

TO: Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Attention: Mr. S. J. Papich

FROM: Deputy Director, Plans

SUBJECT: Marvin HANTON

1. Reference is made to your file number 105-7772, concerning the above Subject, who has been of interest to your Bureau and to this office because of his contacts with official representatives of the Soviet Union in Denmark. A considerable amount of additional information on HANTON has become available to us since our last report to you on him, most of it deriving from a series of interviews with him by a representative of this office. Information from this and other sources is reported below.

2. A source, an American citizen, who is believed to be reliable and who is acquainted with the Subject, has reported that in November 1960 Subject stated to him as follows:

a. Subject served in the United States Marine Corps as a jet aircraft mechanic from 1952 to 1955 in both North Carolina and the West Indies. After his discharge from the service he spent one year at Fairleigh Dickinson College (Rutherford, New Jersey), leaving after that time because he found it unsatisfactory and unstimulating. In 1957 he came to Europe to tour the continent, and during the latter part of 1957 and 1958 he made two 3-month trips to the USSR, where he lived with his uncle's family in Minsk. He attended some classes at the university there, but was not a registered student. He has stated that he has several cousins of about his age in Minsk.

b. His future plans (as of the date of this information) were uncertain, but he would probably return to the United States to teach Russian at the college level. However, he would not be opposed to returning to the Soviet Union for further study. He was also interested in the possibility of studying in China, and had discussed this possibility with the American Embassy in order to ascertain the legality of his doing so. Subject apparently considered going to China because the people there "live closer to life," or words to that effect.

c. It was source's opinion that Subject either was uninformed about

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the American political scene of the past few years or chose to avoid discussing it. However, he appeared to have few illusions about the Soviet brand of politics. He had the impression of having been watched while visiting the USSR and he was critical of the red tops and "back passing" that he found among Soviet officials. His conversation also indicated that he was conscious of the anti-Semitism encountered in the Soviet Union.

3. On 11 and 12 April 1961, an employee of this office, representing himself to Subject as an American named Walter G. Peters who was conducting a survey of American scholars and students engaged in Slavic studies in Scandinavia, interviewed Subject. When the conversation got around to a discussion of Subject's travel to the USSR and his contacts with Soviets in Denmark, Subject became reluctant to proceed, with the eventual result that our officer indicated to Subject his connections with "American Intelligence." Subject subsequently confirmed our man's bona fides through inquiries at the American Embassy, doing so, however, in such a manner as to avoid divulging "Peters'" intelligence function, a disclosure he had been asked by "Peters" to make to no-one. Much of the interview between our officer and KANTOR covered ground already familiar to you but we are attaching, nevertheless, as Attachment A, a copy of a portion of the debriefing.

4. Subject was again interviewed by our representative, "Peters," on 3 and 4 May 1961. The principal results of these conversations are contained in Attachment B herewith. We have omitted from this version of the debriefing names and biographic data on some of KANTOR's relatives and casual contacts in the USSR. This information can be furnished to you, however, should you desire it.

5. Another source of this office, who is believed to be reliable, has obtained the following information from one of Subject's acquaintances; the latter is referred to below as "informant":

a. In mid-June 1961, Subject tried to interest the informant in taking a trip to the USSR of about three weeks' duration. Subject suggested that a party of four people could make the trip for about \$150.00 each, and that some money could be saved by their staying with his relatives in Minsk. Subject planned to rent a car for about 1200 Danish kroner (approximate rate of exchange: D.Kr. 7.11-US \$1.00), and he expressed a willingness to absorb personally any of the informant's expenses in excess of the estimated cost, within "several hundred kroner."

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Subject stated that if this trip did not materialize, he would probably make a short trip to Yugoslavia, "for a last look at Slavic Europe," before returning to the United States. He planned to return home by ship about the first week of September and would attend the special language program at Fordham University. He indicated that it would be a difficult time for him financially, since tuition alone for this course is \$900 per year.

b. Subsequently, when the informant decided he could not make the trip, Subject decided to call it off, although he was still desirous of visiting the Soviet Union again before returning to the United States.

c. On various points of conversation, Subject expressed the following opinions:

1. Subject felt that the USSR had honored all of her agreements at Yalta and Potsdam and that the United States had no legal rights in West Berlin, especially since the USSR, legally at least, had moved out of East Berlin. However, he feels, neither the USSR nor the United States is entirely in the right. He is favorable toward the United States and hopes that this country will take the initiative in a constructive new approach to the problem. However, if the USSR were to take this initiative, then he would have to side with them.

2. On economic questions, Subject appears to be a strict Marxist and accepts the economic interpretation of history. He believes that the history of Russia shows that under Communism it is possible for a backward nation to advance to the status of a major power in a short time. The United States system, he feels, is outdated and run by profiteers and gangsters who have no interest in the underprivileged. Culturally, the Soviets have better tastes and are moving ahead, while the United States is standing still. However, although the Communist system might be more potent economically, American democracy has more to offer socially and politically. Russia is still concentrating on necessities, while the United States is producing many luxuries, but once the Soviets began to emphasize the improvement of their living standard, they would catch up with the West in this respect. The main problem in the world is to prevent war and, Subject feels, there is no doubt that the intentions of the USSR are peaceful.

d. Subject expects to marry his Danish girl friend, Liza, in August

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or September of this year.

6. Any additional information that may become available concerning the Subject will be furnished to you. In the meantime, it is requested that, should your Bureau interview the Subject at any time, no indication be given him that we are in possession of the information in paragraph 5 above, since any questions along these lines could reveal to the Subject the identity of the informant who apprised our source concerning his conversations with the Subject.

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based on: ²² (OSSA-10344, 21 Apr 61
[redacted] debriefing)

²² (OSSA-10382, 8 May 61
[redacted] debriefing)

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