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Bureau File #:

100-341652

Title:

ISIDORE GIBBY NEEDLEMAN

Character:

INTERNAL SECURITY - R
INTERNAL SECURITY ACT, 1950

Synopsis:

NEEDLEMAN continues to reside at 444 Central Park West, New York City, and to maintain a law office in Suite 2810, 165 Broadway, New York City. He was hospitalized until 11/20/63, following a mild heart attack, and resumed work on a limited basis in December, 1963.

[He continued contacts with KONSTANTIN SEMENOV and other Amtorg officials, principally in connection with tax case. NEEDLEMAN discussed future of Sovfoto Agency with LIUBA SOLOV.] Former CP member revealed NEEDLEMAN was CP Educational Director, in NYC, 1935. NEEDLEMAN was in contact with MIRIAM FRIEDLANDER of CCCL, and JAMES ARONSON of "National Guardian". He opposed publication of MARK LANE's "brief" in LEE HARVEY OSWALD case. NEEDLEMAN initially gloated over shooting of President KENNEDY. [Contacts with numerous individuals set out. Bank accounts reviewed for October and November, 1963.]

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NEEDLEMAN'S COMMUNIST PARTY ACTIVITY

Early in December, 1963, NY T-5, a former member of the Communist Party (CP), recalled that NEEDLEMAN was his first CP teacher in 1935, when a class for new CP members was held in District 24 of the CP in New York City. According to NY T-5 NEEDLEMAN was Educational Director of the CP in New York City at that time and the class was held at District Headquarters, located on 4th Avenue, near 28th Street, Manhattan.

NEEDLEMAN'S ACTIVITIES WITH CP FRONT ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Citizens Committee for Constitutional Liberties (CCCL)

Early in December, 1963, NY T-1 learned that MIRIAM FRIEDLANDER was looking for someone to handle fund raising activities for the CCCL, and that JOAN ISSERMAN had been suggested to her.

NEEDLEMAN ascertained that JOAN ISSERMAN and her husband, ABRAHAM ISSERMAN, were currently residing in Park West Village, 382 Central Park West, New York City.

NEEDLEMAN subsequently attempted to interest JOAN ISSERMAN in the position. JOAN ISSERMAN indicated that she would be visiting her family until after the first of the new year, but that she would consider the proposition at that time, provided no one else had been obtained for it.

Emergency Civil Liberties Committee (ECLC)

Towards the middle of December, 1963, NY T-1 advised that NEEDLEMAN learned from EDWARD WALLERSTEIN

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and from BEATRICE MAGDOFF, both of whom had attended the ECLC Dinner on December 13, 1963; that the Tom Paine Award had been given to a folk singer named BOB DYLAN. (S)(u)

EDWARD WALLERSTEIN told NEEDLEMAN that DYLAN, either under the influence of alcohol or of drugs, had made a long, rambling, incoherent speech in the course of which he had asserted that there was a little bit of OSWALD in him. This reference to the presumed assassin of President KENNEDY brought about loud booing and hissing and, according to WALLERSTEIN, evidently hurt the collection of money.

NEEDLEMAN, indicating that he had little use for the ECLC, expressed considerable pleasure that such an incident should have happened to this organization.

"National Guardian"

Towards the end of November, 1963, NY T-1 reported that EDITH NEEDLEMAN informed her husband that there had been some very good speeches and some wonderful people at the "National Guardian" Dinner on November 26, 1963. She mentioned that Dr. MILTON FELTENSTEIN and PAUL and NAN ROSS, who were at her table, had made contributions to the "National Guardian". (S)(u)

The same informant advised that BEATRICE MAGDOFF subsequently informed NEEDLEMAN that the "National Guardian" Dinner had been a tremendous success. She related that the RABINOWITZes (possibly VICTOR RABINOWITZ) had given \$1200, while CORLISS LAMONT and his wife had donated \$2000. (S)(u)

Early in December, 1963, the foregoing informant reported that NEEDLEMAN asked JAMES ARONSON whether the "National Guardian" would be

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interested in an article by a prominent attorney on the legal aspects of the assassination of President KENNEDY, even though it might be stale by the time it got into print. ARONSON said he would still like to consider it, if it was an interesting article.

Shortly before the middle of December, 1963, NY T-2 advised that NEEDLEMAN forwarded to the "National Guardian" a check for \$275.68, which was the balance after taxes of a \$300 bequest to the "National Guardian" from one JEAN FORTIER MARTIN of Pasadena, California. (u)

Towards the middle of December, 1963, NY T-2 advised that JAMES ARONSON informed NEEDLEMAN that MARK LANE was preparing a paper on the case of LEE HARVEY OSWALD (presumed assassin of President KENNEDY), which was to be published in the "National Guardian" of December 19, 1963.

According to NY T-2, this article was based on evidence submitted by the Dallas, Texas, Police Department and by the local District Attorney. LANE expanded on the American presumption of innocence and on the bungling of the case by the Dallas Police. He quoted from statements by the American Civil Liberties Union and the Philadelphia Bar Association, and concluded that if character witnesses had been able to appear for OSWALD, they would have given compelling testimony.

NEEDLEMAN disputed this conclusion and pointed out that the Russians had a dossier on OSWALD which indicated that this individual was unbalanced. NEEDLEMAN did not approve of the "National Guardian" publishing LANE's article at this time, before the case had been reviewed by a tribunal which merited respect. NEEDLEMAN felt ARONSON would be doing the public a disservice to print it. He could not convince ARONSON, however, to hold off until Chief Justice WARREN's committee had given its report.

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National Lawyers' Guild (NLG)

Shortly after the middle of November, 1963, NY T-1 advised that WILLIAM L. STANDARD informed NEEDLEMAN that he had attended a meeting of the Board of the NLG on November 20, 1963 and that no one had referred to the fact that NEEDLEMAN had resigned from the organization. STANDARD said the business of the meeting had been mainly a report concerning the young people and the need to attract them to the Guild.

STANDARD urged NEEDLEMAN to withdraw his resignation but NEEDLEMAN declined, asserting that he was through with the Guild.

MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES

Reaction to the Assassination
of President KENNEDY

During the latter part of November, 1963, NY T-1 reported that IRVING KAPLAN advised NEEDLEMAN that President JOHN F. KENNEDY had been shot in Texas. NEEDLEMAN's initial reaction (before it was known that the President was dead) was that he hoped the President would suffer more than his father. KAPLAN pointed out that this event was not good for anybody, but NEEDLEMAN said it was good for him to think that President KENNEDY was getting his just desserts.

NY T-1 advised that some days later, however, NEEDLEMAN discussed with MARTIN YOUNG the assassination of President KENNEDY. NEEDLEMAN now described it as horrible and stated that he was afraid we now had a President who was not a heavy weight mentally.

MARTIN YOUNG was of the opinion that even if the alleged assassin had perpetrated the murder, he was not alone and someone else had worked with him.

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