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VERA ORLOFF

MRS. FRED WILLIAM ONICK

LOYALTY OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

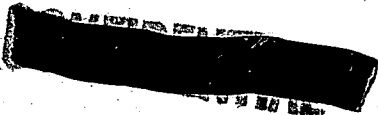
WILLIAM ONICK

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Title: VERA ONICK, aka Vera Orloff,  
Mrs. Fred William Onick  
Clerk Stenographer - Appointee  
San Francisco Port of Embarkation  
Department of the Army  
Fort Mason, California  
LOYALTY OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

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Report of: Special Agent Floyd B. Barrus

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Date and Place: March 7, 1949  
San Francisco, California

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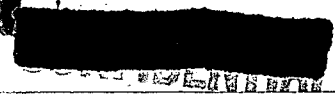
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VERA ONICK, aka Vera Orloff,  
Mrs. Fred William Onick  
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LOYALTY OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

San Francisco, California  
March 7, 1949

### I. PERSONAL HISTORY

Appointee's Loyalty Data Form reflects her to have been born March 24, 1923, San Francisco, California. She attended the Tamalpais Union High School, Mill Valley, California 1938 to 1941, and the California Secretarial School, San Francisco, from September 1941 to June 1942. Began employment with the U. S. Food and Drug Administration, Federal Office Building, San Francisco, in July 1942, where she worked until September 1943, at which time she transferred to the District Supply Office, U. S. Navy, Twelfth Naval District, San Francisco. She worked at this position until May 1947. From May 1947 until November 1948, she was unemployed and resided with her parents at 3667 - 18th Street, San Francisco. She received an appointment as Clerk Stenographer with the San Francisco Port of Embarkation, Fort Mason, California, on November 19, 1948. She is divorced from FRED WILLIAM ONICK.

Confidential informant San Francisco T-1, who is acquainted with the appointee, advised that appointee has a daughter born December 4, 1947, and that she still resides with her parents at 3667 - 18th Street, San Francisco, California.

### II. BASIS FOR INVESTIGATION

The San Francisco Chronicle, a San Francisco daily newspaper, on December 26, 1945, carried a picture identified as VERA ORLOFF and her sister, OLGA, and that of Mrs. MICHAEL S. VAVILOV, wife of the Russian Consul General of San Francisco. The article accompanying this picture stated that the three had been planning details of a celebration on New Year's Eve, which event would mark the finis to a victory loan drive, which event was being sponsored by the All-Slavic Council of Northern California.

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Confidential Informant San Francisco T-5, who is familiar with Slavic activities in the San Francisco Bay area, and has provided reliable information in the past, advised that the All-Slavic Council of Northern California was formed in 1942 as an outgrowth of the All-Slav Committee. It presently functions as a fund-raising group and annually promotes the All-Slavic New Year's Eve ball for the benefit of the Russian, Yugoslav and Czechoslovak nationality groups, having representation in the Council. In previous years, although known Communists are members of this organization, relatively little pressure had been exerted by those members to influence this organization. This organization is not officially connected with the American Slav Congress in New York City, although the American Slav Congress has always tried to exert pressure on this organization. T-5 stated that the newly elected officers of the All-Slavic Council of Northern California for 1948 are definitely pro-Communist or Communist Party members. As a result of the election of officers for 1948, the members of the Czechoslovak nationality who are not Communists or Communist sympathizers have withdrawn from the Council. T-5 believes that the Council will probably in the near future affiliate itself officially with the American Slav Congress in New York. He stated that the American Slav Congress in New York is definitely controlled by Communists.

### III. RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION

There is attached a photostatic copy of the picture of appointee, her sister, OLGA, and Mrs. MICHAEL S. VAVILOV, appearing in the San Francisco Chronicle December 26, 1945, which was referred to in the Basis for this investigation.

Confidential informant SF-1159, a reliable informant who declines to furnish a signed statement or appear before a Loyalty Hearing Board, advised that in 1944 appointee was known to him as a member of the Russian American Society in San Francisco, and that she had taken part in a meeting of that society held November 11, 1944 celebrating the Twenty-Seventh Anniversary of the Soviet Union.

This informant advised that he knew appointee's father, JOHN ORLOFF, to have been extremely active in the Russian American Society in San Francisco from 1943 and to have acted as Treasurer part of this time. He described ORLOFF as ambitious and stubborn and always desirous of being the leader. He stated that inasmuch as ORLOFF could not replace VICTOR ARNAUTOFF as President of the Russian American Society, he devoted his attention to the All-Slavic Council of Northern California; however, he continued his membership in the Russian American Society. In the All-

Slavic Council of Northern California he was elected President on January 28, 1948, which position he has occupied to the present time. He stated that ORLOFF had considerable contact with members of the Russian Consulate in San Francisco prior to its closing in the fall of 1948. He stated that in November of 1946 JOHN ORLOFF attended a meeting of the Russian American Society, at which time he reported on his personal impressions of the All-Slav Congress held in the summer of 1946 in New York City. He remarked over the great enthusiasm with which STALIN and TITO's messages to the Congress were received. Informant further stated that at this meeting, ORLOFF distributed two bottles of Russian made vodka to those present at the meeting for the purpose of drinking a toast to Comrade STALIN. The vodka had been a gift of former San Francisco Consul General JACOB LOMAKIN, whom ORLOFF had seen in New York City.

Informant stated that JOHN ORLOFF had told him that in July 1944 three Russian engineers had visited the factory of the A. Lietz Company in San Francisco, which company manufactures nautical and surveying instruments. He stated that these engineers had been taken on a tour of the factory by a representative of the company, and one of them indicated an interest in a magnetic needle and wanted to know the metal from which it was made. ORLOFF told the informant that he had been the translator, and that the company official leading the tour at the factory refused to furnish this information to the Russian engineer, saying that it was secret. ORLOFF told informant that he then told the Russian engineer, in Russian, that the metal was not secret because all the workers knew about it, and that he, ORLOFF, would get anything the visitors wanted. Informant did not know whether the instrument had been obtained for the Russians by ORLOFF, and he could furnish no additional information in this regard.

SF-1159 advised that in July 1947 at a meeting of the Communist Party faction within the Russian American Society, it had been recommended that JOHN ORLOFF be recruited into the Communist Party. All Party members present at the meeting, with the exception of one or two, had concurred in the recommendation. Informant stated that ORLOFF subsequently declined the invitation to join the Party, stating that he does the work anyway, and does not have time to attend meetings and participate in other direct Party activities.

Informant stated that ORLOFF is definitely a Communist sympathizer; he is an "old Socialist" and, therefore, his ideas sometime deviate from the actual Party line. However, he generally follows the Party line.



Informant added that ORLOFF is very favorable to the U.S.S.R., and that anything Russia does is correct to his way of thinking, and he always finds some way to justify any act on the part of Russia. Informant expressed the opinion that in an emergency, he thinks ORLOFF would favor Russia, but he is not sure whether this would be reflected in any overt acts.

The Russian American Society was founded in San Francisco, California on June 28, 1941 and was incorporated in the State of California in November 1941. Confidential informant SF-1159, who is affiliated with the Russian American Society at San Francisco and who also was a member of the Communist Party, has advised that the organization was comprised of ninety-four members as of January 1, 1948. Informant stated that a section of the Communist Party members and followers of the Communist Party line, has control of the organization. According to the informant, the emphasis of the Russian American Society activities is placed on the dissemination of propaganda on behalf of Soviet Russia.

The Communist Party, USA, has been declared by Attorney General TOM C. CLARK to be within the purview of Executive Order 9835.

Confidential informant SF-1180, an informant of known reliability who declines to furnish a signed statement or appear before a Loyalty Hearing Board, advised that JOHN ORLOFF in July 1944 was host to LUKO ZAPOROCHENKO and TOVSTYKH and ORLOVSHY, Consulate employees, in showing them around the A. Lietz Company factory, San Francisco, where ORLOFF was employed. Informant stated that the company manufactured nautical instruments, and that, while being shown through the factory, ORLOVSHY became interested in a certain item in the factory and wished to take a sample of it, but at that time it had not been possible to take it. Informant stated that subsequently ORLOFF contacted Consulate employees advising them that he had the sample for ORLOVSHY, in which he was interested, and was desirous of delivering it to ORLOVSHY and explain its operation. Informant did not know just what this object consisted.

In a previous investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Mr. ADOLPH LIETZ, President of the A. Lietz Company, San Francisco, California, was contacted with reference to the instrument which JOHN ORLOFF was alleged to have delivered to the Russian engineers. Mr. LIETZ advised that the company made no instruments or equipment which could be considered restricted, confidential or secret.

Confidential informant SF-1537, an informant known to be reliable and who declines to furnish a signed statement or appear before a Loyalty Hearing Board, advised that JOHN ORLOFF was President of the All-Slav

