

DISPATCH

CLASSIFICATION

S E C R E T / R Y B A T

PROCESSING ACTION

MARKED FOR INDEXING

TO Chief, WOLIME

XX

NO INDEXING REQUIRED

INFO. ADDP; Chief, EUR Division; Chief, WOMUSE; Chief, LCPIPIT/ [redacted]

ONLY QUALIFIED DESK CAN JUDGE INDEXING

FROM Chief of Station, [redacted]

MICROFILM

SUBJECT MHALPHA/MEPROBE/RODIGAST

Hand 6 Dec 68

ACTION REQUIRED - REFERENCES

Forwarded under separate cover is a memorandum prepared by [redacted] which deals with MHALPHA-related individuals and which is useful background information on this subject.

Thomas K. JADWIN

Attachment: u/s/c
Memorandum

- Distribution:
- 1 - C/WOLIME w/att
 - ✓ 1 - ADDP w/att
 - 1 - C/EUR w/att
 - 1 - C/WOMUSE w/att
 - 1 - C/LCPIPIT w/att

7529

*ACTWON: Passed to FBI
in Memo B-35, 8 FEB 1968*

*(F)
cc: glc*

CROSS REFERENCE TO

DISPATCH SYMBOL AND NUMBER

DATE

OEKLA-48626

19 January 1968

CLASSIFICATION

HQS FILE NUMBER

S E C R E T / R Y B A T

SECRET RYBAT

SEPARATE COVER ATTACHMENT TO:

OELA-48626, dat 19 January 1968

Subject: Black nationalist writers in Paris

1. At present there do not seem to be many black nationalist (American Negro) writers residing in Paris, apart from William Gardner Smith, long-time resident, who is now at work on a book about his summer trip to the USA and meetings with black power and other civil rights activists there.
2. According to Carlene Polite, American Negro writer living in Paris who is of moderate views although she knows many black nationalists here, there are a couple of young Negro writers being handled by Ellen Wright, white widow of the late Richard Wright (author of "Native Son"), who is now a literary agent at 20, rue Jacob, Paris 6.
3. Ellen Wright's daughter Julia is married to a Frenchman named Hervé, and Julia is an editor of Jeune Afrique. The Hervés lived in Ghana along with the William Gardner Smiths until the coup which overthrew Nkrumah. Ellen Wright has another daughter who, according to Carlene Polite, was seen at a jazz concert on 7 January with Leon Bibbs. Bibbs, according to Polite, has written some pamphlets which he has had published himself, as well as a poem or pamphlet attacking James Baldwin as an inadequate leader of his people (because of his homosexuality etc.). Julia Hervé and her husband want to publish Bibbs' work, according to Polite.
4. Leroy Haynes, who has been a resident of France for 18 years (he is about 56) and runs an American Negro restaurant near Pigalle, says that the writers he knows are Chester Himes, now mainly an author of crime novels who used to live in Paris but now apparently lives in Copenhagen; and Alex Haley, author of "The Autobiography of Malcolm X". Haley has been living in France temporarily (his address is 13, rue du Dr. M. Provençal, Haut-de-Cagnes, Alpes-Maritimes), but will return to the USA in February. He recently traveled in Africa and claimed to have traced his ancestry back to a particular African community, according to Haynes.
5. As for Himes, he is not known for his nationalist views. Another Negro writer living in Paris is Melvin Van Peebles, who is also not particularly known for militancy. He has had 3 or 4 works of fiction published in France (in French) and has just made a film, La Permission, which is being shown at a US film festival (possibly in San Francisco); Van Peebles went back to the USA for this showing.
6. Haynes is mentioned in William Gardner Smith's last novel, "The Stone Face". His restaurant is a meeting place for all American Negroes who visit France. His guest book contains the signature of Stokely Carmichael, for whom Haynes gave a party during his recent visit to Paris, of the Martin Luther King group which visited Paris earlier, et al. Like Smith, Haynes has a white French wife, and he is probably not much of a nationalist militant.

SECRET DVIDAT