ENGLS. TO BUREAU WITH BA LET 4/26/52

ME: JAHAM

6 Effidavits & (2 copies each)

TO

SAC, BALTIMORE (65-1642)

DATE: April 26, 1952

FROM:

ROBERT G. EMOND, SA

SUBJECT:

JAHAM

PLPJURY - ESPIONAGE-R

The following is submitted for your information in connection with the affidavit of LOUIS J. LEISMAN dated March 31, 1952 in which he states on Page 2 that PETER MAVRELIS, proprietor of the Mayflower Restaurant, Aberdeen, Maryland, "gave the agents food and coffee and never charged them for it." It is felt that the following information should be brought to your attention since it has not been mentioned in writer's affidavit refuting LEISMAN's charges.

The only reason it was not mentioned was that it was agreed that it would lengthen the already long affidavit to cover a point of little consequence, and by such treatment perhaps give it an importance entirely out of proportion.

At no time did the writer or eny of the agents accompanying him in the interviews of PETER MAVRILIS, solicit any food or drink at the Mayflower Restaurant. On February 19, when the writer and SA VALTER L. LEECH went to the Mayflower Restaurant for the purpose of interviewing Mr. MAVRELIS, they were under the impression that GERTRUDE LEISMAN was employed there as a waitress. When the agents were told that Mr. MAVRELIS would not be in the restaurant for 10 or 15 minutes, the agents ordered coffee so as to appear less conspicuous while waiting for him.

After the interview was completed, the agents took their check for 20 cents and went to the cashier to pay for this check. Mr. MAVRELIS followed them over to the cash register and told them not to pay for the coffee since it was "on the house." The agents thanked him for his

RGE:mrk

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hospitality but insisted on payment. Mr. MAVRELIS instructed the cashier not to take the agents! money. Rather than prolong this stalemate, the agents acceded to Mr. MAVRELIS! wishes and accepted the hospitality of the house.

On February 29, 1952 when the writer and SA BERNARD J. O'DONNELL, JR. again interviewed MAVRELIS, the interview took place in a booth in the Mayflower Restaurant. Mr. MAVRELIS refused to be seated until the agents ordered something and a waitress hovered over the table, waiting to take the order. The agents stated that they did not want anything but Mr. MAVRELIS was insistent that they be served; rather than cause another incident, the agents ordered a cup of tea.

It may be noted that at all times during the interviews with Mr. MAVRELIS, he was most friendly and cooperative and gave the writer the impression that he would be offended if his hospitality would not be accepted.

SA BERNARD J. O'DONNELL, JR., concurs with the above remarks of the writer.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AFFIDAVII

ALGER HISS,

Defendant

STATE OF MARYLAND)

CITY OF BALTIMORE)

ROBERT G. LMOND, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

I am a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, United

States Department of Justice.

In connection with my official duties, I conducted an investigation at Aberdeen, Maryland, on February 15, 1952 for the purpose of determining if Louis J. Leisman had a police record in Maryland. The Aberdeen, Maryland police records indicated that one Frank Leishman had been incarcerated on the night of May 2-3, 1952 in the city jail. Officer William F. Krause, Aberdeen Police Department, advised me that this was an error in the records; that the person actually arrested was a Louis Leisman; and that this arrest was occasioned by Leisman!s assault on one Peter Navrelis, owner, Mayflower Pestaurant, Aberdeen, Maryland.

For purposes of verifying this assault and obtaining further avenues for investigation, I, accompanied by Special Agent Walter L. Leech, interviewed ir. Peter Mavrelis at the Mayflower Restaurant on Webruary 19, 1952. This interview consumed approximately ten minutes and was conducted after 2:00 p.m. since it had come to my attention that this was a time convenient to Ir. Mavrelis. At no time curing my contacts with Mr. Mavrelis, did I approach

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him for an interview prior to 2:00 p.m.

On the occasion of the interview on February 19, 1952, Mr. Mavrelis advised me that he had been assaulted during the Spring of 1950 by Louis J. Leisman who was then in a drunken rage and that Leisman had been jailed as a result of this assault. I also inquired of Mr. Mavrelis if Gertrude Leisman was present in the restaurant and he reported that she had quit her job without notice "over a week ago" which would place her termination on or about February 12, 1952.

At the inception of this interview with Mr. Mavrelis, I informed him that the inquiry was in connection with a confidential matter and not caused by any criminal or subversive activity on the part of Leisman. Mr. Mavrelis indicated that he understood this and would not mention the inquiry to anyone.

On February 29, 1952, I interviewed Mr. Mavrelis to determine the residence of Mr. Leisman. I was accompanied by Special Agent Bernard J. O'Donnell, Jr. and the interview took place in less than ten minutes. Mr. Mavrelis stated at this time he had not heard from Louis Leisman or his wife since she, Mrs. Leisman, had quit her job and that he had no knowledge of their address. Mr. Mavrelis suggested that Agent O'Donnell and I talk to one of his waitresses, Mrs. Beatrice Burg, whom he understood was taking care of Leisman's son, Jack, and would probably know his address.

I then interviewed Mrs. Beatrice Burg in the office of the Mayflower Restaurant, first cautioning her concerning the confidential nature of the interview and advised her that Leisman was not being investigated because of any criminal or subversive activity on his part. Mrs. Burg immediately advised us she had been apprised of the investigation by "word around the restaurant" and had asked Jack Leisman if his parents had done

something to get the FBI after them. Mrs. Burg stated the boy appeared worried and would no doubt ask his parents about it when they visited on the following day. Mrs. Burg was again reassured that the inquiry was not based on any criminal act of Louis Leisman and was in no way concerned with Mrs. Leisman. I told Mrs. Burg that the Federal Bureau of Investigation was not trying to arrest Leisman, but merely interested in knowing the place of his residence. I advised Mrs. Burg that I would contact her later in the event that Leisman left that information with her.

Also during this interview, Mrs. Burg told me that Mrs. Leisman quit her job at the Mayflower Restaurant on or about "Tuesday of the week before last" which would have been on or about February 12, 1952. Mrs. Burg stated that Mrs. Leisman had incurred some injury to one of her legs and that it would not heal properly because she was on her feet so much. Mrs. Burg advised that Mrs. Leisman complained that it was giving her considerable discomfort and she was going to make her husband work for a while. Mrs. Burg stated that Mrs. Leisman came to her shortly after she had quit her job at the Mayflower Restaurant and asked her, Mrs. Burg, to care for her son, Jack Leisman, until some permanent arrangements could be made or until they, the Leismans, would return to Aberdeen. Mrs. Burg stated that Jack Leisman was left with her on Friday, February 15, 1952 and that as far as she knew, the Leismans had removed their residence from Havre de Grace, Maryland, a short time later.

On March 3, 1952, accompanied by Special Agent Joseph L.

Crotta, I reinterviewed Mrs. Burg at her home, 207 Law Street,

Aberdeen, Maryland. Mrs. Burg advised us on this occasion that the

Leismans had visited there on March 1, 1952 and were told by their

son that the FBI was making inquiries about Louis Leisman at the

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Mayflower Restaurant. Mrs. Burg stated that when she arrived home from work at about 9:00 p.m. on March 1, she, upon learning that Leisman was aware of the inquiry, asked him what he had done. She stated he replied that he had signed an affidavit with regard to something that had happened seventeen years age; that he did not want to sign it, but that the man who knew he had this information kept after him six or seven times until he finally got tired of it and signed. Mrs. Burg further advised that Louis Leisman told her at that time the FBI was after him now to get him to change the statement and that he did not want to talk to the FBI, but if they wished to contact him, they could do so through his attorney in Baltimore.

for the care of their son and she expressed dissatisfaction with the amount of the payment. Mrs. Burg also appeared concerned over having Jack Leisman in her home in view of the current investigation of his father. I advised her that any consideration pertaining to the keeping or evicting of Jack Leisman should be made by her independently of the investigation since it in no manner, reflected upon the character of Louis Leisman or any member of his family. I again explained to her that Leisman was not being investigated because of criminal or subversive activity.

On March 5, 1952, I telephoned Mrs. Burg to ascertain where I might locate her husband, Sergeant Sylvester Burg.

On the same day, accompanied by Special Agent Bernard J.
O'Donnell, Jr., I interviewed Sergeant Burg at the Post Intelligence
Office, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Aberdeen, Maryland, for the purpose
of obtaining corroborative testimony to the statements Leisman made to
the Burgs at the Burg home March 1, 1952, to the effect that he was
reluctant to sign the above mentioned affidavit. I advised Sergeant

Burg of the confidential nature of the investigation and that it did not reflect in Itself upon the character of Leisman. Sergeant Burg stated that Leisman had been waiting for him March 1, 1952 in the apartment below his at 207 Law Street, Aberdeen, Maryland when he and Jack Leisman returned home. He stated that this was about 12:00 noon and that Mr. and Mrs. Leisman remained in his apartment for the entire day until he took them to the bus stop in Aberdeen at about 10:45 p.m. Sergeant Burg told us at this time that he heard Leisman tell his son that he was being harrassed by the FBI because of a statement he had made in connection with the "Hiss case". He further stated that he recalled nothing else Leisman had said on that day since he busied himself about the apartment and was interested in the programs on his television set. Sergeant Burg explained this attitude by saying that he found Louis Leisman an objectionable person of poor character and wanted to have as little to do with him as possible.

Sergeant Burg also stated that he had observed Mr. and Mrs. Leisman on the previous evening March 4, 1952 in the vicinity of the Mayflower Restaurant, Aberdeen, Maryland.

Upon completion of the above interview with Sergeant Burg, I contacted Mr. Peter Mavrelis to see if he had been approached by the Leismans on the previous evening. Mr. Mavrelis advised the Leismans had sought re-employment from him and stated that he was willing to rehire Gertrude Leisman but refused to hire Leisman on the basis of his past experiences with him. Mr. Mavrelis stated that likewise he refused to ren't the Leismans one of the cabins he maintain for the use of his employees because of Leisman's tendency to be leud, quarrelsome, drunk and disorderly which would cause embarrassment to the establishment. He added that Louis Leisman was drunk at this time. Mr. Mayrelis also advised me that he told Mrs. Leisman

to return the next day and they would make arrangements for her employment.

On March 10, 1952, I telephoned Sergeant Sylvester Burg for the purpose of ascertaining if he had knowledge of Leisman's present residence. At this time, Sergeant Burg stated that Leisman had not been in touch with him since March 1, 1952 and that if they did not come soon and bring some money for their son's support, he would find it necessary to evict the boy. Sergeant Burg expressed reluctance at having to take this step, since he personally admired the boy very much.

I conducted no further interviews with Sergeant Burg and at no time during the above mentioned contacts did he express other than friendly cooperation. At no time did he tell me or the Agents who accompanied me to leave him alone and "Get the Hell out".

Mr. Peter Mavrelis was interviewed by Special Agent Alex G. B. Radcliffe and myself on March 10, 1952, for a period of five minutes. He stated at this time that Mrs. Leisman did not return to the Mayflower Restaurant to accept the employment offered her as he had expected on March 5, 1952. According to Mr. Mavrelis this March 4 encounter with the Leismans was the only time he had seen them since the time Mrs. Leisman quit her job around February 12, 1952.

I hereby affirm:

That at no time during the above investigation did I or any other Agent who accompanied me conduct any interviews for the

purpose of harrassing Louis Leisman or any member of his family.

That no effort was made to contact Louis Leisman.

That no attempt was made to urge him directly or indirectly to change the affidavit he had made.

Mant all persons interviewed by me in connection with Louis Leisman were cautioned as to the confidential nature of the interview and reassured that the inquiry was not based upon my criminal or subversive act on the part of Louis Leisman or any of the members of his family.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

APPIDAVIT

ALGER HISS.

Defendent :

STATE OF MARYLAND)
CITY OF BALTIMORE

ROBERT G. EMOND, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

I am a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, United

States Department of Justice.

In connection with my official duties, I conducted an investigation at Aberdeen, Maryland, on February 15, 1952 for the purpose of determining if Louis J. Leisman had a police record in Meryland. The Aberdeen, Maryland police records indicated that one Frenk Leisman had been incarcerated on the night of May 2-3, 1952 in the city jail. Officer William P. Krause, Aberdeen Felice Department, advised me that this was an error in the records; that the person actually arrested was a Louis Leisman; and that this arrest was occasioned by Leisman's assault on one Feter Mavrelis, owner, Mayflower Restaurant, Aberdeen, Meryland.

For purposes of verifying this assault and obtaining further avenues for investigation, I, accompanied by Special Agent Walter L. Leech, interviewed Mr. Peter Mavrelis at the Mayflower Restaurant on February 19, 1952. This interview consumed approximately ten minutes and was conducted after 2:00 p.m. since it had come to my attention that this was a time convenient to Mr. Mavrelis. At no time during my contacts with Mr. Mavrelis, did I approach

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him for an interview prior to 2:00 p.m.

On the occasion of the interview on February 19, 1952;

Mr. Mavrelis advised me that he had been assaulted during the Spring of 1950 by Louis J. Leisman who was then in a drunken rage and that Leisman had been jailed as a result of this assault. I also inquired of Mr. Mavrelis if Certrude Leisman was present in the restaurant and he reported that she had quit her job without notice "ever a week ago" which would place her termination on or about Pebruary 12, 1952.

At the inception of this interview with Mr. Mavrelis, I informed him that the inquiry was in connection with a confidential matter and not caused by any criminal or subversive activity on the part of Leisman. Mr. Mavrelis indicated that he understood this and would not mention the inquiry to anyone.

On February 29, 1952, I interviewed Mr. Mavrelis to determine the residence of Mr. Leisman. I was accompanied by Special Agent Hernard J. O'Dormell, Jr. and the interview took place in less than ten minutes. Mr. Mavrelis stated at this time he had not heard from Louis Leisman or his wife since she, Mrs. Leisman, had quit her job and that he had no knowledge of their address. Mr. Mavrelis suggested that Agent O'Donnell and I talk to one of his waitresses, Mrs. Bestrice Rurg, when he understood was taking care of Leisman's son, Jack, and would probably know his address.

I then interviewed Mrs. Bestrice Burg in the office of the Mayflower Restaurant, first cautioning her concerning the confidential nature of the interview and advised her that Leisman was not being investigated because of any criminal or subversive activity on his part. Mrs. Burg immediately advised us she had been apprised of the investigation by "word around the restaurant" and had asked Jack Leisman if his parents had done

something to get the FEI after them. Mrs. Burg stated the boy appeared warried and would no doubt ask his parents about it when they visited on the following day. Mrs. Burg was again reassured that the inquiry was not based on any criminal act of Louis Leisman and was in no way concerned with Mrs. Leisman. I told Mrs. Burg that the Federal Eureau of Investigation was not trying to arrest Leisman, but merely interested in knowing the place of his residence. I advised Mrs. Burg that I would contact her later in the event that Leisman left that information with her.

Also during this interview, Mrs. Burg told as that Mrs. Leisman quit her job at the Mayflower Restaurant on or about "Tuesday of the week before last" which would have been on or about February 12, 1952. Mrs. Burg stated that Mrs. Leisman had incurred some injury to one of her legs and that it would not heal properly because she was on her feet so much. Mrs. Burg advised that Mrs. Leisman complained that it was giving her considerable discomfort and she was going to make her husband work for a while. Mrs. Eurg stated that Mrs. Leisman came to her shortly after she had quit her job at the Mayflower Restaurant and asked her, Mrs. Burg, to care for her son, Jack Leisman, until some permanent arrangements could be made or until they, the Leismans, would return to Aberdeen. Mrs. Burg stated that Jack Leisman was left with her on Friday, February 15, 1952 and that as far as she know, the Leismans had removed their residence from Havre de Grace, Maryland, a short time later.

On March 3, 1952, accompanied by Special Agent Joseph L. Crotta, I reinterviewed Mrs. Burg at her home, 207 Law Street, Aberdeen, Maryland. Mrs. Burg advised us on this occasion that the Leismans had visited there on March 1, 1952 and were told by their son that the FBI was making inquiries about Louis Leisman at the

Hayflower Restaurant. Mrs. Burg stated that when she arrived home from work at about 9:00 p.m. on March 1, she, upon learning that Leisman was aware of the inquiry, asked him what he had done. She stated he replied that he had signed an affidavit with regard to something that had happened seventeen years ago; that he did not want to sign it, but that the man who knew he had this information kept after him six or seven times until he finally get tired of it and signed. Mrs. Burg further advised that Leuis Leisman told her at that time the FBI was after him now to get him to change the statement and that he did not want to talk to the FBI, but if they wished to contact him, they could do so through his attorney in Baltimore.

for the care of their son and she expressed dissatisfaction with the amount of the payment. Mrs. Burg also appeared concerned ever having fack Leisman in her home in view of the current investigation of his father. I advised her that may consideration pertaining to the keeping or evicting of Jack Leisman should be made by her independently of the investigation since it in no manner, reflected upon the character of Louis Leisman or any member of his family. I again explained to her that Leisman was not being investigated because of criminal or subversive activity.

On Merch 5, 1952, I telephoned Mrs. Burg to ascertain where I might locate her husband, Sergeant Sylvester Burg.

On the same day, accompanied by Special Agent Bernard J.
O'Donnell, Jr., I interviewed Sergeant Burg at the Post Intelligence
Office, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Aberdeen, Maryland, for the purpose
of obtaining corroborative testimony to the statements Leisman made to
the Burgs at the Burg home March 1, 1952, to the effect that he was
reluctant to sign the above mentioned affidavit. I advised Sergeant

Burg of the confidential nature of the investigation and that it did not reflect in itself upon the character of Leisman. Sergeant Burg stated that Leisman had been waiting for him March 1, 1952 in the apartment below his at 207 Law Street, Aberdeen, Maryland when he and Jack Leisman returned home. He stated that this was about 12:00 noon and that Mr. and Mrs. Leisman remained in his apartment for the entire day until he took them to the bus stop in Aberdeen at about 10:45 p.m. Sergeant Burg told us at this time that he heard Leisman tell his son that he was being harrassed by the FBI because of a statement he had made in connection with the "Hiss case". He further stated that he recalled nothing else Leisman had said on that day since he busied himself about the apartment and was interested in the progrems on his television set. Sergeant Burg explained this attitude by saying that he found Louis Leisman an objectionable person of poor character and wanted to have as little to do with him as possible.

Sergeant Burg also stated that he had observed Mr. and Mrs. Eeisman on the previous evening March 4, 1952 in the vicinity of the Mayflower Restaurant, Aberdeen, Maryland.

Upon completion of the above interview with Sergeant Burg, I contacted Mr. Peter Mavrelis to see if he had been approached by the Leismans on the previous evening. Mr. Mavrelis advised the Leismans had sought re-employment from him and stated that he was willing to rehire Gertrude Leisman but refused to hire Leisman on the basis of his past experiences with him. Mr. Mavrelis stated that likewise he refused to rent the Leismans one of the cabins he maintain for the use of his employees because of Leisman's tendency to be loud, quarrelsome, drunk and disorderly which would cause embarrassment to the tatablishment. He added that Louis Leisman was drunk at this time. Mr. Mavrelis also advised me that he told Mrs. Leisman

to return the next day and they would make arrangements for her employment.

on March 10, 1952, I talephoned Sergeant Sylvester Burg for the purpose of ascertaining if he had knowledge of Leisman's present residence. At this time, Sergeant Burg stated that Leisman had not been in touch with him since March 1, 1952 and that if they did not come soon and bring some money for their son's support, he would find it necessary to evict the boy. Sergeant Burg expressed reluctance at having to take this step, since he personally admired the boy very much.

I conducted no further interviews with Bergeant Burg and at no time during the above mentioned contacts did he express other than friendly cooperation. At no time did he tell me or the Agents who accompanied me to leave him alone and "Get the Hell out".

Mr. Peter Mavrelis was interviewed by Special Agent Alex G. B. Radeliffs and myself on March 10, 1952, for a period of five minutes. He stated at this time that Mrs. Leisman did not return to the Mayflower Restaurant to accept the employment offered her as he had expected on March 5, 1952. According to Mr. Mavrelis this March 4 encounter with the Leismans was the only time he had seen them since the time Mrs. Leisman quit her job around February 12, 1952.

I hereby affirm:

That at no time during the above investigation did I or any other agent who accompanied me conduct any interviews for the

purpose of harrassing Louis Leisman or any member of his family.

That no effort was made to contact Louis Leisman.

That no attempt was made to urge him directly or indirectly to change the affidavit he had made.

That all persons interviewed by me in connection with Louis Leisman were cautioned as to the confidential nature of the interview and reassured that the inquiry was not based upon any criminal or subversive act on the part of Louis Leisman or any of the members of his family.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

-V-

ALGER HISS.

AFFIDAVIT

Defendant

STATE OF MARYLAND)
CITY OF BALTIMORE)

JOSEPH L. CROTTA, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

I am a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice.

In connection with my official duties I accompanied Special Agent Robert G. Emond to Aberdeen, Maryland, on March 3, 1952 and interviewed Mrs. Beatrice Burg at her home, 207 Law Street, Aberdeen, Maryland.

During this interview Mrs. Burg stated she would be very willing to tell the Federal Bureau of Investigation the truth as she knew it and the truth according to Mrs. Burg, "would never hurt anyone". Mrs. Burg advised us that Mr. Leisman was aware of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's investigation concerning him and that he had told his son, Jack Leisman this on Saturday, March 1, 1952. Mrs. Burg advised that she had inquired from Leisman the reason for the inquiry being made by the Federal Bureau of Investigation to which he

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had answered: "some fellow talked me into signing an affidavit

and the FBI is trying to get me to change it".

concerning something that happened some seventeen years ago

Mrs. Burg related at this time that she was boarding the Leismans' son at her apartment and stated the Leismans had only given her \$25.00 for taking care of their child, adding that she did not consider this to be enough money. Mrs. Burg inquired concerning the Federal Eureau of Investigation's attitude toward her having the boy in her care and Special Agent Emond advised her that the Federal Bureau of Investigation had no interest in this matter and that any decisions made by her, concerning the Leismans, should be made independently of the investigation.

Special Agent Emond again advised her that an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation does not in itself reflect upon the individual under investigation and that the investigation concerning Louis J. Leisman was not in connection with any criminal or subversive activity on his part.

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STATE OF MARY	• •		1.5		

GEORGE W. MAYO, JR., being duly sworn, deposes and says:

I am a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation,
United States Department of Justice.

Eurg, 207 Law Street, Aberdeen, Maryland, for the purpose of determining the present residence of Louis J. Leisman on March 20, 1952. Mrs. Burg advised me that she had no definite information concerning Leisman's present address although she stated she had received a letter from Gertrude Leisman, return address 2805 E. Chase Street, Baltimore, Maryland, and had had a telephone conversation with Gertrude Leisman in which she, Mrs. Burg, was given to understand that the Leisman's would visit Aberdeen, Maryland, on the weekend of April 5, 1952. I made no inquiry at this time concerning any other member of Louis Leisman's family and no further mention was made of Louis Leisman nor was his son, Jack Leisman, mentioned, although Mrs. Burg inferred that Jack Leisman still resided with her and that the forthcoming visit of the Leisman's would be in connection with their son.

Also in connection with my official duties, I was aware of the entire investigation concerning the background of Louis J. Leisman, and at no time during this investigation were Mr. and Mrs. Richard Toner, 510 S. Philadelphia Road, Aberdeen, Maryland, contacted by agents of the

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Federal Bureau of Investigation concerning Louis J. Leisman.

It is also known to me in connection with my official duties that no investigation concerning Louis J. Leisman was conducted in Aberdeen, Maryland, prior to February 14, 1952, and that Mr. Peter Mavrelis, owner of Mayflower Restaurant, Aberdeen, Maryland, was first interviewed on February 15, 1952.

The investigation regarding Louis J. Leisman was directed toward establishing the character, reputation and background of him, and at no time was consideration given or was an attempt made to comvince or persuade Leisman, directly or indirectly, to modify or otherwise alter his affidavit in support of a motion of a new trial filed by the Hiss defense.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AFFIDAVIT

ALGER HISS.

Defendant

STATE OF MARYLAND)
CITY OF BALTIMORE)

BERNARD J. O'DONNELL, JR., being duly sworn, deposes and says:

I am a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice.

In connection with my official duties, I conducted an investigation into the background and character of Louis J. Leisman.

On February 29, 1952, I accompanied Special Agent Robert G. Emond to the Mayflower Restaurant, Aberdeen, Maryland, where we inquired of Mr. Peter Mavrelis, the owner, as to his knowledge of the present employment and residence of Louis J. Leisman. Mr. Mavrelis advised he had no such knowledge but that one of his weitresses, Mrs. Beatrice Burg, might have such information inasmuch as she was then taking care of Leisman's son, Jack.

Mrs. Beatrice Burg was thereupon interviewed by Special Agent Emond and myself in the office of the Mayflower Restaurant.

Mrs. Burg was advised of the confidential nature of the inquiry by Special Agent Emond. Mrs. Burg was pleasant and cooperative throughout the interview and advised that she had heard from fellow workers that the FBI was checking on Leisman. She also stated that Jack beisman was aware of the investigation. Mrs. Burg was advised that we desired to ascertain the present employment and residence of Louis J. Leisman and that he was not wanted for arrest. Mrs. Burg was unable to supply this information.

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Mr. Mayrelis, were advised that the Federal Bureau of Investigation was making an inquiry regarding Louis J. Leisman in order to ascertain Leisman's background and community reputation. He was further advised that the inquiry should be treated confidentially and should raise mo question that Leisman had engaged in improper activities.

The interview was conducted by Special Agent Redcliffe who prepared a short written statement relative to the information furnished by Mevrelis and which Mayrelis at gned willingly. The interview, including the preparation of the statement, took approximately twenty-five minutes, at the end of which time we departed.

No inquiry was made of Leisman's son or the residence or employment of Louis Leisman or his wife, nor was any reference made to Leisman's wife other than was necessary to determine the extent of Mavrelis' acquaintance with Leisman.

To my knowledge, the above interview was the first time Peter Mavrelis had been contacted by a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation concerning Louis J. Leisman.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

UNITED STATES OF AMBRICA

ALGER HISS,

AFFIDAVIT

Defendant.

STATE OF MARYLAND)

CITY OF BALTIMORE)

ALEX G. B. RADCLIFFE, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

I am a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation,
United States Department of Justice.

In connection with my official duties, I accompanied Special Agent Robert R. Alwell to Aberdeen, Maryland on February 15, 1952 for the purpose of interviewing Feter Mavrelis, owner of the Mayflower Restaurant, Aberdeen, Maryland in connection with his knowledge of the reputation of Louis J. Leisman.

Upon entering the Mayflower Restaurant, we inquired of the woman at the cashier's desk as to where Mayrelis might be located. This woman identified herself to us as Mrs. Mayrelis and stated that her husband was in bed, explaining that he closes the restaurant in the early hours of the morning. I asked Mrs. Mayrelis what was the earliest time he might be seen, and she responded to the effect that he is usually at the restaurant after 2:00 PM.

Accordingly, Special Agent Alwell and myself departed, returning again at approximately 2:15 PM. We found Peter Mavrelis in his office behind the cashier's desk, and he expressed the desire that the interview be conducted there. I asked Mr. Mavrelis if Mrs. Leisman was on the premises, and he replied that she was not.

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Before this interview commenced, Mavrelis was told that the Federal Bureau of Investigation was conducting an investigation which necessitated ascertaining the character and reputation of Louis J. Leisman. He was also advised that the inquiry should be treated as confidential and should raise no inference that Leisman had engaged in improper activities.

Mr. Mavrelis was then questioned as to the extent of his acquaintance with Louis J. Leisman, his knowledge of Leisman's community reputation and of any specific misconduct of Leisman. I wrote a short statement covering the replies made by Mr. Mavrelis, which he read, approved and signed willingly.

To the best of my recollection, the above interview, including the preparation and signing of the statement, consumed between twenty and thirty minutes. At no time was Mavrelis asked about Leisman's son nor was he asked about Leisman's wife, except insofar as was necessary to ascertain the extent of his acquaintance with Leisman. No inquiry was made as to the present residence of Leisman, his wife or his son.

To my knowledge, the above interview on February 15, 1952 was the first time Peter Mavrelis had been contacted by Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in regard to Louis J. Leisman.

On March 10, 1952, I accompanied Special Agent Robert G.

Emond on another visit to the Mayflower Restaurant. We spoke to Peter

Mavrelis in the yard of the restaurant and ascertained that he had not

seen Leisman since March 4, 1952, at which time he had told Mrs. Leisman
he had a jeb opened for her.

This interview, which took place at approximately 3:15 PM, consumed not more than ten minutes.

The foregoing accurately described all contacts I have had with Peter Mayrelis.

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ALGER	HI 38,	- .				 *
		Def	enda	nt		•

ROBERT R. ALWELL, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

I am a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, United

States Department of Justice.

In connection with my official duties, I accompanied

Special Agent Alex G. B. Radcliffe to Aberdeen, Maryland on February

15, 1952 for the purpose of interviewing the proprietor of the Mayflower Restaurant, Mr. Peter Mayrelis in connection with his knowledge of the reputation of Louis J. Leisman.

Epon arriving at the Mayflower Restaurant at approximately 11:00 a.m., we were told by Mrs. Mavrelis that her husband
was sleeping; that he closes the restaurant in the early hours of
the morning; and that she was reluctant to awaken him at that time.
Upon being saked what was the earliest time he might be seen, Mrs.
Mavrelis advised that her husband usually arrived at the restaurant
at about 2:00 p.m. everyday.

Special Agent Radcliffe and myself then departed and returned to the restaurant at approximately 2:15 p.m. the same day. Mr. Peter Mavrelis was in his office at this time and we interviewed him there. Special Agent Radcliffe asked Mr. Mavrelis if Mrs. Leisman was on the premises and Mr. Mavrelis stated she was not.

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On March 5, 1952, I accompanied Special Agent Robert G.

Remond to the Post Intelligence Office, Aberdeen Proving Ground,

Aberdeen, Maryland, where we talked with Sergeant First Class

Sylvester Burg. Special Agent Meend advised Burg that the Interview

was to be held confidential, to which Burg agreed, and that the
investigation was not based on any eriminal or subversive activity

on the part of Leisman. Sergeant Burg was asked questions concerning
the visit of Leisman to the Burg home on March 1, 1952. Sergeant

Burg was entirely cooperative throughout the interview and at no

time displayed animosity toward either myself or Special Agent Barond.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF N			
UNITED STATES OF AMERI	 CA	X	
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Def enden	t		
STATE OF MARYLAND)		X	
CITY OF BALTIMORE)			

ROBERT R. ALWELL, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

I am a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, United
States Department of Justice.

In connection with my official duties, I accompanied Special Agent Alex G. B. Radcliffe to Aberdeen, Maryland on February 15, 1952 for the purpose of interviewing the proprietor of the May-flower Bestaurant, Mr. Peter Mayrelis in connection with his knowledge of the reputation of Louis J. Leisman.

Upon arriving at the Mayflower Restaurant at approximately 11:00 a.m., we were told by Mrs. Mavrelis that her hasband was sleeping; that he closes the restaurant in the early hours of the morning; and that she was reluctant to awaken him at that time. Upon being asked what was the earliest time he might be seen, Mrs. Mavrelis advised that her husband usually arrived at the restaurant at about 2:00 p.m. everyday.

Special Agent Radeliffe and myself then departed and returned to the restaurant at approximately 2:15 p.m. the same day.

Mr. Peter Mavrelis was in his office at this time end we interviewed him there. Special Agent Radeliffe asked Mr. Mavrelis if Mrs. Leisman was on the premises and Mr. Mavrelis stated she was not.

74-1333-5311

Mr. Mavrelis was advised that the Federal Bureau of Investigation was making an inquiry regarding Louis J. Leisman in order to ascertain Leisman's background and community reputation. He was further advised that the inquiry should be treated confidentially and should raise no question that Leisman had engaged in improper activities.

The interview was conducted by Special Agent Radcliffe who prepared a short written statement relative to the information furnished by Mavrelis and which Mavrelis signed willingly. The interview, including the preparation of the statement, took approximately twenty-five minutes, at the end of which time we departed.

Wo inquiry was made of Leisman's son or the residence or employment of Louis Leisman or his wife, nor was eny reference made to Leisman's wife other than was necessary to determine the extent of Mavrelis' acquaintance with Leisman.

To my knowledge, the above interview was the first time Peter Mavrelis had been contacted by a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation concerning Louis J. Leisman.

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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AFFIDAVIS

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STATE OF MAYLAND)

CITY OF BALTIMORE)

CHERGE W. MAIO, JR., being duly sworm, duposes and says;

I am a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation,
United States Department of Justice.

In connection with my official duties, I telephoned Mrs. Beatrice Burg, 207 Law Street, Aberdeen, Mryland, for the purpose of determining the present recidence of Louis J. Leisman on March 20, 1952. Mrs. Burg advised me that she had no definite indepention concerning Leisman's present address although she stated she had received a letter from Gertrude Leisman, return address 2805 M. Chase Street, Baltimore, Mryland, and had had a telephone conversation with Gertrude Leisman in which she, Mrc. Burg, was given to understand that the Leisman's would visit Aberdeen, Maryland, on the weekend of April 5, 1952. I made no inquiry at this time concerning any other member of Louis Leisman's family and no further mention was made of Louis Leisman nor was his son, Jack Leisman, mentioned, although the. Burg inferred that Jack Leisman still resided with her and that the forthcoming visit of the Leisman's would be in connection with their son.

Also in connection with my official duties, I was aware of the entire investigation concerning the beekground of Louis J. Leisman, and at no time during this investigation were Mr. and Mrs. Richard Toner, 510 S. Philadelphia Road, Aberdeen, Maryland, contacted by agents of the

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Federal Bureau of Investigation concerning Louis J. Leisman.

It is also known to me in connection with my official duties that no investigation concerning Louis J. Leisman was conducted in Aberdeen, Maryland, prior to February 14, 1952, and that Mr. Peter Mavrelis, owner of Mayflower Restaurant, Aberdeen, Maryland, was first interviewed on February 15, 1952.

The inventigation regarding Louis J. Leisman was directed toward establishing the character, reputation and background of him, and at no time was consideration given or was an attempt made to comvince or persuade Leisman, directly or indirectly, to modify or otherwise alter his affidavit in support of a motion of a new trial filed by the Hiss defense.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

ALCER HISS.

APPIDAVIT

Defendant

STATE OF MARYLAND)

CITY OF BALTIMORE)

ALEX G. B. RADCLIFFE, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

I am a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation,
United States Department of Justice.

In connection with my official duties, I accompanied Special Agent Robert R. Alwell to Aberdeen, Maryland on February 15, 1952 for the purpose of interviewing Peter Mavrelis, owner of the Mayflower Restaurant, Aberdeen, Maryland in connection with his knowledge of the reputation of Louis J. Leisman.

Woman at the cashier's desk as to where Mavrelis might be located. This woman identified herself to us as Mrs. Mavrelis and stated that her husband was in bed, explaining that he closes the restaurant in the early hours of the morning. I asked Mrs. Mavrelis what was the earliest time he might be seen, and she responded to the effect that he is usually at the restaurant after 2:00 PM.

Accordingly, Special Agent Alwell and mysself departed, returning again at approximately 2:15 PM. We found Peter Mavrelis in his office behind the cashier's desk, and he expressed the desire that the interview be conducted there. I asked Mr. Mavrelis if Mrs. Leisman was on the premises, and he replied that she was not.

Before this interview commenced, Navrelis was told that the Federal Bureau of Investigation was conducting an investigation which necessitated ascertaining the character and reputation of Louis J. Leisman. He was also advised that the inquiry should be treated as confidential and should raise no inference that Leisman had engaged in improper activities.

Mr. Mavrelis was then questioned as to the extent of his acquaintance with Louis J. Leisman, his knowledge of Leisman's community reputation and of any specific misconduct of Leisman. I wrote a short statement covering the replies made by Mr. Mavrelis, which he read, approved and signed willingly.

To the best of my recollection, the above interview, including the preparation and signing of the statement, consumed between twenty and thirty minutes. At no time was Mavrelis asked about Leisman's somether was he asked about Leisman's wife, except insofar as was necessary to ascertain the extent of his acquaintance with Leisman. No inquiry was made as to the present residence of Leisman, his wife or his son.

To my knowledge, the above interview on February 15, 1952 was the first time Peter Mavrelie had been contacted by Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in regard to Louis J. Leisaan.

On March 10, 1952, I accompanied Special Agent Robert G.

Emond on another visit to the Mayflower Restaurant. We spoke to Peter

Mavrelis in the yard of the restaurant and ascertained that he had not

seen Leisman since March h, 1952, at which time he had told Mrs. Leisman
he had a job opened for her.

This interview, which took place at approximately 3:15 Mg, consumed not more than ten minutes.

The foregoing accurately described all contacts I have had with Feter Mayrelis.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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AFFIDAVIT

ALGER HISS.

Defendant

STATE OF MARYLAND)
CITY OF BALTIMORB)

JOSEPH L. CROTTA, being duly swern, deposes and says:

I am a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice.

In connection with my official duties I accompanied Special Agent Robert G. Emond to Aberdeen, Maryland, on March 3, 1952 and interviewed Mrs. Beatrice Burg at her home, 207 Law Street, Aberdeen, Maryland.

During this interview Mrs. Burg stated she would be very willing to tell the Federal Bureau of Investigation the truth as she knew it and the truth according to Mrs. Burg, "would never hurt enyone". Mrs. Burg advised us that Mr. Leisman was aware of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's investigation concerning him and that he had told his son, Jack Leisman this on Saturday, March 1, 1952. Mrs. Burg advised that she had inquired from Leisman the reason for the inquiry being made by the Federal Bureau of Investigation to which he

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had answered: "some fellow talked me into signing an affidavit concerning something that happened some seventeen years ago and the FBI is trying to get me to change it".

Mrs. Burg related at this time that she was boarding the Leismans' son at her apartment and stated the Leismans had only given her \$25.00 for taking care of their child, adding that she did not consider this to be enough money. Mrs. Burg inquired concerning the Federal Bureau of Investigation's attitude toward her having the boy in her care and Special Agent Emend advised her that the Federal Bureau of Investigation had no interest in this matter and that any decisions made by her, concerning the Leismans, should be made independently of the investigation.

Special Agent Emond again advised her that an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation does not in itself reflect upon the individual under investigation and that the investigation concerning Louis J. Leisman was not in connection with any original or subversive activity on his part.

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

-V-

AFFIDAVIT

ALGER HISS,

Defendant

STATE OF MARYLAND)

CITY OF BALTIMORE)

BERNARD J. O'DONNELL, JR., being duly sworn, deposes and says:

I am a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice.

In connection with my official duties, I conducted an investigation into the background and character of Louis J. Leisman.

On February 29, 1952, I accompanied Special Agent Robert G. Emond to the Mayflower Restaurant, Aberdeen, Maryland, where we inquired of Mr. Peter Mavrelis, the owner, as to his knowledge of the present employment and residence of Louis J. Leisman. Mr. Mavrelis advised he had no such knowledge but that one of his waitresses, Mrs. Beatrice Burg, might have such information inasmuch as she was then taking care of Leisman's son, Jack.

Mrs. Beatrice Burg was thereupon interviewed by Special Agent Emond and myself in the office of the Mayflower Restaurant. Mrs. Burg was advised of the confidential nature of the inquiry by Special Agent Emond. Mrs. Burg was pleasant and cooperative throughout the interview and advised that she had heard from fellow workers that the FBI was checking on Leisman. She also stated that Jack Leisman was aware of the investigation. Mrs. Burg was advised that we desired to ascertain the present employment and residence of Louis J. Leisman and that he was not wanted for arrest. Mrs. Burg was unable to supply this information.

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On March 5, 1952, I accompanied Special Agent Robert G.

Emond to the Post Intelligence Office, Aberdeen Proving Ground,

Aberdeen, Maryland, where we talked with Sergeant First Class.

Sylvester Burg. Special Agent Emond advised Burg that the interview was to be held confidentful, to which Burg agreed, and that the investigation was not based on any oriminal or subversive activity on the part of Leisman. Sergeant Burg was asked questions concerning the visit of Leisman to the Burg home on March 1, 1952. Sergeant Burg was entirely cooperative throughout the interview and at no time displayed animosity toward either myself or Special Agent Emond.

4/26/52

DIRECTOR, PBI (74-1333)

SAC, BALTIMORE (65-1642)

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Rebulet 4/21/52.

Forwarded herewith are copies of affidavits prepared by SAs ROBERT G. EMOND, ALEX G. B. RADCLIFFE, BERNARD J. O'DONNELL, JR., JOSEPH L. CROTTA, GEORGE W. MAYO, JR., and a memorandum submitted by SA ROBERT G. EMOND.

The above affidavits are submitted prior to execution in order that the Bureau may have the opportunity of reviewing them for completeness and to insure that they meet with the Bureau's requirements. For the Bureau's information, the following is noted:

The false and erroneous allegations made by LOUIS J. LEISMAN in his affidavit and in statements made to J.S. Attorney MILES J. LAME on 3/31/52 are not based on facts within LEISMAN's knowledge but rather on information which he allegadly had received from his wife, GERTRUDE LEISMAN, PETER MAVRELIS, SERGEANT SYLVESTER BURG, Mrs. BEATRICE BURG, and Mr. or Mrs. RICHARD TONER. This information relates to their observations concerning the investigation into the background of LEISMAN conducted in Aberdeen, Maryland, and from the interviews had with them by various Bureau agents. In view of this fact, it is felt that more complete refutation of the allegations made by LEISMAN may be accomplished by obtaining affidavits from the above individuals.

For the Bureau's information, this office interviewed PETER MAVRELIS on five occasions, i.e. on 2/15/52, 2/19/52, 2/29/52, 3/5/52, and 3/10/52. The first interview on 2/15/52 was to ascertain the character and reputation of LEISMAN as a fermer employee, while the second interview was for the purpose of verifying additional information received subsequent to the first interview that MAVRELIS had been a complainant in an assault charge against LEISMAN and which information he had not volunteered to the agents. Subsequent interviews with MAVRELIS

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RE: JAHAM

were had to determine the whereabouts of LEISMAN as directed by the Bureau in teletype dated 2/29/52, which instructed Baltimore to make such arrangements as would be necessary to insure knowledge of the whereabouts of LEISMAN. It was for this same reason that BEATRICE BURG was interviewed on 2/29/52 and 3/3/52, and telephoned on 3/20/52. Mrs. BURG was also telephoned on 3/5/52 to learn where her husband might be reached and he was interviewed on that date to correborate the information received from Mrs. BURG on3/3/52. Later Sergeant BURG was telephoned on 3/10/52 for the purpose of ascertaining what information he had concerning LEISMAN's whereabouts.

It is the observation of the Baltimore Office that although the fact that the many interviews and contacts with MAVRELIS and the Burgs are contained in the aforementioned affidavits of the agents, neither the reasons for nor the continuity of all of the interviews are set but in the affidavits. It is desired that the Bureau consider the advisability of such information being set out in the form of an affidavit sworm to by either the SAC, the Supervisor, SA MAYO, or the agent to whom the case is assigned. The practical reason for such an affidavit would be to (1) assist the Court in understanding the logical development of each interview and (2) providing a reasonable basis for the belief that frequent contacts with MAVRELIS and the BURGS were prompted by sound reasons and not for purposes of harrassment.

It is pointed out that in instant investigation, officers of the Aberdeen Police Department, Aberdeen, Maryland, were contacted to determine the reputation of PETER MAVRELIS and the BURGS with particular reference to their ability to maintain a confidence. Since this inquiry was positive, this office felt no hesitation in contacting them. In the case of Mr. and Mrs. RICHARD TONER, this office was advised by the Aberdeen Police Department that their reputation was unavorable and that they would doubtless disclose the fact of the investigation and consequently no interview was had with them.

It is noted that in his affidavit, LEISMAN states the FBI influenced the TONERS to adopt an unfriendly attitude toward him and his son. This allegation has been refuted by a general statement in the affidavit of SA GEORGE W. MAYO, JR., who had immediate charge of the investigation of LOUIS J. LEISMAN. It is also noted that LEISMAN alleges the FBI conducted investigation in Aberdeen which caused his wife to lose her job at the Mayflower Restaurant on 2/13/52. Statements refuting this allegation are contained in the affidavits of SA MAYO and SA EMOND. Kisseloff-27996

TT: JAHAM

Copies of this letter and enclosures are being forwarded to New York for their information.

It is noted that CA 'ALT R L. ETECH is now assigned to the Pittsburgh Tivision and from a review of the Piles, it was determined that he accompanied CA ROLLRY 6. SMOWL to Aberdeen, Maryland, on 2/19/52 to interview PATCR MAYPILLS, It is desired that SA LUECH prepare an appropriate affidavit forwarding copies to the Bureau, New York, and this office prior to execution. It will be noted that the interview in which SA LUECH participated is set out in the affidavit and memo of SA ROBLRY 6. I MONT.

The original copy of these affidavits are being maintained in this office and, upon receipt of instructions from the Eureau, will be executed and forwarded to New York for transmittal to the U.F. Attorney and for filling with the U.F. Fistrict Court, Southern Fistrict New York.