

EVIDENT

115-100
22 June 1961
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FROM: Chief of Station, Salisbury
SUBJECT: ZBGLACE - Interview with Miss Mary L. FINAN
ACTION REQUIRED: FYI

- A. DIR 40987, 25 May 1961
- B. SLBY 0276, 31 May 1961
- C. SLBY 0281, 12 June 1961

1. The attached memorandum provides information gathered by [redacted] during two conversations with Miss Mary L. FINAN on 18 and 19 June 1961 at the Likuni mission near Lilongwe, Nyasaland.

2. Subject was cooperative and appeared to be forthright in providing information on her very limited acquaintance with Iden A of Ref. A. She seemed impressed that she had been sought out in the middle of nowhere, ten thousand miles from home, and mildly concerned, though not sadly so.

3. Subject said she had first heard of Iden A's flight in a letter from her mother last August. Her mother had also written that she had been approached officially in Washington in connection with Subject's knowing Iden A. Subject said she had written her mother with all the details she could remember but did not know whether they had in fact been passed along.

4. Biographical data - Subject said that Washington, D. C. had always been her home. She was born there in 1935 and went to school there, including St. Anthony's. She then attended Catholic University where she completed her courses in the nursing school in June 1958. Following her graduation, she worked at the Providence Hospital in Washington until June 1959 when she took a summer job as a nurse at Camp Andrews near Lewiston, Maine. Starting in October 1959, she worked at Children's Hospital in Washington. About the end of 1959 she decided she would like to enter mission work abroad and began taking evening courses at the Women Volunteers Association, 16 1/2th Street, N. W. (The address of the organization has changed during the past year.) In mid-1960 she sailed on the Edinburgh from New York to Venice and then on the Africa to Beira, Mozambique, and by train to Nyasaland. Her companion on the trip and present housemate is another young Catholic nurse named Louise COFFMAN from Cumberland, Maryland. Subject had never travelled outside the U. S. previously with the exception of a brief visit to Canada. She now plans to remain at the mission in Nyasaland until 1963.

[redacted]  
John D. [redacted]

- Enclosures:**
- 1. Report on Miss Finan's knowledge of Iden A. (3 copies)
  - 2. Miss Finan's letter (1 copy) USC

**Distribution:**  
5 - AF, with copies, as stated

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Envelope No. 1 to AUSA-753

Subject: Miss Mary L. FINAN's Acquaintance with Iden A of DIX 1500  
(All Idens keyed to same Ref.)

1. Subject wrote the following concerning her acquaintance with Iden A:

"I have been asked by [redacted] to recount any contact I have had with Iden A/. I am perfectly willing to do this, my only regret being that my sole contact with the man is vague in all respects.

"As I recall, in the fall of 1959, I was invited by Iden B/ to attend a small informal party. I accepted the invitation and was called for at my home by Iden B/ and her escort, Iden C/. We went to the home of Iden D/ in the 2000 block of Taylor St., N. E. Iden D/ and another person, a youth of about 20 years whose name I don't remember, went to the party with us. We traveled in Iden D's/ car.

"Enroute to Iden A's/ home, we were involved in a minor accident on 21 St., N. E. between South Dakota and Abbe Island Avenues. No one was injured, and after the details of the accident were straightened out, we proceeded to Iden A's/ home, near Laurel, Maryland.

"Aside the aforementioned people, another guest, a gentleman, was at the party; however, I do not recall his name. I believe there were no other guests.

"During the course of the evening, drinks were served, general conversation was made - I don't recall any particular topics discussed - we danced to records, looked at slides, and listened to the piano and violin, played by members of the group.

"After the usual courtesies of thanking the host for an enjoyable evening and expressing the hope of seeing him again sometime, the guests departed. We arrived home without further incident.

"I was contacted at least once, and perhaps twice, after this party for another such gathering, but I was not able to join the group again. I believe it was Iden A/ who extended the later invitation. I think the last contact that was made was not later than January 1960.

"I should like to state again that I regret not being able to recall with more certainty the incidents relating to this meeting. However, at the time, it was an incidental social event and of course I had no idea of the importance this meeting would have in the future."

(Signed)

Mary L. Finan

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2. Subject says that this was the only occasion that she was with Iden A. If Iden A were at gatherings at Iden D's at the same time she was, she does not recall it. She did not attend a wrestling match at the YMCA with Iden A and to the best of her knowledge has never been to a wrestling match.

3. Subject met Iden B through her niece who was in Subject's class at nursing school at Catholic University. She subsequently saw Iden B from time to time but exhibited virtually no knowledge of Iden C; she did not know his last name, did not recognize it when it was mentioned and did not know what he did for a living. Further, she did not tie him together in her thinking with Iden D whom she did know.

4. Subject does not recall the name of Iden D's friend who was the fifth individual who went in their car to the gathering at Iden A's; nor does she know what his tie was to Iden D.

5. To the best of Subject's recollection, the group of five she travelled with were at Iden A's from about 9 p. m. until about midnight. As she writes, they danced, watched slides (of the U. S. West) and listened to the piano and violin - Iden A playing the former and Iden D the latter. She does not recall any specific conversation nor any comments made by Iden A. She has no recollections or impressions regarding him, his ideas, his motivations, his ideology, his conduct. In fact, Iden A made such a slight impression on her that she did not recognize his picture in the clipping forwarded by her mother and barely recollected the evening in question.

6. Although she is uncertain whether it was Iden A or Iden C who subsequently invited her to another gathering, she believes that Iden A did so on at least one occasion. (She said this varies with her earlier recollection, which she wrote in her letter to her mother, that it was Iden C who had done so.)

7. Subject believes there were only seven people at Iden A's. She remembers virtually no details concerning the seventh person, the man who did not come with her group. She estimates that he was about thirty and from comments made during the slides that he and Iden A had been acquainted when both were out West.

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