

FBIHQ FILE

100-12304

SECTION : 19

PAUL ROBESON, SR.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

2

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FBI Headquarters file 100-12304-614

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

10/19/60

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-98594)
FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (100-26018)
SUBJECT: [REDACTED] b7c
IS - C; ISA - 50

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP 5R1g/HW 1-24-81
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2 2
DATE OF REVIEW 1-24-91

[REDACTED] advised on 10/18/60 regarding a discussion b1
between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] b7c

Five copies of a letterhead memorandum relating
to this discussion are enclosed.

The memoranda are classified "Confidential" because
they contain information from a source, the unauthorized
disclosure of which could seriously impair the investigation
of the CP, USA, and such impairment could have an adverse
effect upon the national defense interests of the country.

ENCLOSURE

100-12304-
NOT RECORDED
198 NOV 2 1960

- 3 - Bureau (100-98594) (Encls. 5) (RM)
- 1 - New York (100-97169) (PUBLISHERS NEW PRESS) (#415)
- 1 - New York (100-25857) (PAUL ROBESON) (#412)
- 1 - New York (100-26915) [REDACTED] (#412)
- 1 - New York (100-26018) (#415)

JLF:map
(8)

AS NOTED ON ORIGINAL
CC w/cc encl furnished

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

State CIA 10/17/60 by
R/K re Paul Robeson

57 NOV 3 1960

100-12304
S-ER



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

New York, New York
October 19, 1960

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No. Bufile 100-98594

Re: [REDACTED]

A confidential source, which has furnished reliable information in the past, recently advised that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] recently asserted he saw Paul Robeson while he was in Europe. According to [REDACTED] Robeson told him he is going to fly to Australia for a three month concert tour.

[REDACTED] said he remarked to Robeson that plans are being made for a new "Daily Worker". [REDACTED] Robeson told him that he is to give a concert in London and that the proceeds of the concert will go to the new "Daily Worker". According to [REDACTED] Robeson stated he would guarantee from \$8,000 to \$10,000.

The Communist Party, which has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450, had a daily newspaper called the "Daily Worker", which ceased publication with the issue of January 13, 1958.

[REDACTED] stated that Paul Robeson attended the 11th Anniversary Celebration of the German Democratic Republic on October 3, 1960.

[REDACTED] advised in [REDACTED] that Paul Robeson was known to him, prior to 1945, as a concealed Communist.

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

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DATE 1-24-81 BY SP5 Rlg/161

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY SLIP(S) OF
DATE

DECLASSIFIED BY 2150 YR
MAR 26 1977

ENCLOSURE

100-12304 -

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b7c/b7D

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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For your information: Paul Robeson is not mentioned or referred to on this page. All material concerns a third party.

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
FBI Headquarters file 100-12304-Not Recorded dated 10-19-61

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

- 1 - Liaison
- 1 - Mr. Rachner

1-24-81
October 28, 1960

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5Rg/lw-
 REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2 3
 DATE OF REVIEW 1-24-91



(C) ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
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 OTHERWISE

My dear [redacted] (C)

We recently learned that Paul Leroy Robeson, the much-publicized Negro concert singer, plans to travel to Australia in the near future to conduct a concert tour. The expected duration of his tour is three months.

Robeson was born on April 9, 1898, at Princeton, New Jersey, and has been self-employed as a concert singer and actor since approximately 1923. He maintains a residence at 16 Jumel Terrace, New York, New York; however, since July, 1958, he has maintained a residence and headquarters for his activities in London, England. He possesses a valid United States Passport Number 1145187.

According to sources who have furnished reliable information in the past, Robeson was a concealed member of the Communist Party, USA, from the 1930s to 1945; reportedly stated in 1952 that he was a communist; made numerous public appearances in the United States from 1950 to 1957 which were either sponsored, guided, or influenced by the Communist Party, USA; has frequently been in contact with Soviet and satellite officials in the United States, Russia, England and many other countries; and was publicly reported to have met with Nikita Khrushchev on occasions in Russia in 1958 and 1959.

REC-26 100-12304-615

Robeson has also been reported by several sources who have furnished reliable information in the past and by various publications to have been active throughout the years as an officer, sponsor or member of numerous organizations which have been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

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- 1 - Foreign Liaison Unit (Route through for review)
- 1 - New York (100-25857) (Paul Robeson)

SEE NOTE ON YELLOW PAGE

63 NOV 4 1960
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[REDACTED]

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Some of these organizations are the Council on African Affairs; American Peace Crusade; American Youth for Democracy; China Welfare Appeal, Incorporated; Civil Rights Congress; National Negro Congress; and National Committee to Win Amnesty for Smith Act Victims. In addition, Robeson has been reported to have been active as an officer, sponsor or member of numerous other Communist Party front organizations, including such organizations as the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee, Second World Peace Congress, and National Council of American-Soviet Friendship.

In addition, Robeson, who is often quoted in publications throughout the world, has frequently made public statements wherein he has been consistent in his praise of the Soviet Union and communist and related parties throughout the world.

[REDACTED]

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

NOTE ON YELLOW:

Robeson is key figure of the New York Office. Information regarding proposed travel to Australia developed through [REDACTED] who, when recently in contact with Robeson in Europe, was informed of such plans by Robeson. It is noted that State Department, in recent intra-Department communications, carbon copies furnished Bureau, indicates that State Department office in Australia is being alerted to possible travel by Robeson to Australia. Letter classified "Confidential" inasmuch as considerable information contained herein was furnished by current active informants, the disclosure of which to unauthorized persons could impair security of informants resulting in injury to the national defense.

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DATE 1-24-81 BY SP5 Rlg/ll

PAUL LEROY ROBESON

Robeson, the internationally known and frequently quoted Negro concert singer, is again parading foreign soil as a propagandist for the international communist conspiracy. Now 62, the misguided artist, whose early achievements as a singer, scholar, and athlete, including all-American football honors, were unequalled, has achieved even greater stature as a "dupe" of the Soviet Union and international communism.

In pursuit of his concert activities, he has traveled abroad extensively since the 1920's. Because of activities detrimental to United States' interests abroad, his passport privileges were revoked in 1950 and withheld until 1958 when, as a result of the Supreme Court decision regarding issuance of passports, they were restored. Again given leave to travel, Robeson journeyed to England in 1968, where he has since maintained a headquarters for his activities. It is significant that he has not since returned to the United States even to visit his son Paul Robeson, Jr. However, he has spent considerable time in the Soviet Union, where he has associated with high Russian officials, including the desk-pounding number one communist, Nikita Khrushchev.

In view of his reputation as a Soviet apologist and communist propagandist, Robeson's frequent appearances at, or support of, communist sponsored affairs throughout the world, together with his outspoken comments at such affairs, have received widespread coverage in the international press. His utterances have been consistent in their praise of the Soviet Union, and its satellite countries, with particular emphasis on his mistaken but confirmed belief that these countries desire peace. Most distasteful to the informed world are Robeson's accompanying statements, always critical of his country of birth and its policies, foreign and domestic. Certainly such expressions by an American traveling abroad under United States endorsement and protection cannot have

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

CONFIDENTIAL

Reporting Office NEW YORK	Office of Origin NEW YORK	Date 11/16/60	Investigative Period 10/4 - 11/7/60
TITLE OF CASE ESLANDA CORDOZO ROBESON aka		Report made by [REDACTED]	Typed By mep
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE		CHARACTER OF CASE SECURITY MATTER - C CLASS. & EXT. BY <u>SP-5 R. J. H. W.</u> REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2 DATE OF REVIEW <u>1-24-81</u>	

REFERENCE: Report of SA [REDACTED] at New York, dated 11/16/59.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Subject's husband, PAUL LEROY ROBESON, is a Key Figure of the NYO, NY file 100-25857, Bufile 100-12304. (u)

[REDACTED] (u)

Mr. WALTER WALSH, American Consul, Passport Section, American Embassy, London, advised on 7/25/60, that authority has just been received from the State Department, Washington, to issue PAUL ROBESON a new passport. [REDACTED]

Approved <i>[Signature]</i>	Special Agent In Charge	Do not write in spaces below	
Copies made: 4 - Bureau (100-12304) (RM) 3 - New York (100-56680)		100-12304-616	109
ATR: PRIVATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP(S) OF [REDACTED] AGENCY FILE NO. 100-12304-616 DATE FORW. 11/29/60 HOW FORW. [REDACTED] BY [REDACTED]		15 NOV 17 1960	

Classified by [REDACTED]
Exempt from GDS, Category [REDACTED]
Date of Declassification Indefinite

57 NOV 29 1960

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-56680

ADMINISTRATIVE (cont'd.)

[REDACTED]

It appears the new passport will be issued shortly.

[REDACTED] (u)

The Passport Office, US Department of State, advised on 7/22/60, that PAUL LEROY ROBESON on 5/17/60, applied for a renewal of his passport number 1145187, which was issued on 6/25/58. (u)

On 7/14/60, the Passport Office authorized the American Embassy in London, England, to renew ROBESON'S passport. (u)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] reported on 2/29/60, that BEN DAVIS on that date contacted the Con Edison Company, New York City, concerning the bill of ESLANDA ROBESON, 16 Jumel Terrace, New York City. DAVIS informed a representative of the Con Edison Company that a check was on the way for payment of the above bill, of around \$81.00. BEN DAVIS stated that he wanted to make certain that the electricity at the above address was not discontinued. The representative of the Con Edison Company assured BEN DAVIS that service would be continued if the check for the bill arrived soon. (u)

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NY 100-56680

It is to be noted that PAUL and ESLANDA ROBESON resided at 16 Jumel Terrace, New York City, prior to their departure for Europe and they still consider it as their legal residence. (u)

"The Worker", an east coast Communist weekly newspaper, in its editorial of 5/1/60, page 12, identified BENJAMIN J. DAVIS, JR., as National Secretary of the CP, USA. (u)

INFORMANTS:

Identity of Source

File Number Where Located

NY T-1

[REDACTED] (c)

100-56680-669 ✓
100-25857-4220 ✓

NY T-2

[REDACTED]

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NY T-3

[REDACTED] (c)

[REDACTED] (c)

NY T-4

[REDACTED] (c)

NY T-5

[REDACTED] (c)

[REDACTED] (c) ✓

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NY 100-56680

INFORMANTS (cont'd.)

Identity of Source

File Number Where Located

NY T-6
Not utilized

NY T-7

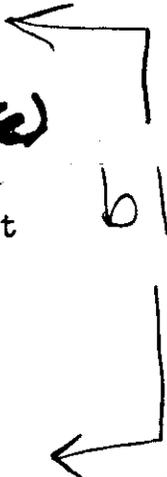
[REDACTED] (c)

100-56680-659 (c)

Confidential sources utilized in the characterization of the US Festival Committee are set forth as follows in the order of their use:

[REDACTED] (c)

(x)



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Copy to:

Report of: [REDACTED]
Date: November 16, 1960

Office: New York, New York

b7c

Field Office File No.: New York 100-56680

Bureau File No.: 100-12304

Title: ESLANDA CORDOZO ROBESON

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE.

Character: SECURITY MATTER - C

Synopsis: ESLANDA and PAUL ROBESON continue to reside in the United Kingdom. Article appearing in "The Worker" of 3/20/60, captioned "ESLANDA ROBESON Appeals for WINSTON".

[REDACTED] ESLANDA ROBESON sent greetings to International Women's Day meeting of 3/20/60. Subject reported in February, 1960, to have been ~~in a hospital in Moscow~~ and planned to remain in Moscow 3 or 4 more weeks.
[REDACTED]

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1-24-81

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 R/dg/Hw
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2 1.3.3
DATE OF REVIEW 11/16/90

11/16/90

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NY 100-56680

DETAILS:

I. BACKGROUND

A. Residence and Employment

On July 22, 1960, the files of the Passport Office, United States Department of State, reflected that PAUL ROBESON when applying for a renewal of his passport gave his legal residence as 16 Jumel Terrace, New York City, and current address as 45 Connaught Square, London, England.

[REDACTED] (c)

II. AFFILIATION WITH THE COMMUNIST PARTY (CP) MOVEMENT

A. Evidence of CP Sympathies

[REDACTED] (c)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (c)

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FBI Headquarters file 100-12304-616 page 3

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NY 100-56680

[REDACTED]

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(c)
The International Youth Festival referred to in the article is documented in the Appendix of this report.

"The Worker", dated March 20, 1960, on page eight, column three, contained an article captioned "ESLANDA ROBESON Appeals for WINSTON" by ESLANDA ROBESON. The article is as follows:

"LONDON — The meanness and inhumanity revealed by prison authorities in the neglect and persecution of Henry Winston during the early and observable stages of his very serious illness, is another manifestation of the dreadful result of the anti-communist hysteria and obsession in the United States.

"There is nothing constructive in anti-communism. It merely breeds hatred. It does not even attain its objective of destroying communism. Everyone knows that there are 1,000 million people living and working, growing and developing, building Socialism under the leadership of Communist Parties in other parts of the world. These 1,000 million people are very very strong, and becoming stronger every day.

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NY 100-56680

"Everybody knows now what the U. S. is against. It is much more important for everyone to know what the United States is for. The United States, and other 'Free Nations' of the West declare every hour on the hour, all over the face of the earth, that they are for Democracy.

"My Negro people will know that the U. S. is really for Democracy when, and not until when, we became first class citizens and along with all other American citizens, we can enjoy our Civil Rights.

"The African and Asian peoples know all about Democracy. They remember that the Democracy of Britain was not for them; that the 'Fraternite Egalite,' etc. of France was not for them; it was only after they fought and died and their leaders were imprisoned and they finally achieved their independence, that the 'Free Nations' began all this screaming about Democracy.

"The frantic anti-communism, the feverish hounding and persecution of 20 or 50 or 100 Communists in the United States — when one considers the 1,000 million of them in the rest of the world — is pathetic and tragic and futile.

"Whatever Henry Winston's political convictions are, I believe them to be honest convictions, else he would not have had the courage to endure such contemptible and brutal persecution for them. So I wish him speedy and permanent recovery, and say to him, across the miles: Be well, Man."

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NY 100-56680

HENRY WINSTON,^{SI} National Organization
Secretary of the CP, USA, was sentenced
on October 21, 1949, under the Smith
Act of 1940, to confinement for five
years and fined \$10,000.00 on July 2,
1951. WINSTON became a fugitive and
on March 5, 1956, surrendered to Federal
authorities, Southern District of New
York. On March 26, 1956, WINSTON was
sentenced to three years for contempt
of court, to be served subsequent to
the sentence imposed in the Smith Act,
1940 conviction.

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NY 100-56680

"The Worker" is an east coast Communist weekly newspaper.

[redacted] advised on [redacted] that greetings from ESLANDA ROBESON from Moscow were read to the International Women's Day meeting held on [redacted] in New York, New York.

Concerning the International Women's Day, a column in "The Worker" of March 8, 1959, on page 9, entitled "How It Began" by ELIZABETH GURLEY FLYNN stated in part that March, 1960, will mark the 50th anniversary of International Women's Day.

The article went on to explain that the day was so designated by a vote of delegates at the International Socialist Congress held in Copenhagen in 1910. It was stated further that the day is not celebrated in the United States to the extent that it is in other countries, especially the Socialist countries.

On [redacted] advised that ELIZABETH GURLEY FLYNN was elected National Field Organizer of the CP, USA at a CP National Committee meeting held on June 28, 1958.

[redacted]



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NY 100-56680

During January and February, 1952, JOHN LAUTNER, who was a CP member for over 20 years and was former Chairman of the New York State Review Commission of the CP, testified before the Subversive Activities Control Board for the purpose of determining whether the CP, USA is a "Communist Action Organization" within the Internal Security Act of 1950. LAUTNER testified that he knew HALOIS MOOREHEAD, also known as HALOIS ROBINSON, to be a member of the CP as late as the spring of 1949.

III. MISCELLANEOUS

[REDACTED]

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D

It is to be noted that PAUL ROBESON resided at 16 Jumel Terrace, New York City, prior to his departure for Europe and still considers it as his legal residence.

"The Worker", in its editorial of May 1, 1960, page 12, identified BENJAMIN J. DAVIS, JR., as National Secretary of the CP, USA.

[REDACTED]

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NY 100-56680

[REDACTED]

(c)
"The Worker" in its edition of February 7, 1960, page 5, column 1, contained a photograph of PAUL and ESLANDA ROBESON on the occasion of their arrival in Moscow, Russia.

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

(c)

[REDACTED]

(c)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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NY 100-56680

APPENDIX

UNITED STATES FESTIVAL COMMITTEE
(Seventh World Youth Festival)

On [redacted] a source made available a background statement on the Seventh World Youth Festival distributed by the United States Festival Committee then in process of organization in New York City. This statement sets forth that the Festival idea is supported by the World Federation of Democratic Youth, (cited as a Communist organization in the House Committee on Un-American Activities, Guide to Subversive Organizations and Publications, January 2, 1957, page 94.) with headquarters in Budapest, Hungary, and the International Union of Students, (cited as a Communist organization in the House Committee on Un-American Activities Guide, above, on page 48.), with headquarters in Prague, Czechoslovakia. It was decided to hold the 7th World Youth Festival in Vienna, Austria, during the summer of 1959.

The statement made available by the above source on [redacted] set forth that the Festival has as its aim the desire to promote understanding and friendly cooperation between the youth of nations of the world.

A second source on [redacted] made available information concerning [redacted] of the CP, USA, held in New York City, on [redacted]. The Youth Festival to be held in Vienna was discussed and those attending were urged to get delegates to attend this festival and to help raise money to defray delegate expenses.

The CP, USA, has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

A third source on [redacted] advised that the United States Festival Committee maintains Post Office Box 98, at Peter Stuyvesant Station, New York 9, New York.

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22



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
New York, New York
November 16, 1960

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No. New York 100-56680

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Title Eslanda Cordozo Robeson

Character Security Matter - C

Reference Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated and captioned as above at New York.

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All sources (except any listed below) used in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

[redacted]

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23



THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

American Embassy
Paris 8, France

Date: November 16, 1960
To: Director, FBI (100-12304)
From: Legat, Paris (100-715)
Subject: PAUL LEROY ROBESON
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Re Paris letter 10/10/60.

No further information has been received [redacted]
[redacted] regarding the activities of the captioned
individual. [redacted]

RUC
2 - Bureau
1 - Paris
NJP:CM
(3)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 1-24-81 BY sp-5R1g/dw

cc 677
Reg. Rec'd
to Paris 11-25-60
by Paris 11-22-60
SKJ:mas

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REC-52 100-12304-617

6 NOV 21 1960

SUPV. CONTROL
R. J. [signature]

NOV 28 1960

24

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)

DATE: 11/22/60

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FROM : LEGAT, BONN (105-720)

SUBJECT: PAUL LEROY ROBESON
IS - C

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CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 R/g/dw
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2 2-3
DATE OF REVIEW 1-24-91

Remylet 10/13/60. (u)

[REDACTED] (c)

[REDACTED] (c)

The 10/14/60 edition of the East German English-language propaganda pamphlet "German Democratic Report" also carried an article on ROBESON's visit to East Berlin, referring to the honors afforded him and noted that he ended his visit there on 10/7/60 when he entertained the crowds gathered in East Berlin's Marx-Engels Square celebrating the 11th anniversary of the German Democratic Republic. (u)

[REDACTED] (c)

[REDACTED] (c)

Classified by 2650 XLR/42
Exempt from GDS, Category 1
Date of Declassification Indefinite

Refer to AG...
for info...

100-12304-618

HUC
5 - Bureau (Enc-2)
(3-NY: 105-38595)
1 - Bonn
(6) QAV:HI
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REC-39
12-2-60
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11 NOV 28 1960

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)
Re: Bonn 105-720

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

11/22/60

Referred to
Dept of ⁴¹ Army
for their
review &
return to
FBI
↳

[REDACTED]

(u) Per Army
11-10-71

The "Bulletin des Weltfriedensrates" (Bulletin of the World Peace Council), Nr. 12 (Volume VII), dated October 1960, which is issued in conjunction with the communist organ "Stimmen Zur Zeit" (Voices of the Times), published monthly in Austria, carried an article regarding PAUL ROBESON. According to this article, ROBESON, a member of the World Peace Committee, was in Budapest, Hungary from September 10 to September 15, 1960 at the invitation of the Hungarian Peace Committee. It was also stated that he took part in numerous gatherings of peace adherents in Budapest, as well as other Hungarian cities. (u)

This case is being closed at this time but this office will remain alert for any information which may become available regarding the activities of the subject. (u)

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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F B I

Date: 11/25/60

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Transmit the following in PLAIN TEXT
(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)
FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (100-25857)
SUBJECT: PAUL LEROY ROBESON
IS-C
(OO: NY)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5R/g/d/w
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW 1-24-91

Enclosed herewith are copies of a letterhead memorandum reflecting a contemplated trip to Cuba by PAUL ROBESON, Sr.

The sources utilized in the attached letterhead memorandum are:

- Confidential Source A - [REDACTED]
- Confidential Source B - [REDACTED]
- Confidential Source C - [REDACTED]
- Confidential Source D - [REDACTED]

The attached memorandum has been classified confidential because it contains information from informants the disclosure of which would be detrimental to the defense interests of the United States and seriously hamper the investigation of the CPUSA.

- 3 Bureau (100-12304) (Encl. 8) (RM)
- 1-New York (100-95550) [REDACTED] (414)
- 1-New York (100-23825) (BENJAMIN J. DAVIS) (415)
- 1-New York (100-56680) (ESLANDA ROBESON) (412)
- 1-New York (100-25857) (PAUL ROBESON, Sr.) (412)

RER:rmy
(8)

REC-38

100-12304-619

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

NOV 26 1960

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

P.B. 1-24-91
1-24-91
Spullion

Handwritten notes and signatures on the right side of the page, including 'Lester' and 'm...'

DEC 8 1960
8 ENCL

EX-115



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No. Bu 100-12304

New York, New York
November 25, 1960

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) OF 100-12304-611
DATE 11-27-77

Re Paul Leroy Robeson
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 1-24-81 BY SP5RLG/dw

[REDACTED] advised on November 23, 1960, that Paul Robeson, Sr. and his wife Eslanda, were then in Australia where Robeson is completing a successful concert tour. Robeson is scheduled to be back in London, England, on December 6, 1960, following which he is to appear in Cuba.

[REDACTED] Robeson's son, Paul, Jr., has received an invitation from "the guy" in New York to visit Cuba at the time his parents are in that country. The source related that Paul Robeson, Jr. stated that "the guy" in New York said it would be like a "national holiday" when Paul Robeson, Sr. appears in Cuba.

[REDACTED] related that Benjamin J. Davis stated that Paul Robeson, Sr. would be the personal guest of Fidel Castro in Cuba. Davis further stated that he would "give anything" to go to Cuba and may try or at least put up a fight on it.

[REDACTED] reported on November 24, 1960, Benjamin J. Davis stated Paul Robeson, Sr. is the "greatest man in the world." Davis stated that Robeson's going to Cuba will be one of the greatest things that ever happened to Cuba, it will give Cuba world recognition. According to [REDACTED] Davis stated that this is a great thing for the Negro people and for the Communist Party. Davis indicated he hoped the Party would give Paul Robeson, Sr.'s visit to Cuba all-out support.

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

AGENCY State, FBI, CIA, ACSI
REQ. REC'D
DATE FORW. 12-1-66
FORM 175
BY GR / [Signature]

DECLASSIFIED BY 12659 [Signature]
MAY 31 1977

ENCLOSURE

AGENCY REC'D
DATE FORW.
FORM

Re: Paul Leroy Robeson

[REDACTED] related Davis stated he was seriously considering going to Cuba during the time Paul Robeson, Sr. is there "one way or another."

[REDACTED] has advised that in June, 1955, the Council on African Affairs dissolved and, at the time of dissolution, Paul Robeson, Sr. was Chairman of the organization.

The Council on African Affairs has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

[REDACTED] reported that Paul Robeson, Jr., was elected a member of the National Committee of the Communist Party, United States of America (CP, USA) at its 17th National Convention held December 10-13, 1959.

The CP, USA has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

"The Worker" December 20, 1959, reported that Benjamin J. Davis, at a meeting of the National Committee, CP, USA, on December 14, 1959, was elected National Secretary and a member of the five-man Secretariat to conduct the current work of the Party.

Davis was convicted in the United States District Court, Southern District of New York, on October 14, 1949, for violation of the Smith Act.

"The Worker" is an East Coast Communist weekly publication.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

~~SECRET~~

Reporting Office NEW YORK	Office of Origin NEW YORK	Date MAR 7 1961	Investigative Period 9/8/60-5203/61
TITLE OF CASE PAUL LEROY ROBESON aka		Report made by [REDACTED]	Typed By: Job
CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C		EX 104	

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
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Synopsis:

CLASS. & EXT. BY **SP-5 Rlg/ldw**
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2 **1-2**
DATE OF REVIEW **2-7-91**

REFERENCE

Report of SA **[REDACTED]** 9/7/60,
at NY.

-P*-

*pp. 3, 4 & 5 rewritten
at Bureau and copy sent
to NY by 0-7-3/13/61-MET.*

ADMINISTRATIVE

The subject, PAUL LEROY ROBESON, is a key figure
of the NYO. (u)

Subject's wife, ESLANDA GOODE ROBESON, NY file
100-56680, Bufile 100-12304, is carried on the SI of the
NYO. (u)

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY SLIP(S)

Approved

Special Agent
In Charge

DATE: **100-12304-622** REC-74
EX 109

Copies made:

4-Bureau (100-12304)(RM)
3-New York (100-25857)

Classified by **2650 YLR**
Exempt from GDS, Category **142**
Date of Declassification Indefinite
MAY 1 1977

MAR 9 1961

AGENCY **RAO (0-6); State (0-14.2)**
REG **CTA (0-14.2)**
DATE FORN **3/17/61**
HOW FORN **R/S**
BY **ME/TLC**

SUBV CONTROL

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NY 100-25857

On 10/13/60, the Security Office of the US Mission in Berlin furnished copies of various articles from East Berlin and East German newspapers on the dates 10/6 through 10/9/60, which reported the presence of the subject as an honored guest at various functions in East Berlin and listed the various honors afforded him as were described in a letter of 10/13/60, from Legat, Bonn. (u)

[REDACTED] (S)

b1 [REDACTED] (S)

[REDACTED] (S)

Referral to Dept of the Army for their review and return to the FBI
Note: Some info as serial 618

Information concerning articles from L'Humanite were furnished by Legat, Paris to Bureau by letters dated 10/10/60, 9/23/60 and 9/1/60. (u)

COVER PAGE

-E-

~~SECRET~~

NY 100-25857

~~SECRET~~

INFORMANTS:

Identity of Source

File # Where Located

(c)



(c) b1

(S)

LEADS:

NEW YORK

At New York, New York

1. Will remain alert for information concerning the return of ROBESON to the US.
2. Will continue to follow and report his activities while abroad and in the US upon his return. (u)

COVER PAGE

~~SECRET~~

NY 100-25857

1. Subject's name is included in the Security Index. ~~SECRET~~
2. The data appearing on the Security Index card are current.
3. Changes on the Security Index card are necessary and Form FD-122 has been submitted to the Bureau.
4. A suitable photograph is is not available.
5. Careful consideration has been given to each source concealed and T symbols were utilized only in those instances where the identities of the sources must be concealed.
6. Subject is employed in a key facility and _____ is charged with security responsibility. Interested agencies are _____
7. This report is classified CONFIDENTIAL because (state reason) _____

8. Subject previously interviewed (dates) _____
- Subject was not reinterviewed because (state reason) _____ he is not residing in the US.

9. This case no longer meets the Security Index criteria and a letter has been directed to the Bureau recommending cancellation of the Security Index card.
10. This case has been re-evaluated in the light of the Security Index criteria and it continues to fall within such criteria because (state reason) _____
- ROBESON was National Chairman of the Council on African Affairs until its dissolution in June, 1955. He has had close contacts with national leaders of the CP, USA. He has publicly praised the Soviet Union while abroad. He was elected Vice-President of the British-Soviet Friendship Society in May, 1959, and has been active in functions sympathetic to Communism abroad during 1960.
11. Subject's SI card is is not tabbed Detcom.
- Subject's activities do do not warrant Detcom tabbing.

COVER PAGE

-G*-

~~SECRET~~

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

CONFIDENTIAL

Copy to:

Report of:

[REDACTED]

Office: New York

b7c

Date:

MAR 7 1961

Field Office File No.:

NY 100-25857

Bureau File No.:

100-12304

Title:

PAUL LEROY ROBESON

Character:

INTERNAL SECURITY - C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE.

Synopsis:

[REDACTED]

(c)

b1

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OTHERWISE.

-P*-

CONFIDENTIAL

1-24-81
CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 R-J/gdw
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2 1-3
DATE OF REVIEW ~~1-24-81~~ 3-7-91

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-25857

DETAILS

I. BACKGROUND

A. Residence and Employment

[REDACTED] (c)

On July 22, 1960, the files of the Passport Office, United States Department of State, reflected that PAUL ROBESON when applying for a renewal of his passport gave his legal residence as 16 Jumel Terrace, New York City, and current address as 45 Connaught Square, London, England.

[REDACTED] (c)

II. AFFILIATION WITH THE COMMUNIST PARTY (CP) MOVEMENT

A. Evidence of CP Sympathies

On September 22, 1960, the United States Department of State furnished information concerning a press conference by subject in Budapest in which subject is quoted as stating, in part, "However, I do not think I shall deprive myself for a longer period from the possibility of paying a visit to 600 million Chinese who are building Socialism and are true friends of my people. I shall be among them much sooner than my passport will permit".

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



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(c)

According to information received from the Department of State, Washington, D. C., in November, 1960, PAUL ROBESON gave a series of three concerts in Auckland, New Zealand, on October 18, 29 and 31, 1960, before sell-out audiences.

The Department of State advised that at a press conference held on October 17, 1960, ROBESON called the Western democracies "pro-Fascist" and criticized the United States for supporting Franco and Chiang Kai-shek. After referring to Little Rock, he said that he would have "asked thousands of Negroes from all over the United States to go there armed" and he was sure nothing would have happened. When questioned as to his philosophy, he replied that he was a "Marxist - a rigid Marxist".

PAUL ROBESON's remarks made at the above-mentioned press conference were reported on the third page of the October 18, 1960, issue of the "New Zealand Herald".

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-25357

The Department of State also advised that while on this tour the communist weekly paper, "People's Voice", gave prominent coverage to PAUL ROBESON in its October 19 and 26, 1960, and November 2, 1960, issues, playing up his role as a "peace fighter" and "champion of human rights".

The November 2, 1960, edition of the "People's Voice" carried PAUL ROBESON's remarks before the waterside workers in Wellington on October 28, 1960. At this gathering, he referred to the fact that his father had been a slave and that the Negroes in the United States had not yet attained world equality but were working toward it. He alleged that the Welsh miners had first made him aware that the struggle of the Negro people was a class struggle based on economic facts, that the bosses wanted their labor for nothing - they (the Welsh miners) taught him that their struggle was also a class struggle and that there could be no separation between the two. Therefore, he became an active participant in the struggle. At this meeting, ROBESON was offered and accepted lifetime membership in the Wellington Watersiders Union. Austria

In December, 1960, the Department of State, Washington, D. C., advised that while on a recent visit to Adelaide, Australia, PAUL ROBESON gave two well-attended public concerts, a free performance for the Waterside Workers Federation, and several radio, television and press interviews. He also attended a reception given by the Bureka Youth League and the Australian-Soviet Friendship Society (both communist affiliates) in honor of a visiting Soviet youth delegation. Both his performances and his interviews were heavily loaded with propaganda designed to sell himself as a messenger of peace, brotherhood, and the rights of man.

-4-

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

43

The Department of State advised that the following quotes from reviewers show how ROBESON's message was received in Australia:

"What a fine man Paul Robeson looked and sounded in Sunday's 'Spotlight', on Channel 2.

"He is a Crusader with so much to say it all comes gushing out of him, in words and in song...

"'Set my people free' is the theme of Mr. Robeson's message on behalf of the negro race, and he speaks it, sings it, and lives it."

News, November 16, 1960

"...in the minds of everyone present, including Robeson, was the thought of the unique representativeness of the singer, who not only 'drifted into drama and singing with a passivity which takes the breath away,' as the programme note puts it, but has drifted (not quite so casually) into the position of a kind of one-man band (or league) of nations."

Advertiser, November 25, 1960

"The second concert by Paul Robeson on Saturday night confirmed the first impression of simple sincerity, both in his art and in his mission of brotherhood."

Advertiser, November 28, 1960

"Variety", a weekly theatrical newspaper, contained an article in its November 30, 1960, edition as follows:

"PAUL ROBESON 'TOP' WITH AUSSIE PUBLIC IN HIS 1ST DOWN UNDER P.A. TOUR

"Melbourne, Nov. 29.

"PAUL ROBESON, previously only known here through recordings, and films, is tops and his voice is 'as good as ever' according to Aussie opinion.

"ROBESON, touring Down Under and New Zealand, has already given one concert in Brisbane and four in Sydney. He is giving three here, then does two in Adelaide and two in Perth. He's playing to capacity or near-capacity houses.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-25857

"At his Melbourne debut last week he got the cheer treatment --even before beginning his recital. These demonstrations are usually reserved here for teenage warblers. A large percentage of the capacity audience in the huge Melbourne Town Hall was made up of older age groups.

"ROBESON, with great ease, goes through Beethoven, Schubert, Negro spirituals, quotes poetry and gives an excerpt from 'Othello'. Interspersed are references to 'peace', injustices', 'brothers under the skin' etc., which gain much applause-- for it is applause for a great and superb artist.

"At one point in last week's performance ROBESON said he had been made 'an honorary member of the 'Wharfies' Association.' This was in reference to a current strike here of wharf workers and public's sympathy is definitely not with them. Yet this statement too, said half jocularly, half seriously, received wild applause.

"ROBESON says he hopes to be back Down Under next year and appear with an Aussie cast in a production of 'Othello.'"

[REDACTED]

(cc)

b1

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-25857

[REDACTED] (c)

[REDACTED] (c)

[REDACTED] advised on November 23, 1960, that PAUL ROBESON, SR., and his wife ESLANDA, were then in Australia where ROBESON is completing a successful concert tour. ROBESON is scheduled to be back in London, England, on December 6, 1960, following which he is to appear in Cuba.

According to [REDACTED] ROBESON's son, PAUL, JR., has received an invitation from an unnamed individual in New York to visit Cuba at the time his parents are in that country. The source related that PAUL ROBESON, JR., stated that the unnamed individual in New York said it would be like a "national holiday" when PAUL ROBESON, SR., appears in Cuba.

DAVISST [REDACTED] related that BENJAMIN J. DAVIS stated that PAUL ROBESON, SR., would be the personal guest of FIDEL CASTRO in Cuba. DAVIS further stated that he would "give anything" to go to Cuba and may try or at least put up a fight on it.

"The Worker", an east coast Communist weekly newspaper, in its editorial of May 1, 1960, page 12, identified BENJAMIN J. DAVIS as National Secretary of the CP, USA.

[REDACTED] advised on December 21, 1959, that at the 17th National Convention of the CP, USA, held December 10-13, 1959, PAUL ROBESON, JR. was elected to the National Committee of the CP, USA.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

116

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-25857

[REDACTED] advised on November 24, 1960, that BENJAMIN J. DAVIS stated PAUL ROBESON, SR., is the "greatest man in the world." DAVIS stated that ROBESON's going to Cuba will be one of the greatest things that ever happened to Cuba, it will give Cuba world recognition. According to [REDACTED] DAVIS stated that this is a great thing for the Negro people and for the Communist Party. DAVIS indicated he hoped the Party would give PAUL ROBESON, SR.'s visit to Cuba all-out support.

b7
D

The "Berliner Zeitung", an East German newspaper, reported on September 14, 1960, that PAUL ROBESON, among others, will take part in the East Berlin Cultural Festival, October 1-16, 1960.

The publication "Neues Deutschland" (New Germany), which is the organ of the Central Committee of the East German Communist Party (SED) reported in its October 6, 1960 edition that the subject, during his stay in East Berlin on October 5, 1960, had been the recipient of the following honors:

1. The subject was awarded the "Stern der Voelkerfreundschaft" (Star of People's Friendship) by WALTER ULBRICHT, Chairman of the Council of Ministers. ROBESON is the first recipient of this honor.

U. RAY

2. Professor Doctor MARTIN LEHNERT, Dean of the Philosophy Faculty of Humboldt University, conferred an honorary Doctor of Philosophy on the subject.

Sumner

3. Professor Doctor Doctor WALTER FRIEDRICH, President of the "Deutschen Friedensrat" (German Peace Council) conferred the "Deutsche Friedensmedaille" (German Peace Medal)

U. RAY

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

U. RAY

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-25857

The October 6, 1960 issue of "L'Humanite", daily organ of the French Communist Party, contained an article, datelined October 5, 1960, at Berlin, as follows:

"PAUL ROBESON today received the degree of Doctor Honoris Causa from Humboldt University in East Berlin. The great singer is presently in East Berlin, where he will give several concerts during the 'Cultural Week' organized in honor of the 11th anniversary of the proclamation of the 'Democratic German Republic' on October 7."

"The Worker", an East Coast Communist weekly newspaper, in its edition of November 6, 1960, on page 5, column 1, contained an article captioned "Democratic Germany Honors ROBESON", commenting on the honoring of PAUL ROBESON in Berlin on the occasion of the eleventh anniversary of the founding of the German Democratic Republic. At a press conference, when ROBESON was asked about his immediate plans, ROBESON announced that he was about to leave for a six weeks concert tour in Australia, that toward the end of the year he hoped to make an extended trip to Africa and that after that he would go to Cuba.

The October 14, 1960 edition of the East German English-language propaganda pamphlet "German Democratic Report" also carried an article on ROBESON's visit to East Berlin, referring to the honors afforded him and noted that he ended his visit there on October 7, 1960 when he entertained the crowds gathering in East Berlin's Marx-Engels Square celebrating the 11th anniversary of the German Democratic Republic.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The "Bulletin des Weltfriedensrates" (Bulletin of the World Peace Council), Nr. 12 (Volume VII), dated October, 1960, published monthly in Austria, carried an article regarding PAUL ROBESON. According to this article, ROBESON, a member of the World Peace Committee, was in Budapest, Hungary, from September 10 to September 15, 1960, at the invitation of the Hungarian Peace Committee. It was also stated that he took part in numerous gatherings of peace adherents in Budapest, as well as other Hungarian cities.

An article in the September 1, 1960, edition of "L'Humanite", stated that subject will take part in the annual Communist Party festival, which is sponsored by "L'Humanite", on September 4-5, 1960 at La Courneuve, a suburbe of Paris.



(c)

An article appeared in "L'Humanite" dated September 3, 1960, which commented on subject's landing on French soil on September 2, 1960, at the Bourget Airport to take part in the festival sponsored by "L'Humanite" on September 4-5, 1960, at La Courneuve, a suburb of Paris.

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NY 100-25857

[REDACTED] advised on October 3, 1960, that LOUIS WEINSTOCK in discussing his recent trip to Europe stated that when WEINSTOCK's daughter, SUSAN, was married in Hungary, PAUL ROBESON, who was giving a concert there, was a witness at this marriage. 67D

"The Worker", in its edition of October 23, 1960, page 6, column 1, contained a photograph of PAUL ROBESON under the caption "US-Hungarian Relations Strengthen," and stated that new bonds between the United States and Hungary were tied in Budapest on September 15, 1960, when SUSAN WEINSTOCK, daughter of LOUIS WEINSTOCK, General Manager of "The Worker", was married. Among those present at the ceremony was PAUL ROBESON who appeared as a witness for the bride. U.Y.
Hungary

CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-25857

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

On November 7, 1960, the Department of State, Washington, D. C., furnished the following information concerning PAUL ROBESON's concerts in Auckland, New Zealand:

No civic reception or other formal type of welcome was tendered to ROBESON during his stay in Auckland, although the Mayor, D. M. ROBINSON, did receive him and his wife at a private morning tea at the Mayor's residence. Aucklanders studiously refrained from commenting to the Principal Officer and Vice Consul about ROBESON's early outburst to the press or his political leanings. No inquiries of any kind were received by the Consulate regarding ROBESON's status as an American citizen or the circumstances under which he was originally denied a passport by the Department.

On December 15, 1960, the Department of State, Washington, D. C., furnished the following information concerning the propaganda impact of PAUL ROBESON's visit to Adelaide, Australia:

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-25857

"The recent visit to Adelaide by PAUL ROBESON must be accounted a complete propaganda success. He was accepted by South Australians with the naive, uncritical welcome they extend to almost all entertainers from 'overseas', regardless of merit.

"ROBESON gave two well-attended public concerts, a free performance for the Waterside Workers Federation, and several radio, television and press interviews. He also attended a reception given by the Eureka Youth League and the Australian-Soviet Friendship Society (both Communist affiliates) in honor of a visiting Soviet youth delegation. Both his performances and his interviews were heavily loaded with propaganda designed to sell himself as a messenger of peace, brotherhood, and the rights of man. If Adelaide found such propaganda strange content for a musical concert, it made no public (and little private) comment.

"The following quotes from reviewers show how well ROBESON's message succeeded:

"What a fine man PAUL ROBESON looked and sounded in Sunday's "Spotlight", on Channel 2.

"He is a Crusader with so much to say it all comes gushing out of him, in words and in song...

"Set my people free" is the theme of Mr. ROBESON's message on behalf of the negro race, and he speaks it, sings it, and lives it.'

"News, November 16, 1960

"...in the minds of everyone present, including ROBESON, was the thought of the unique representativeness of the singer, who not only "drifted into drama and singing with a passivity which takes the breath away," as the programme note puts it, but has drifted (not quite so casually) into the position of a kind of one-man band (or league) of nations.'

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-25857

"The second concert by PAUL ROBESON on Saturday night confirmed the first impression of simple sincerity, both in his art and in his mission of brotherhood."

"Advertiser, November 28, 1960

"Australians are by no means pro-Communist; the great majority are strongly anti-Communist. However, they are eager for novelty and, for the most part, completely indifferent to international politics. The few who are politically aware are proud of their political tolerance and would not miss a change to show how much more broad-minded they can be than the Americans. For this reason, the years of controversy caused by refusing ROBESON a passport undoubtedly increased the impact of his propaganda."

"Variety", a weekly theatrical newspaper, contained an article in its November 30, 1960 edition as follows:

"PAUL ROBESON 'TOP' WITH
AUSSIE PUBLIC IN HIS 1ST
DOWN UNDER P.A. TOUR

Melbourne, Nov. 29.

"PAUL ROBESON, previously only known here through recordings and films, is tops and his voice 'as good as ever' according to Aussie opinion.

"ROBESON, touring Down Under and New Zealand, has already given one concert in Brisbane and four in Sydney. He is giving three here, then does two in Adelaide and two in Perth. He's playing to capacity or near-capacity houses.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

New York, New York
MAR 7 1961

In Reply, Please Refer to

File No. NY 100-25857

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Title Paul Leroy Robeson

Character Internal Security - C

Reference is made to the report of
Special Agent [redacted], at New York, dated and
captioned as above.

b7c

All sources (except any listed below) used in referenced
communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

[redacted]

b7D

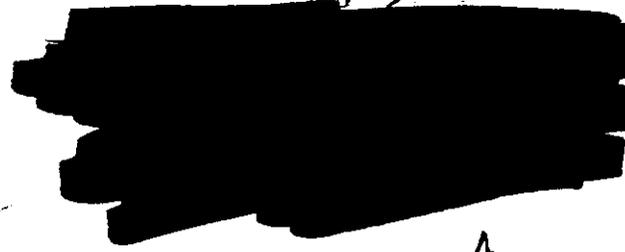
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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

511

March 6, 1961



b7C
Mr. J. E. Hoover
F.B.I. Dept.
Washington, D.C.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 1-24-81 BY SP-5 RLG/HW

MAR 8 1961

Dear Sir:

I am seeking information of the status of Mr. Paul Le Roy Robeson. I would like this information from you (if it is the policy of your office to do so) because I would like to do a series of talks on this person and would want to know his status in regards to your files. I would like to do a series of 100-12304-623
MAR 8 1961
CORRESPONDENCE
You truly
J. Edgar Hoover



b7C

1 - Mr. Farr

March 15, 1961

100-12304-623

EX 101

[REDACTED]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 1-24-81 BY SP-5 RLG/aw

67
C

Dear [REDACTED]

I have received your letter dated
March 6, 1961, and the interest which prompted
your communicating with me is indeed appreciated.

While I would like to be of assistance,
the jurisdiction and responsibilities of the FBI,
strictly an investigative agency of the Federal
Government, do not extend to furnishing evaluations
or comments concerning the character or integrity
of any individual, publication or organization.
I am sure you will understand the necessity for
this policy and will not infer that we do or do
not have in our files the information you desire.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

REC'D-READING ROOM
MAR 16 11 18 AM '61
F. B. I.

JFF:blw
(3)

SEE NOTE ON YELLOW PAGE TWO

- Tolson _____
- Parsons _____
- Mohr _____
- Belmont _____
- Callahan _____
- Conrad _____
- DeLoach _____
- Evans _____
- Malone _____
- Rosen _____
- Tavel _____
- Trotter _____
- W.C. Sullivan _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Ingram _____
- Gandy _____

MAILED 27
MAR 16 1961
COMM-FBI

Handwritten notes:
1st to [unclear] [unclear]
re status
[unclear] 2/23/61

51 MAR 23 1961

TELETYPE UNIT

56

NOTE ON YELLOW:

There are no identifiable references to correspondent. Paul LeRoy Robeson, about whom correspondent inquired, is the internationally known Negro concert singer. He has been traveling abroad since 1958. Robeson received All-American football honors and considerable fame as a scholar and singer. He has been associated with high Russian officials such as Nikita Khrushchev, Soviet Prime Minister. He has constantly favored Soviet Russia. (100-12344)

12304
Correspondent in his letter advised he was seeking information about the "status of Mr. Paul LeRoy Robeson" since he wished to do a series of talks on this person. In view of the manner in which correspondent's letter was written to furnish him literature would be inappropriate.

XXXXXX
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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- Deleted under exemption(s) _____ with no segregable material available for release to you.
- 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.
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For your information: _____

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FBI Headquarters File 100-12304 624

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FBIHQ File 100-12304 - Not Recorded dated 3-30-61

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For your information: _____

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

For your information: _____

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
FBI Headquarters file 100-12304 -625

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1 - Mr. Harbo
1 - Mr. Rachner

Legal Attache, London (100-1182) ~~TOP SECRET~~ April 4, 1961

Director, FBI (100-12304)

PAUL LEROY ROBESON
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

45T

[REDACTED] (TS)

[REDACTED] b1

Submit the information received or developed concerning travel in appropriate form suitable for dissemination. (TS)

[REDACTED] (TS)

2 - New York (100-25857)

JW ←

1 - Foreign Liaison Unit (Route through for review) - det/c/

NOTE ON YELLOW:

Robeson is key figure of New York Office. Presently residing in London, England.

100-12304-626

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY FORWARDING SLIP(S) OF DATE

- Tolson _____
- Parsons _____
- Mohr _____
- Belmont _____
- Callahan _____
- Conrad _____
- DeLoach _____
- Evans _____
- Malone _____
- Rosen _____
- Tavel _____
- Trotter _____
- Sullivan _____
- Tele. Room _____

BCR:djw
(8)

REC-81

19 APR 5 1961

Classified by 2650
Exempt from GDS, Category 1
Date of Declassification Indefinite

MAILED 3
APR 5 1961
COMM-FBI

JUN 1 1977

321 VM

REC'D MAIL ROOM

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 RJ/dw
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW 1-24-91

1-24-81

82 APR 10 1961 TELETYPE UNIT

~~TOP SECRET~~

WJ
626

CONFIDENTIAL

DIRECTOR, FBI (100-399388)

4/6/61

SAC, NEW YORK (100-95550)

ST
C

IS-C
ISA-1950

9-167c

ReNYairtels, 4/3,5/61,

(u)

[REDACTED]

b1

For information. (u)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

Information from this source must be carefully para-
phrased in order to protect the source.

Under no circumstances should the subject or any
authorized persons become aware we have knowledge of the
above information.

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP (S) OF [Signature]
DATE 4-7-61

100-12304-

NOT RECORDED
167 APR 10 1961

1-26-81

3-Bureau (100-399388) (RM)
(1-100-) (PAUL ROBESON, SR.)
1-NY 100-25857) (PAUL ROBESON, SR.) (412)
1-NY 100-95550 (414)

CLASS. & EXT. BY sp-5R/g/ha
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2 2-3
DATE OF REVIEW 1-26-91

TJD:ume
(5)

Classified by 2650/ha
Exempt from GDS, Category 2+3
Date of Declassification Indefinite
JUN 1 1977

66 APR 13 1961

CONFIDENTIAL

X

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN

62

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO: SAC, ^{New York} ~~SEAT~~, ~~LONDON~~ (Your file ~~100-1182~~ ¹⁰⁰⁻¹¹⁸²) DATE: APR 3 1961

FROM: Director, FBI (Bufile and serial 100-12344)

SUBJECT: Paul Leroy Rolison Office of Origin: NY

- 1. () The deadline in this case has passed and the Bureau has not received a report. You are instructed to submit a report immediately. In the event a report has been submitted, you should make a notation of the date on which it was submitted on this letter and return it to the Bureau, Room No. ~~100-12344~~ ¹⁻²⁴⁻⁸¹

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

^{LTY} Report submitted 3-28-61

CLASS. & EXT. BY	<u>SP-5 RJ/dw</u>
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2	<u>23</u>
DATE OF REVIEW	<u>1-24-91</u>

Report will be submitted _____

Reason for delay _____

(Remain alert for any indication re travel to Cuba)

~~(C)~~ ^{NY} has been advised re Travel To Cuba.

- 2. (✓) Advise Bureau re status of this case.
- 3. () Advise Bureau when report may be expected.
- 4. () Surep immediately.

APR 10 1961
LEGAL ATTACHE LONDON, ENGLAND

(Place your reply on this form and return to the Bureau. Note on the top serial in the case file the receipt and acknowledgment of this communication.)

1384 128

5-10A

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. A. H. Belmont

CONFIDENTIAL DATE: April 7, 1961

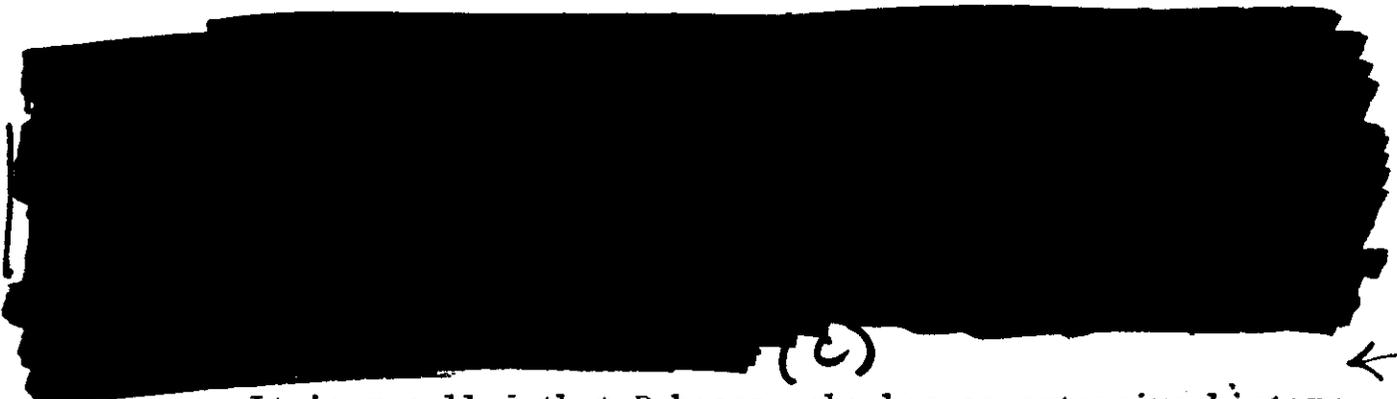
FROM : Mr. J. F. Bland

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

SUBJECT: PAUL LEROY ROBESON
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP5Rlg dw
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW 1-24-91

- Tolson
- Parsons
- Mohr
- Belmont
- Callahan
- Conrad
- DeLoach
- Evans
- Malone
- Rosen
- Tavel
- Trotter
- W.C. Sullivan
- Tele. Room
- Ingram
- Gandy



It is recalled that Robeson, who has an extensive history of participation, sponsorship and influence in national and international communist affairs, and who has been an outspoken apologist for the Soviet Union, left the United States in 1958 following issuance of a passport which had been denied him since 1950. He has since maintained a residence and headquarters for his activities in London, England, and has spent a substantial amount of time in Russia, where he has publicly been reported to have, on occasions, met with Nikita Khrushchev. (u)

In view of the past exploitation of Robeson's popularity by the communists to further their aims, it is expected that the death of Robeson would be much publicized, and that his name and past history would be highlighted even more in propagandizing on behalf of the international communist movement. We will, of course, continue to follow his activities closely. (u)

ACTION:

REC-24

For information. (u)

100-12304

- 1 - Mr. Parsons
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Bland
- 1 - Mr. Rachner

11 APR 12 1961

Classified by 265/162
Exempt from GDS, Category 2
Date of Declassification Indefinite

SUBV CONTROL

BCR:djw
(6)

58 APR 17 1961

CONFIDENTIAL

COPY TO MR. TOLSON

Viper
1-24-81
1-24-91

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For your information: _____

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
FBI Headquarters file 100-12304-628

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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For your information: _____

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FBI Headquarters file 100-12304-629

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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For your information: _____

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FBI Headquarters file 100-12304-630

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Office Memorandum • UNITED GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)
FROM : LEGAT, LONDON (100-399388)
(100-1182)
(100-1878)

DATE: May 8, 1961

~~SECRET~~

SUBJECT: PAUL LEROY ROBESON
IS - C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

IS - C; ISA, 1950

OO: New York

Remylet dated April 21, 1961, captioned "PAUL LEROY ROBESON" and Bulet to Department of State, dated April 5, 1961, captioned [REDACTED] (u)

[REDACTED] (S)

[REDACTED] (S)

If further information is received, the Bureau will be advised. (u)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 R.J.G./H.W.
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW 1-24-91

8 Bureau (New York 100-25857 (Encls. 8)
2 London 100-95550

ACM:col
(10)

56 MAY 18 1961

ENCLOSURE

Classified By 4650 [unclear]
Exempt from GDS, Category 1
Date of Declassification Indefinite

JUN 1 1972

MAY 11 1961

HW 11 5 35 b4, p1

SEC. D - E

SUBV CONTROL

REC'D
FORW. 5-12-61
FORW. 5-15-61
ORIN

~~SECRET~~

EXP. PROC.

UNREC COPY AND COPY OF [unclear]

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For your information: _____

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: 5/17/61

FROM : Legat, Rio de Janeiro (100-659)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

SUBJECT: PAUL ROBESON
IS - C

The May 2, 1961, edition of "Ultima Hora," a leftist Rio de Janeiro newspaper, carried a short item that arrangements were being made for the Negro singer, PAUL ROBESON, to come to Brazil to sing at "Fred's," a Rio de Janeiro night club. No date was given for this appearance.

[REDACTED SECTION]

Legat will follow this matter to report any information developed concerning the appearance of PAUL ROBESON and any other information of interest relating to such an appearance in Rio de Janeiro.

It is requested that Legat be advised of any information available indicating ROBESON plans an appearance in Rio de Janeiro.

One copy of this letter is being forwarded for transmittal to the New York Office.

P.

- 3 - Bureau
- 2 - Rio de Janeiro

ESS:FO
(5)

*Let Rio de Janeiro
6-5-61
B.C.P. [unclear]
S- [unclear] (misc)*

*4/14/61
[REDACTED]
[unclear]*

1-24-81 am
CLASS. & EXT. BY *sp-5R1g/dw*
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW *1-24-94*

REC-4

100-12304-6

EX-130

8 MAY 22 1961

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~SECRET~~

*b1
b7D*

71

1 - Mr. Rachner

Legal Attache, Rio de Janeiro

June 5, 1961

REC-127 (100-659)

101 XE

Director, FBI (100-12304)-632

PAUL LEROY ROBESON
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

mt

Reurlet 5-17-61.

No information has been received to indicate that Robeson anticipates travel to Brazil or other countries in South America. According to several reports, Robeson had planned to visit Cuba possibly in late April, 1961; however, subject's plans undoubtedly curtailed based on subsequent reports indicating that Robeson had been confined since late March or early April for what would appear to be a heart ailment.

It may be noted that since 1958, Robeson has maintained a residence and headquarters for his activities in London, England, but has spent a substantial portion of his time in Russia as well as its satellite countries.

Enclosed for New York Office is a copy of relet. New York furnish any information bearing upon travel by subject in a form suitable for dissemination.

2 - New York (100-25857) (Enclosure)

NOTE ON YELLOW:

Robeson is key figure in New York Office.

BCR:gjk
(6)

FLU/rgs

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 1-24-81 BY SP-5 R.J.G./d/w

JUN 5 1961

EFT

MAILED 9
JUN - 5 1961
COMM - FBI

- Tolson _____
- Parsons _____
- Mohr _____
- Belmont _____
- Callahan _____
- Conrad _____
- DeLoach _____
- Evans _____
- Malone _____
- Rosen _____
- Tavel _____
- Trotter _____
- W.C. Sullivan _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Ingram _____
- Gandy _____

59
[Handwritten signature]

56 JUN 7 1961 TELETYPE UNIT

BCR
[Handwritten initials]

JUN 2 - 1961

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)

DATE: 5/18/61

FROM : LEGAT, BONN (105-720)

SUBJECT: PAUL LEROY ROBESON
IS - C

Reference Bonn letter 4/25/61.

On 5/9/61, [redacted] Public Affairs Section, U.S. Mission Berlin, furnished the enclosed Photostat of an item from the 4/27/61 issue of the East German newspaper "Neue Zeit," which contained a write-up of an interview with PAUL ROBESON.

From this interview, it appears that ROBESON's plans for the future are to visit in East Germany and Hungary in the first weeks of summer. He then intends to go to Ghana and also to Guinea, if possible, as well as to other countries of West Africa. He has also received an invitation from Cuba. He further indicated that he intends to go to Australia again and to devote the proceeds of concerts and films there to the welfare of the aborigines.

It is recommended that the enclosed Photostat be translated and that the original and translation be forwarded to the office of origin in this case.

The foregoing is for information.

- RUC
- 5 - Bureau (Enc-1)
- (3-NY 100-88595)
- 1 - Bonn
- (6) HDG: [redacted]

ENCLOSURE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 1-24-81 BY SP5R19/dw

EX-108

REC-14

100-12304-633

8 MAY 23 1961

AGENCY cc to my
 REQ. REC'D
 DATE FORW. 6-13-61
 HOW FORW. by [redacted]
 BY [redacted]

SUB CONTROL

58 JUN 14 1961

3d.
 Encl. sent to B.C. Rackner
 Room 1266
 26-12-61

b7c

Raffner

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1/2

Meine Pläne - Kampf für die Freiheit!

Unser Moskauer Korrespondent Henrik Gurkow sprach mit dem weltberühmten
Sänger Paul Robeson über seine letzten Reisen. **NEUE ZEIT**
APR. 27 1961

Der berühmte Friedenskämpfer und Künstler Paul Robeson wird zur diesjährigen Ostertwoche nach Moskau kommen. Unser Moskauer Korrespondent sprach mit Robeson während dessen Aufenthalts in der sowjetischen Metropole.

Beharrlich klingelte das Telefon. Alle wollen Robeson sprechen, alle ihn bei sich begrüßen. Da sind Betriebe und Schulen, Redaktionen der Zeitungen und Theater. Robeson lächelt und klatscht vor Verwunderung in die Hände. Wie gern möchte er überall sein, doch das ist leider unmöglich. Auch in der Sowjetunion, wo die Wissenschaft wahrlich Wunder vollbringt, kann man dem Tag

keine Länge zusetzen. Vierundzwanzig Stunden - das ist zu wenig!

Wir sitzen in seinem Zimmer, das er im Hotel „Sowjetskaja“ belegt hat. Paul Robeson spricht - energisch, klar, in der ihm eigenen Weise. Dieser Mensch und Lauteit sind zwei einander ausschließende Pole. In dem so gut bekannten unnachahmlichen Timbre seiner Stimme klingen innige Wärme, wenn er über seine Moskauer Eindrücke spricht, aber auch Bitternis und Zorn, wenn seine Gedanken zu denen gehen, die noch immer nicht für sich das Recht der Menschenwürde errungen haben, wenn er vor seinen Augen das Leben der Afrikaner, der australischen Uringeborenen und der Neger Amerikas sieht.

Begegnungen mit dem Publikum

„Ich bin eigentlich jetzt ohne bestimmtes Ziel unterwegs“, erzählt Robeson, „wollte nur einfach mal ‚Hallo‘ meinen sowjetischen Freunden sagen. Natürlich gab es schon eine ganze Reihe freundschaftlicher Begegnungen. Eine davon ist der Besuch bei der ‚Iswestija‘ gewesen. Besonders Freude hat mir die Bekanntschaft mit dem jungen Nachwuchs der sowjetischen Journalisten gemacht. Ich sang ein paar Lieder, und dann haben wir uns lange unterhalten: über den Kampf der sowjetischen Jugend für den Frieden, über ihre Teilnahme beim Aufbau des Kommunismus, über ihre Arbeitserfolge in den Neulandgebieten. Wir haben auch über Musik gesprochen, über Negro-Spirituals und Jazz. Wie Sie sehen, war der Bogen unserer Gespräche weit gespannt.“

Paul Robeson erzählt von seinem Besuch im Großen Theater und gibt seiner Anerkennung über die „Ballade vom Soldaten“ Ausdruck. „Natürlich habe ich auch die Universität der Völkerfreundschaft aufgesucht. Ich wollte mit den Studenten aus den afrikanischen Ländern zusammenkommen und auch mit der Jugend

Asiens und Südamerikas. Die jungen Männer und die Mädchen werden als Vertreter verschiedener Völker aus Moskau nicht nur ausgezeichnete fachliche Kenntnisse mitnehmen, sondern auch das Gefühl der Achtung voreinander. Die Universität erfüllt eine edle Aufgabe. Und wie froh haben mich die Worte des Rektors gestimmt, der anerkennend von der wichtigen Rolle meiner Frau bei der Durchführung dieser Aufgabe sprach.

„Ihr letztes Ziel war Australien?“, frage ich. „Führte Sie eine Gastspielreise dorthin?“

„Nicht nur“, antwortet Robeson. „Sehen Sie, auf einer solchen Reise verbinden sich meine Auftritte als Künstler mit der Arbeit des politischen Menschen, der die Weltfriedensbewegung vertritt. Ich hatte einige Konzerte. Genau genommen, ist das nicht die richtige Bezeichnung dafür. Ich selbst nenne das Auftreten im Rahmen einer Veranstaltung Begegnungen mit dem Publikum. Auf solchen Begegnungen singe ich, lese Verse und äußere mich zu Fragen der Musik, besonders aber über die Volksmusik.“

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DATE 1-24-81 BY SP-5R/g/dw

"NEUE ZEIT"
4/27/61

ENCLOSURE

100-12504-633

74

Einladungen über Einladungen

In Australien und Neuseeland kennt man mich von Gramophonplatten und Filmen her, die gut zwanzig bis dreißig Jahre alt sind. Jetzt wollten sie mich sehen und hören. Ich gab vier Konzerte, es hätten vierzehn sein können. Das Interesse war außerordentlich groß; jedesmal ausverkauft.

„Was hat in mir Bitternis hervorgerufen“, Robeson wird mit einem Male sehr ernst. „Ich habe auf dem fünften Kontinent eine mir aus Afrika und Amerika bekannte Erscheinung angetroffen: Rassendiskriminierung in widerlichster Form. Wenn man die Lage der Maori – der neuseeländischen Ureinwohner – mit der Lage amerikanischer Neger aus den Nordstaaten vergleicht, so kann man die Situation, in der sie und die australischen Ureinwohner sich befinden, einfach nur schrecklich nennen. Hier wird offene Ausrottung betrieben. Hier muß sich die Weltöffentlichkeit einschalten und ein ernstes Wort sagen.“

Ich beabsichtige, noch einmal nach Australien zu fahren. Ich werde Filme und Konzerte geben; die Einnahmen sollen der in Armut dahingeragenden Eingeborenenbevölkerung zugute kommen. Ich habe das bereits in Afrika getan, nun möchte

ich es noch einmal in Australien wiederholen.“

„Würden Sie sich auch noch von anderen Plänen der nächsten Zukunft etwas versagen?“

„Die nächsten Pläne“, meint Paul Robeson, „sind eng mit den Einladungen verbunden, die mich aus einigen sozialistischen Ländern erreicht haben. In den ersten Sommerwochen werde ich in der DDR und in Ungarn sein. Danach möchte ich nach Ghana und – wenn möglich – auch nach Guinea sowie in andere Länder Westafrikas. Weiter erhielt ich von Kuba eine Einladung. Es wird mir nur schwer, das alles zeitlich zu bewältigen.“

Auch in den USA

Inzwischen haben auch in den USA breite Kreise aufgehört, sich vor einem Besuch meiner Konzerte zu fürchten. Ich habe mit vor neuem das amerikanische Publikum erobert. Das ist nicht nur für mich, sondern gleichermaßen auch für zahlreiche farbige Künstler wichtig, die auf jegliche Weise unterdrückt wurden. Es mußte allen vor Augen geführt werden, daß jene verloren hatten, die mich zum Schweigen bringen wollten. Ich stehe indes wieder auf den Füßen und singe.“

„In England und Schottland“, schließt Robeson seinen Bericht, „beglückte mich das Publikum wie einen guten Bekannten. Meinen Erfolg in England verdanke ich zu einem guten Teil meinem Auftreten im Shakespeare-Gedächtnis-Theater in Stratford-on-Avon. Hier hatte ich die Rolle des Othello übernommen. Gerade nach Stratford kamen viele Amerikaner. Es war ihnen offensichtlich peinlich, daß ein amerikanischer Schauspieler, der in Amerika nicht auftreten darf, in England spielt. Und dies nicht auf einer gewöhnlichen Bühne, sondern auf der Bühne des Shakespeare-Theaters, das über die besten Kräfte verschiedener englisch-sprechender Länder verfügt. Es gibt für einen Schauspieler keine größere Ehre, als dort zu wirken.“

„Die Rolle des Othello“, das ist das Höchste, was ich als Schauspieler vollbracht habe. Für den Rest meines Lebens möchte ich meine Kräfte völlig einsetzen für den Kampf um die Freiheit Afrikas, für die Freiheit der amerikanischen Neger und der australischen Ureinwohner, für die Freiheit aller, die unter der Unterdrückung leiden.“

Als wir uns zum Abschied die Hände reichen, spüre ich in dem festen Händedruck dieses großartigen Mannes eine Bestätigung seiner Worte.



PAUL ROBESON Photo Courtesy

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TRANSLATION FROM GERMAN

MY PLANS--FIGHT FOR FREEDOM!

Our Moscow correspondent HENRIK GURKOW spoke with the world-famous singer PAUL ROBESON about his last journeys.

From "Neue Zeit" (New Time), April 27, 1961.

The famous peace fighter and artist PAUL ROBESON will come to Rostock for this year's Baltic Sea Week. Our Moscow correspondent talked with ROBESON during his stay in the Soviet metropolis.

The telephone rang constantly. All wanted to speak with ROBESON; all wanted to welcome him in their homes. Enterprises and schools, the editorial offices of the newspapers and theaters called. ROBESON smiled and clapped his hands in astonishment. He wanted to be everywhere; however, this was unfortunately impossible. Even in the Soviet Union, where science really accomplishes wonders, the day cannot be prolonged. Twenty-four hours--this is too little time!

We sit in his room which he had reserved in the Hotel "Sovietskaya." PAUL ROBESON speaks--energetically and clearly--in the manner peculiar to him. This man and indifference are two poles which exclude each other. In the so well-known, inimitable tone of his voice lies sincere warmth when he talks about his impressions in Moscow, but also bitterness and scorn when he thinks of those who still have not conquered for themselves the right to human dignity; when he sees before his eyes the life of the Africans, of the Australian aborigines and of the Negroes of America.

MEETINGS WITH THE PUBLIC

ROBESON stated: "Now I am on the road without having any definite aim. I simply wanted to

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DATE FORW. 6-13-61
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TRANSLATED by:

[REDACTED]
JUNE 9, 1961

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 1-24-81 BY SP-5R/S/11W

899AUG 29 1973

of Jans b7c
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say 'hello' to my Soviet friends. Of course, quite a number of friendly meetings took place. One of them was the visit to 'Izvestia.' I was particularly glad to meet the young generation of the Soviet journalists. I sang a few songs and then we talked to each other for a long time: about the struggle of the Soviet youths for peace, about their participation in the construction of communism, about their successes in the work in the new territories. We also discussed music, Negro spirituals and jazz. As you see, our discussions covered a lot of territory."

PAUL ROBESON talked about his visit to the Great Theater and expressed his approval of the "Callad about the Soldier." He said: "Of course, I also visited the University of the Friendship Between Nations. I wanted to meet the students from the African countries and also the youths of Asia and South America. The young men and women as the representatives of different nations will not only take with them from Moscow excellent technical knowledge, but also the feeling of respect for each other. The university fulfills a noble task. The words of the rector have gladdened me very much, who praised the important role of my wife at the execution of this task."

I asked: "Your last goal was Australia? Did a starring performance lead you there?"

ROBESON replied: "This was not the only reason. You see, during such a trip my appearances as artist combine with the work of the political human being who represents the world peace movement. I gave a few concerts. However, in the true sense of the word this is not the correct designation. I call the appearances, within the framework of a public event, meetings with the public. During such meetings I sing, read verses and discuss the questions of music; in particular, of popular music."

ONE INVITATION AFTER THE OTHER

"In Australia and New Zealand the people know me from Gramophone records and films which are twenty to thirty years old. Now they want to see and hear me. I gave four concerts; it could have been fourteen."

Suddenly ROBESON became very serious and said: "One thing has embittered me. On the fifth continent I encountered a phenomenon which I have experienced in Africa and America: racial discrimination in the most loathsome form. If we compare the situation of the Maoris - of the aborigines in New Zealand - with the situation of American Negroes from Northern states, we can call the situation simply terrible in which they and the Australian aborigines are. Here open extermination is effected. Here the public opinion in the world must go to work and say a serious word.

"I intend to return to Australia. I shall make films and give concerts. The proceeds shall benefit the aboriginal population languishing in poverty. I already did that in Africa, and now I want to repeat it once more in Australia."

"Would you tell us something about other plans in the near future?"

PAUL ROBESON replied: "The next plans are closely connected with the invitations which I received from some socialist countries. During the first summer weeks I shall be in the German Democratic Republic and in Hungary. Then I wish to go to Ghana and, if possible, also to Guinea and other countries of West Africa. Furthermore, I received an invitation from Cuba. However, it will be difficult for me to find the time for everything."

ALSO IN THE USA

ROBESON continued: "Meanwhile also in the USA wide circles have ceased to fear a visit of my concerts. I have again conquered the American public. This is not only important to myself, but likewise to numerous colored artists who were oppressed by any means. All had to be shown that those have lost who wanted to silence me. However, I am standing on my feet again and sing."

ROBESON concluded his report as follows: "In England and Scotland the public welcomed me like a good acquaintance. I thank my success in England partly to my appearance in the Shakespeare Memorial Theater in Stratford-on-Avon (sic). Here I had to accept the role of Othello. To be sure, many Americans came to Stratford. They were apparently embarrassed that an American actor, who is not permitted to appear in America, plays in England; and then not only on an ordinary stage, but on the stage of the Shakespeare Theater, which has the best actors of various English-speaking countries at its disposal. There is no greater honor for an actor than to appear there.

"The role of Othello is the biggest one which I played as an actor. For the rest of my life I want to use my energies completely for the struggle for Africa's freedom, for the freedom of the American Negroes and of the Australian aboriginal population, for the freedom of all who suffer from oppression."

When we said good-by to each other, I felt in the firm handshake of this wonderful man a confirmation of his words.

*

Picture of PAUL ROBESON by GURKOW.

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

6/22/61

TO: SAC, NEW YORK (100-12304)

DATE: 6/22/61

SUBJECT: PAUL ROBESON
IS-C

ReBulet report from Janeiro dated 6/1/61.

Relet request that you furnish any information bearing upon travel or address to Brazil or other countries in South America.

NY is to be alert for or of no information at this time concerning proposed travel by ROBESON to South America. NY will be alert for any receipt of such information and will immediately furnish it to the Bureau.

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DATE 1-24-81 BY SP-5 R/g/ldw

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2-Bureau (100-12304) (RM)
1-New York (100-25857)

REC-72 100-12304-635

EX-107

12 JUN 22 1961

JHS:sao
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AGENCY *cc 6 Dept Lia*

REQ. REC'D

DATE FORW. *6-22-61*

HOW FORW. *File*

62 JUN 27 1961

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Memorandum

X

FROM: Legat, London (100-1182) (100-1182) (100-1182)

SUBJECT: PAUL ROBESON

ESLANDA ROBESON
SM - C

[REDACTED]

IS - C
ISA - 1950

OTHERWISE

CLASSIFIED BY sp-5R/dw
REASON FOR CLASSIFICATION 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW 9-1-81

1-26-81

Remylets 5-8-61 and 6-28-61. (u)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

ESLANDA ROBESON will be maintained in a pending status in this office. (u)

INFO RE ROBESON'S HEALTH
STATUS PREVIOUSLY FURNISHED
STATE, CIA, AG & WHITE HOUSE
UNDER "TOP SECRET" CATEGORY
EX-105

- 8 - Bureau (Encs. 8)
 - (1 - New York, 100-25857)
 - (1 - New York, 100-56680)
 - (1 - New York 100-95550)
- 3 - London
 - (1 - 100-1182) P
 - (1 - 100-1666) P
 - (1 - 100-1878) RUC

ACM:MAH
(11)

ENCLOSURE

Classified by 21/50
Exempt from GDS, Category 1
Date of Declassification Indefinite

REC-16

100-12304-637

JUN 1 1971

16 AUG 1 1961

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HOW FORW. Hand Delivered
BY [Signature]

62 AUG 9 1961

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Reporting Office NEW YORK	Office of Origin NEW YORK	Date 9/7/61	Investigative Period 3/1/61-9/4/61
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TITLE OF CASE PAUL LEROY ROBESON, aka	Report made by [REDACTED]	Typed By: ejr
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CHARACTER OF CASE
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

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APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) OF DATE
9/27/61

REFERENCE:

REFERENCE:

Report of SA [REDACTED] 3/7/61, at New York, *Chit*

- P* -

ADMINISTRATIVE:

The subject, PAUL LEROY ROBESON, is a key figure of the NYO. (u) *b7c*

Subject's wife, ESLANDA GOODE ROBESON, NY file 100-56680, Bufile 100-12304, is carried on the SI of the NYO. (u)

[REDACTED]

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 R/g/d/w
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2 2-3
DATE OF REVIEW 9-7-81

0-17 to NY to submit amended pp. 2+3+ to include

Approved <i>[Signature]</i> Special Agent In Charge	Do not write in spaces below		
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DATE FORW. <u>10-2-61</u>	Classified by <u>2650</u>		
HOW FORW. <u>AS</u>	Exempt from GDS, Category <u>2+3</u>		
BY <u>[Signature]</u>	Date of Declassification Indefinite		
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NY 100-25857

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[REDACTED] (c)

[REDACTED] (c)

[REDACTED] (c)

[REDACTED] (c)

[REDACTED] (c)

[REDACTED] (c)

The information concerning the interview article in the East German newspaper "Neue Zeit" was furnished by [REDACTED] Public Affairs Section, U.S. Mission Berlin, 5/5/61, to Legat, Bonn. (u)

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NY 100-25857

ADMINISTRATIVE: (Cont'd)

The information concerning the article in "Neues Deutschland" of 4/6/61, was furnished to the Director by Legat, Bonn by letter of 4/25/61. (u)

[REDACTED] (x) (c)

INFORMANTS:

Identity of Source

File Number Where Located

[REDACTED] (c)

100-25857-4329 ✓
-4332 ✓
-4346 ✓
-4327 ✓

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NY 100-25857

INFORMANTS: (Cont')

Identity of Source

File Number Where Located

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LEADS:

NEW YORK

At New York, New York

1. Will remain alert for information concerning the return of ROBESON to the U.S.

2. Will continue to follow and report his activities while abroad and in the U.S. upon his return.

(c)

3

~~X~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

- D -
COVER PAGE

90

NY 100-25857

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- 1. Subject's name is included in the Security Index
 - 2. The data appearing on the Security Index card are current.
 - 3. Changes on the Security Index card are necessary and Form FD-122 has been submitted to the Bureau.
 - 4. A suitable photograph is is not available.
 - 5. Careful consideration has been given to each source concealed and T symbols were utilized only in those instances where the identities of the sources must be concealed.
 - 6. Subject is employed in a key facility and is charged with security responsibility. Interested agencies are _____
 - 7. This report is classified Secret because _____ are confidential sources (state reason) _____
- (C)
- 8. Subject previously interviewed (dates) _____
 - Subject was not reinterviewed because (state reason) _____

←
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- 9. This case no longer meets the Security Index criteria and a letter has been directed to the Bureau recommending cancellation of the Security Index card.
- 10. This case has been re-evaluated in the light of the Security Index criteria and it continues to fall w/ROBES _____ criteria because _____ (state reason) _____
 was elected Chairman of the Council on African Affairs until its dissolution in June, 1955. He has had close contacts with national leaders of the CP, USA. He has publicly praised the Soviet Union while abroad. He was elected Vice-President of the British-Soviet Friendship Society in May, 1959, and has been active in functions sympathetic to Communism abroad during 1960-1961.
- 11. Subject's SI card is is not tabbed Detcom.
- Subject's activities do do not warrant Detcom tabbing.

(4)
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91

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

~~SECRET~~

Copy to:

Report of:

[REDACTED]

b7c

Office: New York, New York

Date:

SEP 7 1961

Field Office File No.:

100-25857

Bureau File No.: 100-12304

Title:

PAUL LEROY ROBESON

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EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE.

Character:

INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Synopsis:

[REDACTED]

b1

ROBESON reported to be among various prominent guests who would take part in Baltic Sea Week in the Baltic coastal area of East Germany in July, 1961.

(S)

- P* -

DETAILS:

I. BACKGROUND

Residence and Employment

It is noted that on July 22, 1960, the files of the Passport Office, United States Department of State, reflected that PAUL ROBESON when applying for a renewal of his passport gave his legal residence as 16 Jumel Terrace, New York City, and current address as 45 Connaught Square, London, England.

It is also noted that subject is employed as a concert singer and made a concert tour of Australia and New Zealand during 1960; details of this tour are set forth later in this report.

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 RJA/STW 1-26-81
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW 9-7-91

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Foreign Travel and State of Health

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

(S)

[REDACTED] advised on [REDACTED] that at the 17th National Convention of the Communist Party (CP), USA, held December 10-13, 1959, PAUL ROBESON, JR., was elected to the National Committee of the CP, USA. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] (S)

[REDACTED] (S)

II. AFFILIATION WITH THE CP MOVEMENT

Evidence of CP Sympathies

The East German newspaper "Neue Zeit" in its issue of April 27, 1961, contained a write-up of an interview with PAUL ROBESON. From this interview, it appears that ROBESON's plans for the future are to visit in East Germany and Hungary in the first weeks of summer. He then intends to go to Ghana and also to Guinea, if possible, as well as to other countries of West Africa. He has also received an invitation from Cuba. He further indicated that he intends to go to Australia again and to devote the proceeds of concerts and films there to the welfare of the aborigines.

The publication "Neues Deutschland" (New Germany), which is the organ of the Central Committee of the East German CP (SED) reported in its April 6, 1961, edition that subject would be among various prominent guests who would take part in this years Baltic Sea Week in the Baltic coastal area of East Germany. It was stated that ROBESON promised to attend during the period July 7, to July 10, 1961.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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

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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.

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The following information was obtained from the files and records of the United States Department of State, January 1951, prepared for the Committee on Un-American Activities, United States House of Representatives, Washington, D.C., concerning the following concerning:

WORLD PEACE COUNCIL

- "1. Cited as having been formed at the conclusion of the Second World Peace Conference in Warsaw and which was heralded by the Moscow Declaration 'the expression of the determination of the peoples to take into their own hands the struggle for peace.'
(Committee on Un-American Activities, House Report 378 on the Communist Peace Offensive, April 2, 1951, originally introduced April 1, 1951, p. 38)"

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

100-25857



Bufile 100-12304
NYfile 100-25857

~~SECRET~~

Title Paul Leroy Robeson

Character Internal Security - C

Reference is made to report of Special Agent [redacted] dated and captioned as above at New York.

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All sources (except any listed below) used in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

[redacted]

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and State of Health

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised on [REDACTED] that at the 17th National Convention of the Communist Party (CP), USA, held December 10-13, 1959, PAUL ROBESON, JR., was elected to the National Committee of the CP, USA.

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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