is being made concerning this development.)

Marc Catudal, Advisor, Division of Commercial Policy, Department of State, was interviewed in December, 1948 at Washington, D. C. with respect to Henry Julian Madleigh. Catudal said that he was acquainted with Alger Hiss during the period 1936 and that Madleigh also knew Hiss but stated that the nature of the official business in the Division of Trade Agreements made it necessary for all three of them, Hiss as a superior, and Madleigh and Catudal, to have some professional relations with each other. However, Catudal added that he never knew of Hiss' association with Madleigh to be anything more than an office relationship and that it was his impression that Hiss and Madleigh were not social acquaintances. Catudal advised that there had never been anything of a personal nature or in connection with official matters that ever led him to consider either Madleigh or Hiss anything but loyal Americans.

Woodbury Willoughby, Chief of the Commercial Policy Division of the Department of State, upon being interviewed at Washington, D. C. in December,

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1948, regarding Wadleigh declared that he could think of nothing on the part of Wadleigh or Hiss which might indicate any inclination toward a sympathy with a foreign country.

Willoughby, who explained that he had worked with Wadleigh in the State Department in 1936 and again from August, 1937 to August, 1939, in the Division of Trade Agreements, said that he was certain that there may have been some official contacts between Hiss and Wadleigh, as Wadleigh had helped draft speeches for Lynn R. Edminster and for Francis Sayre. However, according to Willoughby, he was never aware that Wadleigh and Hiss were friendly or that they were social acquaintances. (Source: Report of SA Alexander W. Neale, dated 12-27-48, pages 5, 6 and 7)

In the signed statement furnished by Chambers on December 3, 1948, to Special Agents of the FBI at Baltimore, he claimed that one of the photographers who photographed the documents which Alger Hiss and others employed by the United States Government had furnished to him was an individual whom he knew only as, "Felix."

On December 19, 1948, FBI Agents together with Chambers toured about in a section of Baltimore, Maryland, in an effort to locate a house where the latter believed "Felix" had once lived. The search was narrowed to the 2100 block of three streets and by a check of various directories for the pertinent period of 1937-38, it was determined that Felix August Inslerman had lived at that time at 2113 Callow Avenue. (Through further investigation a photograph of Inslerman was obtained and identified by Chambers as that of "Felix"). It was also determined that Inslerman has more recently been employed by the General Electric Company at Schenectady, New York. (Baltimore Report of Frank G. Johnstone 12-23-48)

When interviewed on December 23, 1948, by Special Agents of the FBI, Inslerman denied in a signed statement knowing Chambers or that he had ever taken any photographs or microfilm for Chambers. Inslerman also declared upon being shown photographs of Alger Hiss, Franklin Victor Reno, Patrick Chelen, Bernard Weinkrentz and Henry J. Wadleigh, that as far as he can recall, he has never met any of them.

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

Inslerman's statement in general expressed a denial that he had ever engaged in any type of espionage work or had ever been a member of the Communist Party. (Report of SA Francis D. O'Bryan, 12-30-48, of New York.)

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Numerous other individuals both in and out of the Department of State have been interviewed in an effort to throw additional light on the reported espionage activities of Alger Hiss without result.

ALGER HISS INDICTED BY FEDERAL GRAND JURY, DECEMBER 15, 1948

On December 15, 1948, the Federal Grand Jury at New York City returned a two count indictment against Alger Hiss charging him with violations of Title 18, Section 1621 of United States Code (Perjury Statute).

The first count of the indictment charged that Alger Hiss had testified before the Grand Jury to the effect that neither he nor his wife had ever turned over any documents of the State Department or of any other Government organization or any copies thereof to Whittaker Chambers or to any other unauthorized persons. This testimony, according to the indictment, was untrue in that Hiss in or about the months of February and March, 1938, had furnished to Jay David Whittaker Chambers, who was not then and there a person authorized to receive the same, copies of numerous secret confidential and restricted documents, writings and other papers, the originals of which had been removed and extracted from the possession and custody of the State Department in violation of the United States Code.

The second count charged that although Hiss testified that he had not seen Whittaker Chambers after January 1, 1937, Hiss in fact had seen and conversed with Chambers in or about the months of February and March, 1938, in violation of United States Code. (Report of SA Joseph M. Kelly, 12-23-48, New York, page 93)

CHAMBERS' NEGATIVE IDENTIFIED AS MANUFACTURED IN 1937-38.

On December 20, 1948, a special agent of the FBI accompanied an investigator of the HCUA to the Eastman Kodak Company at Rochester, New York, and to the Dupont Company's Photo Products Department at Parlin, New Jersey, where the five rolls of film obtained by the HCUA from Chambers on December 2, 1948, were exhibited to company officials in an attempt to determine the date of the film's manufacture.

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

The following information was ascertained through the Eastman Kodak Company at Rochester, New York:

1. A roll identified as Grand Jury exhibit 748 (completely filled with messages) was slit from a large roll at the plant during the period from July 1, 1937, to January 1, 1938. This film was described as positive Eastman safety film of 35 mm. size.

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2. Another roll of film (Grand Jury exhibit #49) was slit from a large roll during the period from January 1, 1937, to July 1, 1937, at the same plant. This roll is also completely filled with messages.

3. Grand Jury exhibit #50 is a roll of film which has been light struck and contains no messages. It could not be identified as an Eastman product.

4. A fourth roll of film known as Grand Jury exhibit #51 contains some messages. It was identified as 35mm. positive Eastman safety film, but its date of manufacture could not be determined as the film is too fogged in the area where the manufacturer's code symbols are located. Officials of the Eastman Company advised that by chemical analysis it could very probably be determined whether this roll was used in March, 1939, or thereafter.

The fifth roll of film (Grand Jury exhibit #47) was exhibited to officials of the Photo Products Department of the Dupont Company at Parlin, New Jersey. They advised that the film is 35mm. positive Dupont nitrate film which was manufactured in that plant in December, 1936, or in June, 1944. They advised that they do not know which of these two is the actual date since the identifying code appearing on this roll of film was used in both December, 1936, and in June, 1944. It was indicated, however, that because of the grain of the film, it was believed to have been manufactured more probably in December, 1936. (Report of SA Robert H. McQueen dated 12-23-43, Washington Field.)

FBI LABORATORY IDENTIFICATION OF CHARBORN DOCUMENTS

As a result of examinations conducted by the FBI Laboratory, the following documents have been identified by it as having been typed on the same machine which was used to type 64 of the documents which Chambers alleges were given to him by Alger Hiss and which were submitted by Chambers at the time of his pre-trial deposition at Baltimore, Maryland, on November 17, 1943: (Memo to D.M.Ladd from H.B. Fletcher 12-11-43) (This machine is believed to be a Woodstock typewriter.)

1. A letter addressed to Miss Sara Hillings, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, postmarked December 6, 1931, beginning "Dr. Peltz, my physician ..." This letter was signed "Faisy Fausler" (sister of Mrs. Alger Hiss). It was obtained from the Free Library of Philadelphia. This letter contains an explanation of an absence of Miss Fausler from her employment which was necessitated by her illness. (Report of SA James L. Kirkland, Philadelphia, dated 12-17-43, page 7)

2. A two page letter addressed to Walter L. Threlts, Boston, Massachusetts, dated January 30, 1933, which begins, "On reading over my

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policy last week..." This letter, which is undated and was never mailed, relates to an insurance policy allegedly issued to Alger Hiss. The original of this letter was furnished to the FBI at New York by Edward C. McLean, attorney for Alger Hiss, on December 10, 1948. Mr. McLean had previously furnished the FBI with a carbon copy of this letter, advising that he had obtained it from the papers of Mr. Hiss but was unable to state whether Hiss or his wife had typed the letter. (New York report of SA Joseph H. Kelly, 12-23-48, page 30.)

3. A one page letter addressed to Walter G. Schellier, Assistant Secretary of the Equitable Life Assurance Society of New York, New York, dated February 17, 1933, signed "Alger Hiss." The carbon copy of this letter was furnished to the FBI by Mr. McLean. The original was obtained from the Equitable Life Assurance Society by subpoena. (New York report of SA Joseph H. Kelly, 12-23-48 page 31.)

4. Three pages of typewritten material entitled "Description of Personal Characteristics of Timothy Hobson," bearing the date September 9, 1936. This was apparently an enclosure to a handwritten letter bearing the date September 9, 1936, signed by Alger Hiss. This material was obtained from the Landon School at Bethesda, Maryland, on December 12, 1948. (Memorandum from H.B. Fletcher to D. W. Ladd, 12-28-48.)

5. A letter addressed to J. W. Filloquist, Director of Admissions, University of Maryland, Baltimore, Maryland, dated May 25, 1937. This letter begins "I am sending to your office today..." and is signed by "Priscilla Funsler Hiss." This letter was obtained from the Assistant Registrar's Office of the University of Maryland on December 14, 1948, and deals with an application of Mrs. Hiss for admission to a summer school session at that University. (Baltimore report of SA Frank G. Johnston, 12-23-48.)

6. Three pages of typewritten material entitled "President's Report for the year 1936-37," which was obtained from the Bryn Mawr Alumni Association at Washington, D. C., on January 7, 1949. This material is believed by Mrs. Abbott of the Association to have been typed by Priscilla Hiss sometime in 1937, when the latter's term as President of the Association expired. (FBI Laboratory report 1-10-49.)

Over 400 typewriting specimens from various sources have been examined by the FBI Laboratory in connection with efforts to locate and identify the typewriter used to type the documents submitted by Chambers. Extensive efforts to establish the present whereabouts of this machine which the FBI Laboratory has reported to be most probably a Woodstock have to date been unavailing.

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ATTORNEY GENERAL ADVISED DECEMBER 13, 1948, RE ALLEGED CLEARANCE OF ALGER HISS BY FBI

A personal and confidential memorandum was furnished to the Attorney General under date of December 13, 1948, in which attention was called to newspaper reports to the effect that the FBI had cleared Alger Hiss while he was employed by the State Department. This memorandum made clear the fact that the FBI never clears or charges anyone, and furthermore that a review of the files of the FBI reflects that the FBI could not have cleared Hiss. It was pointed out that Adolf A. Berle, Jr., then Assistant Secretary of State, had been advised by Chambers in September, 1939, of Alger Hiss' reported activities in the Communist underground in Washington. This memorandum referred to letters and memoranda furnished to the Department of State and which are elsewhere described in this brief. Reference was also made to various occasions upon which the Director of the FBI had personally discussed the Alger Hiss case with officials of the Department of State.

CONFERENCES OF FBI DIRECTOR WITH STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS RE ALGER HISS

On October 11, 1945, the Director of the FBI had a conference with the then Under-Secretary of State, Dean Acheson, in the course of which Mr. Acheson inquired as to whether the Director had any information concerning the identity of the alleged Soviet agent who had been described by Igor Gouzenko as an assistant to Secretary of State Stettinius, but without further details. (This information from Gouzenko, a Russian code clerk who disclosed a Soviet spy ring in Canada, was first made available to the FBI on September 10, 1945. It was in turn furnished to Mr. Fred B. Lyon of the State Department by memorandum dated September 24, 1945). The Director advised Mr. Acheson that at that time it had not been possible to establish definitely the identity of this man. In answer to the question as to whether or not the FBI suspected anyone, Mr. Acheson was told that one individual was being considered as a possible suspect, although there was no direct evidence to sustain the suspicion. The Director told Mr. Acheson that this suspect was Alger Hiss, but he did not feel that any accusation could be made since there was no supporting proof for such a charge. Mr. Acheson stated that he would not mention Hiss' name to the Secretary of State since he assumed that the Director might do so in the latter's talk with the Secretary. The Director advised Mr. Acheson that he would not mention Hiss' name to the Secretary of State because of the vagueness of the allegation. (61-3499-181, 172)

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On 11-15-45 ,the Director of the FBI conferred with the Secretary of State Byrnes at the request of the President in order to discuss the Gregory case which arose out of the allegations of Elizabeth Terrill Bentley, and the Canadian Espionage case. During this conference the Director mentioned the names of a number of individuals who were named by Miss Bentley as being engaged in Soviet espionage. The Director did not mention the name of Alger Hiss to the Secretary on this occasion because he had not been definitely identified. (61-3499-192)

(On March 14, 1946, Mr. Reams, Special Assistant to the Secretary of State Byrnes, advised a Special Agent of the FBI that Alger Hiss was on the Secretary of State's "pending" list and that Hiss was to be given no further consideration for promotion or assignment to responsible duties in the State Department, and that a study should be made of his case to determine if he could be dismissed similarly under Civil Service regulations. Mr. Reams stated that Secretary Byrnes was of the definite opinion that Hiss should be disposed of, but was concerned over the best manner in which this could be accomplished. (101-268-17)

While the Director was discussing other matters with the Attorney General on March 19, 1946, he was advised by the Attorney General that the Secretary of State Byrnes wanted to dismiss Alger Hiss, but had been told that he could not do so without giving him a hearing as a Civil Service employee. At that time the Director declared that he did not think a hearing would be wise since the material available against Hiss was confidential and if not used would leave insufficient evidence against him. The Director expressed the thought that the best thing the Secretary could do, would be to move Hiss to an innocuous position where he would "understand the situation" and resign. The Director also suggested that the Secretary of State might desire to take Senators Connally and Vandenburg into his confidence since they were friends of Hiss and would appreciate the circumstances. The Attorney General indicated that he would call the Secretary of State and mention the above to him. (Memorandum from Director to Messrs. Ladd, Tamm, Tolson and Clegg 3-19-46)

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Kisseloff-25013

During a conversation the Director had with the Attorney General on March 20, 1946, the case of Alger Hiss again came up. On this occasion the Attorney General advised the Director that Secretary Byrnes had proposed if the Justice Department agreed, to call Alger Hiss in and inform him that there had been complaints received against him, without disclosing the source to him. The Director suggested to the Attorney General that it seemed to be apparent that when Hiss was questioned, the questions asked would give him some indication as to the nature of the information possessed by the FBI concerning him. The Director pointed out to the Attorney General the possibility that Secretary Byrnes might use the Department of Justice as an alibi, saying that he had called upon the Department of Justice to investigate Hiss, and that following such investigations the Department of Justice had found nothing to warrant the dismissal of Hiss. The Director called attention to the fact that this would put the Justice Department in an awkward position and would be subjected to possible future criticism.)

On the same day, March 20, 1946, the Director returned a call of Secretary of State Byrnes and told him that he, the Director, understood the position Secretary Byrnes was in with respect to the Hiss case, but suggested in view of the fact that any interview with Hiss at that time would alert him and ruin any important espionage investigation, he contact several key men in the House and Senate and explain his predicament to them, pointing out that he, the Secretary, wanted their help in avoiding any criticism from "the Hill." Secretary Byrnes stated he thought this might be a solution to the problem and said he would call some of these men. The Director subsequently advised the Attorney General of this conversation with Secretary Byrnes. The Attorney General thereupon expressed his agreement with the proposal made by the Director. (Memorandum from Director to Tolson, Tamm and Ladd 3-20-46)

On March 21, 1946, Secretary Byrnes again contacted the Director concerning the Hiss case. The Secretary stated that he had called Hiss in and asked him if he was ever a member of any organization which had subversive tendencies. Hiss swore that he had never been a member of any such organization and it was decided that he be referred to the FBI for interview by an FBI official. The Director told Secretary Byrnes that instructions had been left with Assistant Director D. M. Ladd, to the effect that if Hiss wanted to come

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over and talk to the FBI, it would be perfectly agreeable, but that there were some questions which would not be asked because they might disclose information on current cases. The Director then told the Secretary that if Hiss wanted to make any statement or relate anything about his associations that he might surmise . would place him under suspicion, the FBI would be very glad to listen to him. The Secretary stated that he wished the FBI would do so. The above conversation was outlined by the Director to the Attorney General on the same day and it was pointed out that when Hiss came to the FBI, he would do the talking and the FBI would do the listening. (Memorandum of Director to Tolson, Tamm and Ladd 3-21-46)

The interview with Alger Hiss which resulted from the above arrangement is mentioned in further detail on pages 5 and 6 of this brief.

* * *

This brief covers developments in this case in so far as it concerns Alger Hiss, up to January 24, 1949. Any additional information that may be developed will be included together with the above in a brief currently being prepared on the Whittaker Chambers case as a whole.

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