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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
MEMORANDUM

SECRET

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (105-86307)

DATE: 8/23/60

FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (105-39681)

SUBJECT: AMERICO JOSEPH SALEBE
IS - R

#211 326
Classified by SP6 BJA/GCL
Declassify on: OADR 3/27/85
Per 196-27352-4

Enclosed are ~~nine~~ (9) copies of a letterhead memorandum dated and captioned as above, setting forth all information furnished by subject concerning his past (S) [association with Soviets] in the NYC area, during interviews conducted on 7/21/60, and 8/11/60. The 8/11/60, re-interview was conducted by SAS RICHARD W. HILL and FRANKLIN B. TEETER away from subject's place of residence. (S)

In addition to being shown photographs of [Soviets KOVALEV and MISHUKOV,] which he positively identified, (S) SALEBE was also shown photographs of [Soviets VADIM A. KIRILYUK and BORIS I. BUKATIY.] He was unable to identify (S) either of these [Soviets.] In connection with [KIRILYUK] (S) attention is called to the fact that former PSI advised in the past that SALEBE had told her that he had taken [KOVALEV, YURIY A. MISHUKOV, and VADIM (INS)] to a party given by LIBBY (S) HOLMAN REYNOLDS in the Summer of 1958. Throughout the 8/11/60, interview, subject insisted that [KOVALEV and "George"] (S)

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5-23-94
Classified by AS-RMB/ude
Declassify on: OADR (JFK)

CLASSIFIED BY SP6 BJA/GCL
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW... 8-12-80

- 6 - Bureau (105-86307) (RM) (Encls 9)
- 1 - (105-64470) (LEONID A. KOVALEV) (S)
- 1 - (105-64471) (YURIY A. MISHUKOV) (S)
- 1 - 105- (DENNIS HARBER)
- 1 - 100-313343 (LIBBY HOLMAN REYNOLDS)
- 1 - New York (105-27649) (YURIY A. MISHUKOV) (S)
- 1 - New York (105-27651) (LEONID A. KOVALEV) (S)
- 1 - New York (105-37990) (DENNIS HARBER)
- 1 - New York (105-37958) (LIBBY HOLMAN REYNOLDS)
- 1 - New York (105-39681)

FBT:lhb
(11)

10-27-97

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) DATE 8-5-80

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CLASSIFIED BY 5668 SLD/KSA
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X 1,6
5668-320/ude
11/25/97 (JFK)
ENCLOSURE
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ORIGINAL FILED IN 105-86307-9

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were the only [Soviets] (S) he had associated with. When shown the photograph of [KIRILYUK] (S) however, he stated that he (S) recalled that DENNIS HARBER had in past mentioned a [VADIM] (S) who was a student at the Berlitz School. Subject was unable to state whether this [VADIM (LNU)] was identical with (S) (S) [KIRILYUK] and he insisted that he had never actually met this individual. He further advised that the only party he had ever attended at LIBBY HOLMAN REYNOLD's apartment where (S) [Soviets] were present, was the affair following the art exhibition (referred to in the letterhead memorandum) and only [KOVALEV] was present. X (S)

In connection with his association with LIBBY HOLMAN REYNOLDS, subject stated that he had attended parties and other social gatherings at her apartment on several occasions, but insisted that the above mentioned one was the only such affair where [Soviets] were present (S) However, he pointed out that it was entirely possible that Mrs. REYNOLDS invited [KOVALEV and/or other Soviets] to (S) parties after the one where she first met [KOVALEV.] Along (S) this line he volunteered the information that in March, 1960, LIBBY HOLMAN REYNOLDS contacted him by telephone to invite him to another art exhibition to be held in Greenwich Village. She told him that she planned to invite [KOVALEV] (S) and asked subject where she should send the [Soviet's] (S) invitation. SALEBE told her he only knew [KOVALEV's UN] (S) address. Subject added that he had not actually attended this art exhibition so he did not know if [KOVALEV] was present (S) However, he pointed out that he did attend a party at Mrs. REYNOLDS apartment following the art exhibition, and [KOVALEV] (S) was not present. X (S)

During both the 7/21/60, and 8/11/60, interviews, following his having given a resume of his association with (S) [KOVALEV] subject stated on both occasions that his last contact with this [Soviet] had been in March, 1959, at the (S) party at LIBBY HOLMAN REYNOLDS' apartment. Inasmuch as both ANNETTE EPSTEIN and also former PSI BURTON VAN HORN FOREMAN had reported that SALEBE was present at a party given on 4/16/60, by FOREMAN and advised that [KOVALEV] was also present (S) it was decided during the 8/11/60, interview to resolve this X (S)

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matter. As a result, and because of [KOVALEV's] (S) departure from the US and the subsequent closing of the 134 cases on both EPSTEIN and FOREMAN, subject was asked if he had not attended a party in April, 1960, at which [KOVALEV] (S) was present. SALEBE immediately acknowledged that he had attended such a party at the residence of FOREMAN and stated that he had forgotten about it. At this point he also stated that he had done nothing wrong, had nothing to hide, and had no reason not to tell the FBI about the April, 1960, party except that he simply forgot it. He further stated that he was very security conscious because of his job with Lockheed and had he thought that (S) [KOVALEV] was up to anything suspicious he would have contacted the FBI immediately. (S)

With respect to his contacting the FBI, subject stated that he would immediately notify the NYO should he be re-contacted by [KOVALEV] or any other [Soviets.] (S) regardless of what the purpose of such contacts might be. However, he expressed the belief that [KOVALEV] would not (S) (S) contact him, explaining that he had met this [Soviet] through DENNIS HARBER and that [KOVALEV] had shown nothing more than (S) just a casual social interest in him. (S)

In view of subject's cooperative attitude and willingness to furnish the details of his association with (S) [KOVALEV] it is felt that he does not constitute a risk to the security of the country. Also, because of the fact (S) that [KOVALEV] has departed the US and is not expected to return and inasmuch as [MISHUKOV] has made no effort to (S) develop subject, it is felt that SALEBE has little if any potential as [a double agent or] informant. Therefore, this (S) case is being placed in a closed status. Should any information be received indicating further association between subject and [Soviets.] this case will be re-opened (S) and handled in compliance with [Section 105K of Manual of Instructions.] (S)

The confidential informant used to document (S) [KOVALEV's past intelligence activities] in enclosed letterhead memorandum was [Physical Observation Posts] which were (S) maintained in vicinity of Springfield, Mass., in July, 1959, and Aug., 1959. The confidential informant used to document (S)

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[MISHUKOV]^(S) in enclosed letterhead memorandum was former
NY [2620] S. ~~X~~

One copy of the enclosed letterhead memorandum is being disseminated locally to OSI. By letter dated 7/28/60, the District Commander, Second District, OSI, 111 E. 16th St., NYC, requested the NYO to furnish his office with the results of any interview of subject that might be conducted. For the information of the Bureau, a copy of the report of SA RICHARD W. HILL dated 6/15/60, at NY, was previously disseminated locally to OSI. This report contained the results of the investigation to that date re subject.

Extra copies of the enclosed letterhead memorandum are being furnished to the Bureau because of the number of files to which it will be disseminated at the Seat of Government.

The enclosed letterhead memorandum has been classified Confidential as it reflects investigative coverage of [a contact of a Soviet national,] disclosure of (S) which could be harmful to the national interest. ~~X~~

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

~~SECRET~~

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

New York, New York

August 23, 1960

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ 10-27-97

CLASSIFIED BY 57668 SLD/KSR
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X 1, 6

(JFK)

5-23-94
Classified by 15-PMB/rdk
Declassify on: OADR (JFK)

Re: Americo Joseph Salebe
Internal Security - R

On July 21, 1960, and August 11, 1960, captioned individual, who resides at 454 West 22nd Street, New York City, and is employed as an Aviation Electrician at Lockheed Aircraft Service International, Incorporated, New York International Airport, Jamaica, Queens, New York, furnished the following information concerning his past association with Soviet nationals employed at the United Nations: (S)

Shortly after immigrating to the United States from Colombia, Central America in 1956, Salebe met, and became a roommate of Dennis L. Harber, an English Instructor at the Berlitz School of Languages, Rockefeller Center, New York City. Harber had as students at the Berlitz School a number of foreign nationals, among whom were several Soviets. (S) Harber often talked to Salebe about the fact that he had (S) Russians as students and explained that they were in effect, international civil servants as they worked for the United Nations organization rather than being members of the Soviet Union's Delegation to the United Nations. (S) Salebe met only two of these Soviets, and under the following circumstances: (S)

The first Soviet he met was introduced to him as Leonid Kovaley by Harber. (S) Salebe met this individual in the Spring of 1958, when he accompanied Dennis Harber to the Berlitz School. (S)

He next saw Kovaley sometime during the Summer of 1958, when he attended a party on West 79th Street, New York City, which was given by Miss Annette Epstein, another Instructor at the Berlitz School. (S)

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#21,724
Classified by SP6 BJA/GCL
Declassify on: OADR 3/27/85
per 190-28352-4

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SECRET

Americo Joseph Salebe

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Also present at this party was another [Soviet] (S) national who was introduced by [Kovalev] as "George" and [S] further identified as a fellow worker [at the United Nations Secretariat.] During the course of the evening, Salebe (S) conversed on several occasions with both [Kovalev and "George."] These conversations were purely social in (S) nature; however, at one point he conversed in Spanish with ["George,"] who told him that he [(the Soviet)] had learned (S) Spanish while serving in Spain in 1934 and/or 1935. ["George"] did not explain what work he was doing in Spain. (S)

Following the party given by Annette Epstein, Salebe saw [Soviet Leonid Kovalev] on a number of occasions (S) either at the Berlitz School or when the [Soviet] came to (S) his and Harber's apartment for English lessons. (S)

His next contact with [Kovalev] (S) occurred in the Spring of 1959. Sometime in March, 1959, Mrs. Libby Holman Reynolds invited Salebe to an art exhibition to be held at a gallery on Madison Avenue. Salebe explained that Mrs. Reynolds was a wealthy woman he had met some five years previously when he operated a Hi Fidelity Repair Shop. She was referred to him by another customer and had utilized his services both in connection with Hi-Fi systems in her New York City apartment and her home in Connecticut. As a result of doing work for Mrs. Reynolds, she had invited him to several cocktail parties and other such affairs. (S)

In addition to inviting him to the art exhibition, Mrs. Reynolds told Salebe that she was planning a tour of the Far East and wanted to include [the Soviet Union] in this tour. She asked if Salebe or Dennis Harber knew any (S) Soviets who might be able to give her some ideas as to the type of entertainment which would be accepted in [the USSR]. (S)

As a result of Mrs. Reynolds request, Salebe (S) contacted [Kovalev] (S) by telephone at [the United Nations.] He explained to [the Soviet] what Mrs. Reynolds wanted and invited (S) him to the art exhibition. [Kovalev] stated he would be glad (S) to do so. (S)

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to talk to Mrs. Reynolds and they agreed to meet at the art gallery. ~~XX~~

Following the exhibition, Salebe and [Kovalev] (S) attended a party given by Libby Holman Reynolds at her New York City apartment. During this affair, Mrs. Reynolds talked about her proposed tour with [Kovalev] in Salebe's (S) presence. [Kovalev] told Mrs. Reynolds that he did not think (S) that the type of concert she was planning would be very well received (S) in the USSR and also stated that he did not believe (S) she could arrange it under the official exchange program (S) between the United States and the Soviet Union. (S) However, (S) he told her that if she still wanted to try and arrange it she should contact the Intourist organization. ~~XX~~ (S)

Salebe's last contact with [Kovalev] (S) occurred in April, 1960, when he attended a party held at the residence of Burton Foreman on Claremont Avenue near Columbia University, New York City. Salebe identified Foreman as a former instructor at the Berlitz School of Languages who currently teaches Japanese at Columbia. He further explained that he had met Foreman at the party given by Annette Epstein during the Summer of 1958, and did not know him well, adding that it was Annette Epstein who invited him to the April, 1960, party. ~~XX~~

Salebe advised that he arrived at the Foreman party at approximately 10:00 p.m. and knew few of the people present. However, [Kovalev] showed up at the affair (S) approximately one hour later, and they visited together socially on several occasions. [Kovalev] left the party, alone, (S) at 12:30 p.m. Salebe remained at the affair until it ended at approximately 4:00 a.m. and spent most of the time dancing with a girl introduced to him by Annette Epstein. ~~XX~~

(S) Following the above resume of his contacts with [Kovalev], Salebe advised that all of his contacts with this (S) Soviet had been purely social in nature and "above board". He added that [Kovalev] had at no time asked him about his job (S) at the New York International Airport and in fact had made no unusual requests. Salebe stated that he considers himself ~~XX~~

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a loyal American, even though he is a naturalized citizen, and would have discontinued his association with Kovalev, limited as it was, if [the Soviet] had acted suspicious in any way. ~~(S)~~ (S)

Concerning ["George,"] Salebe advised that he had only met and talked with [this Soviet] on the one occasion, the party given by Annette Epstein during the Summer of 1958. However, he stated that from remarks that [Kovalev] had made, he got the impression that ["George"] was also present at the March, 1959, art exhibition, although if so, he, ["George,"] did not attend the party held afterwards at Libby Holman Reynolds' apartment. ~~(S)~~ (S) (S)

During the course of the above interviews, Salebe positively identified a photograph of [Soviet national Leonid Afanasievich Kovalev] as the [Leonid Kovalev] he had met through Dennis Harber. He further positively identified a photograph of [Soviet national Yuriy Alekseevich Mishukov] as the [Soviet] known to him as ["George"]. ~~(S)~~ (S) (S)

Prior to his departure from the United States on June 1, 1960, [Leonid Afanasievich Kovalev] was employed as a [Translator] in the [Russian Section, Language and Meetings Service, Office of Conference Services, United Nations Secretariat], New York City. [Yuriy Alekseevich Mishukov] is currently employed in the same capacity at the [United Nations Secretariat]. ~~(S)~~ (S) (S) (S)

According to a confidential source, who has furnished reliable information in the past, [Kovalev] has engaged in intelligence activities in the past. ~~(S)~~ (S)

Also, according to another confidential source who has furnished reliable information in the past, [Mishukov] has engaged in intelligence activities in the past. ~~(S)~~ (S)

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