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SUBJECTS : FROMER, DAVID R.

FROMER, IRVING RHODES

COMMUNIST PARTY ACTIVITIES

AMERICAN-RUSSIAN INSTITUTE OF SAN FRANCISCO

CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR CONSTITUTIONAL LIBERTIES

FLYNN, ELIZABETH GURLEY

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE
FOREIGN BORN

SAN FRANCISCO CITIZENS COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE AMERICAN
FREEDOMS

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DETERMINED TO BE RELEASABLE, PER MEMO DTD 17 OCT 1997.

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AGENT REPORT
(FM 30-17)

1. NAME OF SUBJECT OR TITLE OF INCIDENT FROMER, David Reed SSvc Registrant DPOB: 21 July 1942, Chicago, Illinois	2. DATE SUBMITTED 31 May 1967
	3. CONTROL SYMBOL OR FILE NUMBER 7129-6003

4. REPORT OF FINDINGS JFK Act 5 (g)(2)(D)

(U) (LOCAL AGENCY-SUBJECT'S FATHER) On 23 May 1967, files of the San Francisco Office (SFO), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), 450 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, California, were examined regarding Irving Fromer for any information subsequent to 1 February 1962 by a representative of Source who furnished the following:

(C) The representative furnished a copy of a report, SFO FBI, dated 27 March 1962, Field Office File No: 100-33836, Title: Irving Rhodes Fromer, classified CONFIDENTIAL, which is attached as EXHIBIT VII. This report contains information regarding Fromer's communist activities.

(C) The representative furnished a copy of a report, SFO FBI, dated 29 March 1963, Field Office File No: 100-33836, Title: Irving Rhodes Fromer, classified CONFIDENTIAL, which is attached as EXHIBIT VIII. This report contains information regarding Fromer's communist activities.

(C) The representative furnished a copy of a report, SFO FBI, dated 30 March 1964, Field Office File No: 100-33836, Title: Irving Rhodes Fromer, classified CONFIDENTIAL, which is attached as EXHIBIT IX. This report contains information regarding Fromer's communist activities.

(C) The representative furnished a copy of a report, SFO FBI, dated 30 March 1965, Field Office File No: 100-33836, Title: Irving Rhodes Fromer, classified CONFIDENTIAL, which is attached as EXHIBIT X. This report contains information regarding Fromer's communist activities.

(C) The representative furnished a copy of a report, SFO FBI, dated 14 March 1966, Field Office File No: 100-33836, Title: Irving Rhodes Fromer, classified CONFIDENTIAL, which is attached as EXHIBIT XI. This report contains information regarding Fromer's communist activities.

(C) The representative furnished a copy of a report, SFO FBI, dated 28 March 1967, Field Office File No: 100-33836, Title: Irving Rhodes Fromer, classified CONFIDENTIAL, which is attached as EXHIBIT XII. This report contains information regarding Fromer's communist activities.

AGENT'S NOTE: Exhibits are attached to the original only of this report.

EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING;
EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING;

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ON 4-19-96 (JFK)

5. TYPED NAME AND ORGANIZATION OF SPECIAL AGENT EUGENE J. POWER, 115th MI Group (I)	6. SIGNATURE OF SPECIAL AGENT <i>Eugene J. Power</i>
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EXHIBIT COVER SHEET

Exhibit Number: VII

SUBJECT: FROMER, David Reed
SSvc Registrant
DPOB: 21 July 1942, Chicago, Illinois

File Number: 7129-6003 /JFK Act 5 (g)(2)(D)

Preparing Unit: 115th MI Group (I)

Agent Report Dated: 31 May 1967

Description: Report, SFO FBI dated 27 March 62 reSUBJECT'S father

REVIEWED BY FBI/JFK TASK FORCE

ON 10/15/97 *dat*

- RELEASE IN FULL
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- TOTAL DENIAL

DECLASSIFIED BY 5668 SLD/KSP
ON 4-19-96 (JFK)

[REDACTED]
Classification

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of: SA FRANCIS T. DAVIS
Date: 3/27/62

Office: SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

Field Office File No.: San Francisco 100-33836

Bureau File No.: 100-365779

Title: IRVING RHODES FROMER

Character: INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Synopsis: Subject resides 881 Clayton Street, San Francisco, and is employed as an architectural draftsman through American Institute of Architects, 47 Kearny Street, San Francisco. Subject reported to be member Lincoln Club, SFCCP and reported in attendance at SFCCPAF, CCCL and ARI meetings.

- P* -

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ON 10/13/97 *dat*
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 TOTAL DENIAL

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ON 4-19-96 (JKK)

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SF 100-33836
FTD/rew

DETAILS:

I. BACKGROUND

Residence

The Subject resides at 881 Clayton Street, San Francisco.

Mr. E. A. PAULSEN
879 Clayton Street
San Francisco on
3/15/62.

Employment

The Subject is employed as an architectural draftsman for various architects and construction projects in the San Francisco area obtaining his employment through the placement service of the American Institute of Architects, 47 Kearny Street, San Francisco.

Mrs. ETHEL SMITH
Executive Director,
AIA, on 3/21/62

II. COMMUNIST PARTY (CP) AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

San Francisco County Communist Party (SFCCP)

The Subject is a member of the Lincoln Club, SFCCP, and although he has recently moved into the area which encompasses the members of the Sunset Club, SFCCP, he has not as yet effected a transfer into the Sunset Club.

SF T-1 - 3/15/62

American-Russian Institute of San Francisco (ARI)

The ARI has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

The Subject attended the 30th Anniversary celebration of the ARI, which was held at 150 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, on November 19, 1961. The purpose of this meeting was also to celebrate the 44th anniversary of the Russian

SF 100-33836
FTD/rew

revolution and the 75th birthday of the Secretary of the ARI. One of the speakers at this meeting told of his trip to New Delhi and the Soviet Union. He said the Soviet Union, Cuba, and China have been accused of suppressing rights, freedom, religion and speech. He said that this was not true. These countries do not want soap box criticisms but they respect the broader right of the majority and sometimes individual rights have to give way to the rights of the majority.

The guest speaker at this meeting was DMITRY MURAYEV, who was introduced as a Cultural Attache with the Soviet Embassy. He presented the Secretary of the ARI with a gold watch and read a prepared speech. He said Russia wants peace and that the U.S. and Russia fought together during the war and still can be friends but Nazi elements in Germany are being supported by the U.S. Government. He said Russia would disarm if disarmament could be agreed upon but now the U.S. has rearmed Germany and they have the second largest army in Europe with rockets, tanks, and atomic weapons. He said the Russians are ready to defend their homeland against the Germans and felt that they had to do something to dramatize their readiness to defend themselves so they resumed atomic testing.

SF T-2 - 11/20/61

The Subject attended a reception sponsored by the ARI and held at the Sheraton-Palace Hotel in San Francisco, on January 20, 1962. This reception honored a group of visitors from the Soviet Union.

HOLLAND ROBERTS, President of the ARI, and M. M. DOMRACHEV, a member of the Board of the Institute of Soviet-American Relations, gave speeches which stressed cultural exchange and friendship.

SF T-3 - 1/22/62

Citizens Committee for Constitutional Liberties (CCCL)

See Appendix Page.

The Subject attended a meeting sponsored by the CCCL held at 150 Golden Gate Avenue on December 15, 1961. At this meeting a monologue was presented entitled "Are You Now Or Have You Ever Been A Horse Thief", which was a satire on the McCarran Act.

SF 100-33836
FID/rew

A skit was then presented to represent the petition of the Communist Party before the Supreme Court in regard to the registration provisions of the McCarran Act. After the skit, MICKEY LIMA was introduced as Chairman of the Northern California District of the CP, who would present his views on the registration. LIMA read a statement in which he said that the CP in good conscience could not and would not register because to do so would violate the law of self-incrimination. If the CP registered, they would admit to being spies, saboteurs, and agents of a foreign power.

LIMA said that the CP is leading the fight for freedom. If the present trend continues, the Government can later attack the labor unions and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). The ruling party in the Government will be able to get any group they wish to register.

SF T-2 - 12/10/61

Subject attended a meeting sponsored by the CCCL held at 150 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, on January 24, 1962. The Chairman of the meeting gave an opening statement of the purpose of the CCCL and the purpose of the meeting. He mentioned that the Bill of Rights is under attack and that the military forces are controlling the Government and the press and that civil rights are being repressed. He said that these things are of concern to the Committee and they have asked GUS HALL to present his views of the current situation.

HALL then spoke and said that he is presently on a lecture tour all over the country presenting the views of the CP. He mentioned that he had requests to speak at schools all over the United States. He said that the CP is being prevented by law and by control of the press from expressing their views and that they only want the right of free speech which is being denied them.

HALL said that at a recent press conference he was asked to give his position in the Party both now and prior to June 6, 1961. He told the press at that time that he could be referred to as an authoritative spokesman for communism.

HALL said that the people don't really know what the McCarran law means. When the law went into effect he was

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FTD/reu

supposed to register. He has been indicted already and is under possible sentence of 500 years in jail and \$1,000,000 fine. HALL went on to say that he went to jail under the Smith Act and that for thirty years the Government has tried to prove that the CP has been advocating the violent overthrow of the Government and that all communists are agents of a foreign power and are espionage agents etc. but has failed to do so.

According to HALL, the McCarran Act came into being during the McCarthy era when the Administration was being pressured to prosecute communists. The Attorney General said the Government couldn't prosecute them as they did not have the necessary evidence. Congress decided to get around the courts by legislative enactment. They appointed a political committee and presented a lot of illegal and unconstitutional evidence and came up with a finding that the communists are agents of a foreign power and spies and saboteurs.

HALL said that, according to the Attorney General, the present Act is simply a registration statute similar to registrations of foreigners, voters, dealers in securities, etc. However, a recent decision of the Supreme Court held that it is not necessary to be a card carrying member of the CP or do an act which is generally attributed to communists but it is only necessary to have a state of mind and be in sympathy with any of the objectives of communism and you could be prosecuted under the law.

HALL said assuming he did register, he would have to register each official and member of the Party and if he didn't, they would be required to register or be liable to \$10,000 fine and ten years imprisonment for each day they failed to register. He would also be required to register any communist organization or any association or organization that has affiliation with the CP. He must also list every typewriter, mimeograph machine, photostat machine, and printing press by serial number. HALL said that you can begin to see the diabolical threat of fascism which is beginning to become real. He said that in addition to these penalties, he can receive the death penalty in Texas, a life sentence in other states and sentences of 20 to 50 years in other states. He is also prohibited from obtaining Veterans or Government housing, employment in the teaching profession, from making movies in

SF 100-33836
FID/rew

Hollywood, or plays on Broadway under this Act. He said that communists can't even work in Government atomic plants.

HALL said that California has more native right-wing support than any other state and it is the idea of certain right-wingers to unite these organizations under one group. He said that is how Nazism came about and they won't stop with the CP. HALL said that the reason the right-wing is making such an onslaught is because a different social system is overtaking capitalism and many of the older people find it difficult to accept the new philosophy of life and they oppose it.

SF T-2 - 1/25/62

San Francisco Citizens Committee to Preserve American Freedoms (SFCCPAF)

See Appendix Page.

The Subject attended a fund raising party sponsored by the SFCCPAF for FRANK WILKINSON held at 959 Ashbury Street, San Francisco, on February 17, 1962.

WILKINSON gave a speech in which he denounced the Government and the Supreme Court for the decisions they have handed down outlawing the CP. He predicted that an irate populace would soon force the Supreme Court to change its position on these issues.

He spoke of his jail experiences and condemned the Government for segregating the staffs of the Federal prisons.

SF T-4 - 2/20/62

In an article in the "San Francisco Examiner" newspaper of March 20, 1961, it was noted that WILKINSON was convicted of contempt of Congress for refusing to state before the House Committee on Un-American Activities whether he had ever been a member of the CP. His sentence of one year in jail was upheld by the United States Supreme Court.

"People's World" (PW)

The PW is a west coast communist newspaper published in San Francisco.

SF 100-33836
FTD/rew

The Subject attended a PW bazaar through the period
December 8 - 10, 1961.

SF T-4 - 12/11/61

CITIZENS COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE AMERICAN FREEDOMS

A source advised on May 4, 1960, that the Citizens Committee to Preserve American Freedoms (CCPAF) was organized in Los Angeles, California, in January, 1952, for the announced purpose of supporting a number of individuals from the medical and legal professions who had been subpoenaed to appear before the House Committee on Un-American Activities.

Since its establishment, the CCPAF, in extending its scope, has worked for the abolition of all Congressional, State, and local committees investigating subversive activities and in the latter part of 1954 became very active in opposition to State and Federal legislation directed at the Communist movement.

FRANK WILKINSON, Executive Secretary of the CCPAF, is described by the source as the "brains and energy" behind the organization.

Another source advised on September 17, 1952, that FRANK WILKINSON was a Communist Party member as of September, 1952.

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FTD/rew

SAN FRANCISCO CITIZENS COMMITTEE
TO PRESERVE AMERICAN FREEDOMS (SFCCPAF)

A source advised on April 7, 1960, that a San Francisco affiliate of the Citizens Committee to Preserve American Freedoms (CCPAF) had been established at a meeting held in San Francisco on April 4, 1960. The source advised that the San Francisco affiliate, to be known as the San Francisco CCPAF, would carry out in Northern California, the program of the CCPAF.

Source advised on May 15, 1961, that the San Francisco CCPAF is active.

APPDNEIX PAGE

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CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR CONSTITUTIONAL
LIBERTIES (NORTHERN CALIFORNIA)

A source advised on June 19, 1961, that MICKEY LIMA, Chairman, Northern California District, Communist Party (CP), reported on June 15, 1961, that the CP, USA, in response to the Supreme Court decision of June 5, 1961, relating to the Internal Security Act of 1950 (ISA-50) had decided to create a committee known as Citizens Committee for Constitutional Liberties (CCCL), 22 East 17th Street, New York City, and that a local committee would be organized for Northern California.

This source advised on June 26, 1961, that a meeting was held on June 18, 1961, at the home of ROSCOE PROCTOR, member of the National Committee, CP, USA, for the purpose of formulating the CCCL for Northern California.

A second source advised on September 14, 1961, that the CCCL had opened an office at 942 Market Street, Room 401, San Francisco, California, and that some of the furniture for this office had come from the CP office on the same floor.

A third source advised on September 25, 1961, that MICKEY LIMA (Supra) had indicated no further organizational efforts would be expended on the CCCL in Northern California until the local CP resolves its policy with regard to this committee.

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FTD/rew

CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR CONSTITUTIONAL
LIBERTIES

A source advised on June 11, 1961, that a meeting of the National Executive Committee (NEC), Communist Party, USA (CPUSA), was held on June 10, 1961, at CP headquarters, 23 West 26th Street, New York, New York. According to the source, the main topic of discussion at this meeting was the CP's plans in regard to combating the June 5, 1961, decision of the United States Supreme Court, requiring the CP to register with the Attorney General of the United States as a communist-action organization pursuant to the provisions of the Subversive Activities Control Act of 1950 and the Court's decision of the same date upholding the April 21, 1955, conviction of Junius Scales under the Smith Act provision covering membership in the CP. This source further advised that during this discussion a special CP defense committee was formed and it was decided that this committee would have an office, which would be managed by Miriam Friedlander who, according to the source, is a member of the CPUSA National Committee.

Another source advised on June 14, 1961, that at a meeting of the CPUSA National Board and invited guests held on that date at CP headquarters, New York City, it was announced that the CP defense committee would have an office at 22 East 17th Street, New York, New York, under the name of the Citizens Committee for Constitutional Liberties (CCCL).

A third source advised on July 20, 1961, that at a meeting of the CP defense committee held on that date at CP headquarters, New York City, the purpose and scope of the CCCL was discussed. It was stated that this committee has been set up to serve as a national coordinator and service center for every effort being made by whatever source to repeal the McCarran and Smith Acts. In addition, it has been set up to reverse the Supreme Court's decision of June 5, 1961, or secure an indefinite stay of any enforcement of the law by the Department of Justice.

It is to engage in generating a popular defense movement to mobilize legal assistance of any organization or individual whose "democratic rights are infringed upon by these laws." This committee wants to encourage the creation of local organizations or groups to work in support of any one of the above-stated objectives. The committee will also serve as an exchange center of material and provide speakers for any local organization.

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APPENDIX PAGE



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

San Francisco, California
March 27, 1962

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No. 100-33836

Title **IRVING RHODES FROMER**

Character **INTERNAL SECURITY - C**

Reference **Report of Special Agent FRANCIS T. DAVIS dated and captioned as above at San Francisco.**

All sources (except any listed below) used in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

FTD/rew
(7) #9

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[REDACTED]
EXHIBIT COVER SHEET

Exhibit Number: VII

SUBJECT: **FROMER, David Reed**
SSvc Registrant
DPOB: 21 July 1942, Chicago, Illinois

File Number: **7129-6003** [REDACTED] JFK Act 5 (g)(2)(D)

Preparing Unit: 115th MI Group (I)

Agent Report Dated: **31 May 1967**

Description: Report, SFO FBI dated 29 March 63 re SUBJECT'S father

REVIEWED BY FBI/JFK TASK FORCE
ON 10/13/97 *cl*
 RELEASE IN FULL
 RELEASE IN PART
 TOTAL DENIAL

DECLASSIFIED BY 5668 SLD/KSL
ON 4-19-96 (JFK)

[REDACTED]

Classification

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Copy to:

Report of: SA FRANCIS T. DAVIS
Date: 3/29/53

Office: SAN FRANCISCO

Field Office File #: 100-33836

Bureau File #: 100-365779

Title: IRVING RHODES FROMER

Character: SECURITY MATTER - C

Synopsis: Subject resides 881 Clayton Street, San Francisco, and is employed as an architectural draftsman through American Institute of Architects, 47 Kearney Street, San Francisco. Subject reported to be a member of Lincoln Club, SFCCP and in attendance at public meetings sponsored by SFCCP, NCCFPB, SFCCPAP, ARI, PW, FPCC, and NG.

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DETAILS:

DECLASSIFIED BY 5668 SLD/KSR
ON 4-19-96 (JFE)

I. BACKGROUND

A. Residence

The Subject resides at 881 Clayton Street, San Francisco, California.

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ON 10-12-97 det

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- TOTAL DENIAL

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SF 100-33836

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B. Employment

The Subject is employed as an Architectural Draftsman for various architects and construction projects in the San Francisco area, obtaining employment through the Placement Service of the American Institute of Architects, 47 Kearney Street, San Francisco.

(Mrs. ETHEL SMITH,
Executive Director,
AIA, 3/15/63)

II. COMMUNIST PARTY (CP) AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

A. San Francisco County CP (SFCCP)

SF T-2, a self-admitted former member of the CP in the San Francisco area during the period from 1952 to 1957, advised on November 5, 1962, that she knows IRVING FROMER and his wife as members of the CP in San Francisco during that period.

At a meeting of the Sunset Club, SFCCP, which was held at 1235 42nd Avenue, San Francisco, on May 16, 1962, a discussion was held regarding IRVING FROMER and his wife. It was noted that the FROMERS had recently moved to the area covered by the Sunset Club. HERB NUGENT, Chairman of the SFCCP and a member of the Sunset Club, remarked that the FROMERS are in the Lincoln Club, SFCCP, and that they are needed in the Lincoln Club. He said, however, that the FROMERS do not contribute much to Club life and this is one of the problems of the Lincoln Club. He said that the Lincoln Club had agreed to meet at the FROMERS house, and the FROMERS didn't even arrive to attend meetings held at their own home. NUGENT said that both of the FROMERS are active in other mass organizations.

(SF T-3, 5/18/62)

IRVING FROMER is a member of the Lincoln Club, SFCCP.

(SF T-3, 3/1/63)

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