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JAY DAVID WHITTAKER CHAMBERS

PERJURY, ESP. R, INT. SEC. R

ANALYSIS OF DOCUMENTS OBTAINED

FROM CHAMBERS IN CONNECTION

WITH THIS INVESTIGATION

April 13, 1949

Kisseloff-25329

~~ENCLOSURE~~

74-1333-2943

THE DIRECTOR

April 13, 1949

MR. LADD

JAY DAVID WHITTAKER CHAMBERS
PERJURY; ESPIONAGE - R; INTERNAL SECURITY - R

For your information there is attached an analysis of documents obtained from JAY DAVID WHITTAKER CHAMBERS in connection with this investigation.

Background

You will recall that CHAMBERS, in a signed statement on December 3, 1948, advised that he had placed certain documents in a manila envelope shortly after breaking with the Communist Party in April, 1938. The manila envelope was alleged to have been placed in a dumb-waiter shaft in the home of the mother of NATHAN LEVINE, the brother-in-law of CHAMBERS. The analysis is broken down into the following groups of documents.

- (1) The "CHAMBERS" documents, which were 65 pages of typewritten material together with four pieces of paper alleged to be in the handwriting of ALGER HISS. These documents were alleged to have been obtained by CHAMBERS from ALGER HISS and were excerpts or copies of State Department documents.
- (2) The "pumpkin" documents. These consisted of two rolls of developed film and three rolls of undeveloped film which were obtained from a pumpkin on CHAMBERS' farm outside of Westminster, Maryland, and turned over to WILLIAM A. WHEELER and DONALD T. APPELL of the House Committee on Un-American Activities on December 2, 1948. A description of these documents is listed under Grand Jury exhibits 47 and 48, which are photographs of State Department documents, and Grand Jury exhibits 49 and 51, which are photographs of Navy documents obtained from the Bureau of Standards. Grand Jury exhibit 50 was a roll of film which was light-struck and could not be developed.
- (3) The "HARRY DEXTER WHITE" documents consist of four pages of handwriting on yellow lined paper alleged by CHAMBERS to be in the handwriting of HARRY DEXTER WHITE. These documents were turned over to the Baltimore office on December 3, 1948.

74-1333
KVD/mr

Kisseloff-25330

April 13, 1949

MEMORANDUM

"CHAMBERS" DOCUMENTS

In connection with a civil action brought by ALGER HISS against WHITTAKER CHAMBERS a pretrial deposition was conducted at Baltimore, Maryland on November 17, 1948. During the deposition CHAMBERS produced sixty-five typewritten pages of material and four handwritten pieces of white paper. These documents are being referred to as the "CHAMBERS" documents. According to CHAMBERS these documents were given to him by ALGER HISS in 1937 or in the early part of 1938.

Origin of Documents

In a signed statement dated December 3, 1948 CHAMBERS advised that the documents were deposited in a manila envelope which was hidden in a dumb-waiter shaft in the home of the mother of NATHAN LEVINE, 260 Rochester Avenue, Brooklyn, New York. This envelope was reported to have been placed in the dumb-waiter shaft in 1938 when CHAMBERS broke with the Communist Party. The envelope was removed by CHAMBERS on Sunday, November 14, 1948, and the sixty-nine "CHAMBERS" documents were thereafter introduced at the deposition in Baltimore.

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Description of Documents



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mkr
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Referral/Consult

FBI Laboratory Examination

In a report to the Attorney General dated December 13, 1948 the Laboratory advised that it was not possible to determine the age of the documents. Specimens Q1 through Q4 were concluded to have been written by ALGER HISS, whose known handwriting is listed as Kc1 through Kc4, submitted by the Baltimore office on November 29, 1948. The Laboratory determined that the typing on specimens Q6 through Q69 compared most closely with Woodstock pica type spaced ten letters to the inch, a style of type made by Woodstock in 1929. Q5 was reported to compare most closely to the standards of type for the Royal elite type spaced twelve letters to the inch. Q6 through Q69 were identified as having been prepared on the same typewriting machine as that used to prepare documents designated as K17, K32, K35, K40, K41 and K249, which are described below.

Kisseloff-25349

K17 is a two-page typewritten letter addressed to WALTER L. TIBBETTS, Boston, Massachusetts, dated January 30, 1933. It is purported to be an unsigned, unmailed letter beginning "On reading over my policy last week" and relates to an insurance policy allegedly issued to ALGER HISS. This document was furnished the New York office by Mr. EDWARD C. McLEAN, Attorney for ALGER HISS, on December 10, 1948. This document was returned to Mr. McLEAN pursuant to his request on December 28, 1948 by Mr. T. J. DONEGAN, Special Assistant to the Attorney General.

K32 is three pages of typewritten material entitled "Description of Personal Characteristics of TIMOTHY HOBSON." This document is dated September 9, 1936 and was apparently an enclosure to a handwritten letter to PAUL L. BANFIELD which is signed by ALGER HISS. This document, together with a letter dated September 1, 1936 bearing the signature PRISCILLA HISS referring to the application of TIMOTHY HOBSON for admission to the Landon School, was obtained from Mr. PAUL L. BANFIELD, Headmaster, Landon School, Bethesda Post Office, Washington, D. C., on December 12, 1948. Mr. BANFIELD requested that the material be used only in an investigation concerning the national defense of this country and was particularly desirous of not having the information made available to the House Committee on Un-American Activities in any form. He also advised that attorneys for both HISS and CHAMBERS had requested access to his file but had been refused. K32 was delivered to Mr. T. J. DONEGAN in New York City by Special Agent JONES of the Washington Field Office on December 14, 1948, together with the other documents furnished by Mr. BANFIELD.

FBI K35 is a typewritten letter addressed to Miss EMMIE HELTINGS, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, which was enclosed in an envelope postmarked December 6, 1931 which begins "Dr. PELTZ, my physician" and is signed DAISY FANSTER, a sister of Mrs. ALGER HISS. This document was obtained from FRANKLIN H. PRICE, librarian for the Free Library of Philadelphia, on December 13, 1948. This document was transmitted to the Justice Department as an enclosure to a memorandum to Mr. ALEXANDER M. CAMPBELL, Assistant Attorney General, dated March 3, 1949.

K40 is a one-page typewritten letter to WALTER G. SCHELKER, New York City, dated February 17, 1933, and is signed ALGER HISS. This document was obtained from Mr. LEO D. FITZGERALD, Associate Counsel, Equitable Life Insurance Society of the United States, in response to a subpoena served on December 13, 1948. A carbon copy of this document had been previously furnished by Mr. McLEAN, Attorney for HISS, on December 10, 1948, and was returned at his request on December 28, 1948. K40 was transmitted to the Department of Justice as an enclosure to a memorandum to Mr. ALEXANDER M. CAMPBELL, Assistant Attorney General, dated March 3, 1949.

K41, a typewritten letter dated May 25, 1937 addressed to Mrs. W. M.

HILLEGEIST, Director of Admissions, University of Maryland, Baltimore, Maryland, beginning "I am sending to your office today," and signed PRISCILLA FANSLER HISS, was obtained by the Baltimore office from Mrs. FLORENCE T. STAFFORD, assistant in the registrar's office, University of Maryland, on December 14, 1948. K41 has been returned to Mrs. STAFFORD by the Baltimore office.

K249 is three typewritten pages captioned "President's Report for the Year 1936 to 37" and is reported to have been a report submitted by Mrs. ALGER HISS at the expiration of her term of office as president of the Bryn Mawr Alumni Association in 1937. This document was obtained from Mrs. HENRY I. ABBOTT, 2205 California Street, Northwest, Washington, D. C., and forwarded to the Laboratory on January 7, 1949. After the examination it was returned to Mrs. ABBOTT by the Washington Field Office.

Referral/Consult

THE "PUMPKIN" DOCUMENTS

Mr. JAY DAVID WHITTAKER CHAMBERS, in a signed statement dated December 3, 1948, advised that three cans of undeveloped film and two strips of developed film which had been in a manila envelope hidden in a dumb-waiter shaft of the home of NATHAN LEVINE's mother, 260 Rochester Avenue, Brooklyn, New York, had been turned over to investigators for the House Committee on Un-American Activities at Westminster, Maryland, on December 2, 1948 in response to a subpoena. Mr. CHAMBERS advised that the film contained photographs of original documents taken from the State Department and the Bureau of Standards. He alleged that the bulk of the documents from the State Department were obtained from ALGER HISS, the remainder having been received from JULIAN WADLEIGH.

WILLIAM A. WHEELER, 3924 Southern Avenue, Southeast, Washington, and DONALD T. APPELL, 3241 Terrace Drive, Silver Hill, Maryland, investigators employed by the House Committee on Un-American Activities, on December 2, 1948 at 10:45 PM received from CHAMBERS at his farm near Westminster, Maryland, five rolls of 35-millimeter film which CHAMBERS took from a hollowed-out pumpkin. Two rolls of the film had been developed and three rolls were unprocessed. The developed film was identified with the date 12/2/48 and the initials WT by WHEELER and APPELL. The undeveloped film was processed by PHILLIP L. SCHMITZ of the Veterans Administration and was identified by the date 12/3/48 and the initial W by Mr. WHEELER. This film was subsequently identified on December 13, 1948 in the office of Mr. T. J. DONEGAN, Special Assistant to the Attorney General, New York City, as G.J. 47, 48, 49, 50 and 51. These documents were photographed by the FBI Laboratory on December 14, 1948 and are described below. In identifying the "pumpkin" films with State Department documents Mr. DAVID A. SALMON, 3223 Kingle Road, Northwest, Washington, D. C., advised the State Department kept "action" copies of communications and a microfilm of an "information" copy of the same document and that the "information" copy was destroyed.

b3

Qc74 and Qc75



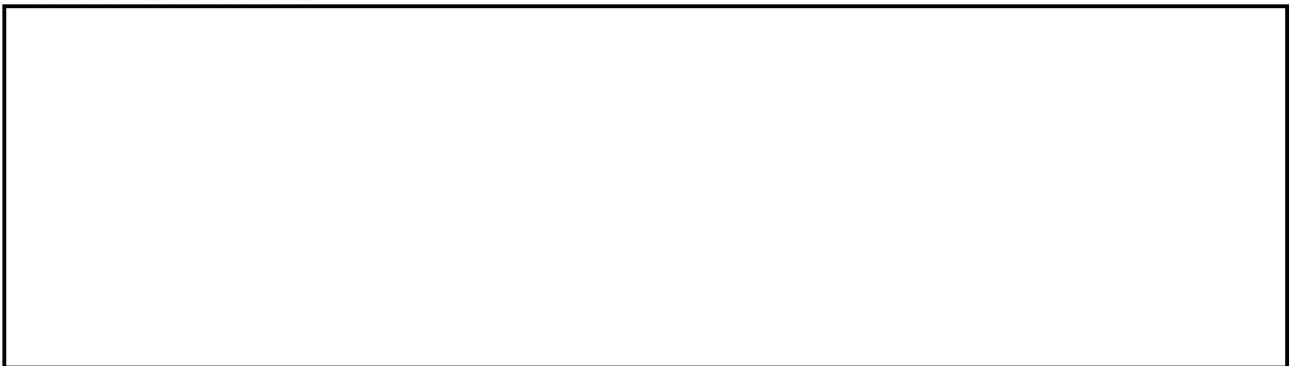
FBI Laboratory Examination

The Laboratory concluded that the originals of the photographs Qc74 and Qc75 and the original "information" copy of which Kc549 and Kc550 are photographs were both made by the same ^{Referral/Consult} run.

Distribution

A-S; TA.

Qc76 Through Qc91



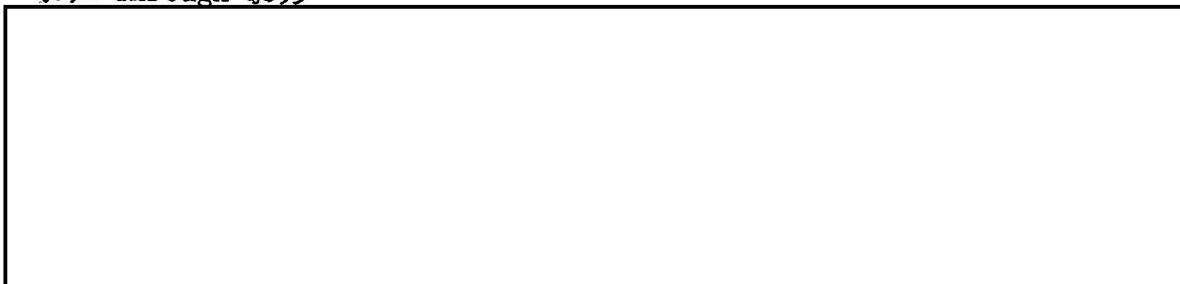
FBI Laboratory Examination

It was concluded that page 2 through page 16 of the original document represented by the microfilm Kc552 through Kc566 and Qc77 through Qc91 were typed during the same typing run. It was also concluded that page 1 of the document represented by microfilm Kc551 was a different document than the original represented by the microfilm Qc76. However, the wording in each paragraph of Kc551 is verbatim with that appearing on Qc76.

Distribution

A-S, TA.

Qc92 Through Qc95



FBI Laboratory Examination

It was concluded that the original documents represented by the photographs Qc92 through Qc95 were different from the originals represented by the microfilm Kc567 through Kc569A. It was determined, however, that the wording in each photograph is verbatim. Referral/Consult

Distribution

A-S, TA.

Qc96 Through Qc109



FBI Laboratory Examination

It was concluded that certain marks appearing on the microfilm Kc570 through Kc583 appear in the same relative position on the photographs Qc96 through Qc109 indicating that they were probably produced from the same original document. However, there are marks appearing on Kc570 through Kc583 and not on Qc96 through Qc109 and vice versa which may be due to the different processes involved in the reproduction of the documents. The differences, in the absence of the original document, prevent a definite conclusion. The Laboratory, however, concluded that Kc570 through Kc583 and Qc96 through Qc109 were reproductions of a common typing run.

Distribution

U, A-S, EA.

b3

Qc110 Through Qc115

Referral/Consult

FBI Laboratory Examination

Distribution

S, U, C, A-M, A-S, A-W, PA/H, PA/D, FE, EU, RA, NE.

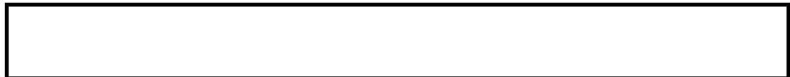
Qc116



FBI Laboratory Examination



Distribution



Qc117 Through Qc119



Referral/Consult

FBI Laboratory Examination

It was concluded that due to the differences between the microfilm Kc591 through Kc593 and Qc117 through Qc119, possibly due to the different processes of reproduction, a positive identification could not be made. However, it was determined that the originals of Kc591 through Kc593 and of Qc117 through Qc119 were made by one stencil or a common typing run.

Distribution



b3

Referral/Consult

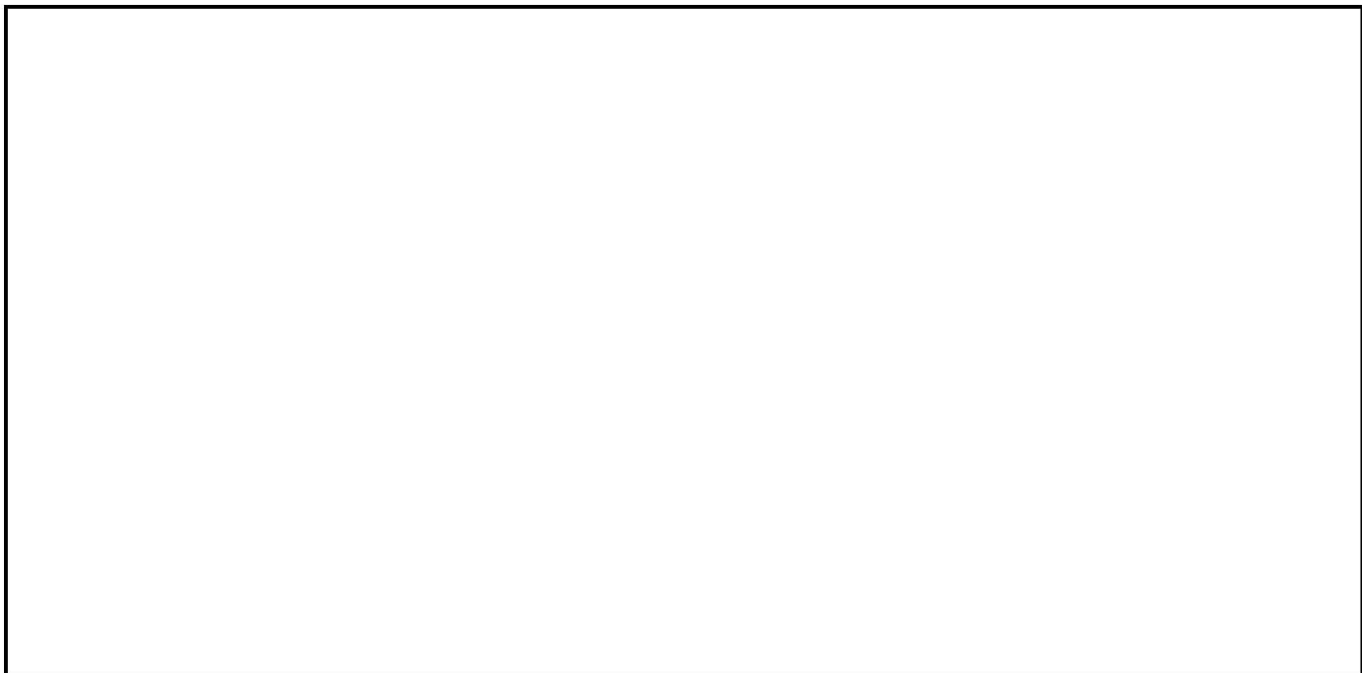
A27 and A28 are indistinct and unidentifiable.

A29 is unidentifiable.

A30 through A34 were unidentifiable due to the poor quality of the film.

A35 and A36 were unidentifiable.

b3



Referral/Consult

Classification

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Distribution

Referral/Consult

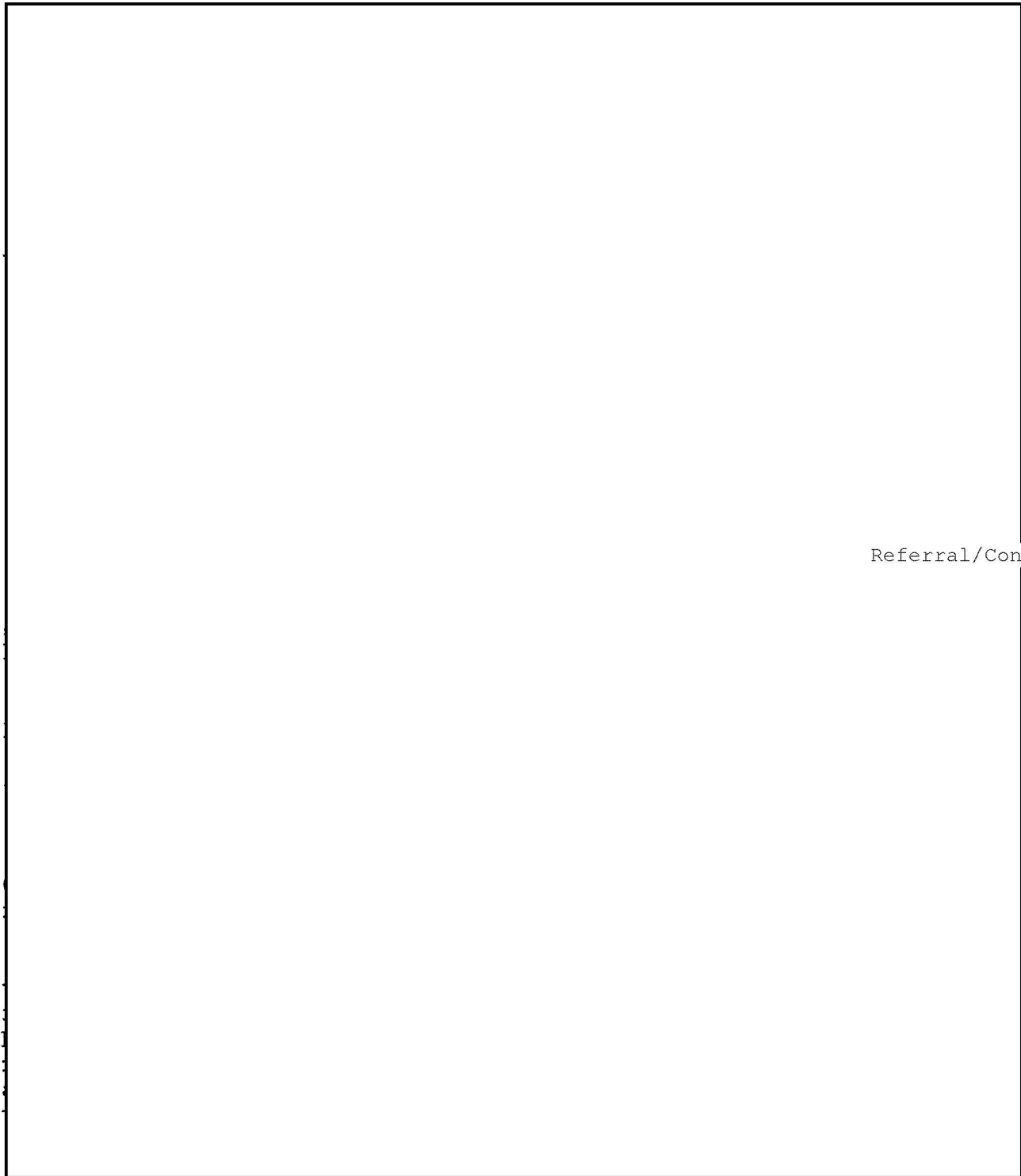
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HARRY DEXTER WHITE DOCUMENTS

Description

Documents which are referred to as the HARRY DEXTER WHITE documents are described as four pages of handwriting material on yellow lined paper, three of the pages having handwriting on both sides. The documents were turned over to the Baltimore office of the Bureau by RICHARD F. CLEVELAND, Attorney for JAY WHITTAKER CHAMBERS, on December 3, 1948. These documents,

according to CHAMBERS, were in a manila envelope hidden in the dumb-waiter of the home of his brother-in-law's mother in Brooklyn, New York. These documents were designated as Q70 through Q73 as follows.



Referral/Consult