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DIRECTOR, FBI (105-86307)

July 28, 1960

SAC, NEW YORK (105-39681)

AMERICO JOSEPH SALEBE
IS - R

ReBulet dated 6-28-60.

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per Release in 190-27352-4

On 7-21-60, subject was interviewed at his residence by SAs FRANKLIN B. TEEBEN and RICHARD W. HILL. The interview was conducted under the pretext that DENNIS HARBER (DENNIS LYNN HARBER, IS-R; NY 105-37990), subject's former roommate, had contacted the FBI Office at Kansas City, Mo., stating that he had been kidnapped by FIDEL CASTRO's agents but had escaped and that the Soviets were also "after" him. The subject was asked about HARBER's possible relation to Cuba and the Soviets.

Subject stated that HARBER had been his roommmate but that he was "nutty" and had been confined in the mental wards of numerous Veterans Administration hospitals.

Subject said that HARBER taught English at the Berlitz School of Languages, Rockefeller Center, NYC, and while there came into contact with three or four Soviets. He said that he met LEONID KOVALEV once at Berlitz when he went there to meet HARBER, and that subsequently he saw KOVALEV again at a party given by ANNETTE EPSTEIN, in 1958; he supplied EPSTEIN's residence then as West 79th St., NYC. He said that he accompanied HARBER to this party and that the guests were all Berlitz teachers or students; he stated that EPSTEIN was a Berlitz teacher, an acquaintance of HARBER's.

Subject stated that he last saw KOVALEV at EPSTEIN's party and that HARBER had introduced him to one other Soviet, at Berlitz, whose name he could not recall. Subject said that he had not met any other Soviets and that his association was limited to that above.

- 2- Bureau (105-86307) (RM)
 - 1 - (105-64470) (KOVALEV)
 - 1 - 105- (HARBER)
- 3- New York (105-39681)
 - 1 - (105-27651) (KOVALEV)
 - 1 - 105-37990 (HARBER)

105-82933

NOT RECORDED
160 AUG 3 1960

RWH:slf
59 AUG 8 1960

5-23-94
Classified by SP5 BJA/GCL
Declassify on: OADR (SFA)

SECRET

J.E.G. - W.H.S.H.

10-07-97
CLASSIFIED BY 5668 SW/MS
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X 1
5668 SW/MS (JFK)
11/23/97 (JFK)

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

105-86307-8
ORIGINAL FILED IN

SECRET

NY 105-39681

Subject stated that HARBER's association with the (S) [Soviets] was purely social and that he does not believe HARBER knew any [Soviets] apart from those he taught at Berlitz. (S)

Subject related that HARBER had been in Havana, Cuba, for two days in 1956, when subject accompanied him to Colombia where HARBER was employed to teach English to a wealthy person. They stopped in Havana on the way in order that subject could visit some of his relatives, and HARBER, who does not speak Spanish, was with subject constantly. Subject stated that, to his knowledge, CASTRO was unknown at that time and that he and HARBER spent their time there visiting subject's relatives. (S) (u)

Subject advised that he has a security clearance in connection with his employment by Lockheed, that he loves this country very much, and, that if he had believed that [KOVALEV] (S) had an "evil" purpose in his association with HARBER or himself he would have immediately called the FBI. He said that HARBER knew many foreign nationals and that he therefore thought nothing of meeting [a Soviet] among HARBER's acquaintances. (S)

As will be noted, ANNETTE SYLVIA EPSTEIN (former PSI), the source of this case, advised that subject told her that he took [KOVALEV, YURIY I. MISHUKOV and VADIM (LNU), (probably VADIM KIRILYUK)] to a party given by LIBBY HOLMAN REYNOLDS in (S) the summer of 1958. These gatherings were said to continue into the summer of 1959. In addition, subject told both EPSTEIN and BURTON VAN HORN FOREMAN (former PSI), that [KOVALEV] had (S) visited the apartment he and HARBER shared, and subject was present at several parties with [KOVALEV], the last known contact (S) taking place in April, 1960, at a party given by FOREMAN. At this party, subject greeted [KOVALEV] warmly and asked how "GEORGE" (S) was, referring to MISHUKOV. (S)

Subject was given every opportunity to volunteer information re his activities with the [Soviets] but he would relate (S) only that he encountered [KOVALEV] twice and was introduced to (S) another [Soviet], whose name he could not recall. He assured the interviewing agents of his cooperation and stated that he would be glad to be of further help if needed. (S)

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The interviewing agents observed none of the outward characteristics associated with homosexuals in subject's appearance, manner or speech.

It is proposed that subject be re-interviewed. SALEBI will be advised that we have learned that he has associated socially with [KOVALEV, NISHUKOV, KIRILYUN] and REYNOLDS. X It is felt that after reflecting on the past interview and his activities with [the Soviets,] subject will be more cooperative. (S) It is also felt that the informants (EPSTEIN and FOREMAN) will not be jeopardized since, as far as the subject is concerned there will be ample time in which the Bureau could learn of more of his activities. (S)

Subject would again be interviewed by two agents and the interview would take place in a Bureau car. Should he be cooperative, no guidance will be given to him without Bureau authority.

UACB, subject will be re-interviewed as outlined above on 5/8/60.

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