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U.S. Department of Justice

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

April 19, 2017

MR. JOHN GREENEWALD JR.  
THE BLACK VAULT

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

FOIPA Request No.: 1371357-000  
Subject: AARON, DANIEL

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 16 pages of previously processed documents and a copy of the Explanation of Exemptions. This release is being provided to you at no charge.

Please be advised that additional records potentially responsive to your subject may exist. If this release of previously processed material does not satisfy your information needs for the requested subject, you may request an additional search for records. Submit your request by mail or fax to – Work Process Unit, 170 Marcel Drive, Winchester, VA 22602, fax number (540) 868-4997. Please cite the FOIPA Request Number in your correspondence.

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 ninety (90) 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.

You may seek dispute resolution services by contacting the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at 877-684-6448, or by emailing [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov). Alternatively, you may contact the FBI's FOIA Public Liaison by emailing [foipaquestions@ic.fbi.gov](mailto:foipaquestions@ic.fbi.gov). If you submit your dispute resolution correspondence by email, the subject heading should clearly state "Dispute Resolution Services." Please also 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", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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  
FOI/PA  
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET  
FOI/PA# 1371357-0

Total Deleted Page(s) = 5  
Page 35 ~ Duplicate - to page 22;  
Page 36 ~ Duplicate - to page 23;  
Page 37 ~ Duplicate - to page 24;  
Page 38 ~ Duplicate - to page 25;  
Page 39 ~ Duplicate - to page 26;

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X For this Page X  
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# Office Memorandum

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR CLASSIFICATION

TO : MR. L. V. BOARDMAN *JPW*

DATE: January 24, 1955

FROM : MR. A. H. BELMONT *AB*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Boardman \_\_\_\_\_
- Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Harbo \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Parsons \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Sizoo \_\_\_\_\_
- Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Holloman \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

SUBJECT: [redacted] et al  
STUDY OF THE INFLUENCE OF COMMUNISM, SPONSORED BY THE FUND FOR THE REPUBLIC

Classified by *SP-5 BJS/RS*  
Declassify on: *0* b6 b7C  
*1-24-80* Outside the Scope

The "Washington Post and Times-Herald," January 14, 1955, contained an article stating that the Fund for the Republic had announced that it had allocated \$250,000 for "a factual study of the influence of Communism, past and present, on all aspects of American life." [redacted] Cornell University, was announced as heading a group of scholars who would make the study. The study supposedly will cover Communist influence in such fields as government, education, religion, labor, the social structure, opinion-making groups, mass media, the arts, literature and sciences. The group also plans a history of the Communist Party.

According to the article, [redacted] associates in the study are: Daniel Aaron, Professor of English, Smith College; [redacted]

[redacted]

The Bureau has not investigated and our files contain no pertinent identifiable information concerning [redacted]

Our files reflect the following information concerning the remainder of the group:

Daniel Aaron:

INDEXED  
RECORDED

b6  
b7C  
b7D  
Outside the Scope

Aaron has never been investigated by the Bureau. [redacted]

[redacted]

Attachments (4) \* Opened 9/20/48; closed 5/18/51.

- BAW:saw (6)
- 1 - Mr. Boardman
- 1 - Mr. Belmont

~~Mr. Wells~~  
Sect. Tick. File

EXEMPTED FROM AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION  
AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:  
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE  
EXEMPTION CODE: 25X(1)  
DATE 02-05-80

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

b6  
b7C  
Outside the Scope

In 1938, one Daniel Aaron, a faculty member at Harvard University, was reported to have suggested that a petition be circulated requesting the extension of a teaching contract for a teacher alleged to be a Communist Party member.

A summary memorandum concerning Aaron is attached.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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b7C  
Outside the Scope



(C)

(C)

(C)

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For your information.

|| 1/26/55 - Recommend condensed memorandum to Attorney General and Rogers.  
LVB *zls*

*memo to AG and Rogers 1/28/55. BW*

*[Handwritten signatures]*

*[Handwritten mark]*

*[Handwritten signature]*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



January 19, 1955

MEMORANDUM

Re: DANIEL AARON

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Outside the Scope

Daniel Aaron has not been the subject of an investigation by this Bureau. However, our files contain the following information concerning him.

Aaron's

[Redacted]

32  
1/29

Daniel Aaron, were particularly close or that [Redacted] had any influence over Daniel. [Redacted]

In January, 1954, during the Security of Government Employees investigation concerning one [Redacted]

[Redacted] who was an associate of [Redacted] while they were students at Harvard University, class of 1939, was interviewed and gave a signed statement. In that signed statement [Redacted] stated that during the academic year 1938 - 1939, faculty members leading classes in American History and Literature included Daniel Aaron [Redacted]

[Redacted]

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b7C

Outside the Scope

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7-24-89 BY 2088 BTJ/ag

ENCLOSURE

encl #1

While lack of identifying data makes it impossible to positively state that the above-mentioned Daniel Aaron is identical with the Daniel Aaron now a faculty member at Smith College, it is believed that these individuals are identical.

EXEMPTED FROM AUTOMATIC  
DECLASSIFICATION  
AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:  
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE  
EXEMPTION CODE 25X(1)  
DATE 02-06-2009

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

SEE REVERSE  
SIDE FOR  
DECLASSIFICATION  
ACTION  
JANUARY 28, 1955

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

DIRECTOR, FBI

100-391697-65

[redacted] et al  
STUDY OF THE INFLUENCE OF  
COMMUNISM, SPONSORED BY  
THE FUND FOR THE REPUBLIC

Classified by ~~2032/STJ/008~~  
Declassify on: ~~DATE 9-15-99~~

b6  
b7C  
Third Party

The "Washington Post and Times-Herald," of January 14, 1955, contained an article stating that the Fund for the Republic had announced that it had allocated \$250,000 for a factual study of the influence of Communism, past and present, on all aspects of American life." [redacted]

[redacted] Cornell University, was announced as heading a group of scholars who would make the study. The study supposedly will cover Communist influences in such fields as government, education, religion, labor, the social structure, opinion-making groups, mass media, the arts, literature and sciences. The group also plans the preparation of a history of the Communist Party.

According to the article, [redacted] associates in the study will be: Daniel Aaron, Professor of English, Smith College;

[redacted]

For your information, there is set out below a brief summary of information in our files concerning the above individuals:

The Bureau has not investigated and our files contain no pertinent identifiable information concerning [redacted]

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Boardman \_\_\_\_\_
- Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Harbo \_\_\_\_\_
- Loat \_\_\_\_\_
- Parsons \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Whiteford \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Holloman \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

DAW:pat  
(9)

COMM-FBI  
JAN 11 1955

Memo Belmont to Boardman  
1/27/55 (BAW/PAT)

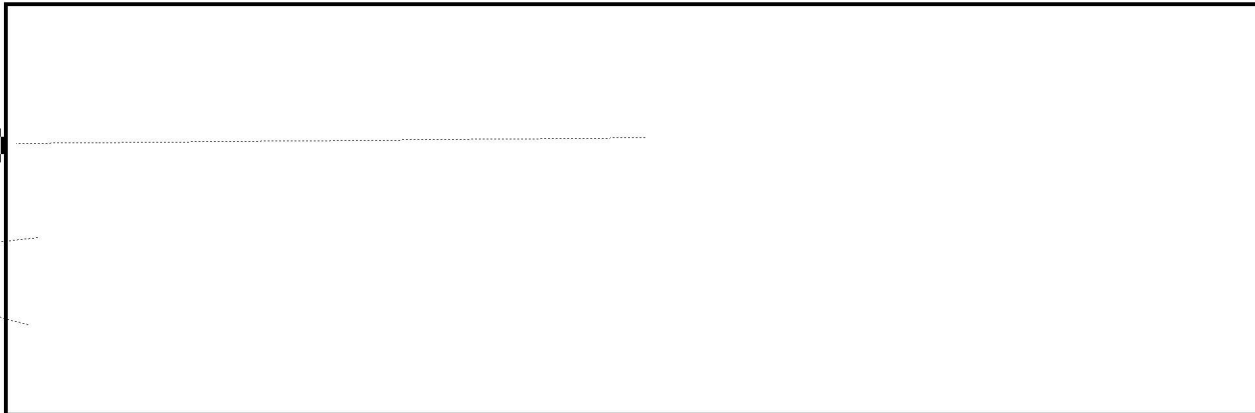
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SEARCHED  
SERIALIZED  
INDEXED  
FILED

3 15 PM '55

b1  
b6  
b7C  
Outside the Scope

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



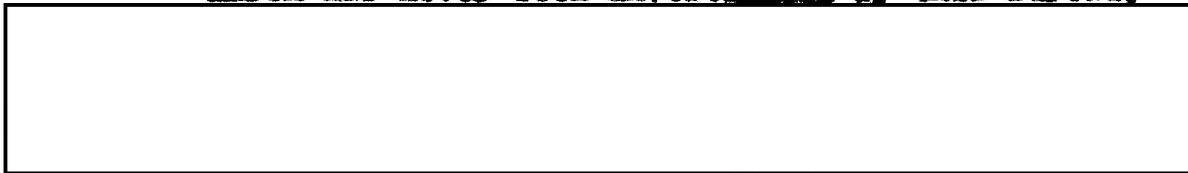
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**DANIEL AARON:**

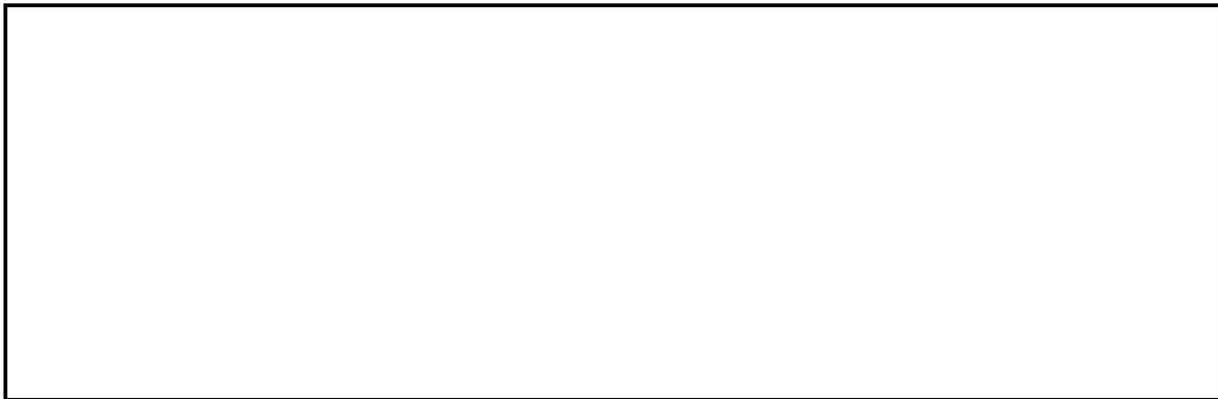
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b7C  
Outside the Scope

**Aaron has never been investigated by this Bureau.**



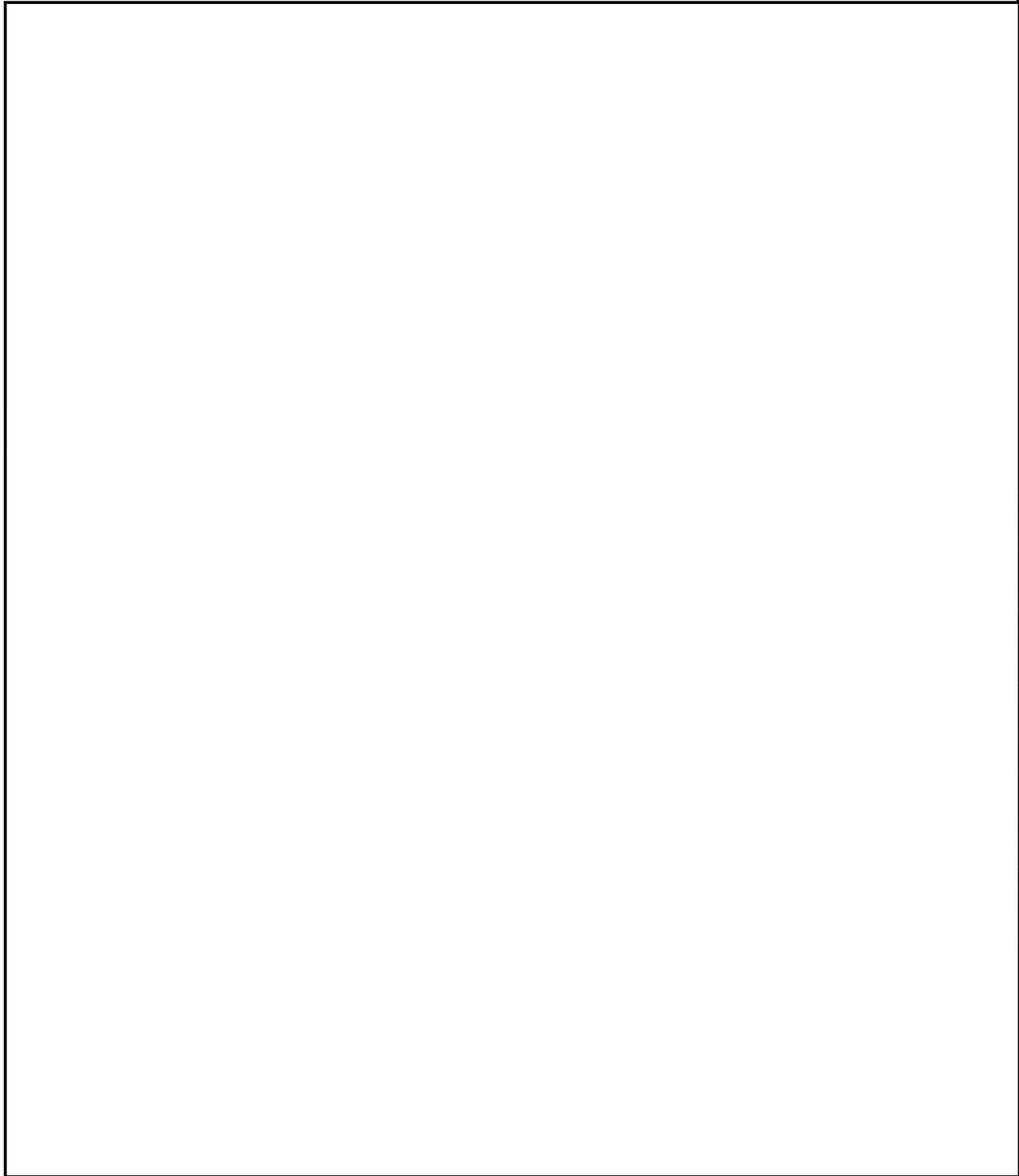
In 1938, one Daniel Aaron, a faculty member at Harvard University, was reported to have suggested that a petition be circulated requesting the extension of a teaching contract for a teacher alleged to be a Communist Party member.

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Outside the Scope



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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Outside the Scope



2 cc Mr. William P. Rogers  
Deputy Attorney General

The Fund for the Republic, Inc.  
1 East 54th Street  
New York 22, N. Y.  
Plaza 1-3170

FOR RELEASE A.M. PAPERS  
JANUARY 14, 1955

[redacted] of the Fund for the Republic,<sup>b6</sup>  
today announced the allocation of \$250,000 by the Fund for a <sup>b7C</sup> Outside the Scope  
factual study of the influence of Communism, past and present, on  
all aspects of American life. The study will be conducted by a  
group of scholars under the direction of [redacted]

[redacted]

The Board of Directors of the Fund authorized the study as  
the largest of several projects undertaken by the Fund to obtain a  
clear and comprehensive picture of the effects of Communism on  
America and its citizens. It is hoped that the study will contri-  
bute significantly to a proper understanding of the role of the  
Communist movement in the United States.

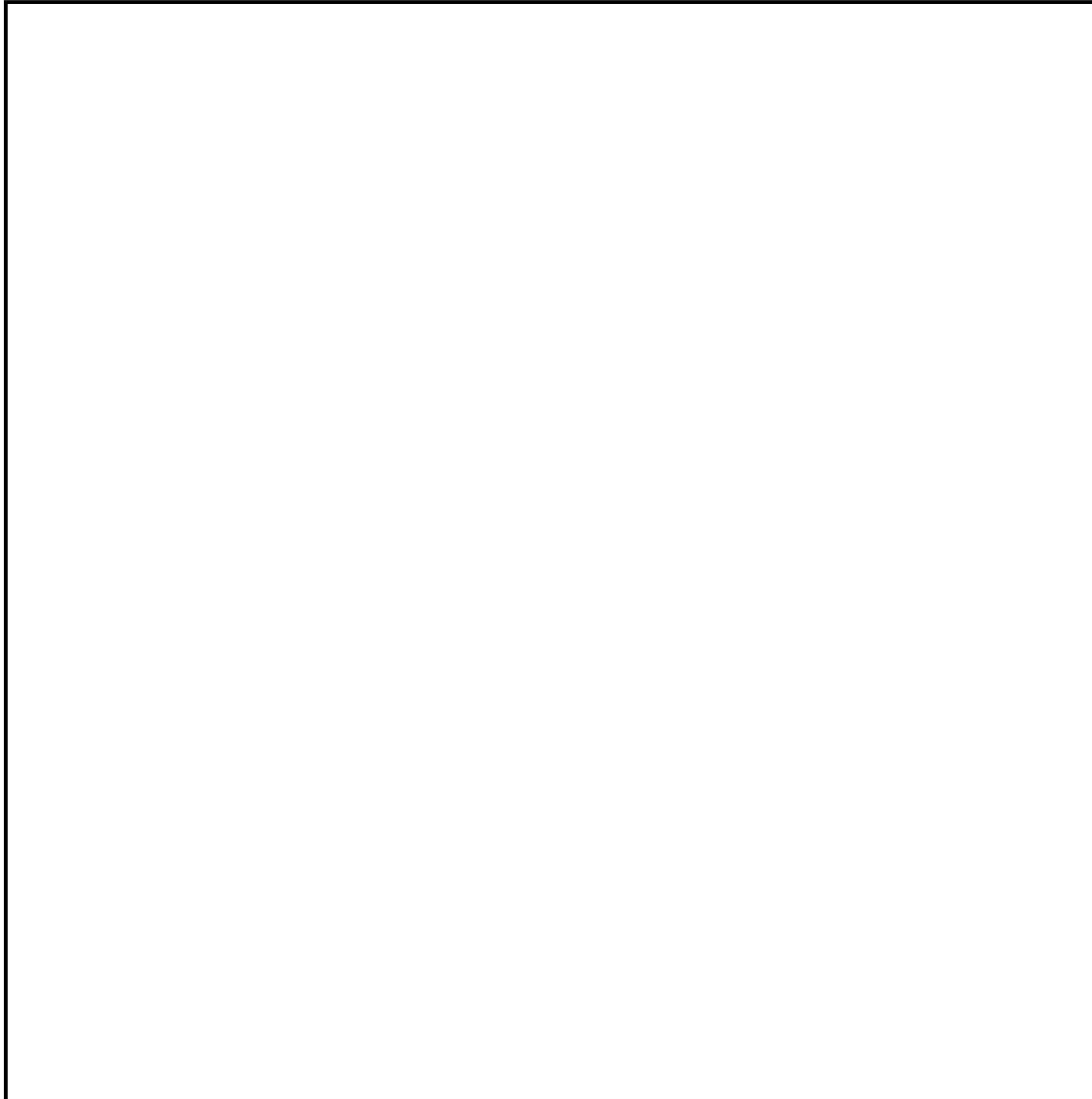
The study will cover Communist influence in such fields as  
government, education, religion, labor, the social structure,  
opinion-making groups, the mass media, the arts, literature and  
science. A history of the Party is also planned.

A number of established authorities have already joined  
[redacted] Others are to come into the study later. Some  
of the specialized tasks they will undertake will require two to  
three years to complete. The present plan is to publish the find-  
ings in each field as separate volumes, together with one or more  
summary volumes.

Authorities who are already taking part in this study,

besides [redacted] include: [redacted]

[redacted] Daniel Aaron, professor of  
English and director of the American Studies program at Smith College;



Another major project of The Fund for the Republic dealing  
with Communism in the U. S. is the public-opinion survey directed by  
[redacted] of the Laboratory of Social Relations  
at Harvard University, of the attitudes of Americans toward

Communism, conformity and civil liberties. The results of this survey will be published in book form by Doubleday and Company.

In addition, the Fund recently completed a project under the  of the Harvard Law School which included the collection on microfilm of the records and briefs of 23 important trials involving the issue of Communism; a bibliography of the existing literature dealing with Communism; and a digest of U.S. laws, court decisions, and State statutes, relating to the control of Communism. The Fund presented copies of the microfilm collection to the Library of Congress and eight other large libraries in different parts of the country. As a public service the Fund will also distribute the bibliography and digest as important research tools to more than 1,000 U. S. libraries and specialists.

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The Fund for the Republic is an independent corporation established to promote the principles set forth in the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.



The Fund for the Republic  
1 East 54 Street  
New York 22, N. Y.

BACKGROUND MEMORANDUM:

THE STUDY OF COMMUNIST INFLUENCE IN THE U.S.

A. How the Study Came About

One of the first statements made by the Directors of the Fund for the Republic after it was organized in early 1953 indicated their conviction that a main factor affecting civil liberties in this country today is the existence of the Communist and beliefs about his influence in this country. The Directors declared that they proposed "to undertake research into the extent and nature" of domestic Communism in the hope of arriving "at a realistic understanding of effective procedures for dealing with it."

Since that statement in February 1953 the Fund has undertaken several related projects which it expects will increase America's knowledge and understanding of American Communism. These are described below. The Study of Communist Influence announced today is the most ambitious sponsored by the Fund.

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Outside the Scope

B. Projects Concerning Communism Undertaken by the Fund

1. A collection on microfilm of the records and briefs of 23 important trials involving Communists and Communism. This project has been completed by a committee [redacted]

[redacted] of the Harvard Law School. Other members of [redacted] committee were [redacted]

[redacted] Sets of the microfilm collection have been presented to the Library of Congress and eight other large libraries in different parts of the country (the University of California Library at Berkeley, the University of Chicago library, the Harvard University Library, the New York Public Library, the Cornell University Library, the Mirabeau B. Lamar Library of the University of Texas at Austin, the University of Washington Library at Seattle and the Florida State University at Tallahassee.

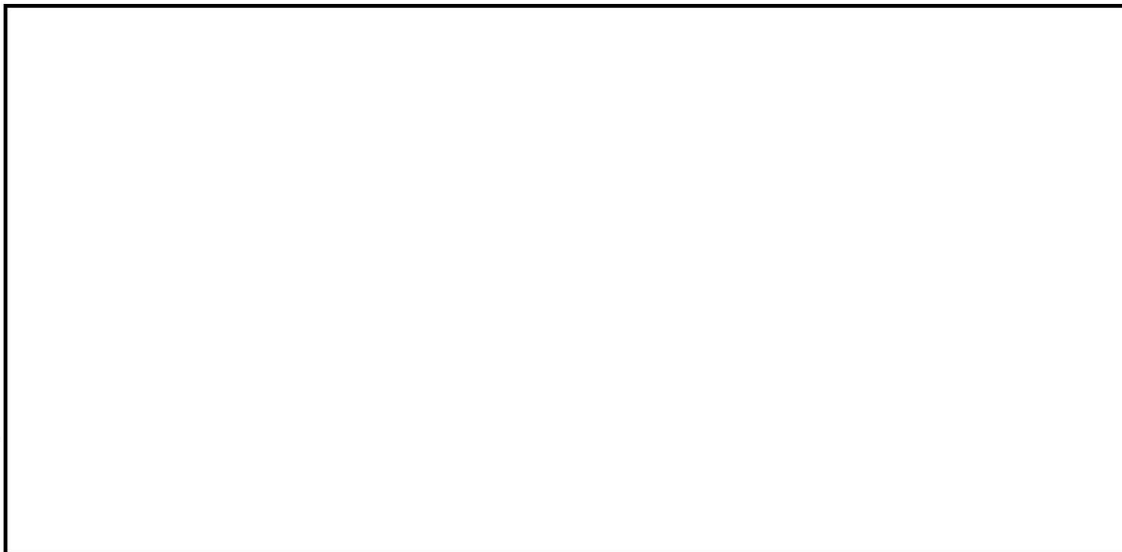
2. Bibliography on the Communist Problem in the United States. This is a topical listing of books, pamphlets, magazine articles and public documents assembled for the first time in one place. It includes listings of accounts of Communist activity among special groups, such as youth, and labor, institutions such as government, schools and colleges, the church and the arts. An index by authors is included. This bibliography was done under the direction of

[redacted] It is shortly to be distributed to approximately 1000 libraries and specialists as a public service by the Fund.

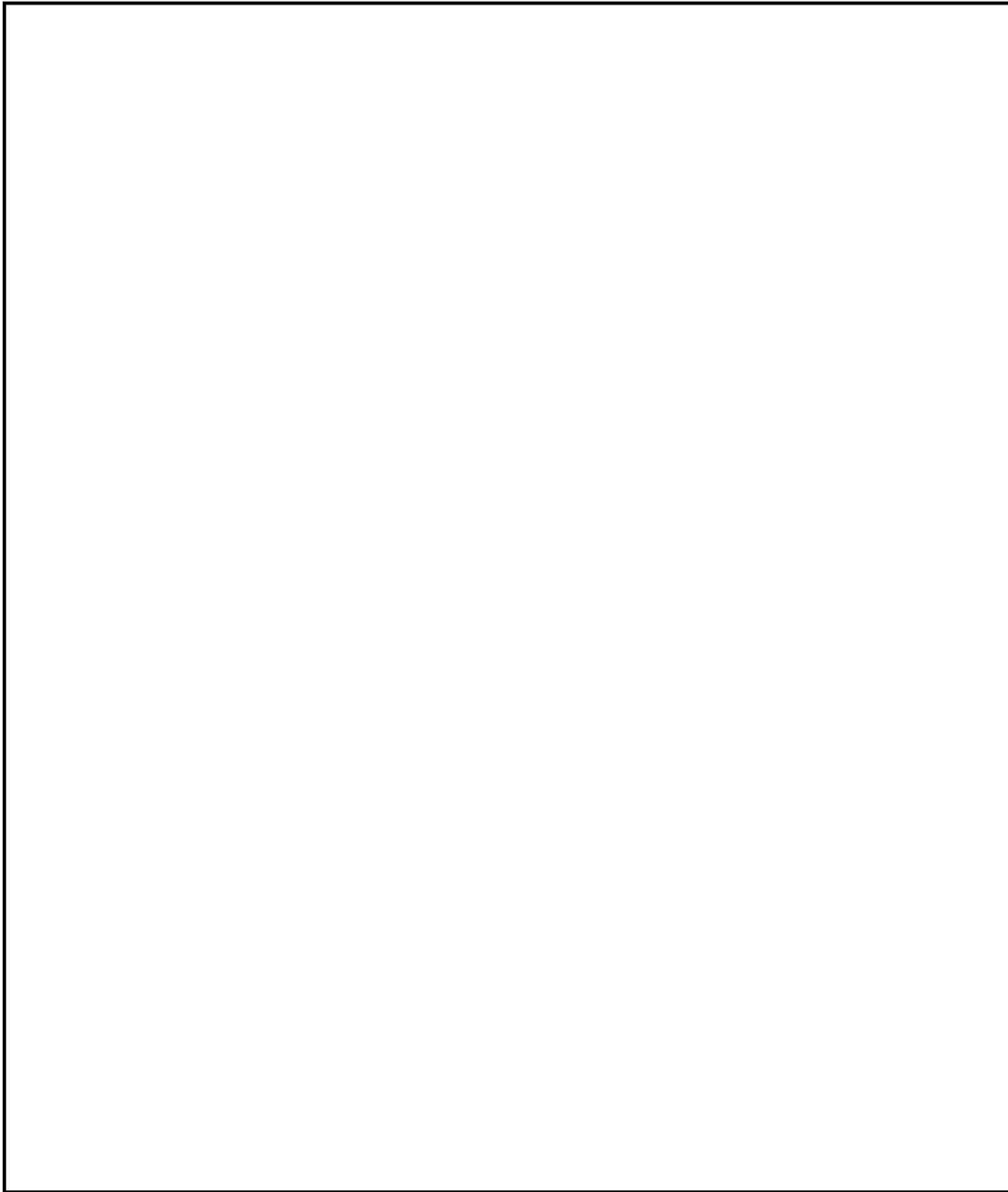
3. A Digest of the Public Record of Communism in the United States. This is a guide to the U.S. laws concerning Communism and to the development of Communism and efforts to deal with it as disclosed by the public records. This material includes Federal statutes, regulations and decisions, State statutes and decisions, and documents issued by Federal and State governments. An appendix covers legislation of the 83rd Congress up to August 1954. This digest, which was also prepared under the direction of [redacted] and his Committee, is being distributed with the Bibliography.

4. A public-opinion survey of American attitudes toward communism, conformity and civil liberties. The results of the survey and an analysis and interpretation of them are now being put into book form by [redacted] of the Laboratory of Social Relations at Harvard University, who directed this project. The book will be published by Doubleday and Co. (A copy of the January 5 press release dealing with this survey is available.)

C. Participants in the Study of Communist Influence



Daniel Aaron (Subject: Communism and American Literature) is professor of English and director of the American studies program at Smith College. He is the author of "Men of Good Hope" and several other books.



D. The Fund for the Republic

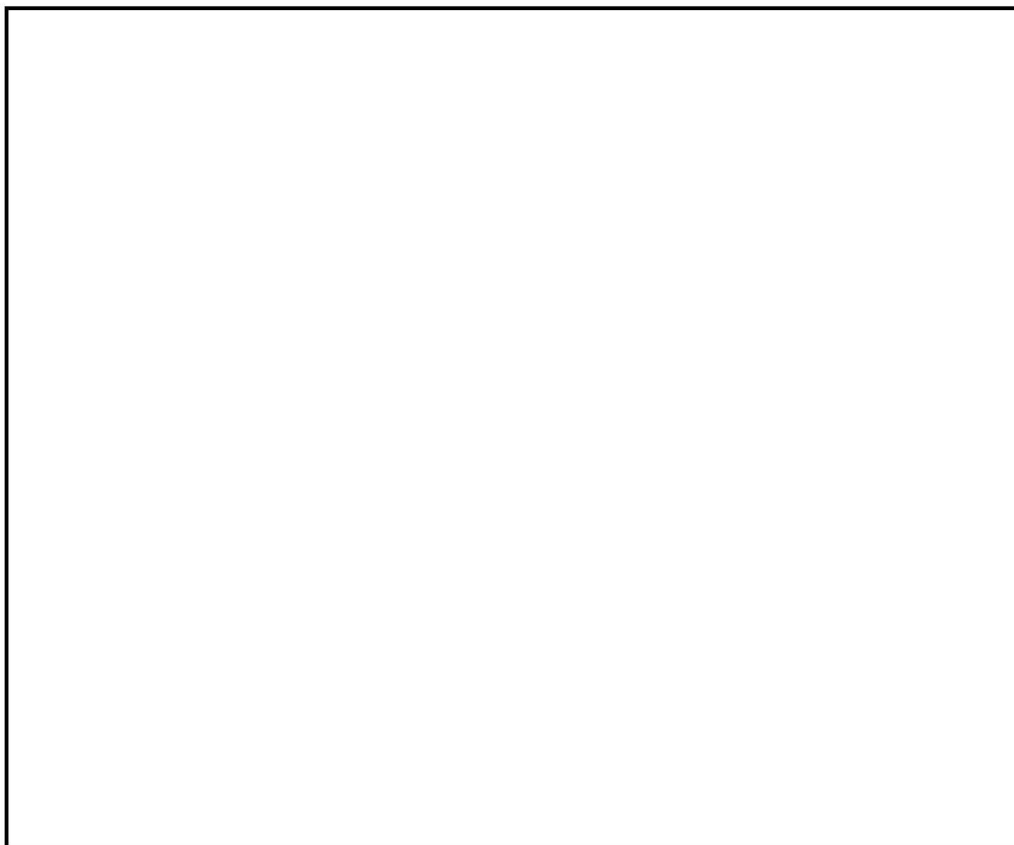
The Fund for the Republic was established as an independent corporation by the Ford Foundation, with an appropriation of \$15,000,000 "to support activities directed toward the elimination of restrictions of thought, inquiry and expression in the United States, and the development of policies and procedures best adapted to protect these rights."

The Fund, which began operations in early 1953, has no connection with the Ford Foundation today.

The Fund regards its sphere of operation as comprising all questions of civil liberties and racial and religious discrimination in the United States. It takes as its basic charter the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

Among the Fund's current and immediate concerns are the problems involved in restrictions and assaults upon academic freedom, the principles of due process and equal protection under the laws, the protection of the rights of minorities, the activities of private groups in censorship, boycotting and blacklisting and the principle of guilt by association and its application in the United States today.





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Outside the Scope

The headquarters of the Fund are at 1 East 54 Street, New York  
22: Plaza 1-3170