

SECRET

US OFFICIALS ONLY

HX-11

21 February 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Department of State
Director, Office of Security

ATTENTION: Mr. Emery J. Adams

SUBJECT: MARTIN, William
MITCHELL, Burton

1. Reference is made to your letter of 21 October 1961 captioned "MARTIN, William and MITCHELL, Burton", and to your recent letter of 16 January 1961, captioned as above, your file reference SY:MMU.

2. Thank you for your letter of 16 October 1960, which enclosed a copy of the news article regarding Subjects, which appeared in the New York Daily News Sunday Edition of 11 September 1960. We regret that through an oversight your letter was not immediately acknowledged and no indication provided to you of the status of the action undertaken in response to your queries. In the interim, however, the necessary action and file checks have been completed, and the results are reported below.

3. With reference to the news article itself, and your request for verification of the information reported in the press, a check of our records failed to develop any information pertaining to the allegation that Subjects joined the Communist Party in February 1938, and that their party names were "Martin WILLIAMS" and "Mitch BERNON", respectively. It is suggested that you may wish to refer this question to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, as we note that neither of the above references indicates that a copy was forwarded to the Bureau, nor that a separate inquiry was being made of that office.

4. With reference to our request for information concerning the identity of the refugee organization which allegedly obtained a bulletin containing this information, appropriate inquiries have been made by our representatives in London. The latter advised in late December 1960

SECRET

US OFFICIALS ONLY

SECRET

US EYES ONLY

that this news item was discussed with [redacted] who advised that they were unable to develop any information either to refute or to support the story as carried in the press. However, [redacted] indicated that they consider it probable that the actual source was a certain Joseph HEISLER, born 7 July 1911 in Czechoslovakia, who is believed to have been used at times as a contact by Mr. Henry R. MAULE, the chief London correspondent of "The New York Times". HEISLER on occasion has laid claim to having sources behind the Iron Curtain, but [redacted] is of the opinion that he probably obtains his information from a Czech Refugee organization, not further identified by name. They also indicated that the British consider it highly improbable that there is any truth in this particular story.

5. Our records indicate that the above Joseph HEISLER, who first arrived in the United Kingdom in 1939, and since then has engaged in various export-import transactions, may already be known to your Department. He first came to attention in September 1957 when our representatives in London were requested to obtain [redacted] traces on HEISLER for Mr. Clinton Green, USIA representative in London, who had received an unsolicited approach from a J. Bernard HUTTON, identified by [redacted] as Joseph HEISLER. Our records indicate that a report of Mr. Green's contacts with HEISLER was forwarded to USIA Headquarters in late 1957, and that certain documents relating to HEISLER's import-export operations were forwarded by the Economic Defense Office representatives in London to your Department at about the same time. The files show that a full copy of the [redacted] report, suggesting that J. Bernard HUTTON is identical with Joseph HEISLER accompanied the report to USIA Headquarters. A copy of these traces is provided for your convenience, as attachment herewith.

6. We note that in a reply to [redacted] prepared by our representatives in response to the above mentioned traces on HEISLER, mention is made of a 1966 visa application filed by HEISLER, presumably for entry into the United States, although the actual reference is not available. It is requested that any additional information which may be reflected in the indices of the Department of State with reference to Joseph HEISLER's visa application and on his contacts with Comintern or Soviet Intelligence officials or organizations, be provided to this Agency as expeditiously as possible.

7. The foregoing information is restricted for internal use of the

SECRET

US EYES ONLY

SECRET

US EMBASSY WASH DC

addressee only, and may not be disseminated outside the addressee office without the prior approval of the originator.

FOR THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR (PLANS):

WILLIAM R. HARVEY

1 Attachment:
As stated

cc w/att: Federal Bureau of Investigation
cc w/att: National Security Agency
Attn: Mr. S. Wesley Reynolds

DD/P/FI/D/APotocki:mem

Distribution:

Orig & 1 w/att - Addressee
1 w/att - 100-6-124/3
1 w/att - 201-282337 ✓
1 w/att - 201-282338
2 w/l att - OS/SRS
1 w/att - 201-207250 (Joseph HEISLER)
1 w/att - chrono

Based on: OELW 18040
OELA 32666
OELA 21634

SECRET

US EMBASSY WASH DC

SECRET

ATTACHMENT

I think there is no doubt from the particulars and description given in paragraph 1 of that letter that the man in whom you are currently interested is Joseph HEISLER, born 7 July 1911, a Czechoslovakian national who first arrived in the U.K. on 20 June 1939.

HEISLER was educated in Chrast until 1930, when he went to Berlin and studied medicine. In 1933 he returned to Czechoslovakia and became a journalist. According to his own statement made to the British Police in September 1941, HEISLER became interested in Communism in Berlin in 1930 and joined the Communist Party in 1932. He wrote articles for a communist periodical called "Red West" and was associated with the organization "Red Help." In 1933 he transferred to the Czech Communist Party and wrote for "Kude Pravo." In April 1934 he went to Moscow and obtained employment on the staff of the "Moscow Evening News."

According to a usually reliable source HEISLER attended the Lenin School in Moscow in about 1937. He admitted visiting the Lenin School but maintained that he had never attended an intensive course of political instruction. He also claimed that in 1935 he had been invited to become a citizen of the U.S.S.R., but he had refused, and that by 1935 he was no longer a member of the Communist Party.

After his arrival in the U.K. HEISLER joined the Thomas Mann group of Czech journalists. (This was one of the emigre groups formed under the Czech Refugee Trust Fund). He was reliably reported to be a Communist at that time. HEISLER was employed by the Czech Ministry for Foreign Affairs from about August 1941 until February 1946 as a radio commentator and translator. He is known to have said that he received a salary from the Czech Embassy "for propaganda." After the war he made several visits to Czechoslovakia; on the last occasion he returned to this country on 21 February 1946. Although he claims to have resigned from Czech Government employment at the time of the Communist coup d'etat, reliable sources show that he was, at least until October 1945, a contact of Dr. ZEMAN, who at that time was Second Secretary in the Czech Embassy and the representative there of the Czech Ministry of the Interior. HEISLER was strongly suspected of acting as an agent for ZEMAN. He was also reported to be posing as a Socialist but in reality to be a Communist.

SECRET

US OFFICIALS ONLY

SECRET

US OFFICIALS ONLY

"In December 1947 HEISLER applied to the Home Office for permission to publish a weekly newspaper in the Czech language for the Czech communities in this country, to establish a literary and music agency through which foreign literature could be placed in this country and from time to time to publish books, mainly for export. He was granted permission to work as a free-lance journalist.

"At the end of 1947 HEISLER applied for a Certificate of Naturalization, but this was refused in March 1949.

"In March 1949 HEISLER started a firm named the Hildex Company, which claimed to be the sole agent for a firm of Spanish cotton manufacturers. This firm does not appear to have had a good reputation. In 1951 he was connected with an import and export firm named All-Ways Service, and in 1952 with Metex Company and The Metex Company Limited. Since that time he has continuously come to notice in connection with arms dealing. There is, however, no evidence to connect him with any political activity. Recent information suggests that he may be in some financial difficulties.

"HEISLER married first on 10 October 1940 Elena nee KOSILBECKOVA, who died on 9 September 1950. They had two British born children. On 12 December 1950 he married a British subject named Pearl GOLD, by whom he has one child. The HEISLERs lived at various addresses in London until about 1954, since when they have lived in Surcouf. Their present address is 33 Gerald Road, Worthing."

SECRET

US OFFICIALS ONLY

1

PID/SAS indices checked 10 Feb 61 - Negative results

Dr. Jakob Y. FISCHER

HAYANKO Hansko 9 Common-law Japanese wife

Rheinland German Kitchen.