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U.S. Department of Justice

**Federal Bureau of Investigation**  
Washington, D.C. 20535

July 11, 2016

MR. JOHN GREENEWALD JR.  
THE BLACK VAULT

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

FOIPA Request No.: 1352614-000  
Subject: FISCHER, ROBERT JAMES

Dear Mr. Greenewald:

Records responsive to your request were previously processed under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. Enclosed is one CD containing 10 pages of previously processed documents and a copy of the Explanation of Exemptions. Documents or information originating with other Government agencies originally referred to that agency were not included in this release. This release is being provided to you at no charge.

Additional records potentially responsive to your subject may exist. Please submit a new FOIA request if you would like the FBI to conduct a search of the indices to our Central Records System.

Submit requests by mail or fax to – Work Process Unit, 170 Marcel Drive, Winchester, VA 22602, fax number (540) 868-4997.

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. See 5 U.S. C. § 552(c) (2006 & Supp. IV (2010)). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

For questions regarding our determinations, visit the [www.fbi.gov/foia](http://www.fbi.gov/foia) website under “Contact Us.” The FOIPA Request Number listed above has been assigned to your request. Please use this number in all correspondence concerning your request. Your patience is appreciated.

You may file an appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy (OIP), United States Department of Justice, Suite 11050, 1425 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20530-0001, or you may submit an appeal through OIP's FOIAonline portal by creating an account on the following web site: <https://foiaonline.regulations.gov/foia/action/public/home>. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within sixty (60) days from the date of this letter in order to be considered timely. If you submit your appeal by mail, both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked “Freedom of Information Act Appeal.” Please cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so that it may be easily identified.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D Hardy", is positioned above the typed name.

David M. Hardy  
Section Chief,  
Record/Information  
Dissemination Section  
Records Management Division

Enclosure(s)

## EXPLANATION OF EXEMPTIONS

### SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552

- (b)(1) (A) specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and (B) are in fact properly classified to such Executive order;
- (b)(2) related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency;
- (b)(3) specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than section 552b of this title), provided that such statute (A) requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on issue, or (B) establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld;
- (b)(4) trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;
- (b)(5) inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency;
- (b)(6) personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- (b)(7) records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information ( A ) could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, ( B ) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, ( C ) could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, ( D ) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of record or information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source, ( E ) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law, or ( F ) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual;
- (b)(8) contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of an agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions; or
- (b)(9) geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

### SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552a

- (d)(5) information compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action proceeding;
- (j)(2) material reporting investigative efforts pertaining to the enforcement of criminal law including efforts to prevent, control, or reduce crime or apprehend criminals;
- (k)(1) information which is currently and properly classified pursuant to an Executive order in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy, for example, information involving intelligence sources or methods;
- (k)(2) investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes, other than criminal, which did not result in loss of a right, benefit or privilege under Federal programs, or which would identify a source who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(3) material maintained in connection with providing protective services to the President of the United States or any other individual pursuant to the authority of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3056;
- (k)(4) required by statute to be maintained and used solely as statistical records;
- (k)(5) investigatory material compiled solely for the purpose of determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications for Federal civilian employment or for access to classified information, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(6) testing or examination material used to determine individual qualifications for appointment or promotion in Federal Government service the release of which would compromise the testing or examination process;
- (k)(7) material used to determine potential for promotion in the armed services, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished the material pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
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FOI/PA# 1352614-0

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Page 16 ~ Referral/Consult;

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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REPORTING OFFICE <b>MEXICO, D. F.</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>BUREAU</b>	DATE <b>1/24/67</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>12/23/66 - 1/17/67</b>
TITLE OF CASE  <b>ROBERT JAMES FISCHER</b>		REPORT MADE BY <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div>	TYPED BY <b>ako</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE  <b>IS - CUBA</b>	

SYNOPSIS:

Subject, U. S. chess player, traveled to Havana, Cuba, from Mexico, D.F., 10/23/66 via Cuban Aviation Company, and returned to Mexico, D.F. 11/29/66 in same manner. Subject bearer of U.S. passport G448349.

- RUC -

ADMINISTRATIVE:

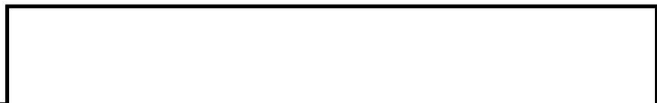
Two extra copies have been designated for the Washington Field Office for possible forwarding to the office covering residence of Subject, when identified.

INFORMANTS:

Identity of Source

Location

T-1 is  
T-2 is  
T-3 is



APPROVED

SPECIAL AGENT  
IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

COPIES MADE:

14 - Bureau  
(1 - Liaison Section)  
(4 - Washington Field)  
1 - Mexico City (105-5836)

105-162044 - MCT-33

11 JAN 31 1967

REC-3

Dissemination Record of Attached Report

Notations

Agency	
Request Recd.	Copy to: CIA/State/RAO ONI/OSI/ACSI
Date Fwd.	by routing slip for info.
How Fwd.	Date 2/2/67 by PRS/PAO
By	

Copy to SAC WFO  
by routing slip for  
 info  action  
date 2/2/67  
by PRS/PAO

79 FEB 6 - 1967

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR  
ADD. DISSEMINATION.

MEX 105-5836

CLASSIFICATION

Instant report is classified "~~CONFIDENTIAL~~" as it contains information received from sources of continuing value, the unauthorized disclosure of which could affect the national defense.

LEADS:

WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE

At Washington, D. C.

(1) Will review Subject's file at the U. S. Passport Office, passport #G448349, to determine if Cuban travel was authorized.

(2) If travel was not authorized, advise office covering residence of Subject to conduct appropriate investigation.

ADDENDUM:

[redacted] mentioned on page 1 [redacted]  
[redacted] believed to have traveled in connection  
with the XV Olympiad of Chess [redacted]  
[redacted] Travel of [redacted] was  
definitely in this connection [redacted]  
[redacted]

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

January 24, 1967

ROBERT JAMES FISCHER

This document contains neither  
recommendations nor conclusions of  
the FBI. It is the property of  
the FBI and is loaned to your agency;  
it and its contents are not to be  
distributed outside your agency.

On December 23, 1966, T-1 furnished information that  
the passenger manifest of Cuban Aviation Company flight #465  
from Mexico, D.F., to Havana, Cuba, on October 23, 1966, reveals  
that among the passengers was ROBERT JAMES FISHER, the bearer  
of U. S. passport #G448349. He had a Cuban courtesy visa and  
was destined for the Hotel Habana Libre. He carried two pieces  
of luggage weighing 26 kilograms (57.2 pounds).



Name

U. S. Passport No.



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b7D

On December 23, 1966, T-1 furnished information that  
the passenger manifest of Cuban Aviation Company flight #464  
from Havana, Cuba, to Mexico, D. F., on November 29, 1966,  
listed as passenger #53 ROBERT FISCHER, U. S. passport 448349.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
~~Group 1~~  
~~Excluded from automatic~~  
~~downgrading and declassification~~



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RE: ROBERT JAMES FISCHER

He was destined for the Insurgentes Hotel and carried two pieces of luggage weighing 43 kilograms (94.6 pounds).

On January 12, 1967, T-2 advised that [redacted]

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[redacted] ROBERT JAMES FISCHER, a 23-year old single male American citizen, arrived in Mexico City from Havana, Cuba, on November 29, 1966. [redacted]

[redacted] His occupation was given as chess player [redacted]

b7D

[redacted] Subject's permanent residence was not indicated.

On December 1, 1966, T-3 learned from [redacted]

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[redacted] that the American chess team had attempted to embarrass the Cuban Government in order to prevent any future world championship from being held in Cuba. The trouble developed when an American team member named FISCHER, who observes Jewish religious practices, was scheduled to play against the Soviet team on a Saturday during the Sabbath. FISCHER did not attend and there was a "hullabaloo" raised in the "New York Times", saying the American team had been discriminated against. In the end, the Soviet team played on another date.

[redacted] felt it unusual that when the team returned to the United States, FISCHER remained on in Cuba. He felt maybe FISCHER wanted to see what the CASTRO regime was accomplishing.

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-2\*-

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

*In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.*

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

January 24, 1967

**ROBERT JAMES FISCHER**

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This document contains neither  
recommendations nor conclusions of  
the FBI. It is the property of  
the FBI and is loaned to your agency;  
it and its contents are not to be  
distributed outside your agency.

Reference is made to memorandum, captioned and  
dated as above.

Sources T-1 through T-3 mentioned in referenced  
memorandum, have furnished reliable information in the past.

GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM : *[Signature]* SAC, WFO (105-77997) (RUC)

SUBJECT: <sup>②</sup> ROBERT JAMES FISCHER  
IS - CUBA

DATE: 3/10/67

*Op 7*

D.F. Rerep of SA  1/24/67, at Mexico,

Enclosed for the Bureau and New York are nine and two copies respectively of an LHM setting forth the results of a review of the Passport Office, USDS, by SE

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Copies of the photo appearing on the 1966 passport application will be forwarded to New York by routing slip when processed.

WFO indices contained no info identifiable with the subject in addition to that which is already in possession of the Bureau and New York.

- ② - Bureau (Enc. 9)
- 2 - New York (Enc. 2) (RM)
- 1 - WFO

**ENCLOSURE**

kkh:  
(5)

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*Encl*

CC TO: *USIA*  
RE: *12-2-71*  
DEC 14 1971  
ANS: *[Signature]*  
BY: *[Signature]*

REC-75

*10-162011-2*

Copy to: *Legal Mexico*  
by routing slip for  
 info  action  
date 3/20/67  
by PFS/PAO

**MAR 14 1967**

Copy to: CIA/State/RAO  
*53* ONI/OSI/ACSI  
by routing slip for info

**53 MAR 21 1967** by PFS/PAO

LATIN AMERICAN





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

March 10, 1967

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

ROBERT JAMES FISCHER  
INTERNAL SECURITY - CUBA

The files of the Passport Office, United States Department of State (USDS), Washington, D.C. (WDC), reviewed by a representative of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) on March 3, 1967, disclosed that Robert James Fischer was first issued Passport Number 573920 at WDC on June 13, 1957, for proposed travel during summer vacation to Iceland, and probably England and France, for the purpose of playing chess in international tournaments. In his application dated June 7, 1957, at New York, New York, he stated his intention to depart from New York by air in July, 1957. This passport was valid for two years travel to all countries except Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary and those portions of China, Korea and Vietnam under communist control.

Fischer stated that he was born on March 9, 1943, at Chicago, Illinois. He gave his permanent residence as 560 Lincoln Place, Brooklyn 38, New York. He listed his parents as Gerard Fischer, born in September, 1909 in Germany, residing in Chile, not an American citizen, and Regina/Wenden Fischer, born March 31, 1913 in Switzerland, residing at 560 Lincoln Place, Brooklyn, New York. He indicated that his mother is an American citizen and has resided in the United States (U.S.) from 1914 to 1932 and from 1939 to date of this application. He indicated that he had never been married. Mrs. Gerard Fischer

On June 11, 1959, at the Consulate General of the U.S., at Zurich, Switzerland, Fischer filed an application for renewal of Passport Number 573920, issued June 13, 1957, at WDC. This application reflects that the passport was renewed to be valid to June 12, 1961. He indicated that his legal residence was 560 Lincoln Place, Brooklyn, New York, and that he was presently residing at the Hotel Bellerive, Zurich, Switzerland.

The passport file contains an affidavit executed by Fischer on May 2, 1960, at the Embassy of the U.S., Buenos Aires, Argentina, in which he set forth the details of the loss of

ENCLOSURE

105-11-2014 - 2

RE: ROBERT JAMES FISCHER

Passport Number 573920, issued June 13, 1957, at WDC. He stated that he had stayed at the Constitution Palace Hotel in Buenos Aires and had placed his passport in a drawer in his room there. He had gone to Mar del Plata, Argentina, to participate in an international chess tournament the following day, and, upon his return to Buenos Aires, had discovered that his passport was missing and could not be found. Accordingly, he was issued Passport Number 277397 on May 3, 1960, at Buenos Aires, Argentina, for the purpose of returning to the U.S. In his application dated May 2, 1960, at Buenos Aires, Argentina, he stated that he was then residing at the Hotel Bristol, Carlos Pellegrini 284, Buenos Aires, in care of Argentine Chess Association, Viamonte 1366, 6th Floor, Buenos Aires, Argentina. This application reflects that he was a participant in chess tournaments in Europe, Russia and Yugoslavia from June, 1958 to September, 1958; in Argentina, Yugoslavia and Switzerland from March, 1959 to October, 1959; and in Argentina from March, 1960 to May 2, 1960. The file contains a memorandum from the American Embassy, Buenos Aires, Argentina, dated October 19, 1960, to Department of State, WDC, advising that Fischer's Passport Number 573920, reported lost, had been recovered, cancelled and returned to him at his U.S. address.

The file contains a certified copy of a Certificate of Birth issued April 17, 1956, by the City of Chicago, and showing Fischer's date of birth as March 9, 1943. This certificate indicated that his father's occupation was that of physicist and that his mother's residence was 2940 South Lake Park, Chicago, Illinois.

A letter from "Saturday Review", dated April 15, 1965, addressed to "Whom It May Concern", advised that Fischer was to go to Cuba in the Summer of 1965, for a master's chess tournament and had an assignment to do an article about Cuba for the "Saturday Review". A letter from the U.S. Chess Federation, dated April 20, 1965, addressed to the USDS, Bureau of Security and Consular Affairs, advised that Fischer had received an invitation to play in the "IVth Capablanca Memorial Tournament", to be held in Havana, Cuba from August 25 through September 25, 1965. This letter went into detail regarding his fame and skill as a chess player and pointed out that he would also be covering the tournament for "Chess Life", the official organ of the U.S. Chess Federation. The file contained a third letter from the Law Offices of Harold Davis, 76 Beaver Street, New York, New York, dated June 29, 1965, addressed to the USDS, Bureau of Security and Consular Affairs, which advised of the coming tournament in Cuba, Fischer's invitation to participate in this tournament and concluded with the hope that the USDS would permit Fischer to play in the tournament.

RE: ROBERT JAMES FISCHER

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The file contains a memorandum from the Office of the Coordinator of Cuban Affairs to the Office of Security and Consular Affairs, which advises that Cuban travel criteria make no provision for validation for the purpose of participating in chess competitions. It was pointed out that any journalistic activity would be secondary to the competition and it was also doubted that Fischer would qualify as a bona fide journalist. It was recommended that his application be refused. A memorandum from Security and Consular Affairs to the Passport Office, dated July 22, 1965, advised that the validation for Fischer's passport for travel to Cuba was not authorized, since he did not fall within the USDS's established criteria. A letter from the Passport Office, dated July 26, 1965, to [redacted] New York, New York, made reference to his letter of June 29, 1965, which requested permission for Fischer to Travel to Cuba, and advised that validation for such travel could not be given, since he did not fall within the Department's established criteria. The file contains a letter from [redacted] dated August 5, 1965, to the Passport Office requesting that this decision be reviewed and Fischer's travel to Cuba be validated. The file does not contain any information which would indicate that this validation was ever given.

The file contains a passport application dated May 9, 1966, at New York, New York, which discloses he was issued Passport Number G 448349, on May 10, 1966, at New York, New York, not valid for travel to Albania, Cuba, and those portions of China, Korea and Vietnam under communist control, for proposed travel to Israel for three weeks to participate in international chess tournaments. He listed [redacted] New York, New York, as the person to be notified in the event of death or accident. He indicated his permanent residence as 560 Lincoln Place, Brooklyn, New York.

Appearing in the passport file was a USDS Validation Worksheet dated October 20, 1966, which contains a handwritten note from Fischer, requesting that his Passport Number G 448349, issued May 10, 1966, be validated for entry into Cuba. A memorandum from Security and Consular Affairs to the Passport Office dated October 20, 1966, advised that they concurred in validating the passport for one round-trip to Cuba. Accordingly, the Passport Office, by letter dated October 20, 1966, advised Fischer, at 560 Lincoln Place, Brooklyn, New York, that his passport was validated for one round-trip to and in Cuba.

RE: ROBERT JAMES FISCHER

The following description appears in the file:

Height:	6'2"
Eyes:	Hazel
Hair:	Brown
Occupation:	Chess player

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