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TO : Director, FBI
FROM : SAC, San Francisco
SUBJECT: LEONID PETER BENTHEN
INTERNAL SECURITY - R
(Bufile 100-357357)

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
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Reurlet dated March 23, 1949. ^(S) [ALSR] was interviewed by Agents of this office on April 11, 1949 in regard to his knowledge of BENTHEN's background and present activities. *S*

At the beginning of the interview ^(S) [ALSR] pointed out that he was not very well acquainted with BENTHEN while they both resided in Japan and that they never met socially. *S*

^(S) [ALSR] advised that BENTHEN served as a 2nd Lt. in the artillery division under Gen. SEMENOV of the Tsarist Army, graduating from the CHITA Military School after the revolution, in 1919 or 1920. In connection with SEMENOV's army ^(S) [ALSR] pointed out that all officers serving under SEMENOV were selected for their ability and character. In 1920 or 1921 BENTHEN left Russia for Shanghai, China and shortly thereafter entered the jewelry business. While in Shanghai BENTHEN married ALEXANDRA PETROVNA GRIGORIEFF, sister of MIKHAIL PETROVICH GRIGORIEFF who was connected with the North Sakhalin Oil Company, a subsidiary of the Mitsubishi interests and a sister Company of the North Sakhalin Coal Company [where ALSR was employed. ^(S) Both ALEXANDRA and MIKHAIL GRIGORIEFF were White Russians and considered BENTHEN to be one. *S*

BENTHEN left Shanghai in 1922 or 1923 for Yokohama, Japan, arriving there in a very poor financial condition. His dealings in precious stones gave him an opportunity to open a small jewelry store in Yokohama. BENTHEN, during his stay in Yokohama, became a frequent visitor to his brother-in-law's, MIKHAIL PETROVICH GRIGORIEFF's, office in Tokio. [ALSR was introduced to BENTHEN ^(S) by M.P. GRIGORIEFF during one of BENTHEN's visits to GRIGORIEFF's office. [ALSR ^(S) explained that he frequently saw GRIGORIEFF on business matters since they were ^(S) both employed by the Mitsubishi interests. [ALSR met BENTHEN on an average of ^(S) once every two or three months mostly at GRIGORIEFF's office and ^(S) on a few ^(S) occasions] at GRIGORIEFF's home. He, [ALSR, never visited BENTHEN at his home or store, nor did BENTHEN ever visit [ALSR's home. *S*

There were two persons whom [ALSR was able to recall as being friendly with BENTHEN during his residence in Japan, DOMBROVA YANUSHEVSKY, who was employed by the same Company as M. P. GRIGORIEFF and one ~~NIKOLSKY~~ (ph). DOMBROVA YANUSHEVSKY was a former Tsarist infantry officer who up to 1937 was a White Russian. Having been born in Bessarabia, which at that time was under Rumanian domination, YANUSHEVSKY decided to accept Rumanian citizenship in 1937. *S*

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INDEXED - 20

100-357357-23

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DATE: 11-14-2017

Director, FBI

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April 25, 1949

In 1945 YANUSHEVSKY accepted Soviet citizenship - "for reasons of protection". (S) (u)

NIKOLSKY formerly lived in Kobe, Japan but moved to Kyoto, Japan after World War II. NIKOLSKY originally came from the Ural section of Russia and arrived in Japan in 1920. (S) According to (ALSR), he, NIKOLSKY is stateless at the present time and is in the jewelry business. (S)

(S) (ALSR) further advised that BENTHEN has a younger brother in Shanghai whom he, BENTHEN, is trying to bring to the U.S. (ALSR) never met this brother and has no information regarding him except the fact that BENTHEN is quite concerned that his brother might be sent to the Island of Samar with the other Russian emigrants from Shanghai. (S)

BENTHEN left Yokohama for the U.S. in 1937 arriving at the port of San Francisco, California. The jewelry and watches which he brought with him gave him an opportunity to enter the jewelry business in San Francisco shortly after his arrival, which business he has followed ever since. (S) (u)

(S) (ALSR) remembered corresponding with BENTHEN on few occasions in connection with his efforts to obtain an affidavit for himself and his family to enable them to enter the U.S. BENTHEN was unable to send (ALSR) the necessary affidavits explaining that he had to send one to his brother in Shanghai and as a result he was not able to furnish any for (ALSR). (S)

(S) (u) In reply as to whether (ALJR ever met) BENTHEN, (ALSR) advised that (ALJR met) him a few times in Tokio and saw BENTHEN twice in San Francisco. (ALSR) explained that BENTHEN is a very thoughtful man and a good samaritan having offered to help ALJR financially upon ALJR's arrival in San Francisco two years ago. (S) BENTHEN is at the present time helping a Russian emigrant who recently arrived in the U.S. According to (ALSR) this emigrant is a drunkard and can't hold on to any of the jobs BENTHEN was able to secure for him. (S) According to SF-1664 this person is one NIKOLAI KOROBV who recently arrived from the Orient with his 16 year old daughter. (S)

In discussing (present contacts between ALSR and) BENTHEN, (ALSR) advised that BENTHEN came to visit (him at) VLASSOV's home the day (ALSR and family) arrived in San Francisco. (ALSR) stated that (he, ALSR,) occasionally drops in to visit BENTHEN at his store but has visited BENTHEN's home on one occasion when BENTHEN invited (him to dinner to meet his brother-in-law) who came to San Francisco from Texas where he is employed as an oil engineer. The brother-in-law goes under the name of PETER PAUL GREGORY, formerly GRIGORIEFF, is a graduate of the University of California and was attending an Engineering Convention in San Francisco at the time (ALSR) met him. (S) (S)

In regard to BENTHEN's political views (ALSR) stated that he believes BENTHEN to be neither pro nor anti-Soviet. He explained that he has never heard BENTHEN criticize the Soviet regime nor has he ever heard him praise it. (S)

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