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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA  
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

4 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

Section 552

Section 552a

(b)(1)

(b)(7)(A)

(d)(5)

(b)(2)

(b)(7)(B)

(j)(2)

(b)(3)

(b)(7)(C)

(k)(1)

(b)(7)(D)

(k)(2)

(b)(7)(E)

(k)(3)

(b)(7)(F)

(k)(4)

(b)(4)

(b)(8)

(k)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(9)

(k)(6)

(b)(6)

(k)(7)

- Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to the subject of your request or the subject of your request 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 inasmuch as a final release determination has not been made. You will be advised as to the disposition at a later date.

\_\_\_\_\_ Pages were not considered for release as they are duplicative of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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

161-786-23 pages 4-7

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WFO 161-510

Referred

MISCELLANEOUS (anonymous)

In April, 1941, several announcements were distributed at a rally held at Turner's Arena in Washington, D. C. One of these was a pamphlet captioned "Call National Action Conference for Civil Rights," to be held April 19 and 20, 1941, at the Hotel Hamilton, Washington, D. C. According to this pamphlet the meeting was to be sponsored by the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties. This pamphlet listed the present officers of the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties and the sponsors of this organization. Under the heading sponsors was the name "Prof. Melville J. Herskovits, Evanston, Illinois."

The National Federation for Constitutional Liberties has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

On July 3, 1961, SA [redacted] caused a search to be made of the files of the library "The Evening Star", wa Washington daily newspaper, and no identifiable record was located concerning the appointee.

On July 3, 1961, SA [redacted] caused a search to be made of the files of the United States Secret Service, and no identifiable record was located for the appointee.

On June 30, 1961, Mr. [redacted] Review Unit, Army Personnel Records Branch, Department of the Army, advised IC [redacted] he was unable to locate any record for the appointee.

On June 30, 1961, IC [redacted] reviewed the files of the House Committee on Un-American Activities and information contained therein has been utilized during the course of this investigation.

Confidential informants acquainted with various aspects of Communist Party activities in the District of Columbia area advised in June, 1961, the appointee was unknown to them.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
JUL 6 1961  
TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Evans \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Malone \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ingram \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_  
4037

b7C

URGENT 7-6-61 406 PM JAF  
TO DIRECTOR, FBI //611  
FROM SAC, NEW YORK //161-461/

MELVILLE JEAN HERSKOVITS, SPI. REWFO TELETYPE TO BUREAU JULY FIVE  
LAST. ON THIS DATE, [REDACTED] NEW YORK  
STATE DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE, [REDACTED] CONTINENTAL ASSURANCE  
COMPANY, AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NEW YORK STATE POLICE, ALL NEW YORK  
CITY, WHOSE IDENTITIES SHOULD BE CONCEALED, ADVISED [REDACTED]  
THAT THEY HAVE NO INFORMATION INDICATING THAT APPOINTEE, UNDER  
CORRECT NAME OR NAME HERSKOVITZ, WAS EVER A MEMBER OF IWO OR  
LISTED BY IWO SPEAKERS BUREAU. BOTH [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED] ADVISED  
THEY HAVE NO COMPLETE INFORMATION AS TO PERSONS LISTED BY IWO  
SPEAKERS BUREAU. NO REPORT BEING SUBMITTED. RUC.

b7C  
b7D

B

END AND ACK  
NY 66 WA NM

*Copy destroyed  
7-25-61 W14B/LSS*

*g/np*

161-786-24

NOT RECORDED  
13 AUG 8 1961

*NA*

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
JUL 7 1961

TELETYPE

|              |       |
|--------------|-------|
| Mr. Tolson   | _____ |
| Mr. Belmont  | _____ |
| Mr. Mohr     | _____ |
| Mr. Callahan | _____ |
| Mr. Conrad   | _____ |
| Mr. DeLoach  | _____ |
| Mr. Evans    | _____ |
| Mr. Malone   | _____ |
| Mr. Rosen    | _____ |
| Mr. Sullivan | _____ |
| Mr. Tavel    | _____ |
| Mr. Trotter  | _____ |
| Tele. Room   | _____ |
| Mr. Ingram   | _____ |
| Miss Gandy   | _____ |

URGENT 7-7-61 4-12 PM CDST PB

TO DIRECTOR, FBI  
FROM SAC, SPRINGFIELD 161-60 1P  
MELVILLE JEAN HERSKOVITS, SPI. REREP SA [REDACTED]

JULY THREE LAST, SPRINGFIELD. FIRST LINE OF SYNOPSIS IN REREP SHOULD READ QUOTE EMPLOYMENT VERIFIED AT UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS UNQUOTE INSTEAD OF QUOTE EDUCATION VERIFIED AT UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS UNQUOTE. BUREAU CORRECT ITS COPY OF REREP. SPRINGFIELD COPY CORRECTED. ERROR NOTED BY RESIDENT AGENT WHEN REPORT FIRST PROOF<sup>Re</sup> ERROR<sup>R</sup> CHARGED. NO ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION RECOMMENDED. ELAST WORD LINE SIX SHOUL READ-READ- FIRST WORD LINE SEVEN SHULD READ-ERROR ND AND ACK PLS...

5-15 PM OK FBI WA JA  
TU DISC

*[Handwritten signature]*

*[Faded stamp]*  
JUL 10 1961

*[Handwritten initials]*  
161-786-25  
NOT RECORDED  
13 AUG 8 1961

cc: Mrs. Callahan

FBI

Date: 7/11/61

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

**SECRET**

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, WFO (161-510)

MELVILLE JEAN HERSKOVITS  
SPI

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT  
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

1/6/98  
CLASSIFIED BY 6026/MS/SL/MS  
DECLASSIFY ON 25X 1

467098

Rereport of SA [redacted] dated 7/5/61,  
at Washington, D. C.

On 7/7/61, IC [redacted] reviewed the  
appointee's file at the Bureau of Personnel Investigations,  
Civil Service Commission, which reveals that Agency conducted  
a background investigation of the appointee in 1943 for the  
position of Consultant with the Board of Economic Warfare.  
As a result of this investigation, the Civil Service Commission  
(CSC) conducted a special hearing of the appointee at  
Washington, D. C., on 4/29/43. A copy of this hearing is  
attached.

The CSC file revealed on 5/25/43, that Agency  
notified the Board of Economic Warfare as a result of the  
above-mentioned investigation nothing had been disclosed  
which reflected unfavorably on the appointee's general  
qualifications, suitability, and fitness.

The CSC file further reveals that [redacted]

[redacted] MELVILLE J.  
HERSKOVITS on a SF-57 dated 3/5/55, and SF-56 dated 4/28/61.  
It will be noted [redacted] was investigated by the FBI in 1955  
under the caption "Special Inquiry, Public Law 402, 80th  
Congress (Voice of America)." The CSC advised the FBI on  
1/13/56 [redacted] was dropped from consideration before  
determination was completed.

*2 copies destroyed*

③ - Bureau (Enc. 2) *WAB/LJS*

1 - WFO

JEG:ecr

(4)

161-786-26  
NOT RECORDED  
13 AUG 8 1961

**SECRET**

Approved: [Signature] Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

AIRTEL Special Agent in Charge ATTACHED

~~SECRET~~

The files of the CSC also contain the following information on MELVILLE J. HERSKOVITS:

b7C (1) According to information received from one [redacted] of the Dies Committee Professor MELVILLE H. HERSKOVITS, 1621 Ridge Avenue, Evanston, Illinois, appeared on the membership and mailing list of the American League Against War and Fascism for the Chicago area for the period between 1933 and 1937.

The American League Against War and Fascism has been designated by the Attorney General of the U. S. pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

(2) Hearings before a Special Committee on Un-American Activities, 78th Congress, Page 1125, reveals a partial list of signers of a statement dated 12/14/39, protesting the raids on Communist Party (CP) Headquarters and the efforts being put forth to suppress the CP. Among the signers of this statement listed under the title "Scientists and Educators" is one Professor MELVILLE J. HERSKOVITS of Northwestern University.

(3) Hearings before a Special Committee on Un-American Activities which contained an exhibit of a program for the 5th National Conference of the American Committee for the Protection of Foreign Born held 3/29 - 30/41, at the President Hotel, Atlantic City, New Jersey. Among the listed sponsors of the Conference was Professor MELVILLE J. HERSKOVITS, Northwestern University. *have*

The American Committee for the Protection of Foreign Born has been designated by the Attorney General of the U. S. pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

(4) Second report of the Joint Legislative Fact-Finding Committee on Un-American Activities, State of Washington, 1948, Page 63, which reflects an exhibit of a listing of the Vice Chairmen and members of the Board of Directors of the Independent Citizens Committee of the Arts, Sciences, and Professions, Inc., Hotel Aster, New York. Among the listed board members is one MELVILLE J. HERSKOVITS, not further identified. *have*

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The Independent Citizens Committee of the Arts, Sciences and Professions has been cited as a communist front in the "Guide to Subversive Organizations and Publications."

(5) A copy of a "call" to a conference to be held 10/3/37, at 316 Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, under the auspices of the Chicago section of the North American Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy, 159 N. State Street, Chicago, Illinois, reflects a listing of the officers and membership of the Chicago section of the Committee. Listed among the members of the organization is one Dr. MELVILLE J. HERSKOVITS, not further identified. *none*

The North American Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy has been designated by the Attorney General of the U. S. pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

(6) Page Two of the "Daily Worker" dated 9/18/40, contains an article captioned "Mexican Government Greeted on Independence Celebration" which reflects the Council for Pan-American Democracy had on the day before greeted the Mexican Government on the occasion of the Celebration of the 130th Anniversary of the Independence of the country from Spain. The message of greeting, which was signed by more than fifty Americans, called for the establishment of good neighbor relations with all Latin American nations. Among the listed signers of the message is one Professor MELVILLE J. HERSKOVITS, Northwestern University. *none*

The Council for Pan-American Democracy has been designated by the Attorney General of the U. S. pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

(7) Bulletin Number 14 from the Joint Fact-Finding Committee on Un-American Activities, Calif. Legislature 9/11/43, reflects the Chicago Branch of the John Reed Clubs published a magazine "Left Front" Chicago, Illinois. The June, 1933, issue of this publication announced the speakers for the John Reed Club for the 1932 - 1933 season included one Professor MELVILLE J. HERSKOVITS, not further identified. *none*

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The John Reed Clubs of the U. S. have been cited as organizations "whose affiliation with the Communist Party is clear beyond dispute" in the "Guide to Subversive Organizations and Publications."

(8) A special report of the Seditious Activities Investigation Commission, State of Illinois, and investigation of the University of Chicago and Roosevelt College, 1949, reflects a portion of the testimony of JOHN B. THOMPSON, Dean of Rockefeller Chapel, University of Chicago, testified he had been asked, along with citizens in Chicago, to join a committee which had been organized for the sole purpose of welcoming the Very Reverend HEWLETT JOHNSON, the Dean of Canterbury to Chicago. Dean THOMPSON advised the committee was called the Chicago Ad Hoc Committee of Welcome for the Dean of Canterbury, November, 1948, and listed Professor M. J. HERSKOVITS, Northwestern University, as one of its members. *have*

"HEWLETT JOHNSON, Dean of Canterbury Cathedral, England, known in communist circles as the 'Red Dean of Canterbury' has been identified in sworn testimony before Congressional Committees as a member of the Communist Party and a 'secret trusted' member of the Communist International."

(9) Summary of Trade and Developments, August, 1949, published by the National Americanism Commission of the American Legion, Appendix I, reflects a report on the Bill of Rights Conference held in the Henry Hudson Hotel, New York, July, 1949, under the initiating sponsorship of the Civil Rights Congress. The report states the main purpose of the conference was to organize and develop a great propaganda drive against the Federal Bureau of Investigation throughout the System of Communist Front Organizations. A list of sponsors of the conference was noted to include Professor MELVILLE J. HERSKOVITS, University of Chicago. *have*

The Civil Rights Congress has been designated by the Attorney General of the U. S. pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

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~~SECRET~~

Page 21 of "New Masses" for 4/2/40, contains a petition to the President attacking the raids without warrant on the veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, the badgering of communists leaders. One of the signers of this letter was MELVILLE J. HERSKOVITS. A copy of this letter is attached.

[REDACTED]

Refered

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA  
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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Section 552

Section 552a

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\_\_\_\_\_ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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

161-786-26 page 6

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Referred

[REDACTED]

U. S. Information Agency

On 7/10/61, Mr. [REDACTED] Clerk, Personnel Services Branch, Personnel Division, U. S. Information Agency (USIA), advised SA [REDACTED] he could locate no record indicating the appointee had ever been employed by the USIA in any capacity.

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b7D

A "name check file" for the appointee at the Office of Security, USIA, reviewed on 7/10/61, by SA [REDACTED] revealed the following information:

b7C

(1) A national agency check was conducted by USIA in December, 1953, at the request of the Information Center Service, USIA, which was considering possible use of a book (not identified) by HERSKOVITS in their overseas library program.

A memorandum dated 12/23/53, to the Information Center Service of USIA by the Office of Security, USIA, set out a summary of information concerning the appointee from the House Committee on Un-American Activities (HCUA), and the FBI and then indicated that while the appointee did not fall within the purview of Paragraph III (c) of the 7/15/53, Instruction "...it does not seem in the interest of the program to use him unless a special advantage is to be realized."

(2) An operations memorandum dated 6/11/54, from the USIA Office at Port of Spain, Trinidad, to USIA, Washington, D. C., indicated the University College of the

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WFO 161-510

West Indies had requested that office to sponsor in August, 1954, a lecture by the appointee, who was a visiting Northwestern University professor.

An operations memorandum dated 7/1/54, to Port of Spain from USIA, Washington, D. C., indicated that on the basis of available information, Office of Security advises against USIA sponsorship of lecture by HERSKOVITS.

(3) An operations memorandum dated 3/23/55, to USIA, Washington, D. C., from Port of Spain refers to a list of recommended books for U. S. Information Centers overseas and indicates that a book by the appointee entitled "Cultural Anthropology" appeared on this list. The memorandum requested advice of inclusion of this book by appointee in its Information Center, in view of the operations memorandum to Port of Spain from USIA, Washington, D. C., dated 7/1/54, which recommended against sponsoring appointee's lecture in Port of Spain.

An operations memorandum dated 9/15/55, to Port of Spain from USIA indicates that while USIA still advises against sponsorship of any lectures by appointee, his book may be used in the Information Center Program.

(4) A national agency check conducted by USIA in August, 1956, at the request of the Office of Private Cooperation, USIA, which was considering possible use of appointee in its program for People - To - People Partnership (Professional Societies).

A memorandum dated 12/26/56, to the Office of Private Cooperation by the Office of Security, USIA, indicates "...it is the advisory opinion of this office that Mr. HERSKOVITS' services should not be used in the capacity proposed.....This advisory opinion is not to be construed as an adverse recommendation within the meaning of Section 3b (6) of Domestic Circular Number 43 entitled 'Security Screening Policy.'" The Office of Security enclosed information concerning appointee, obtained from its national agency check for the consideration of the Office of Private Cooperation in its decision whether to use HERSKOVITS' services.

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(5) A memorandum, dated 11/13/59, from the International Broadcasting Service, USIA, to the Office of Security, indicating a desire to use appointee on a one-time, non-compensated interview for this office in America.

On 11/20/59, the Office of Security, USIA, sent the International Broadcasting Service the information available from previous national agency checks for its consideration.

On 12/7/59, the International Broadcasting Service notified the Office of Security that "... subject will be used on a one-time, non-compensated basis...". The memorandum added it was also desired to use the appointee on a one-time, compensated basis and requested another national agency check be conducted.

(6) A national agency check was conducted in December, 1959, and January, 1960, at the request of the International Broadcasting Service, USIA, as shown in the request above.

On 4/18/60, a memorandum from the Office of Security, USIA, to the International Broadcasting Service states in part "... it is the advisory opinion of this office that subject's services should not be used in the capacity proposed...". The memorandum indicated this advisory opinion was not to be construed as an adverse recommendation within the meaning of Part VIII, Section 433.2f of MOA (MOA not identified). The information concerning appointee, obtained from the national agency check, was sent to the International Broadcasting Service for its consideration.

On 4/22/60, a memorandum from the International Broadcasting Service to the Office of Security indicates "... no immediate use is contemplated, nor will any contact with subject be made unless first cleared by the Program Manager. Even then approval will be given only if absolutely necessary."

This "name check file" contained no additional pertinent information.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

**SECRET**

On 7/10/61, Mrs. [redacted] Office of Private Cooperation, USIA, advised SA [redacted] her records reveal the appointee had not been used by the Office of Private Cooperation in its program for People - To - People Partnership.

On 7/11/61, Mr. [redacted] International Broadcasting Service, USIA, advised they do not keep files on individuals being considered for one time, non-compensated use. He stated, according to correspondence concerning the appointee, the latter's services were not used by the International Broadcasting Service.

Library of Congress

On 7/10/61, Miss [redacted] Reference Department, Library of Congress, advised SA [redacted] that in approximately February, 1960, an African section was established in the Library and in connection with this there was planned an establishment of an Advisory Panel to be utilized on a consultant basis. She stated that HERSKOVITS was being considered as a member of this panel; however, the panel was never established and therefore no further action was taken to obtain HERSKOVITS' services.

On 7/10/61, Miss [redacted] Personnel Security Assistant, Library of Congress, advised SA [redacted] a name check was made on HERSKOVITS in 1960 in connection with a request by the Reference Department. The file contained no additional pertinent information.

Miscellaneous

On 7/7/61, a representative of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) advised SA [redacted] the files of that Agency contain no pertinent identifiable information concerning the appointee [redacted]

*per CIA letter dtd 2/9/99  
this info. does not warrant B-1  
classification under  
Guido. 2/16/99  
m.s.*

It will be noted the files of the HCUA reveal the appointee's name was mentioned in a suit filed against the Commissioners of Washington, D. C., and the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) on 9/10/40, by attorneys of the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties on the behalf of the American Peace Mobilization.

*b6 CIA (S)(u)*

**SECRET**

*b7c*

*CIX*

WFO 16-510

On 7/10/61, the records of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia reveal that [redacted] and [redacted] were arrested and charged with [redacted] against the [redacted] the [redacted] of the [redacted] of the [redacted] of Columbia charged with [redacted] the [redacted] were arrested for [redacted] in the [redacted] in the District of Columbia [redacted] carrying [redacted] displaying [redacted] in [redacted] places and [redacted] in public places. The case was discontinued without prejudice. [redacted] HERSKOVITS' name was not mentioned in [redacted]

LEADS

WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE

AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

- (1) Will check personnel file, Department of State for any employments concerning appointee.
- (2) Will review hearings before the Committee on Foreign Relations, U. S. Senate, concerning appointee's testimony before that Committee.

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161-78-2

**T**HE petition to the President, printed below, was initiated by the following committee: Elliot Paul, chairman, Franz Boas, Theodore Dreiser, Rockwell Kent, Collis Lamont, George Seldes, Maxwell S. Stewart, and Dashiell Hammett. As we go to press more signatures are arriving in the mail and will be published later.

To President Franklin D. Roosevelt: In periods of crisis, those civil liberties which are the foundation stone of a free society, are endangered. Today, in the face of international crisis, it behooves us, as loyal Americans, to examine critically, and expose to the light all threats against democracy at home.

Eternal vigilance is the price of democracy, and we must critically analyze any governmental attack on the rights of Americans to maintain dissident opinions which inevitably results in the destruction of civil rights for all.

The recent raid, without warrant, on the veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, the abortive indictments in Detroit for recruiting for loyalist Spain, the badgering of Communist leaders, the attacks by the Dies committee on consumer and labor groups, are all part of the rapidly accumulating evidence of a tendency to pervert the spirit while pretending to adhere to the letter of the Bill of Rights.

This same tendency exists in the perversion of the function of the Special Grand Jury now convened in Washington, D. C., to investigate alleged military espionage. This investigation was initiated by the former attorney general, by the widespread publication of an extraordinary letter accusing a number of organizations and individuals of serious crimes. This unprecedented procedure was sharply condemned by the *Washington Post* as a breach of the constitutional rights of citizens. The subsequent public announcement by the special prosecutors that such investigation "would be used as a clearing house," inevitably created a suspicion that even an inquiry might be perverted into a witch-hunt directed against those whose views express difference with the government.

The New Masses is not mentioned in the letter of the attorney general, but this has not prevented the Grand Jury from devoting much of its time to questioning editors and employees of New Masses. Day after day, testimony is taken having no possible relation to the crimes under investigation, but intended to uncover the witnesses' views on current social and political problems. In this respect, it is really a "Dies committee" in another form. The continuance of this procedure might drive New Masses out of existence by frightening its readers and supporters, by harassing its editors, and by exhausting the meager funds of the magazine. It is in fact a war of nerves which will lead to the destruction of the freedom of expression of dissident opinion.

In the World War the suppression of the *Masses*, the barring from the mails of other publications, came after the entry of this country into the war. Today the move to silence free opinion is terrifyingly faster. It is a portent of war and a portent of wider suppression. Many of those who petition you, Mr. President, do not agree with the social and political views of New Masses, but we recognize that the rights guaranteed in the Constitution cannot be denied to any group without undermining these rights themselves, and thereby making them insecure for all.

In your recent message to the *Nation* on its seventy-fifth anniversary, Mr. President, you said: "It does not matter whether one agrees with the *Nation* or not. The important thing is that everywhere and always—particularly in a democracy—minorities shall have a means of expressing themselves." That, Mr. President, is a genuine affirmation of the elementary human and civil rights of all Americans and we urgently call upon you to apply it—"everywhere and always."

We respectfully request you, Mr. President, to exert your influence to end this attack on freedom of the press and prevent its repetition in the future.

(Signed) GORDON W. ALLPORT, professor of psychology, Harvard University; FRANK E. BAKIR, president, State Teachers College, Milwaukee, Wis.; JOSEPH WARREN BEACH, chairman, English department, University of Minnesota; DR. GEORGE H. BISHOP, professor, Washington University, St. Louis; MARE BLITZSTEIN, composer-playwright, New York; FRANZ BOAS, professor of anthropology, Columbia University; LOUIS B. BOUDIN, attorney, New York; LYMAN R. BRADLEY, assistant professor of German, New York University; MILEN BRAND, writer, Barto, Pa.; HAROLD CHAPMAN BROWN, professor, Stanford University; EDWIN BERRY BURGUM, professor, New York University; LESTER COHEN, writer,

Doylestown, Pa.; BRUCE CHANDLER, editor and writer, Charleston, W. Va.; HENRY WAINSWORTH LONGJELLY DANA, lecturer and writer, Cambridge, Mass.; EDWARD C. DEWALLEY, Jr., vice president, Mohr-Age Books, New York; THEODORE DELEISE, author, Hollywood; W. E. B. DU BOIS, head, department of sociology, Atlanta University, Ga.; HENRY EPSTEIN, solicitor general, New York State; ABRAHAM FLEASER, director emeritus, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton University; FRANKLIN FOLSON, executive secretary, League of American Writers, New York; J. J. FULTON, Sterling professor, Yale University; LEWIS GANNETT, literary editor, New York *Herald Tribune*; DR. A. L. GOLDWATER, physician, New York; MORDECAI GORKLIK, scene designer, New York; WILLIAM GROPPER, New York; DASHIELL HAMMETT, writer, New York; FRANK H. HANKINS, professor, Smith College; BENJAMIN HARROW, professor of chemistry, College of the City of New York; MILVILL J. HIRSKOWITZ, professor of anthropology, Northwestern University; PHILIP M. HICKS, professor, Swarthmore College; WILLIAM W. HINCKLEY, former chairman, American Youth Congress, Bethesda, Md.; KENNETH E. HOOVER, minister, Shrub Oak, New York; ELLSWORTH HUNTINGTON, professor, Yale University; WILLIAM LLOYD IMES, clergyman, New York; ROBERT JOSHIDY, book designer, Bethel, Conn.; VAN DUSEN KENNEDY, instructor in economics, Swarthmore College; ROCKWELL KENT, artist, New York; DR. JOHN A. KINGSBURY, social worker, Shady, N. Y.; ARTHUR KOBER, writer, New York; COLLIS LAMONT, author, New York; RING W. LARDNER, JR., writer, Hollywood; PAUL H. LAVITTS, assistant professor of medicine, Yale University; M. LEVI, professor emeritus, University of Michigan; PHILIP LOEB, actor, New York; J. B. LOVE, NYA administrator, Butte, Mont.; ROBERT MORSS LOWETT, governor, Virgin Islands; WILLIAM M. MALINSOFF, professor of biochemistry, Polytechnic Institute, New York; ALBERT MALTZ, author and teacher, New York University; KIRKLEY F. MATHER, professor of geology, Harvard University; EDWARD G. MAXTED, priest of the Episcopal Church, Pascagoula, Miss.; H. L. MENCKEN, writer, Baltimore, Md.; CATHERINE MINTOP, teacher, Vassar College; PAUL MUESCHKE, associate professor of English, University of Michigan; WILLIAM S. NOBLE, minister, North Baltimore, O.; KATHERINE MACY NOYES, Urbana, Ill.; WILLIAM ALBERT NOYES, Noyes Laboratory of Chemistry, University of Illinois; HARVEY O'CONNOR, writer, Chicago; SHALMAS O'SHEFF, writer, Red Hook, Dutchess County, N. Y.; SAM ORNDIZ, writer, Los Angeles; ELLIOT PAUL, writer, New York; WILLIAM PICKENS, director, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; ALAN PORTER, teacher, Vassar College; ISRAEL PUTNAM, president of I. Putnam, Inc., Elmira, N. Y.; WALTER RAUTENSTRAUCH, professor of industrial engineering, Columbia University; GERONIMO RIVA, artist, Brookhaven, N. Y.; ANTON REFREGIER, mural painter, New York; PAUL ROBINSON, singer, New York; EARL ROBINSON, composer and choral director, New York; WELLINGTON ROE, writer, Staten Island, N. Y.; HARRY SACHSE, lawyer, New York; MARGARET SCHLAUCH, teacher, New York University; EDWIN SEAWER, author, New York; GEORGE SELDES, writer, Wilton, Conn.; ELLEN SELDES, Wilton, Conn.; HOWARD SHESAM, professor, Brooklyn College; HARLOW SHAPLEY, professor of astronomy, Harvard University; GEORGE H. SHULL, professor, Princeton University; HERMAN SHUMLIN, stage director and producer, New York; REV. F. HASTINGS SMYTH, superior, Society of the Catholic Commonwealth, Oratory of St. Mary and St. Michael, Cambridge, Mass.; ALICE D. SNYDER, professor of English, Vassar College; MOSES SOYER, artist, New York; RAPHAEL SOYER, artist, New York; GEORGE SOUTE, editor, *New Republic*; PHILIP STEVENSON, writer, New York; DONALD OLGIN STEWART, writer, Carmel, Calif.; MAXWELL S. STEWART, associate editor, the *Nation*; I. F. STONE, associate editor, the *Nation*; HANS OTTO STORM, engineer, Palo Alto, Calif.; PAUL STRAND, photographer, New York; DIRK J. STRUBK, associate professor of mathematics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass.; HELEN TAMIRIS, dancer, New York; C. FAYETTE TAYLOR, professor of engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; FREDERICK THOMPSON, manufacturer, San Francisco; EDWARD C. THOMAS, professor of psychology, University of California; JAYN STARR UNTERMEYER, writer, New York; HAROLD C. URUY, professor of chemistry, Columbia University; STEUVESSANT VAN VLIEN, mural artist and anthropologist, New York; CHARLES H. WESLEY, professor of history, Howard University; JAMES WECHSLER, assistant editor, the *Nation*; HOWARD W. WILLARD, illustrator-designer, New York; SUSAN H. WOODRUFF, lecturer, member DAR, New York; RICHARD WRIDDE, writer, Crompond, N. Y.; ART YOUNG, artist, Bethel, Conn.; LEANE ZUGSMITH, writer, New York.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION



REPORT OF SPECIAL HEARING

MELVILLE JEAN HERSKOVITS, under investigation for the position of Head Consultant  
Board of Economic Warfare.

810 Clinton Place, Evanston, Illinois

Special hearing conducted at Washington, D. C., April 29, 1943, in Room 519, Hather  
Building

Special hearing conducted by \_\_\_\_\_ Investigator

Witnessed by \_\_\_\_\_ Investigator

Stenographer: \_\_\_\_\_

\* \* \* \*

Mr. Mr. Herskovits, the purpose of this interview is to allow you an opportunity to answer questions concerning information which has been received by the Civil Service Commission about alleged activities on your part. During this discussion you are invited to make any statements of your own regarding information to be discussed which will fairly present your side of the question.

It is the practice of the Commission to receive your statement or explanation under oath. Do you have any objection to taking an oath?

ANSWER: No.

(Whereupon,

MELVILLE JEAN HERSKOVITS

was duly sworn and stated as follows:)

Q. What is your full name and present address?

A. Melville Jean Herskovits, 810 Clinton Place, Evanston, Illinois

Q. Have you ever used any other name?

A. No.

Q. When and where were you married?

A. Paris, France, July 12, 1924.

Q. Is this your first marriage?

A. The only one I have ever had.

- Q. Is this your wife's first marriage?
- A. Yes.
- Q. When and where were you born?
- A. Bellefontaine, Ohio, September 10, 1895
- Q. Have you any brothers and sisters?
- A. I have one sister.
- Q. What is her name?
- A. Charlotte H. Levy
- Q. What is her address?
- A. Tarrytown Road, Montville. Morris County, New Jersey.
- Q. Has your wife any brothers and sisters?
- A. She has two sisters.
- Q. What are their names and addresses?
- A. Mrs. Louis J. Sack, and Mrs. Harry Dolkhart.  
The Sack's live in Poughkeepsie. Mr. and Mrs. Dolkhart live in New York City.
- Q. Will you please list all of your trips outside of the United States in chronological order?
- A. Let me think. I have been quite a bit. I went to France as a member of the Army in 1918, came back in 1919. I went to Europe in 1924 when I was married. At that time I attended an International Anthropological Congress, that met at the Hague and Gothenberg, Sweden, and I travelled over Europe. That was in 1924.
- In the Summer of 1928, my wife and I went on a research expedition to Dutch Guinea, South America, and repeated it in the Summer of 1929.
- Q. What was the purpose of this trip?
- A. Scientific research, two volumes published.
- Mr.
- Q. What were the names of the volumes published?
- A. One volume was published under the name of Suriname Folklore. That was published by the Columbia University Press about 1934 or 1935. They both were collaborations of Mrs. Herskovits and myself. The one publication by McGraw & Hill Co, was under the title of "Rebel Destiny".
- Mr.
- Q. When was the next trip?

We next went abroad about August 1930, my wife and I went abroad for three weeks to arrange with the Colonial Office in France and London, to be properly introduced at the French and British Colonial Office, prior to a trip to West Africa. We returned in the end of September.

In January 1931, we went to West Africa and stayed there until August doing research. We returned about the middle of September. There have been numerous publications from that trip, the outstanding one being a two volume publication entitled "Dahomey".

Then the Summer of 1934 we spent in Haiti, for the purpose of Scientific research. This is all a matter of record, it is to be found in various reference books, such as "Who's Who in America", etc. The Summer of 1934 in Haiti resulted in the publication of a volume called "Life in a Haitian Valley".

In 1937 I was awarded a fellowship of the John Simon Gerggenheim Memorial Foundation and took a Sabbatical leave of absence from my University. The year from September 1937 until September 1938 was spent in Europe. I gave some lectures at Cambridge University, Oxford University, before the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain, in London. I lectured before the Africanist Society of Paris, and also delivered a paper at the International Anthropological Congress in Copenhagen. I also was working on a book.

In 1939, Mrs. Herskovits and I were sent by the Carnegie Corporation of New York to carry on research in Trinidad, British West Indies. We were there from June until September. In August 1941 I was sent by the Rockefeller Foundation to do research in Brazil. Mrs. Herskovits and I spent a year there, returning last September.

Q. Will you please name some of your close friends and associates?

A. Donald Young, Social Science Research Council.  
Donald Goodchild, American Council of Learned Societies.  
Various members of my faculty, Major Alpheus Smith,  
Lieutenant Colonel Rossman Palfrey.

Q. Are you acquainted with Willard Z. Park?

A. Yes, I gave him his first job.

Q. Do you know him socially?

A. Yes.

Q. Have you visited at his house?

A. Yes, as a matter of fact, when I was called to Washington and there wasn't a hotel room, I stayed at the Park's.

Q. Do you remember the approximate date?

A. I came down here in early October, because I was back five weeks from Brazil, when I got the telephone call to come down.

Q. How long did you stay there?

A. Just over night.

Q. He has visited you in your home?

A. Yes, he was associated with me in the department.

Mr.

Q. Is that at Northwestern?

A. Yes.

Mr.

Q. Are you acquainted with Charles A. Beard?

A. You mean the historian?

Q. Yes.

A. I don't think I ever met the man personally.

Q. Are you acquainted with Professor Fred Schuman?

A. I never met him, I know him by name.

Q. Are you acquainted with Professor Robert Lovett?

A. Casually. I have know Lovett off and on. I haven't seen him for years.

Q. The Commission has received information that you are a member of the American Committee, International Relief Association, ~~Association~~ Did you hold office in that organization?

A. In what committee?

Q. American Committee, International Relief Association.

A. Never heard of it that I can think of. What did it do? Who told you?

Q. We are not allowed to divulge the source of information?

A. I am very sorry, I can't intelligently answer questions about things that are just hearsay. I don't know, I might be but I don't think so. That is, I don't remember it.

Q. You don't know whether you are a member or not?

A. I can tell you, if I am it hasn't cost me anything. It isn't an organization I pay dues to or make contributions to. I can't place it. I don't know what you are talking about.

Q. Investigation by the U. S. Civil Service Commission discloses that you were one of the sponsors of the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties. What comment did you care to make?

A. I am pretty vague about it, I may have sponsored it. I believe in constitutional liberties.

Q. Are you acquainted with any of the officers of this organization?

A. I am very vague about the whole thing. No, I couldn't name one.

Q. Are you acquainted with the purposes of this organization, National Federation for Constitutional Liberties?

A. No, I assume it is what it says it is but I don't know.

Q. The Commission has information that the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties, on behalf of the American Peace Mobilization, brought suit against the Metropolitan Police Department and National Park Service on September 10, 1940. This would indicate that it had some affiliation with the American Peace Mobilization. Do you care to comment on this?

A. I don't know if there is any comment to be made. Does it have anything to do with the American Peace Mobilization?

Mr.

Q. Doctor, you are supposed to have had connection with it, we are asking you the questions, if you don't know, then that is different.

A. Well, it is possible that I may have, but I certainly am not responsible for connection with an organization like that.

Mr.

Q. The suit by the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties arose out of police action in arresting leaflet distributors who were in opposition to the passage of the Burk-Wadsworth Bill. This was the conscription bill. Would you care to make any comment on it?

A. If any organization that I belonged to, took such action against conscription, then I was most certainly not in favor of it, because I have consistently been in favor of all the defense measures.

Q. The Commission has received information that you allowed your name to be used in connection with other organizations. Is this true?

A. What kind of organizations? Scientific or Political?

Q. We are not interested in Scientific, Political, Fraternal, Religious or Racial.

A. I can't think of any. What kind of an organization would that be; a social or some sort. The Association of American University Professors, wouldn't be one.

Mr.

Q. Such as the ones we have mentioned to you.

A. I am a member of the American Civil Liberties Union, but that comes under one of those heads I presume. It is a political organization. You mean in the sense of a political party?

Mr.

Q. What organizations of a similar nature to the Federation for Constitutional Liberties and Civil Liberties Union do you hold membership in or affiliation with?

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A. There is a little local organization in Evanston that interviews the Mayor and tries to get the proper people on the school board. I think it is called "Council for Democratic Action".

Mr.

Q. Is that connected with any National organization?

A. None at all, it is a local organization.

Q. Do they have meetings of any kind where they have speakers come in?

A. I think we had Professor Burgess from the University of Chicago discuss juvenile delinquencies in wartime.

Q. Are there any other organizations that you have had membership in?

A. None that I can remember at the moment.

Q. Are you a member of the German-American Bund?

A. No.

Q. Are you a member of any of its affiliate organizations?

A. No.

Q. Are you a member of the Communist Party?

A. No.

Q. Are you a member of any of the affiliates of the Communist party?

A. No.

Q. Have you any criticism of the manner in which this interview was conducted?

A. I'd say I found you gentlemen most polite and considerate. I think my only criticism would be in asking me to comment on information, the source of which is unknown to me, which makes it difficult to comment intelligently.

Mr.

Q. Do you feel, in order to state whether you are a member of an organization you have to know who said you are a member?

A. No, not that, but there was one or two questions that were quite ambiguous, the factual questions are alright.

Mr.

Q. Do you believe the Commission has afforded you ample opportunity to answer these questions?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you care to make any further statements about the matters we have discussed here?

A. I might say that it is a new and curious experience in rather a long career in the intellectual and academic world, to be put in a situation where either my character or patriotism is under question, but I think there is nothing else to be said.

\* \* \* \*

I have read the foregoing statements and the same are truly and correctly reported herein.

Melville Jean Herskovits

Witnessed: This            day of            1943

By:

Investigator

Investigator

I hereby certify that the above is a correct transcription of the notes taken by me during the special hearing.

Stenographer

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OBSERVATIONS

Applicant arrived on time. He appeared to resent the fact that the Commission should take up his valuable time with an interview. He appeared to be a man of high intelligence. It was evident that he was trying to impress your investigator with his great learning and travel.

On the subject of membership in organizations he was rather evasive and always wanted more particulars as to when, where, and who furnished the information. On the whole he was fairly cooperative.

Applicant requested that a copy of the hearing be mailed him at his residence. Your investigator mailed a copy by registered mail.

Respectfully submitted

Investigator

F B I

Date: 7/13/61

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI  
FROM: SAC, WFO (161-510)  
MELVILLE JEAN HERSKOVITS  
SPI

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Re report of SA [REDACTED] dated 7/5/61  
at Washington, D.C.

referred

[REDACTED]

RUC  
③-Bureau 2 copies destroyed  
1-WFO 7-25-61 WMB/LJS  
JEG:bah  
(4)

161-786-27

AIRTEL

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

XXXXXX  
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA  
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1 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

Section 552

Section 552a

(b)(1)

(b)(7)(A)

(d)(5)

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(j)(2)

(b)(3)

(b)(7)(C)

(k)(1)

(b)(7)(D)

(k)(2)

(b)(7)(E)

(k)(3)

(b)(7)(F)

(k)(4)

(b)(4)

(b)(8)

(k)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(9)

(k)(6)

(b)(6)

(k)(7)

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161-786-27 page 2

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X Deleted Page(s) X  
X No Duplication Fee X  
X for this page X  
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WFO 161-510

MISCELLANEOUS

It will be noted that on 3/16/60, Professor MELVILLE J. HERSKOVITS, Director of Northwestern University's program of African studies, appeared before the Committee on Foreign Relations, United States Senate, 86th Congress, Second Session, concerning United States foreign policy. He appeared in connection with a series of open hearings which were being held concerning foreign policy studies prepared at the request of the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Professor HERSKOVITS was the principal author of one of the studies and appeared before the Committee to furnish them with his knowledge of Africa.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

July 14, 1961

MELVILLE JEAN HERSKOVITS

I. BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

Birth

Dr. Herskovits was born on September 10, 1885, at Bellefontaine, Ohio.

Education

Dr. Herskovits attended Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion, Cincinnati, Ohio, from September, 1915, to February, 1918. No degree was conferred.

He attended the University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio, from September, 1915, to February, 1918. No degree was conferred.

He attended the University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, from September, 1919, to February, 1920, receiving a Ph.B. degree.

Dr. Herskovits was enrolled at the New School for Social Research, New York City, from September, 1920, to June, 1922. No degree was conferred.

He was enrolled at Columbia University, New York City, from September, 1920, to June, 1926. He was awarded an M.A. degree on June 1, 1921, and a Ph.D. degree on June 2, 1926.

Melville Jean Herskovits

Employment

From 1912 to 1915, Dr. Herskovits was employed as a clerk in a clothing store operated by his father at Erie, Pennsylvania.

He was employed as a lecturer in anthropology at Columbia University, New York City, from May, 1924, to June, 1927.

In September, 1927, Dr. Herskovits joined the faculty of Northwestern University, **Evanston**, Illinois, as an assistant professor. He has been a member of the faculty continuously since that time, and he presently is a professor of anthropology and serves as Director of African Studies.

Dr. Herskovits has been designated the "President's Fellow" by Northwestern University for the 1960-1961 scholastic year. According to the University records, this is the highest honor that can be bestowed upon a member of the faculty by Northwestern University and entitles the recipient to one year's leave of absence with full salary. At the present time, Dr. Herskovits is on leave of absence pursuant to his being the "President's Fellow" and is conducting research in connection with a book he is preparing for publication.

In addition to his regular employment at Northwestern University, Dr. Herskovits has been employed as follows:

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Summer of 1930                      | Lecturer in anthropology,<br>University of Wisconsin,<br>Madison, Wisconsin.                                |
| October, 1942, to<br>December, 1942 | Head consultant, per diem basis<br>when actually employed, Board of<br>Economic Warfare, Chicago, Illinois. |
| January, 1943, to<br>June, 1943     | Consultant, per diem basis when<br>actually employed, Board of<br>Economic Warfare, Washington, D. C.       |

Melville Jean Herskovits

September, 1948, to January, 1949      Visiting professor, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois.

Summer of 1950      Professor of anthropology, University of California, Berkeley, California.

Dr. Herskovits has been a member of numerous professional and social organizations and was elected a fellow to the National Academy of Sciences and National Research Council, Washington, D. C., in April, 1959.

Marital Status

Dr. Herskovits is married to the former Frances Shapiro, who resides with him at 810 Clinton Place, Evanston, Illinois.

Military Service

Dr. Herskovits enlisted in the Enlisted Reserve Corps, United States Army, on June 1, 1917, and entered on active duty in the United States Army on March 5, 1918. He was honorably discharged as a private first class on July 29, 1919. His service record is clear.

II. RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION

Interviews

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[REDACTED] Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion, Cincinnati, Ohio, advised he has known Dr. Herskovits socially and professionally since 1915. He said he considers Dr. Herskovits an outstanding man who would be a great asset to the Government of the United States if appointed to a position for which he is qualified. He said he believes Dr. Herskovits' interest in obtaining a position with the Government is due to his belief in serving his country. He furnished favorable comments concerning Dr. Herskovits' character, reputation, loyalty and associates, and he recommended Dr. Herskovits for a position of trust and confidence.

Melville Jean Herskovits

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, advised he has been closely associated with Dr. Herskovits since 1949. They have visited in each other's home [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] said he considers Dr. Herskovits an outstanding individual, whose moral character and reputation are above reproach. He said there is no question whatsoever concerning Dr. Herskovits' loyalty to the United States, and he recommended him for a position of trust and confidence.

[REDACTED] said, as a result of Dr. Herskovits' many visits to Africa, representatives of the African nations have frequently visited the campus of Northwestern University. He has been present at many social and academic functions where the African representatives were in attendance. The representatives of the African nations, he said, have a great admiration for Dr. Herskovits and consider him to be a close personal friend. He has heard the representatives make many favorable comments concerning Dr. Herskovits and his highly favorable reputation among the African countries.

[REDACTED]  
Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, advised he has been personally acquainted with Dr. Herskovits for many years and holds Dr. Herskovits in high respect. Mr. [REDACTED] noted that Dr. Herskovits has traveled widely throughout the United States, South America and Africa. He said Dr. Herskovits is considered to be one of the foremost anthropologists in the United States. He furnished favorable comments concerning Dr. Herskovits' character, reputation and loyalty, and he highly recommended him for a position of trust and confidence.

[REDACTED]  
Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, advised he has known Dr. Herskovits since 1948. They have been closely associated and [REDACTED]

Melville Jean Herskovits

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the African Studies Program of which Dr. Herskovits is in charge. He said Dr. Herskovits has traveled in many of the African nations and knows many people in those countries, all of whom have great respect for and confidence in Dr. Herskovits. He said Dr. Herskovits has a true understanding of the problems which exist in Africa and is one of the best qualified men in the United States to handle those problems. [REDACTED] said he considers Dr. Herskovits an outstanding individual of excellent reputation and high moral character, whose loyalty to the United States is above reproach. He said Dr. Herskovits is interested in the advancement of African nations and the establishment of favorable relations between the United States and the African countries. He highly recommended Dr. Herskovits for a position of trust and confidence.

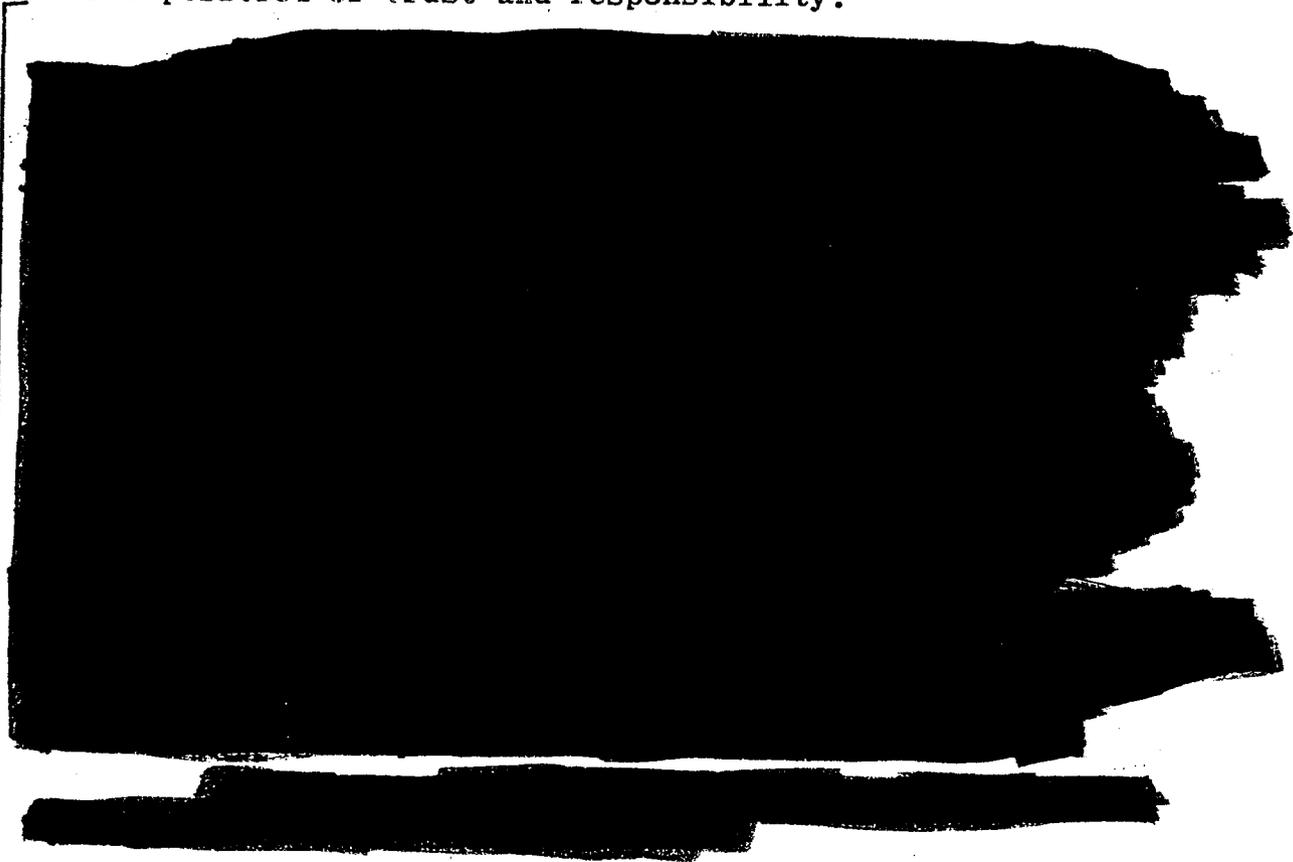
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Washington, D. C., advised he has known Dr. Herskovits on a professional level for approximately [REDACTED] years through Dr. Herskovits' association as an authority on Africa. He said he has had some social association with Dr. Herskovits. [REDACTED] said that, based on his knowledge of Dr. Herskovits' moral character, reputation, associates and loyalty to the Government, he would recommend Dr. Herskovits for a position of trust and confidence.

[REDACTED]  
New York City, advised he has known Dr. Herskovits since [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] Dr. Herskovits' professional and social acquaintances at Northwestern University. He said they visit socially and he is acquainted with all members of the Herskovits family. [REDACTED] said Dr. Herskovits has an excellent reputation in his profession and is considered to be the foremost authority on African anthropology. He said he considers Dr. Herskovits to be a man of exceptionally fine character, whose personal habits and moral conduct have never been questioned. He said there is no question whatsoever concerning

Melville Jean Herskovits

Dr. Herskovits' loyalty to this country, adding that Dr. Herskovits would be most careful with confidential information. He stated Dr. Herskovits is "very peppery, and not a yes man"; that in the past, because of his outspoken nature, Dr. Herskovits has not been very diplomatic in expressing his opinions, but in recent years, however, Dr. Herskovits has become more restrained and diplomatic in his remarks. Mr. Young highly recommended Dr. Herskovits for a position of trust and responsibility.

Referred



During the current inquiry, it was ascertained that Dr. Buchanan is now deceased.

Melville Jean Herskovits

Eighteen other persons, consisting of social acquaintances and professional associates, were interviewed concerning Dr. Herskovits and furnished favorable comments concerning his loyalty, character, reputation and associates. They recommended Dr. Herskovits for a position of trust and confidence.

Close Relatives

In addition to his wife, Dr. Herskovits has the following close relatives:

Daughter, Mrs. Igor (Jean) Kopytoff,  
Providence, Rhode Island;

Sister, Mrs. Charlotte Herskovits Levy,  
Montville, New Jersey.

Dr. Herskovits' parents, Herman Herskovits and Henrietta Herskovits, are deceased.

Credit and Arrest Checks

Information has been received from the appropriate credit reporting agencies and law enforcement agencies indicating that their files contain either no record or no pertinent information concerning Dr. Herskovits or his close relatives.

Passport Record

referred [REDACTED]

Agency Checks

Information has been received from the United States Secret Service; House Committee on Un-American Activities; and the Security Office, National Academy of Sciences and National Research Council, indicating that their files contain either no record or no additional pertinent information concerning Dr. Herskovits.

Melville Jean Herskovits

Miscellaneous

Dr. Herskovits, on a background data form prepared by him in 1961, indicated he was a member of the Industrial Workers of the World in 1920; a member of the Executive Committee of the National Council of the Arts, Sciences, and Professions from 1945 to 1949; and Vice Chairman of the Illinois Chapter of the Progressive Citizens of America from 1946 to 1948.

The Industrial Workers of the World has been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

The National Council of the Arts, Sciences, and Professions has been cited as a communist front by the House Committee on Un-American Activities.

An informant, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised in June, 1948, that Communist Party members were soliciting funds for membership in the Progressive Citizens of America. According to the informant, the soliciting was done with the use of the name Progressive Citizens of America and all funds collected were turned over to the Communist Party.

The June, 1933, issue of the "Left Front," a publication of the Chicago Branch of the John Reed Clubs, reported the name of Professor Melville J. Herskovitz as a speaker for the 1932-1933 season for the John Reed Clubs.

The John Reed Clubs of the United States have been cited by the House Committee on Un-American Activities as communist fronts.

Melville Jean Herskovits

Another informant, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that in 1937 Professor Melville J. Herskovits, Professor of Anthropology, Northwestern University, was a member of the Scottsboro Defense Committee in Chicago; a sponsor of the Congress for Peace and Democracy of the American League for Peace and Democracy; and in 1939 was a member of the North American Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy.

The American League for Peace and Democracy and the North American Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy have been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

The Scottsboro Defense Committee has been cited as a **communist front** by the House Committee on un-American Activities.

The September 18, 1940, issue of the "Daily Worker," an east coast communist newspaper, which suspended publication January 13, 1958, contained an article wherein the name of Professor Melville J. Herskovits, Northwestern University, appeared as a signer of a message to the Mexican Government under the sponsorship of the Council for Pan-American Democracy.

An informant, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised in 1941 the name of Dr. Melville J. Herskovitz, Northwestern University, was one of the members of the Speakers Bureau of the International Workers Order.

Another informant, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised in 1941 the names of Mr. and Mrs. Melville Herskovitz, Northwestern University, appeared on a list of names utilized by the United American Spanish Aid Committee and the Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade. The informant was unable to provide the significance of this list.

Melville Jean Herskovits

The booklet entitled "The Road to Peace" contained an address by the Very Reverend Hewlett Johnson, commonly referred to as the "Red Dean" of Canterbury, England, delivered on October 27, 1948, in Chicago, under the auspices of the Chicago Council of American-Soviet Friendship. Listed among the sponsors was the name Herskovitz, Professor, Northwestern University.

The name of Melville J. Herskovits was listed as a sponsor on a "Call to a Bill of Rights Conference," held in New York City on July 16-17, 1949, under the auspices of the Civil Rights Congress.

The name Melville J. Herskovits was listed as a sponsor on the program of the Fifth National Conference of the American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born, held at Atlantic City, New Jersey, on March 29-30, 1941.

The Council for Pan-American Democracy; the International Workers Order; the United American Spanish Aid Committee; the Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade; the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship; the Civil Rights Congress; and the American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born have all been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

According to the letterhead of the Independent Citizens Committee of the Arts, Sciences, and Professions, dated May 28, 1946, the name of Melville J. Herskovits was listed as a member of the Board of Directors of that organization.

The Independent Citizens Committee of the Arts, Sciences, and Professions has been cited as a communist front by the House Committee on Un-American Activities.

Melville Jean Herskovits

The April 2, 1940, issue of "New Masses" contained a letter to the President of the United States in defense of communist leaders. One of the signers of this letter was Melville J. Herskovits.

"New Masses" has been described by the House Committee on Un-American Activities as a "nationally circulated weekly journal of the Communist Party...."

According to a press release dated May 5, 1948, the name of Melville J. Herskovits was listed as a sponsor for the Committee of One Thousand.

The California Senate Fact-Finding Committee on Un-American Activities has characterized the Committee of One Thousand as a "communist created and controlled front organization."

An informant, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised in 1941 that Professor Melville J. Herskovitz, Northwestern University, was among those who sent postal cards of encouragement to Ira Selbar, George Gibbs, Mary Wilson and Jane Curtis, when they were arrested in Lewistown, Illinois, in the Summer of 1940 on charges of violating the Criminal Syndicalist Laws in that by word of mouth they advocated the overthrow of the Government by force and violence and supported the Communist Party, which organization advocated the overthrow of the Government by force and violence.

The July 10, 1949, issue of the Illinois edition of "The Worker," a communist weekly newspaper, reported that leading Chicagoans were to sponsor a Bill of Rights Conference in New York City on July 16-17, 1949. The call to the Conference cited the Broyles Bills in Illinois among the many examples of the threats to civil rights throughout the Nation. Among the sponsors listed in the article was Professor Melville J. Herskovitz, Northwestern University. The Broyles Bills were a series of legislation introduced into the Illinois State Legislature and had as their purpose the curtailment of the activities of the Communist Party in the State of Illinois.

Melville Jean Herskovits

In November, 1945, an informant, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised he observed in Communist Party headquarters at San Francisco, California, a letter addressed to Miss Ella Winter, Carmel, California, bearing the letterhead of Northwestern University, Department of Anthropology, Evanston, Illinois, and the signature of Melville J. Herskovits. According to the informant, Melville J. Herskovits stated he would be glad to serve on the "Free McNamara Committee."

The "Free McNamara Committee" was a committee to free James B. McNamara, then serving a life sentence in a State of California prison for the bombing of the "Los Angeles Times" building, Los Angeles, California, and resulting deaths which occurred during a labor dispute in 1910.

Other informants, who have a knowledge of communist activities in appropriate areas, advised that Dr. Herskovits and his wife are unknown to them and that they could furnish no information regarding them.

On December 1, 1952, in connection with an issuance of a passport, Dr. Herskovits furnished a signed statement to a representative of the Department of State, stating in effect as follows:

He would like to affirm that he had never been and was not at that time a member of the Communist Party. He stated he was unalterably opposed to any form of totalitarianism. In regard to his alleged consistent adherence to the communist position, he stated that many Americans, not communists, in 1940 and 1941, felt that the Scottsboro trial did not represent the best in American judicial proceedings and that the Spanish War was not an attempt to establish communism but to prevent totalitarian control. He said he had been a member of the National Council of the Arts, Sciences, and Professions, together with many distinguished Americans of integrity. Like them, when communist infiltration became apparent, he left the organization. He stated further that he was in Europe in

Melville Jean Herskovits

1937 and 1938 and was convinced the Germans would attack and the United States should prepare for eventualities. He said that after World War II began, he constantly supported the English-French side and the German-Russian pact did not change his views. He stated that when in Africa he abstains from political discussions and devotes his time to research. He said this is not the communist pattern and is perhaps the best refutation of allegations of his sympathy with communist aims and methods.

The central files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation contain no additional pertinent information.



**Melville Jean Hershkovits**

**Miscellaneous**

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b2 b7D

**Melville Jean Hershkovits**

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\*Anonymous (121-15382-8)

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\*\*\*Anonymous (121-15382-8)

**Melville Jean Herskovits**

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Melville Jean Herskovits

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**Melville Jean Herskovits**

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The central files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation contain no additional pertinent information.

- 1- Mr. Belmont
- 1- Mr. Evans
- 1- Mr. Cleveland
- 1- Mr. [REDACTED]
- 1- Mr. [REDACTED]

b7C

July 14, 1961

BY COURIER SERVICE

ENCH  
X

Honorable P. Kenneth O'Donnell  
Special Assistant to the President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

JUL 14 3 14 PM '61  
FBI  
READING ROOM

My dear Mr. O'Donnell:

In accordance with the request of Dr. James B. Hartgering on June 23, 1961, an investigation has been conducted concerning Dr. Melville Jean Herskovits. Transmitted herewith is a summary memorandum containing the results of this investigation.

Information has been received from several governmental agencies indicating that the checks of their files concerning Dr. Herskovits have not been completed. When these checks have been completed, you will be advised.

The investigation of Dr. Herskovits covered inquiries as to his character, loyalty, general standing and ability, but no inquiries were made as to the sources of his income.

Sincerely yours,

J. EDGAR HOOVER

\*CSC, CIA, State Security

b7C  
[REDACTED]  
46450  
BY

Enclosure

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO.

WEB:mc  
(7)

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Callahan \_\_\_\_\_
- Conrad \_\_\_\_\_
- DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_
- Evans \_\_\_\_\_
- Malone \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Tavel \_\_\_\_\_
- Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Ingram \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

EX-107  
COURIER SVC  
82 JUL 14 1961  
COMM - FBI

ENCLOSURE

MAIL ROOM  TELETYPE UNIT

REC-4

46450-28

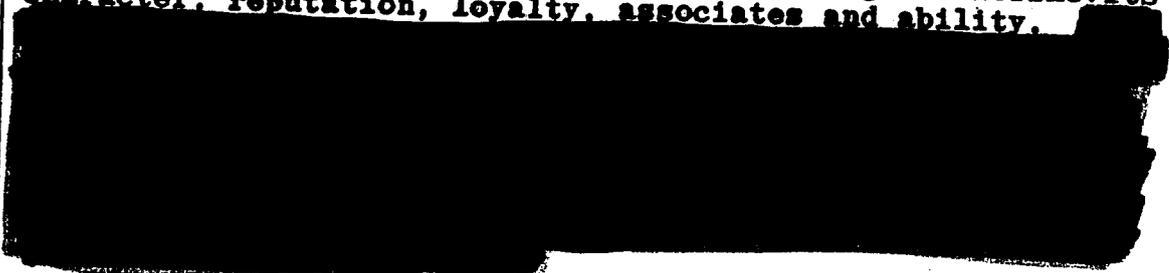
NOT RECORDED  
AUG 28 1961

Handwritten initials and signatures: B, E, W, G, H, and others.

**NOTE:**

Request for investigation of Dr. Herskovits received 6/27/61 by letter dated 6/23/61 from Dr. James B. Hartgering, Technical Assistant at White House. Position not stated. However, Dr. Hartgering is charged with the responsibility of the Scientific and Technology Staff at the White House.

Dr. Herskovits has been a member of the Faculty of Northwestern University since 1927 and is presently a Professor of Anthropology and serves as Director of African Studies at that University. He is stated to have an outstanding reputation in the field of African affairs. He has been affiliated with or his name associated with 17 organizations which have been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450 or cited as communist fronts by Congressional committees. Persons interviewed spoke favorably concerning Dr. Herskovits' character, reputation, loyalty, associates and ability.



*Referred*

The credit standing of Dr. Herskovits is satisfactory.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JUN 27 10 34 AM '61

RECEIVED-5742

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Evans
- 1 - Mr. Cleveland
- 1 - Mr. [REDACTED] b7C

July 19, 1961

BY COURIER SERVICE

JUL 19 11 29 AM '61

FBI RECEIVED ROOM

PAB

Honorable P. Kenneth O'Donnell  
 Special Assistant to the President  
 The White House  
 Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. O'Donnell:

Reference is made to my letter dated July 14, 1961, which furnished you a summary memorandum containing the results of an investigation concerning Dr. Melville Jean Herakovits.

Information has now been received from the Bureau of Personnel Investigations, Civil Service Commission; the Central Intelligence Agency; and the Office of Security, Department of State, indicating that their files contain no additional pertinent information concerning Dr. Herakovits.

This concludes the investigation.

Sincerely yours,

J. EDGAR HOOVER

27

[REDACTED] b7C  
 4/24/5

161-786-21

NOT RECORDED  
 13 AUG 8 1961  
 RECEIVED OF 20H

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Callahan \_\_\_\_\_
- Conrad \_\_\_\_\_
- DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_
- Evans \_\_\_\_\_
- Malone \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Tavel \_\_\_\_\_
- Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Ingram \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

WHB:djm  
 (7)

BY COURIER SVC  
 8 8 JUL 21 1961  
 COMM-FBI

RECEIVED  
 RECEIVED  
 RECEIVED-DIRECTOR

57 AUG 11 1961

[REDACTED] b7C

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Callahan \_\_\_\_\_
- Conrad \_\_\_\_\_
- DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_
- Evans \_\_\_\_\_
- Malone \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Tavel \_\_\_\_\_
- Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Ingram \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

TO : MR. CLEVELAND

DATE: July 31, 1961

FROM : C. A. EVANS

SUBJECT: SPECIAL INQUIRIES

b7c [Redacted]

Mr. Kenneth O'Donnell, Special Assistant to the President, has today requested that copies of the reports on the following be forwarded as designated:

To Atomic Energy Commission:

- [Redacted] - Report 6-23-61
- Melville Jean Herskovits - Report 7-14-61
- [Redacted] - Report 4-5-61
- [Redacted] - Report 3-6-61

b7c  
Sent by to  
C.A.E. EC  
013/61  
gmt

b7c [Redacted]

To Office of Naval Intelligence:

- [Redacted] - Report 5-17-61

b7c  
delivered to  
ONX  
8/4/61  
gmt

CAE:dlb  
-6-

NOT RECORDED  
9 AUG 9 1961

161-276-30  
NOT RECORDED  
145 AUG 10 1961  
Dy/sice

4-ALHOX  
AUG 11 1961  
YTP

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN 12

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Callahan \_\_\_\_\_
- Conrad \_\_\_\_\_
- DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_
- Evans \_\_\_\_\_
- Malone \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Tavel \_\_\_\_\_
- Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Ingram \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

TO : W. C. Sullivan

DATE: October 19, 1961

FROM : [Redacted] b7C

SUBJECT: MELVILLE JEAN HERSKOVITS  
SPECIAL INQUIRY - WHITE HOUSE

At request of the White House, the Bureau conducted an investigation of the above-captioned individual. A summary of the investigation was furnished to the White House on July 14, 1961. The investigation reflected that Herskovits, who is 76 years of age, is a professor at Northwestern University. He was a member of the Scottsboro Defense Committee in Chicago, cited by the House Committee on Un-American Activities; a sponsor of the Congress for Peace and Democracy of the American League for Peace and Democracy, designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450; and in 1939 was a member of the North American Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy. His name has been linked with many organizations and movements over a period of many years. One of the persons interviewed said he was outstanding in his field but did not recommend him for "anything confidential" because Dr. Herskovits "cannot keep his mouth shut long enough."

While talking to Dr. James B. Hartgering of the Science Advisers Office of the White House on October 17, 1961, Mr. Bartlett of the Liaison Section was advised that Mr. P. Kenneth O'Donnell of the White House did not clear Herskovits for use on a project because of the derogatory information contained in the Bureau's summary.

**ACTION:**

For information.

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Evans
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Cleveland
- 1 - Liaison
- 1 - Mr. [Redacted]

OHB:gp  
(7)

REC-29

EX-105

161-286-31

OCT 27 1961

192  
62 NOV 1 1961

Handwritten signatures and initials, including "RC" and "V".

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

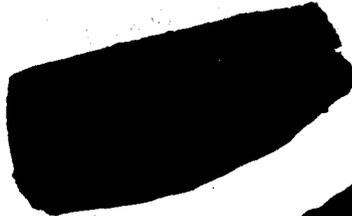
TO : W. V. CLEVELAND

DATE: 11/29/62

FROM : C. A. EVANS

SUBJECT: MELVILLE JEAN HERSKOVITS  
SPECIAL INQUIRY

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Casper \_\_\_\_\_
- Callahan \_\_\_\_\_
- Conrad \_\_\_\_\_
- DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_
- Evans \_\_\_\_\_
- Gale \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Tavel \_\_\_\_\_
- Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Holmes \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_



Mr. P. Kenneth O'Donnell, Special Assistant to the President, has today requested that a copy of the special inquiry summary on Melville Jean Herskovits, dated July 14, 1961, be furnished to Mr. John F. Reilly, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Security, Department of State.

12/3/62  
Summary handed  
to [redacted] State  
JH

CAE:LS  
(5)

161-786

*[Handwritten signature]*

161-786-32

NOT RECORDED

22 DEC 6 1962

54 DEC 11 1962