FILE DESCRIPTION

SUBJECT  Pablo Picasso

FILE NO.   100-337396

SECTION NO.
An article written by the subject entitled "Why I Became a Communist" has been circulated in the United States to some extent by the Communist Political Association. References to Picasso in the Bureau files indicate he is apparently in France at the present time and that he conferred with me in October, 1943, about inviting Picasso to some in the United States to lecture. Reports have indicated he felt it would be an excellent idea and we said we would address a cable to Picasso containing such an invitation. For your information, the article "Why I Became a Communist" is set forth below and there are attached photostatic copies of a biography concerning Picasso from the publication "Current Biography" for January, 1945.

"WHY I BECAME A COMMUNIST" by PABLO PICASSO. Pablo Picasso, one of the greatest artists of all time, recently joined the Communist Party of France. His statement follows:

"Why I joined the Communist Party is a logical step in my life, my work and gives them meaning. Through design and color, I have tried to penetrate deeper into a knowledge of the world and of men so that this knowledge might free us. In my own way I have always said what I considered must true, must just and best, and therefore, most beautiful. But during the oppression and the insurrection I felt that that was not enough, that I had to fight not only with painting but with my whole being. Previously, out of a sort of 'innocence,' I had not understood this.

"I have become a Communist because our party strives more than others to know and to build a better world, to make men clearer thinkers, more free and more happy. I have become a Communist because the Communists are the bravest in France, in the Soviet Union, as they are in my country, Spain. I have never felt more free, more complete since I joined. While I wait for the time when Spain can take me back again, the French Communist Party is a fatherland to me. In it I find again all my friends - the great scientist, Paul Langevin, and Frederick Joliot Curie, the great writers Louis Aragon and Paul Eluard, and so many of the beautiful faces of the insurgents of Paris. I am again among my brothers."

In the event information concerning Picasso comes to your attention, it should be furnished to the Bureau in view of the possibility that he may attempt to come to the United States.
TO: Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation
FROM: SAC, Los Angeles
SUBJECT: Pablo Picasso

The information above is being furnished to the Bureau in event that other information concerning this individual is on file there. The indices of the Los Angeles Field Division are negative concerning this individual. In the event additional information is obtained concerning him in this division, the Bureau will be appropriately advised.

100-21515
Letter to the Director, 5/8/43
Re: CHARLES SPENCER CHAPLIN,
SECURITY MATTER (C)

"Can you head Committee of French artists to protest the American Embassy in Paris the outrageous deportation proceedings against MAX HUGLER here, and simultaneously send me copy of protest for use here. Greetings!"

Editorial comment in the same article by Mr. W. K. HILLMAN, owner of the "Hollywood Reporter," is as follows:

"The wonder to us is that Washington hasn't long ago relieved Mr. CHAPLIN of his privileges of living in this country, working among us, banking millions of dollars while, at the same time, it becomes quite obvious that he is not satisfied with the conduct of our Government and continually criticizes its actions. Why should such an agitator be given the benefits he has received here? Why should the picture business be forever burdened with his actions? Why?"

An article appearing in the San Francisco "Argonaut" of January 2, 1943, also states that CHARLIE CHAPLIN sent the telegram to PABLO PICASSO, and further quotes the telegram exactly as reported by the "Hollywood Reporter."

Editorial comment in the "Argonaut" in part states as follows:

"It is high time that this country took drastic action in the case of CHARLIE CHAPLIN. He is an enemy of American principles, and, in his private life, he has proved to be a disgrace to all our moral professions. If he is a Communist, conspiring to overthrow our government by force, and the indications are that he is, proceedings should be taken for his deportation without delay........His cable to PABLO PICASSO should not be overlooked. He should be given a thorough investigation, and, if he is revealed to be a dangerous alien, as well as a most immoral one, he should be treated accordingly."
CONFIDENTIAL

FROM: Moscow

TO: Secretary of State

RE: 631, February 21, 1 p.m.

SENIOR DEPARTMENT 681. DEPARTMENT PASS PARIS 73, ROME 21.

DEPTEL 650 to Rome February 22 and DEPTEL 155, February 24
sent Moscow.

Doubt decision either way will have any great effect on
Soviet Government or people. If visas refused, Soviet
press will presumably present decision as another example
of aggressive reactionary policy US Government, fearful of
Democratic peace forces, while if granted, statements
made in US by Picasso, Aubel and other foreign delegates
will be similarly used by Soviet press to emphasize same
points.

Prof. Eugene 78 Aubel

In circumstances, concur Department's contemplated pro-
cedure (DEPTEL to Paris 611, February 24).

BANDOUR

BB: EC

Note: Relayed to Paris and Rome 2/27/50 8:10 a.m. EST

CONFIDENTIAL

RECORDED 122 74 73-27-396
INDEXED 122 74 6-8 820

INFORMATION COPY
FROM: Paris
TO: Secretary of State
NO: 857, February 23, 7 p.m.

SENT DEPARTMENT 857, REPEATED ROME 61, LONDON 2652, BERN 12, DEPARTMENT PASS MOSCOW 47.
Re DEPTEL 756, February 22 Rome 650, London 827, Bern 210, Moscow 150.

While we recognize that in reaching final decision Department will have to be guided by domestic as well as foreign consideration, our view is that on balance the disadvantages of refusing visas to Picasso and Kubel would outweigh advantage in so far as France concerned.

In view of Picasso's world-wide reputation, refusal of visa to Picasso would certainly cause unfavorable comment here, particularly in intellectual and "liberal" circles. It would also tend to suggest that we have something to fear from Communist "peace" propaganda. However, if decision is negative, we believe that Departmental spokesman and VOA should point out that proposed visit is a brazen propaganda stunt for purely political motives which have no connection with professional activities of applicants.

In either event, we would urge that decision be made as rapidly as possible, since the longer it is postponed, the easier it will be for Communist Party to exploit its piissance value, which of course is their essential objective.

Bruce
RSP:RJF

Note: Relayed to Moscow 7:40 p.m. 2/24/50.
Your attention is directed to the "Daily Worker" of January 18, 1948, wherein, on Page 3 of Section 2, an article captioned, "Footnote on France," by JOE KISSEL, appears. In this article it is stated that PICASSO displayed to the writer of the article a telegram which he had received from CHAPLIN asking him and his friends to protest the deportation of HANS KISLER. The letter from the Bureau requested that the Los Angeles Office attempt to determine the exact text of the above-mentioned telegram, and that the telegram was actually submitted by the subject of this case.

The Hollywood trade paper, "The Hollywood Reporter," in an article dated December 11, 1947, stated that on November 27, CHAPLIN sent the following cable to PABLO PICASSO, a French Communist.
The foregoing is submitted for your information and appropriate consideration. In the event additional information is forthcoming in this regard it will be brought to your attention promptly.
It is known to the Los Angeles Office that CHARLES CHAPLIN resides at 1065 Summit Drive, Beverly Hills, California, and has two telephones in his residence. The telephone numbers are: Croxton 90525 and Croxton 90792. The Charles Chaplin Studios are at 1416 North La Brea, Hollywood, California, where the telephone is Kempstead 2153.

The referenced letter mentioned that the telegram was reported to have been sent to France via Mackay Radio.

It appears that the referenced telegram cannot be located in Los Angeles and, further, that the message, regardless of its place of sending in the United States, would ultimately arrive at the Mackay Radio in New York City.

It is requested that the New York Office discreetly determine through reliable sources if the abovementioned message, which is reported to have emanated from Los Angeles, November 21, 1947, at 9:20 P.M.
Called Red Front

State Dept. Refuses to Admit Artist Picasso's 'Peace' Group

The United States refused yesterday to permit a 12-member European "peace delegation" headed by Pablo Picasso, Spanish artist, to visit this country.

The State Department said that the 12 "are either known Communist or fellow travelers and are therefore subject to exclusion."

American consuls were instructed Thursday night to refuse passport visas to the group, whose announced purpose was to present a petition to Congress calling for immediate reduction of war budgets and military forces, and prohibition of atomic weapons.

The Picasso group is known formally as the World Congress of Partisans of Peace.

The State Department termed it the "leading over-all Communist-front organization in the world."

The 10 delegates, now in Paris awaiting permission to enter the United States, include Pablo Picasso; the so-called "Red dean" of Canterbury, the Rev. Hewlett Johnson; British Film Producer Ivor Montagu; Belgian Aumonier Scientest Max Cosyns and Eugène Aubel, University of Paris professor.

Two Russians, Biologist Alexander L. Oparin and Film Director Sergei A. Gerassimov; two Italian Senators, an Italian mayor, several Cuban labor leaders, and several lawyers and professors from other countries are members of the group.

The American Civil Liberties Union voted to protest the State Department's delay in granting the visas.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HERIEN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 5/11/50 BY
MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON

Mr. Boardman

Mr. Rosen

Mr. Belmont

Mr. Nichols

February 8, 1955

This morning Assistant Attorney General Warren Burger called to see me about what he stated was a personal matter. He has, through social connections, met [redacted] who is employed as a museum aide in the National Gallery of Art of the Smithsonian Institution of Washington, D.C. Mr. Burger stated he and his wife have both been in contact with her for some little time and had always found her, so far as he knew, a woman of good character and loyalty to her country. Mr. Burger stated that yesterday he was advised by [redacted] that she had been called before a security officer of the National Gallery of Art and informed that there was some question as to her security status predicated upon reports received from the FBI. Mr. Burger commented he thought it was unusual that a security officer should disclose the source of the information.

Mr. Burger stated that [redacted] told him she had been questioned primarily about her acquaintance with Pablo Picasso, well-known European artist. [redacted] claimed that her association with Picasso was solely that of an artist, such as she [redacted], being in some of the Picasso classics.

Mr. Burger was concerned about the charge that has been made against her and I told him I would look into the facts and advise him. I have now received Supervisory memorandum to Mr. Rosen dated February 8, setting forth the facts in this matter.

I propose to advise Mr. Burger of the substance of the information contained in the memorandum and point out to Mr. Burger that the FBI was merely passing on to the Government Agency such information as appeared in our files or was procured by us in the full-field security investigation.

RECORDED: 36/100-337396
INDEXED: 36/13 FEB 14 1955
I think this is typically another occasion where poor judgment was exercised by the security officer in initiating interrogation of Miss Red on such shallow evidence. Also, it is obvious that the security officer should not have identified to the employee the source of the information upon which he was basing his interrogation.

Another aspect of this matter is whether we should not reevaluate our procedures for dissemination. In this instance, as in so many others, it seems to me that we are disseminating considerable information of a non-substantive type and, while I am adverse to entering into the field of evaluation, I do think it is entirely within our province to determine what is material for dissemination and not send out information of a trivial character. Please give this immediate study.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

John Edgar Hoover
Director
Reference is made to your name check request concerning the above-captioned individual in which you requested information subsequent to March 3, 1950.

You are advised that no investigation has been conducted by the FBI concerning Pablo Picasso. However, files of this Bureau reveal the following information which may pertain to the subject of your inquiry.

The "Daily Worker" in its issue of June 5, 1950, carried an article which stated that Pablo Picasso, not further identified, was among hundreds of artists, writers and scientists who signed the protest statement of the "Hollywood Ten" as an attack on intellectual freedom and a blow against world peace. These aforementioned protests were released by the National Council of the Arts, Sciences and Professions (NCASP) at a meeting held in New York City on June 6, 1950, which meeting was jointly sponsored by the NCASP and the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee (JAFRC).

(To be continued)
The name of Pablo Picasso, not further identified, appeared as honorary chairman, under the caption "Appeal Officers," in a letter dated December, 1954, bearing the letterhead of the Spanish Refugee Appeal of the JAFRC.

The Spanish Refugee Appeal has been cited as a "subsidiary" of the JAFRC by the House Committee on Un-American Activities.

The "Daily Worker," an east coast communist publication, in its issue of November 24, 1950, stated that Pablo Picasso was to share the International Peace Prize of $14,300 awarded by the World Peace Congress with Paul Robeson. The World Peace Congress has been cited by the House Committee on Un-American Activities as a communist front.

The World Peace Council has been cited by the House Committee on Un-American Activities as a communist front.

The October 22, 1952, issue of the "Daily Worker," contained an article reflecting an announcement made by the National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case. This announcement stated that many notables, including Pablo Picasso, not further identified, had spoken up for a new trial or for clemency for Ethel and Julius Rosenberg.

Julius Rosenberg, and his wife, Ethel, were executed on June 19, 1953, having been found guilty on March 29, 1951, in the United States District Court, Southern District of New York, on a charge of conspiring to commit espionage.

The National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case has been cited by the House Committee on Un-American Activities as a communist front.
In addition you are referred to page 62 of your OIR Report # 5200, dated March 6, 1950, captioned, "The Second Phase of the Partisans of Peace Movement; Campaigns for Concrete Action."

You may wish to review the files of the Department of the Army and the Department of State for further information concerning the subject of your inquiry. (100-327116-102; 64-200-337-31; 64-35693-231-5 encl 1; 100-361031-480 encl pl)

The foregoing information is furnished to you as a result of your request for an FBI file check and is not to be construed as a clearance or a nonclearance of the individual involved. This information is furnished for your use and should not be disseminated outside of your agency.
Subject: Pablo Picasso

Found As: Pablo Picasso, Pablo Picasso, Pablo Picasso, Pablo Ruiz Picasso, One Picasso

Also Searched As: No further search made

This is a summary of information obtained from a review of all "see" references to the subject in Bureau files under the names and aliases listed above. No attempt has been made to exhaust all possibilities as to the names and aliases by which the subject may have been known. All references under the above names containing data identical or possibly identical with the subject have been included except those listed at the end of this summary as not having been reviewed. The term "CI" preceding a serial number shown in the block indicates that the serial so designated contains the same information as the foregoing serial. However, it should be realized that the information in these serials may differ somewhat in detail although the facts are basically the same.

This summary is designed to furnish a synopsis of the information set out in each reference. Except where stated otherwise, the original serial will contain the information in much more detail.

THIS SUMMARY HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR USE AT THE EPILOGUE AND MAY CONTAIN INFORMATION NOT SUITABLE FOR DISSEMINATION.

Analyst

Coordinator

Approved

Enclosure behind file
Search slips only

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Sometime during 1916 or 1917 Picasso's home in Montrouge (Paris) was robbed and his linen stolen. "It made me think of the days," wrote Gertrude Stein, "when all of them were unknown and when Picasso said that it would be marvelous if a real thief came and stole his pictures or his drawings. Friends, to be sure, took some of them, stole them if you like from time to time, pilfered if you like, but a real professional burglar, a burglar by profession, when Picasso was not completely unknown, came and preferred to take the linen."

Although Picasso had formerly held himself aloof from the Russian ballet as a snobbish luxury of the moneyed classes, in 1917 he went with Jean Cocteau to Rome and Florence to join the Diaghilev Ballet, for which he designed costumes and settings. That same year he married Olga Koklova, one of the "most beautiful ballet dancers," and Cocteau, Apollinaire, and Max Jacob were guests at his wedding. As far as is known, this was Picasso's first marriage, although Gertrude Stein speaks of Fernande Olivier as his "wife."

Picasso remained under the influence of the Russian ballet until 1925. His second classical period, begun in 1915 under the inspiration of Ingres, was stimulated by the ballet, which "aroused in him a renewed interest in the natural and esthetic beauty of the human body... For ten years this style was to run in a kind of rivalry with Cubism in Picasso's paintings and even down to the present time in prints and illustrated books." During this time he executed a number of "large brilliantly colored still-life compositions" in the Cubistic method. He did not usually paint in oils, but, like many of his contemporaries, used Ripolin paint.

About this time Picasso began to experiment with Neo-Surrealism in pictures and sculpture. At the same time he was doing a series of "flat pattern semi-Cubist" pictures. He became interested in paintings "disintegrating the human forms and then recombing them, synthesized, as related shapes in a design." He also "had begun to concern himself with the esthetic of stained glass windows." In addition to these categories, he did a number of pen-and-wash drawings in a "baroque representational style (1933-37)."
In 1937 Pablo Picasso left his "Ivory Tower" and for the first time allowed a knowledge of events outside the atelier to penetrate his work. Indignant at General Franco's proceedings in Spain he "produced a series of terrific symbolical etchings called Songe et Mensonge de Franco accompanied by a burning text...and in this mood, too," he painted Guernica, a huge picture entirely black and white (grisaille) "a passionate protest against Franco's savage bombing of Spanish towns and villages." The 250 foot square mural showed a "fretize of distorted figures, animal and human."

In 1940 Picasso fled Paris during the general evacuation and found safety for a time in Nazi-occupied territory at Royan near Bordeaux. He repeatedly declined offers from Ambassador Bullitt and others to get him a passport to the United States, because, he declared, he hates travel and gets seasick.

Some time later Picasso evidently returned to Paris, for, in response to an allegation made in 1941, by a group of Mexican artists wishing to offer him a refuge in their country, that he was being held in a French concentration camp and that General Franco was seeking his deportation to Nationalist Spain, the authorities denied that he was interned and maintained that he was living unmolested at his studio in Paris. According to Marcel Duchamp, who reached the United States in August 1942, Picasso is among those painters who are making the rounds of the Paris cafes just as usual, unpersecuted, painting as if nothing had happened, and selling more of his work than ever before.

Picasso has illustrated many books, among which are Ovid's Metamorphoses, Balzac's Le Chef-d'Oeuvre Inconnu, Aristophanes' Lysistrata, Gertrude Stein's Dix Portraits, and many other volumes by his friends. He has also collaborated in many ballets.

Gertrude Stein feels that, although Picasso is a French painter, his nature is fundamentally Spanish. "Cubism," she wrote, "is a part of the daily life of Spain, it is in Spanish architecture." Elliot Paul maintains also that Picasso's "art is Spanish," although the painter had a studio in Paris and dealers sold his paintings "by the yard" in France. Stark Young observed that "Picasso was born in Malaga, and studied art in Madrid and Barcelona, so that the three provinces that compose the diversity of Spanish genius, Andalusia, Castille, and Catalonia, have all come into his range and quality." Another essential of his painting, commentators agree, is its
literary quality. "Picasso...is a literary painter. Again and again his pictures express an emotion that did not come to him through the eyes alone."

The opinions that the critics hold of Picasso are many and diverse. Walter Pach wrote: "His line is of amazing sureness and freedom; he models his forms with economy and with great power; his color, while subsidiary, has fineness and a sense of reserve." Clive Bell called him "one of the most accomplished technicians alive." The New Republic said: "Picasso...is the paramount influence in modern painting—subject, of course to the supreme influence of Cezanne."

On the other hand, Leo Stein (Gertrude's brother) remarked that "Picasso was not a great painter or a great master of composition...The total output of intellect in his work is negligible." The famous art critic Elie Faure said that "Cubism is only an artificial stylization of form basing itself on a wrong understanding of the saying of Cezanne." F.W. Ruckstull declared one of Picasso's Cubistic paintings to be "an example of lecherous symbolism full of meaning for the initiates of the cult of symbolistic sadism in art, and fundamentally insane."

"Picasso, however," wrote J.C. Bulliet, "has a tough hide. He has proceeded calmly on his way, letting the crows bark at his heels to their hearts' content. Today...he is a 'best seller.' Tomorrow—he will be with Cezanne, and Manet, and Chardin, and El Greco, and Rembrandt—and the Ages."

Picasso in his youth was very handsome—many commentators agree in saying that he had the face of a Spanish troubadour. In 1913 one female interviewer went so far as to say: "How he can ever paint such ugly figures as he does, when he has only to look in a mirror, copy what he sees, and turn out something worth the trouble, I can't understand." She also observed that he looked "quite normal." Gertrude Stein described him as "small and robust with a vigorous body, dark-skinned" with "straight, not very fine, nearly black hair (now grizzled)." Time called him the "square, athletic type, with the face of a humorous, courteous Spaniard, and a frank expression that occasionally becomes intense. A loose, dangling lock of hair is his one mark of willfulness."
According to an article in the New Republic, Picasso had "qualities of a solitary, though he was very fond of having people about him, and had great personal charm. At his studio in the Rue Ravignan where many habitually gathered, for Picasso characteristically had people come to him rather than go out to other people, he spoke little and yet was obviously the dominant personality. His comment on persons and things was commonly humorous and satirical and he smoked his pipe and twinkled while others speculated and disputed. Occasionally he made caricatures and cartoons which were powerfully expressive as only a great caricaturist could make them. His dark brilliant eyes were the most absorptive that I have ever seen." Gertrude Stein speaks of Picasso as having a high, whinnying Spanish laugh.

In addition to his painting, Picasso also writes French poetry. He is fond of dogs and usually has one at his studio. He has one son—also named Pablo Picasso.
Among the best-known works of Picasso, including representative portraits and still lifes, are the following: Le Mendiant (The Beggar), 1893; Maternité bleue (Motherhood in Blue), 1901; La joie pure (Pure Joy), 1903; Portrait de H. Kahnweiler, 1910; Nature morte (Still Life), 1914; Femmes a la fontaine (Women at the Fountain), 1921; Mise a mort (Execution), 1934; Guernica, 1937; Portrait de James Sabartés, 1939; Enlèvement d'Europe (The Abduction of Europa), 1946; Portrait de femme (Portrait of a Woman); L'atelier de la modiste (The Hat Designer's Workshop); Nature morte au citron et aux oranges (Still Life with a Lemon and Oranges); Portrait de Madame Paul Eluard; L'aubade (Morning Serenade); Nature morte aux cerises (Still Life with Cherries); La femme en bleu (Woman in Blue); Les Arlequins (Two Clowns); La casseroles émaillée (The Enameled Saucepan); and Le rocking chair.
It was noted that the significance of the enclosed material was not known.

Milwaukee letter, 8/6/42
Re: CP USA, District 18;
IS-R
100-3-36-88, p. 1

On 7/27/44, a letter was forwarded to the Bureau Laboratory, dated 7/15/44, from the Office of Censorship for examination for code and cipher, but nothing of that nature was disclosed. The letter was to
FILE DESCRIPTION

SUBJECT  PABLO PICASSO

FILE NO.  CROSS-REFERENCES

SECTION NO.
Angela's sister reports
on waves of rallies abroad

NEW YORK, Nov. 15 — Hundreds of thousands in Europe in all walks of life are active in the international campaign with Angela Davis, said Mrs. Fania Jordan, sister of Angela Davis, at a press conference here today.

Mrs. Jordan and Felicia Coward, a black member of the Young Workers Liberation League, have just returned from a six-week whirlwind tour organized by the World Federation of Democratic Youth, of 11 European countries to appeal for support in the struggle to free Angela Davis.

The tour, part of WFDY's 'Youth Accuse Imperialism' campaign, was conceived at the meeting of world youth in September in Santiago, Chile.

Mrs. Jordan and Miss Coward took part in 84 massive rallies in France, Italy, Belgium, England, West Germany, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Soviet Union, Finland, Czechoslovakia and Denmark.

The rally in France on Oct. 3 drew 80,000 people.

"The tour made it clear that the campaign to free Angela Yvonne Davis is being waged not only by political organizations on the left in Europe," said Mrs. Jordan, "but also by broader forces."

She pointed out that in Italy, for example, she and Miss Coward met with parliamentary groups which included members of the majority social democratic parties, as well as meeting with the Christian Democratic Party and the Young Communist League.

"Thousands of workers," she said, "convened in their own factories, and thousands of students gathered on university campuses all over Europe to express solidarity with Angela, the Black liberation movement and all progressive movements in the U.S."

"In the socialist countries even kids in the street can give you the facts on Angela's case."

While in Europe, the two travelers met with students from Asia, Africa and Latin America.

"These meetings," said Mrs. Jordan, "revealed that Angela has become a vibrant symbol for the people on these continents struggling for national liberation."

A trip to Africa is being planned, she announced.

Mrs. Jordan and Miss Coward also met abroad with the World Peace Council, WFDY, World Federation of Trade Unions and the International Union of Students, all of which have agreed to send or are seriously considering sending delegations of observers to the trial.

The WPC plans to raise the question of Angela Davis in the United Nations Committee on Apartheid.

Miss Coward noted that throughout Europe hundreds of thousands have written letters and postcards and have signed petitions to President Nixon, California Gov. Ronald Reagan and the California courts protesting the frame-up of Miss Davis and the arbitrary denial of bail.

Bail held urgent.

Emphasis was given by Mrs. Jordan to the fight for bail, made urgent by Angela Davis' deteriorating eyesight. Miss Davis is suffering from glaucoma, which can lead to blindness if not treated.

Continued on page 11.
Tour report by Angela’s sister

Up to now, prison authorities have refused to provide proper medical treatment.

Copies of a letter from Dr. David B. Kimmelman, a noted ophtalmologist, to the New York Times, in response to an article in that newspaper on Miss Davis’ eyes were distributed at the press conference. Dr. Kimmelman pointed out that it requires sophisticated instrumentation and procedures to be able to rule out a diagnosis of glaucoma, and that these facilities are not present in Miss Davis’ cell, where her few medical examinations took place.

“It is difficult to believe,” he wrote, “what Dr. Cooke, director of medical services for Marin County, could have been accurate when he was quoted as saying Miss Davis’ health is good, in the face of the reported failing vision, frequent viral infections, and the recent weight loss of 30 pounds in a thin person.”

Plea by French notables

A letter to Gov. Reagan urging bail at once for Angela Davis was issued by the National Committee for the Defense and Liberation of Angela Davis in France, signed by Louis Aragon, the author; Jean-Louis Barrault, actor and director of Theatre National de l'Odeon; Max Ernst, graphic artist; Michel Foucault, author; Francois Truffaut, Nobel Prize winner; Pablo Picasso; Jacqueline Picasso; Madeleine Renaud, actress; Alain Robbe-Grillet, author.

The signers’ demand that “in the overwhelming atmosphere of racism which prevails in American prisons today, and in the general climate of hate and terror which George Jackson’s violent death has so starkly brought to light, steps be taken now to assure that Angela Davis is not one day soon in her turn the victim of some equally obscure machination, with... death as the final judgment from which there can be no appeal.”

Mrs. Jordan stressed the need for a mass fight to move the trial to San Francisco from Santa Clara county, where the most recent lynching of a Black man took place and where 15 percent voted for George Wallace.

Nixon’s congratulations to Edgar Hoover on TV after Angela’s arrest, and his statements that “she will be dealt with just as any other terrorists,” which were heard by millions of Americans have definitely prejudiced Miss Davis’ case, declared Mrs. Jordan, adding that her sister can get a fair trial “only if millions of people here and abroad demand her freedom.”

Mass petitioning, letter writing, demonstrations and other activities in support of Angela Davis are important, she said, because they place political pressure on the courts, Nixon and Reagan.

“This is how Bobby Seale and Ericka Huggins were freed,” she declared, “and not because of the virtues of the system.”
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Reporting Office
LOS ANGELES

Office of Origin
NEW YORK

Date
1/26/61

Investigative Period
7/26/60 - 1/20/61

RETURN TO

TITLE OF CASE
COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE FOR MORTON SOBEIL

CHARACTER OF CASE
IS - C;
ISA, 1950


ADMINISTRATIVE

Careful consideration has been given to each source concealed, and "T" symbols were utilized in the report only in those instances where the identities of the sources must be concealed.

This report is classified confidential because data reported from and through could reasonably result in identification of confidential informants of continuing value and compromise future effectiveness thereof.

Approved

Do not write in spaces below

SEE NEXT PAGE

(Los Angeles 100-41648)

16 JAN 31 1961

100 - 387835 - 2576 REG. 82

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LEADS

LOS ANGELES

AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA: Will follow and report the activities of the Los Angeles Sobell Committee.

One copy of this report and one copy of the letterhead memorandum are being furnished to Chicago, San Diego, and San Francisco for their information, since it has been established that there is a close alliance between the Los Angeles Sobell Committee and the Sobell Committees of those areas.

Copies have also been designated for FIO, Los Angeles; Region II, Pasadena; and OSI, District 18, Maywood, for the information of those agencies.

INFORMANTS

Source

Location

- B -

COVER PAGE
In reply refer to

TO: The Honorable
J. Edgar Hoover,
Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation.

FROM: Mr. John W. Ford,
Director,
Office of Security.

SUBJECT: Fernand LEGER.

Reference is made to your memoranda of October 27, 1952, January 28, and February 12, 1953, concerning the subject, your File No. 105-20291.

Several references to the subject have been located in the files of the Division of Biographic Information of the Department.

Warsaw, PAP, Polish Press Service, August 20, 1948, states that delegates to Wroclaw Congress of Intellectuals (opening August 25) include: Louis ARAGON; Laurent CASANOVA; Aimé CESARÈ (Martinique); Paul ELOARD; Yves FARGE; Louis GoILLOU; Leon ROUSSINAC; Roger VAUILLANT; Henri MEbare; Marcel TRENTER; Henri MALLO; Jean CADAN, ES; LE CORBUSIER; Fernand LEGER; Victor LÉDUC; Pierre SEGHERS.

The New York Times for November 4, 1948 carried an item as follows:

Some of France's greatest artists, including painters Henri MATISSE, Georges BRAQUE and Fernand LEGER, and the architect Yves LE CORBUSIER, are turning to
religious art in what may prove a renaissance of church decoration. The building, or planned building of a number of boldly conceived churches decorated by well known artists, adds weight to this rapidly growing movement. One of these churches, near Megeve, in the French Alps, is built in the style of a mountain chalet. Its facade is decorated with a mosaic in startling colors by Leger. The stained glass windows of this church are the work of Roualt, one of France's greatest religious painters. A huge tapestry representing the Apocalypse, by Lucat, a sculptured virgin by the Jewish artist Lipschitz, a mosaic by Matisse, and a painting by Pierre Bonnard, who died last year, all beautify the church and attract many tourists, in addition to the faithful. Matisse himself is supervising construction of another church at St. Paul de Vence, above Nice. Although a frail old man of 79, he works several hours a day on stained glass windows, black and white chequered ceramics for the church walls, and a set of the Stations of the Cross.

The Daily Worker, New York, December 21, 1948, carried a report from Paris on December 20, 1948 with the following information:

A permanent French Committee for the "Defense of the 12" has been formed in Paris for the 12 U.S. Communists facing trial January 17. At meetings over Thanksgiving Victor Leduc, editor of weekly Action, Vercors (Jean BRULLER) and Marcel WILLARD broached issue of solidarity with Anti-Communists. (These were meetings of the Assises pour la Paix et la Liberte). The permanent committee of defense of the 12 has Paul ELUARD as chairman and Victor LEVY as Secretary. Members include Picasso, Joliot-Curie and his wife, political leaders include Piette COT, Gilbert de Chambrun ("Catholic progressive"); Yves Parge, now head of "Combattants pour la Paix"; Jacques DUCLOS; Pierre LEBRUN, CGT Secretary; TOCHATAYA; Deputy for Middle Congo, and Marcel BOURRIER, Socialiste Unitaire leader. Writers in groups: Louis FRAGON; Elise TIOLET; Albert LAMT; Louis MARTIN-Chauffier.
Painters: Marc CHAGALL, Fernand LEGER, Jean LUCBAC, 
VAN SWANENBERG. Jurists: Joe MARSHALL, Leon TARASSO, 
Andre BLUMEL. Scientists: Jeanne LEVY, Luc EUGENIUS, 
Henri LEVY, M. BARRABE.

L'Humanite dated Paris October 27, 1950, carried 
an account of a meeting on October 19, 1950 as follows:

At the Maison de la Pensee Francaise, one hundred 
sculptors from the Seine met on October 19, 1950 to 
discuss their plans for the maintenance of peace in 
accordance with Communist party doctrine. Following 
an introductory speech by Leon HOUSSEIN, and a 
discussion of the Prague "peace" proposals, the group 
proceeded to elect eighty delegates to the Departmental 
"Peace" Assizes. Following this the group adopted 
several projects, the most notable of which was a plan 
providing for the creation of "peace" expositions in 
the principal French towns which would be culminated 
by the awarding of a national peace prize for the 
competing artists, amateurs, and school children. 
Another plan was adopted providing for the sending of 
a form letter to French artists urging them to protect 
the artistic wealth of France. A letter written by 
Fernand LENJOY was read aloud requesting artists to 
create works for peace. The following artists took 
part in the discussion: Fernand LEGER, Andre FOUGERON, 
Roger CHAPPEAU, Ely, LEVY, Louis BILLIOT, 
Emmanuelle LACOSTE, Yves BRAYER, Boris TASLITZKY, 
PAUL, SAINTE-CHEMIN, PAULUX.

A report Paris, AFP, Radioteletype in French to 
the Americas, April 24, 1952, read as follows:

Paris--Sixty-three painters, sculptors, and engravers 
of the 200 registered with the Communist Party attended 
the first session of the Communist Artist's Conference, 
presided over by Laurent CASANOVA, a member of the 
Party's Central Committee, who is considered to be 
"responsible for the orthodoxy" of the extreme left "intellectuals". Neither Pablo PICASSO, nor Henri 
MATISSE, nor Fernand LEGER, who represent the three 
greatest names in contemporary French painting and
whose connections with the Communist Party are well known, were present at this meeting. At the meeting a quarrel arose between partisans of art which is independent of politics and those for whom politics serves as an inspiration for their art. The painter Andre Fougeron represented the orthodox trend, known as the "new reality." The sculptor Auricoste is head of the dissenting group. No decisions were made at this first meeting concerning a possible condemnation of the rebels. Three other work sessions are scheduled, at the end of which a final motion will define the point of view of the Communist, painters, sculptors, and engravers.
B. Publicity Concerning the Amnesty Campaign in the "Daily Worker" and "The Worker"

Throughout the Amnesty Campaign various articles appeared in "The Worker" and the "Daily Worker" concerning this campaign. These articles are set forth in brief below:

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| "Daily Worker" | December 3, 1957 | "Amnesty Now!"  
This article points out that with the dropping of the five year old California Smith Act case on December 12, 1957, it is apparent that the Smith Act has been discredited. It then states
"The Worker" January 12, 1958

"Picasso Asks Amnesty for Winston, Green" This article stated that PAULO PICASSO and five other world-famous intellectuals have called upon President EISENHOWER to free Smith Act 'victims' GILBERT GREEN and HENRY WINSTON. The six besides PICASSO include writer LOUIS ARAGON; Nobel prize-winning scientist FREDERIC JOLIOT-CURIE; artist EDOUARD PIGNON, writer FRANCIS TOURDAN, and 1957 Concourt prize-winning writer ROGER MAILLANT. The article states that GREEN and WINSTON are serving eight year terms -
five under the Smith Act and three for contempt of court. They were convicted in 1949 with nine other members of the CP National Committee in the first Foley Square Smith Act trial.

"The Worker" February 2, 1958

"Only Amnesty Can Release Winston, Green From Jail" The article states that Presidential action to free Smith Act prisoners GREEN and WINSTON was the only course open to them after the Supreme Court last week turned down a petition to review their 1949 conviction. The petition for review of their case was submitted to the Court by HARRY SACHER, New York attorney. The Court voted 8-0 to reject the petition.
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CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

This section was prepared by SA

I. PABLO PICASSO'S EXHIBIT

The August 11, 1957 issue of "The Worker", on page six, columns two, three, four and five, continued on page seven, columns one and two, contains an article under the caption "One Man's Views of Picasso's 75th Anniversary Show". This article reflects in part that, "The variegated and incredible world of PABLO PICASSO" is on display on New York's West 53rd Street this summer where the Museum of Modern Art is celebrating the great French artist's 75th anniversary year with one of the most extensive one man shows in its history.

"The exhibit will run through September 8th and then move on to the Art Institute of Chicago, where it will be on view until October 29th through December 8th.

"To date more than 200,000 people have viewed the outpouring of sixty years of painting and sculpturing by the artist who has come to be a legend in his own lifetime. The crowds who have thronged to the Museum's exhibit have seen a variety of form and style combined with a profound insight into human emotion and deep respect for people."

The article continues by discussing PICASSO's genius in both painting and sculpturing, and then begins a discussion of his Communist Party membership,
"While over 200,000 visitors have paid their way into the Museum to view PICASSO's work, the artist himself cannot attend the 75th Anniversary exhibition. PICASSO, who is a member of the CP of France, last attempted to visit these shores in 1950, when the State Department refused to issue him a visa."

"Just prior to the opening of the current show, ALFRED H. BARR, JR., Director of the PICASSO Exhibit, said that we do not want to put him (PICASSO) in an embarrassing position by inviting him only to have his entry questioned by our government."

The article further states that many patrons of the art would like to forget that PICASSO is a Communist, and that many Communists, on the other hand, tend to separate PICASSO's art from his politics. The article explains, however, that PICASSO cannot be understood unless his life in art and his life in politics are seen as a synthesis of his guiding philosophy and social outlook based on the dignity of man and the liberty of his conscience.

The August 12, 1957 issue of the "Daily Worker" contains an article on page six, columns one and two, captioned, "What's missing at the PICASSO Exhibit." This article reflects that PICASSO's art exhibit has drawn 100,000 New Yorkers and that numerous articles have been written about PICASSO's art and life.

The "Daily Worker" article continues by stating that although many articles have been written about PICASSO's life, that it is seldom mentioned, that he is a member of the CP in France.
The "Daily Worker" article further reflects that PICASSO joined the CP in 1944; and that many political observers scoffed at his decision to join the CP, and said that "it couldn't last." The article further states that the capitalist press expected PICASSO to leave the CP last October during the "tragic Budapest days", however he remained a card carrying member.

BANNING OF "HUCKLEBERRY FINN"

The September 13, 1957 issue of the "Daily Worker" contains an article on page six, column one, captioned, "In Which We Oppose Board of Education's Banning of Huckleberry Finn." This article reflects that it is deplorable that the MARK TWAIN classic "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" was banned as a textbook by the elementary and junior high schools, because of criticism by some leaders of the Negro race, that it is "racially offensive." The article continues by stating that in the story of "Huckleberry Finn", HUCKLEBERRY FINN is shown struggling with a question that is still before us. "The question was this: If he should help a young Negro's fight to freedom he would be branded as a subversive by the Attorney General and polite society generally, but his conscience would be clear. On the other hand if he obeyed the rule which meant turning informer, he would be acclaimed as a hero, but would he be able to sleep nights?"

The article further reflects that, "HUCK made up his mind to throw in his lot with all those fighting for a better America. And since his defiance of the racists meant he was going to hell anyway, he made up his mind to take up wickedness in earnest."
The Bureau will be furnished any further information received concerning this matter.

cc - Paris (info - sent direct)

Enclosure (1)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.
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Memorandum

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-55726)  DATE: 8/29/61
FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (100-16659)  CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: X aka

Re NY Airtel 7/13/61 enclosing letterhead memoranda re travel plans of subject.

Inasmuch as the subject has returned from her travels, this case is being closed in the NYO.
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☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

☐ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

☐ Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

☐ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

☐ For your information:

☑ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

109-12-227-228
Date: July 10, 1957
To: Director, FBI
From: Legat, Mexico (130-743G)

Subject: MONTHLY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

SYNOPSIS

TIME" AND THE PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION (Page 2): "Time" magazine recently contained article on Mexican personalities who might succeed to the Mexican Presidency. Mexican reaction was contained in press was of resentment and article was condemned as ignorant meddling. Article actually seemed incomplete but accurate as far as it went.

MEXICAN MINING AND U. S. PROTECTIVE TARIFF (Page 2): Mexican press terms current efforts in U. S. Congress to raise import duties on lead, zinc as failure to adhere to principles of "Good Neighbor" policy. ATOM BOMB TESTS (Page 2): Mexican press has followed with interest public debate concerning dangers to world from atomic fall-out. DIEGO RIVERA, Mexican Communist muralist, reportedly writing 300 world famous personalities to secure backing for campaign to stop further nuclear testing.

MEXICAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCM) (Page 3): The PCM did not try for national electoral registration, but hopes to effect a coalition with the Popular Party and a segment of the PRI. The Political Commission has endorsed the recent action of the plenum of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.


PARTIDO POPULAR (POLITICAL PARTY) (Page 5): The need to absence from Mexico of LOMBARDO TOLEDO during June, 1957, was somewhat inactive. Party has indicated it will support single candidate for Presidency in 1958.
the public discussions with respect to dangers to the world from atomic fallout. In general the newspapers have provided broad reportage of opinions and among Mexico's top scientists there has also been a publicly expressed split of opinion as to the dangers from continued testing. The Communist slanted press vigorously condemns the continued testing. DIEGO RIVERA, world famous Mexican muralist and Mexican Communist Party member, has announced that he has written letters to PABLO PICASSO and about three hundred other persons of world prominence in the fields of science and culture, calling for a united effort to stop nuclear testing.

ACTION TAKEN: None. Public source material.

MEXICAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCM)

The approaching 1958 national election appears to be the prime concern of the PCM with considerable talk but very little concrete results. The Party allowed the June 30, 1957, deadline to pass by without making an attempt to obtain electoral registration as a political party with right to run candidates in national elections. Instead of running their own candidate for President, the PCM has been calling for and hopes to effect a coalition with the Popular Party and a segment of the PRI, the government party in power in Mexico. In the State of Coahuila the PCM thought it had secured electoral registration by allegedly securing the signatures of 2,250 individuals or 250 more than the state requires to run candidates in state elections. The Communist press announced that during a PCM convention held in Torreon, Coahuila, on June 23, 1957, ARTURO CRONA was selected as the PCM candidate for Governor of Coahuila. CRONA is a member of the Central Committee of the PCM. The Party announced on July 5, 1957, that the government of Coahuila had denied registration to the PCM.

ACTION TAKEN: None. Public source material.

"La Voz de Mexico," central organ of the PCM, in its edition of July 6, 1957, announced that a plenum of the Central Committee was held July 1, 2, and 3, 1957, and dealt exclusively with the participation of the Communists in the next electoral campaign. DIONISIO ENCINA, Secretary General, gave the report in which he called for a democratic electoral front of all
November 20, 1969

Dear [Redacted],

Your letter of November 13th, with enclosure, has been received.

Although I would like to be of assistance, information contained in our files must be maintained as confidential in accordance with regulations of the Department of Justice. I am sorry I am unable to furnish the data you are seeking.

Since UNICEF is affiliated with the United Nations, inquiries regarding it may be directed to the Secretary of State, Washington, D. C. 20520. I am sending a copy of your letter, with enclosure, to him for any information he can furnish you.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

NOTE: Correspondent cannot be identified in Buffle on the basis of information available. Copies of his letter and enclosure are being referred to the Secretary of State by form referral of same date.