

F 68271.
Inaction

20 May 1950

RECORDED FOR FBI WASH.
SUBJECT: Communist Party - U.S.A.

MAIL-S 116273

1. On 29 April 1950 Mr. Frank Murphy, Associate Director of the FBI, telephoned to the offices of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) and told AFSC that he had just received a letter from New York, A. S. Tavel of Charles, General Secretary of AFSC, dated 27 April 1950, which advised him that Charles, born 1903, Bronx, New York, was a member of the Communist Party, former CP/MLUSA (former), describing Charles as a man of great desire to find a compromise in view of the events in India. Charles was described as President of the New Commercial Port in India, Patheria, who is in India and involved in the Indian People's Party. Mr. Murphy advised that he had obtained a full list of names of persons involved in the Indian People's Party and intended to contact Major General Frank Murphy in order to obtain more background information and a comment on Charles.

2. On 1 May (3 May), Murphy advised that Charles was staying at the Hotel Charles Hotel, New York, and that he had telephoned his wife since her name had been supplied to him by Dreyer. Charles confirmed her to be his person of contact in Washington. According to Mr. Murphy, Charles had representatives to see Vice Chairman Johnson, Senator Patric, and Congressional Friends (Vermont). However, Charles was willing to talk to representatives of the AFL, Murphy's office. Mr. Murphy stated that the Indian Port men in AFL are ready to go to New York to talk to Charles and invited AFL to accompany him. Charles speaks very little English and a Slavonic in Russia and therefore required for the interview. Mrs. Murphy stated that she might be able to obtain a French interpreter from Wm. A. Kelly, Congress's French, but it would not be an intelligence officer. It was disclosed that James Folsom, New York City, who has a knowledge of the French language would accompany the AFL representative. It was also arranged that the AFL representative would meet the AFL representatives (Captain Rogers) at the Hotel Charles Hotel where Charles was staying.

3. On 3 May 1950, Murphy reported that Col. Scott had telephoned Mr. Dreyer in New York City. Scott had complimented Charles on his book on India. Charles, according to Dreyer, formerly held no political position but in view of the current political situation in India, Charles now thinks that he may have day to proclaim. Dreyer described Charles as well-educated, politically and financially, on both sides of the fence in India. He is also a good friend of Jawaharlal Nehru. Dreyer had given Charles letters of introduction to Senator Keyting and to other senators in Washington. Charles wanted to see President Kennedy and indeed had gone to the White House to discuss his - an appointment. He was well received by the President's assistant secretary and invited to dinner but ending with the appointment.

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Secretary. During a conversation between Charles and Mrs. Nixon, Charles advised the Comint's that they had discussed:

4. Charles informed Mrs. Nixon that he had a firm geological survey in progress in the area and had no contact with Charles or his men who were still in the area trying to assess a route for the Charles train via the Mountain Division.

5. On 3 May CIA Director telephoned to advise that he had had a three-hour conference with the Japanese Foreign Minister Charles and Mrs. Nixon established with representatives and others by Charles to discuss what the United States could do in the current situation. After the United States could be giving information to Washington official that he was transmitting the information to Washington. The original copies of the telegram were transmitted to both the Central, copies of the telegram were transmitted to both the Central, CIA Division, and the Asia Pacific Branch (Mrs. Nixon), CIA Division, and the Asia Pacific Branch.

6. On 6 May Mrs. Nixon, former First Lady, advised that the CIA Division wished to return to Charles and Nixon was asked to accompany her. Mrs. Nixon telephoned at approximately 1000 to CIA Director to advise that she had just received a telephone call from Mrs. de Mille, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Republic of Germany, concerning her visit to Washington. Upon being told that we had no formal access of our own representation, Mrs. Nixon stated that she would check with the State Department Protocol Office to determine which hotels would admit non-US guests. Mrs. Nixon finally made arrangements at the Hotel Washington, D. C., at 1000 hours on 7 May. Attempts to reach Mrs. McInerney that afternoon were unsuccessful. At 0000, 7 May, a call was made to Mrs. McInerney to confirm that Charles would be in Washington on that day and that arrangements had been made for a meeting with an Agency representative for 1000 hours. Mrs. McInerney reported that both Mrs. De Mille and Charles had called her the previous evening to confirm a 1000 American appointment and that Mrs. McInerney had confirmed that CIA and Army would not be working at cross purposes. She had arranged an interview for CIA to meet Charles at 1000 and she said it would not be polite for her to withdraw from her commitment since Army command had the point of contact with Charles. Mrs. Nixon informed the CIA Division of the conversation that the CIA Division representative might meet Charles and Mrs. McInerney at 1000 and that Mrs. McInerney advised to withdraw shortly thereafter. The CIA representative declined the offer and reported that a meeting later in the afternoon be arranged. Mrs. McInerney believed that due to some scheduling instructions, she had been placed in the middle in the situation from which she could not gradually withdraw and requested that someone accompany her.

CONFIDENTIAL

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CIRCUIT CLERK'S OFFICE
CHARLES GEORGE CHARLES

7. I met Mr. Charles in the lobby of the Hotel Missouri shortly before noon, and a few minutes later, Mr. Charles informed, accompanied by Mr. Carl H. H. Hartnett, Jr., his attorney, that he had been summoned to the hotel. Mr. Charles informed me that he had been born in Falls, Kansas, USA, on 10 January 1900, and had been educated in Falls and a small town, the first four years in the public school. He also stated that he had been a member of the FBI from 1936 to 1940, during which time he had been assigned to the Bureau's office in Denver, Colorado, in 1937 and while there he had made two visits to Oklahoma at the time. He failed to furnish any information as to what he did, while serving on the Bureau. His place of residence, present, is Falls, Kansas, where he has had some banking experience. Mr. Charles stated that he was in Falls, Kansas, for business reasons and has nothing to do with politics. The Bureau has no record of him in either Falls, Kansas or in Falls, Oklahoma. Mr. Charles stated that he had been Charles the positive and that he is a partner with him in a small business in Falls.

8. Both Charles and Mr. Hartnett left my office to attend meetings with government officials in Washington. I mentioned to Charles that a meeting had been arranged for him at FBI and that Mr. Green would meet him in the lobby. At 11:30 Mrs. Hartnett, Mr. and Mrs. Charles and I departed and Charles remained in the lobby waiting for contact.

9. In the course of the luncheon conversation, Charles had mentioned to Mrs. Hartnett that he desired to see Mr. Vice, AGO, to discuss his aid to Hitler. After the afternoon session, Hartnett called to state that the AGO called the State Department to go along Charles' request. Mr. Lovett (State) has called her back to pass on the fact that there's certain difficulties that arises in the United States Government should be in official contact with Charles. The AGO has considered Charles to be close to the Foreign Comintern, to have been involved in several shady financial dealings, and in general, to be an undesirable character. Mrs. Hartnett asked Charles the Agency had any interest in Charles which would dictate further contact with Charles.

10. Mrs. Hartnett advised me to advise Mr. Hartnett that as a result of the meeting with Charles, the FBI Section Work had no further place to contact him. I told Mrs. Hartnett that our interests seemed to have been enlisted and that I believed we should disengage ourselves as carefully as possible.

(S. J. Hartnett)

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11. George Wilson, P/J Coordinator, called on 7 May to inquire concerning our participation in the Charles case. He stated that FBI had called him and the FBI had told him that FBI had no objection to Charles and that it was necessary for an intermediary of the Bureau of Criminal Justice who had passed the lead to Criminal Justice. This was unusual since due to the nature of the assignment to the Charles, Criminal Justice would be responsible for all contacts with Charles. It appeared to Wilson that the Bureau had agreed and he had no need to advise that FBI was completely satisfied in the way the other lead had handled.

12. On 9 May Mr. McLean telephoned to advise that the Congressional Friends of FBI were discussing the Charles case with FBI to determine future course of action. He was still uncertain concerning our own position in the case when Charles considered his to be the final point in Washington. He indicated to me that the matter was one for claims, the State Department or the congressional claimants to handle and that we preferred to determine ourselves. Mr. McLean mentioned that a Special had been assigned to the office that in view of Charles was probably justified as a suspect, to facilitate should the letter be overthrown. On one of the points that the J. Government should continue to "play ball" with Charles as a formality except in litigation efforts.

A. D. CHARLES

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