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IDENTIFICATION FORM

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VERA ONICK

VERA ORLOFF

MRS. FRED WILLIAM ONICK

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October 1, 1955

FRED WILLIAM ONICK  
Born: July 4, 1921  
San Francisco, California

No investigation pertinent to your inquiry has been conducted by the FBI concerning the captioned individual. However, the files of this Bureau reflect the following information which may relate to the former spouse of your subject, his father and his present spouse.

Transmitted herewith is one report reflecting the results of a Loyalty of Government Employees investigation concerning Vera Onick conducted by the FBI in 1949.

A confidential informant who has furnished reliable information in the past advised that William Onick, 2952 Jackson Street, San Francisco, California, was a member of and active in the leadership of the Russian-American Society at San Francisco during the years 1943 and 1944. The Russian-American Society has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

With reference to the above, the 1944 San Francisco City Directory listed a William F. Onick, a carpenter, whose wife's name was Anisla, as being a resident of 2952 Jackson Street, San Francisco, California. The 1950 Marin County Directories, which include San Francisco, listed a William Fred Onick, a salesman, who resided at 26 Rocklyn Court, Corte Madera, California, and a William F. Onick, a carpenter, whose wife's name of Anisla, at the same address.

Our files reflect that according to a source which has furnished reliable information in the past, Valentina Belobroviski was born February 12, 1923, and was married April 23, 1955, Vancouver, British Columbia, to Frederick W. Onick. They resided, as of July, 1955, at 3717 - 26th Place, Seattle, Washington.

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503

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According to the same source, Valentina Belobrodski was employed by the Soviet Purchasing Commission in Vancouver, from May 31, 1946, until February, 1947. She performed secretarial duties for three Soviet officials, one of whom (S.G. Lukianov) has been subsequently positively identified as a Soviet intelligence agent. The source reported in November, 1946, that the Belobrodski family had long been connected with the Russian Workers and Farmers Club and its successor the Federation of Russian Canadians. Belobrodski was reported to be on the Board of Directors of the Canadian Soviet Friendship Council. In 1950, source reported that Miss Belobrodski was secretary in the sales branch of the American Can Company. Her brother Walter was reportedly a member of the Polish Democratic Association, a Communist controlled organization. Her parents, John and Pauline were also reportedly active in the same organization. It was reported that Miss Belobrodski admitted former membership in the Canadian Soviet Friendship League and also the Federation of Russian Canadians for cultural and social purposes, in 1950. She denied connection with the Canadian Soviet Friendship League at that time. She also denied knowledge of Lukianov's intelligence activities. In 1955, the same source reported that Walter Belobrodski is a member of the Labor-Progressive Party (Communist).

Valentina Belobrodski applied for permission to enter the United States in 1946. In 1950 she visited the United States at the death of her brother, John Thomas Bielobrocki in Chicago, Illinois, May 30, 1950.

The foregoing information is furnished to you as a result of your request for an FBI file check and is not to be construed as a clearance or a nonclearance of the individual involved. This information is furnished for your use and should not be disseminated outside of your agency.

504

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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**

Report of: **Special Agent Floyd B. Barrus**

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

505

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VERA ONICK, aka Vera Orloff,  
Mrs. Fred William Onick  
Clerk Stenographer - Appointee  
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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.

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. NICHAIL 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-

507

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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 1946 three Russian engineers had visited the factory of the A. Lists 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.

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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 KAPOROCHENKO and TOVSTYKH and ORLOVSKY, 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, ORLOVSKY 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 ORLOVSKY, in which he was interested, and was desirous of delivering it to ORLOVSKY 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-1557, 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



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Council of Northern California and, in this capacity, had presided as Chairman of a meeting held on February 18, 1948 at the Czech-Sokol Hall, San Francisco, for the purpose of making plans for the appearance of ZLATEK BALOKOVICH, Vice President and Chairman of the American-Slav Congress. Informant stated that BALOKOVICH's appearance in San Francisco was primarily for the purpose of raising funds for the support of HENRY WALLACE of the Third Party. Informant stated that ORLOFF had acted as toast-master for the BALOKOVICH banquet, which was held at the Czech-Sokol Hall, San Francisco, March 20, 1948.

Informant advised that JOHN ORLOFF had been one of the members of the All-Slav Council of Northern California who had been elected as a delegate to attend the Fourth American-Slav Congress, which was held at the Hotel Stephens, Chicago, Illinois, September 24, 25, 26, 1948. He stated that upon his return from Chicago, ORLOFF reported there were 1400 delegates present at the American-Slav Congress, and that \$10,000 had been collected in order to support the Independent Progressive Party in the election of HENRY WALLACE.

ORLOFF told informant that he had been in charge of the farewell banquet which was held to honor the Soviet Consul General, KONSTANTIN BYREMOV on September 4, 1948 at the Russian Hall, 321 Divisadero Street, San Francisco.

Informant further stated that, as President of the All-Slav Council, ORLOFF had acted as Chairman of a meeting held in San Francisco on October 15, 1948 for the purpose of assisting HENRY WALLACE's campaign. ORLOFF spoke in behalf of the campaign and introduced DAVID JENKINS, Director of the California Labor School and President of the American Russian Institute in San Francisco. SF-1537 further stated that JOHN ORLOFF had been in charge of the WALLACE Campaign in San Francisco insofar as all Russian activities were concerned.

The California Labor School, the American Russian Institute in San Francisco, and the American-Slav Congress have all been declared by Attorney General TOM C. CLARK as being within the purview of Executive Order 9835.

Confidential informant SF-1510, a member of the Communist Party who is reliable, advised that CELIA O'CONNOR YATES, Chairman of the Communist Party in San Francisco County, addressed the Press School of the Communist Party at the California Labor School, 240 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, on February 22, 1948. Informant reported that YATES stated to the Communists that they could not relax merely because

they had secured enough signatures to get the Independent Progressive Party on the ballot in California, but that they must work all the harder because the Communists are the core of the Third Party, it is built around Communists and Communists must be in every Independent Progressive Party meeting, every convention, and all unions and organizations of any kind.

Confidential informant San Francisco T-1, who is acquainted with appointee and her family and who is in a position to have information concerning their loyalty, advised that appointee has been active in social activities sponsored by the All-Slav Council of Northern California, and the Russian American Society and other Russian groups in San Francisco. He stated that appointee and her family were acquainted with employees of the Russian Consulate in San Francisco prior to its closing in the fall of 1948.

He stated that appointee's parents were both born in Russia, and that both enjoy associating with other Russian people and in speaking the Russian language.

He stated that he did not believe that the appointee was a member of the Communist Party or particularly sympathetic to Communism or that she is particularly interested in any form of Government. He stated that he believed that she associated with the Russian groups because her parents do, and that they have developed friends among the Russian people, mainly because of their common background.

Informant stated that he believes appointee's father is pro-Communist from the various conversations that they have had. He stated that he did not recall exact statements, but that he was continually upholding Communism and the Russian form of Government. He stated that he had never seen any Communist Party membership card in possession of appointee's father.

He knows appointee's parents exert a great deal of influence over her, which was the main reason for her divorce from FRED WILLIAM ONICK. He stated that appointee was married to ONICK for five or six months; that ONICK was a veteran of the Second World War; that he had continued his National Service Life Insurance with his parents named as beneficiaries. ONICK had planned on having his beneficiaries changed, but appointee's father had made a big issue over the matter and had given ONICK a period of time in which to change the beneficiaries. Informant stated that ONICK resented the attitude of his father-in-law and refused to change it at that time. Appointee's father, thereupon, instructed appointee to leave

CHICK, which she did, and she shortly thereafter instituted divorce proceedings. He stated there were probably other differences between appointee and her husband which might have caused them to separate, but believes that if appointee had defied her father on this issue there would have been no divorce.

He stated that appointee never at any time questioned the instructions of her father in this respect, and that she had been taught to obey her parents without question. It was informant's opinion that if her father requested her to obtain confidential information from the Government, that appointee would probably obtain same.

Informant stated that appointee separated from her husband in May 1947 and filed for divorce in August of that same year. He stated that the divorce was not yet final. Appointee has a daughter born December 4, 1947.

This informant declined to furnish a signed statement or appear before a Loyalty Hearing Board.

During the course of a previous investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service in San Francisco were examined and found to reflect that on April 23, 1940, KIRIL TONSTIKA, also known as JOHN ORLOFF, filed petition for naturalization. These records reflected that he filed his declaration of intention on August 23, 1937 in San Francisco and was born at Pinsk, Russia, on May 10, 1894. He married his wife, ALICE, on December 31, 1919 at San Francisco. They have two children, VERA born March 24, 1925, and OLGA born November 15, 1927, both at San Francisco. ORLOFF claimed to have entered the United States as JOHN ORLOFF in May 1911 at Detroit, Michigan, arriving from Nova Scotia. His last foreign address was Kiev Ukraine, Russia. He was naturalized in United States District Court, San Francisco, July 29, 1940.

ROBERT PATON, Agent, 117th CIO Detachment, San Francisco Port of Embarkation, Department of the Army, Fort Mason, California, made available personnel records reflecting VERA ORLOFF to have been born March 24, 1925 at San Francisco; her parents were shown as JOHN IGNATI ORLOFF, born in Russia in 1895, father, and her mother as ALICE KASTEREKEN, born in Russia in 1900. Her address was shown as 3667 - 18th Street, San Francisco, California.

512

-7-

