

**File #:**

62-116395

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**Serial Scope:**

424- EBF

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

**SECRET***Memorandum*

TO : SAC, Boston

FROM : ✓ Director, FBI (65-65884)

SUBJECT: SAM SURVEY  
ESPIONAGE - R

DATE: 3/31/61

The SAM Survey was instituted by the New York Office in December, 1959. It is a program by which airmail destined for certain European cities or countries is examined by Agents prior to its being placed in bags and placed aboard the planes. This examination is made for a twofold reason:

- (1) To identify persons corresponding with known Soviet mail drops in Europe
- (2) To identify and locate individuals in the United States sending letters to Europe which may be part of a Soviet illegal network.

The latter purpose is accomplished through the knowledge we have obtained that illegal agents use certain signs in their correspondence which can be detected from an examination of the envelope. In one case a common name and city are used as a return address on the letters. A street and a number are not used in this return address. In two other cases, it was noted that an illegal agent used the same type of return address. Other signs developed from investigations to date are:

- (1) The "rd" in 33rd would be underlined twice
- (2) The name and city but not the street of a return address would be underlined

2 - Chicago  
2 - Detroit  
2 - Houston  
2 - Los Angeles  
2 - Miami  
2 - Newark  
2 - New Orleans  
2 - Philadelphia  
2 - San Francisco  
2 - Seattle  
2 - WFO  
1 - New York

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3/22/78  
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DATE OF DECLASSIFICATION INDEFINITE  
*Entire Document*

**SECRET**

167-10326

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- (3) The figure "1" written in brackets after the date would be a signal for the date of the meeting.

In addition, British intelligence has advised they also have noted signs such as the following:

- (1) An unusual form of the addressee's name such as including an extra initial
- (2) Addition of bogus initials after the addressee's name such as D. D. S.
- (3) Obvious misspelling of the name of a town or country on the envelope
- (4) The use of more stamps than necessary on a piece of correspondence.

Currently New York is handling this program on a 24-hour, 7-day week basis using eight Agents who process about a half-million pieces of mail per week. At the present time New York has varying degrees of coverage of airmail to the following areas: Finland, Amsterdam, Hungary, Stockholm, Oslo, Denmark, Geneva including Lausanne, Zurich, Bern, Berlin, Vienna, Brussels, Bucharest and Rome. This survey does not include airmail directed to the Soviet Union.

Each office receiving this letter has direct airmail flights from that city to various foreign countries and cities other than Canada and Mexico. Each office should make a discreet contact with local postal authorities to determine the details of the handling of this overseas airmail. During this contact the following details should be obtained:

- (1) To which city and country is this airmail dispatched directly from your city?
- (2) How many flights per day or per week go from your city to foreign countries?
- (3) What is the volume of mail per flight or per day or per week?

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- (4) Is the mail bagged and bundled in your city or does it arrive there from another city already bagged and bundled?

For example, it might be that overseas airmail deposited in Seattle is processed there, bagged and bundled and sent on to Los Angeles or San Francisco for eventual dispatch.

In connection with the conducting of this inquiry, a contact was made with the Chief Postal Inspector, Washington, D. C., and he was advised of our interest in determining details of direct airmail flights to countries other than Canada and Mexico and he was entirely agreeable to our conducting such an inquiry. He stated if any difficulties were encountered he would be glad to have them brought to his attention.

You should also determine the facilities used in your city for the handling of this mail and advise if these facilities could be used by Bureau Agents with full security in the event a monitoring program is established.

Also submit your evaluation as to whether a request could be made locally to permit Bureau Agents to institute a monitoring operation on this mail or if it would be necessary to make inquiry at headquarters level. However, no request for institution of a monitoring program should be made at this time and your evaluation should be based on your knowledge of the local postal authorities.

In the event a monitoring program is instituted, you will be furnished with specific information and details concerning the methods which are used to attempt to identify the particular items of interest in this mail. For your additional information, from the experience of the Bureau with this program to date only a small portion of mail examined will be of interest to the Bureau.

No requests or other action to institute this

SECRET

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program should be made without furnishing the Bureau the results of your survey at which time a decision will then be made by the Bureau on an individual basis.

This inquiry should be handled promptly and the results submitted to the Bureau within 30 days from the receipt of this letter in each office.

SECRET

DIRECTOR, FBI

September 27, 1961

SAC, DETROIT (65-New)

SEARCHED

SERIALIZED

INDEXED

FILED

GUS SURVEY  
ESPIONAGE - R

The Detroit Division has given considerable thought to the detection of illegal Agents if in fact such Agents are located in the Detroit area. It is felt that such "illegals" could logically receive "support and/or communications" from New York City or Washington, D. C., in the form of large plain envelopes, typewritten, double spaced, no return address, and bearing a Lincoln stamp, postmarked in either Washington or New York.

In the event an "illegal" resides in Detroit, it is believed he or she could logically live in the Hamtramck, Michigan, area, or the 31st street zone, Detroit, where the majority of the residents are of foreign nationalities, predominately Polish. (In this regard, it should be noted that the 31st zone encompasses the former residence addresses of the SOJA family (KORCASE) and the FOWALSKI family (KORNICK CASE) prior to their respective returns to Poland in the late 1920s or early 1930s.

It was determined by SAs WILLIAM E. BILLING and E. J. ROTHEUS that the majority of all mail routed to the respective Detroit Post Office substations is handled through the Roosevelt Park Annex where the mail is sorted for each carrier route in Detroit; the respective carrier at each substation then sorts the mail numerically according to streets on his route.

General Superintendent of Mails, E. EMMETT SULLIVAN, Roosevelt Park Annex, who is in charge of the Post Office facilities in Detroit (see Detroit letter dated June 15, 1961, captioned "GUS SURVEY, ESPIONAGE - R") was discreetly contacted by SAs BILLING and ROTHEUS, September 12, 1961. SULLIVAN mentioned that a portion of the mail from New York and Washington, D.C. destined to Detroit is sorted in transit but the major portion is handled at the Roosevelt Park Annex.

- 2 - Bureau (RM)
- 2 - New York (RM)
- 1 - Detroit

EJR:WV/cab  
(5)

*Handwritten notes:*  
See page 65 - Rotheus - R  
Kul 65 - Rotheus - R  
9 copy for Rotheus - R

SULLIVAN stated that it would be possible for the mail handlers sorting mail for the Hamtramck, Michigan, and 31st street Post Office substations to be alert for specific type envelopes postmarked in New York City or Washington, D. C.; these envelopes in turn could be brought to his attention. SULLIVAN commented that approximately a total of 30 mail handlers are utilized in sorting the mail at the Roosevelt Park Amex for the substations. These same handlers work 24 hours a day, eight hour shifts, and are assigned permanently to sort the mail for the respective substations.

SULLIVAN advised that he would be most willing to cooperate with the Bureau in any manner possible. He mentioned that in a project of this type FBI interest would never become known to the respective mail handlers as it could be easily passed off to them as a project being handled by the Postal Inspectors, Detroit.

/Preliminary investigations, similar to the SOCAP Program, would be initiated on individuals who are the recipients of "suspect" letters.

The Detroit Division desires to initiate such a program on a trial basis, in the event Bureau approves. It is felt FBI interest would be known only to T. EMMETT SULLIVAN and possibly to one or two of his subordinates. In this regard it should be noted that a project of this type could not be handled by Bureau personnel only, because of security limitations and lack of manpower.

The Bureau's and New York's comments and observations are solicited with respect to Detroit's proposal noted above. It is felt, however, in the event the Bureau concurs, this project could logically be productive and results well worth the efforts expended.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, Detroit

DATE: 10/4/61

✓ FROM : Director, FBI

SUBJECT: GUS SURVEY  
ESPIONAGE - R

Reurlet 9/27/61, two copies of which are enclosed for the Washington Field Office.

You are authorized to institute Gus Survey in the Hamtramck area and the 31st Postal Zone on a trial basis. It is realized that during the Christmas rush, extending from late November to late December, the program will be extremely difficult to operate. In the event the post office advises it cannot be handled during that period, you may temporarily discontinue the survey.

New York and Washington Field Offices are instructed to prepare test letters for the purpose of sending them through to determine if the postal employees are performing their examinations properly. Detroit should furnish these offices with addresses to which such mail may be sent. New York and Washington Field should notify Detroit when the test letters are sent.

You should advise the Bureau by 1/31/62 of the results of the survey for the period ending 1/15/62 along with your recommendations for future operation of the program.

2 - New York  
2 - WFO (Enclosures 2)

SEARCHED .....	INDEXED .....
SERIALIZED .....	FILED .....
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FBI - DETROIT	

*R. J. ...*



Director, FBI (65-67003)

November 8, 1961

SAC, Detroit (65-3133)

GUS SURVEY  
ESPIONAGE - R

ReBuletts 10/4/61 and 10/26/61.

T. BIRNETT SULLIVAN, Superintendent of Mails, Detroit, (upon his return from leave) was contacted by SAs E. J. ROTHFUSS and WILLIAM R. BILLING on November 1, 1961, to finalize arrangements for initiation of the Gus Survey as outlined in previous Detroit communications. SULLIVAN reiterated that he would gladly cooperate with the Bureau in the above project and would instruct his subordinates as to the description of the communications of interest. This project would be known to only his assistant, FRANK LEWANDOWSKI (Detroit Indices negative); his administrative assistant, ROBERT FURDUR (Detroit Indices negative) and one or two of his trusted supervisors who would administer the project. FBI interest would not be known to other postal authorities.

On November 3, 1961, SULLIVAN was recontacted by SAs ROTHFUSS and BILLING. He stated that the project is in operation; he volunteered that his superintendents contacted him on that date and appeared apprehensive that no such described communications had been found. It is felt that on the basis of this contact with SULLIVAN, postal authorities are giving close supervision in an effort to determine whether such described communications are actually being transmitted to recipients residing in the Hamtramck, Michigan and the 31st postal zone.

New York and WFO in sending test letters are requested to utilize the names JAMES MARTIN, care of general delivery, 31st Street Post Office Station, Detroit, Michigan, and JOHN W. GOOLDY, care of general delivery, Hamtramck Post Office Substation, Hamtramck, Michigan.

- 2 - Bureau (Registered)
- 2 - New York (65-14406) (Registered)
- 2 - WFO (Registered)
- ① - Detroit

EJR:GMC

(7)

DE 65-3133

WFO and New York in sending such test envelopes are requested to insure that some include an innocuous message of some type and not merely a plain piece of writing paper. This is believed necessary because under no conditions should post office authorities know or suspect that we are sending such test letters.

The Bureau's attention is again invited to the fact that due to the increased post office load during the coming holiday season, this project will be suspended for approximately the month of December and will be resumed immediately thereafter upon the discretion of T. EMMETT SULLIVAN.

Director, FBI (65-87003)

December 21, 1961

SAC, Detroit (65-3133)

CUS SURVEY  
ESPIONAGE - R

Re Detroit letters, dated September 27, 1961, and November 8, 1961; and Bureau letters dated October 4, 1961, and October 26, 1961.

G. J. GETTY, Administrative Assistant to T. EMMETT SULLIVAN, Superintendent of Mails, Detroit Post Office, was contacted by SA EMIL J. ROTHEFUSS and SA WILLIAM B. BILLING on December 7, 1961. GETTY advised that the Post Office would suspend the captioned project until after the holiday season since its continuance at this time would be quite a burden on Post Office personnel due to the volume of mail handled during this period. GETTY mentioned that appropriate supervisors had been assigned during the sorting of the mail and pertinent Post Office personnel were constantly reminded to be on the alert for "suspect" letters. He noted that no letters were received answering such descriptions with the exception of approximately ten identical type letters noted on the morning of November 27, 1961, which originated in New York City. These letters were scrutinized through the light and it appeared that they all came from the same source and were possibly furnishing "horse tipping service". (These letters had been previously called to the attention of the Detroit Office.)

GETTY further advised that recently, Mr. SULLIVAN's office realized that in connection with the above project, Post Office personnel were missing one pouch of mail from New York City which was made up on train number 17 and delivered direct to the 31st Post Office Station. Mr. SULLIVAN then issued orders so that this pouch would be "re-routed" in Detroit for "suspect" letters.

*"Re-routed"*

Test letters mailed by New York and Washington Field to JAMES MARTIN, at the 31st Post Office Station, were directed to the Main Post Office, Federal Building, Detroit; the 31st Post Office is now currently receiving General Delivery mail. These letters were not dictated by Post Office personnel and

- 2 - Bureau (AM)
- 1 - New York (65-18466) (INFO) (RM)
- 1 - Washington Field (65-8400) (INFO) (RM)
- 1 - Detroit

PLEASE POST

EJR:jpk

SEARCHED

SERIALIZED

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were picked up at the Main Post Office. The failure of Post Office personnel to detect these letters could possibly be attributed in part to the fact that some mail originating from New York City was being pouched direct to the 31st Station and was not being sorted according to carrier route by personnel assigned in Detroit. (T. EMMETT SULLIVAN subsequently issued orders that this mail would be "re-routed" in Detroit for "suspect" letters). *Re-worked*

*addresses*  
It is also possible that letters directed to General Delivery, 31st Post Office, and re-routed to the General Delivery, Main Post Office, were handled by Post Office personnel other than those assigned to sort mail destined for addresser located in the 31st Post Office substation. This possibility was not explored with Post Office personnel, since it is not desired that T. EMMETT SULLIVAN be aware at this time that test letters had been submitted.

Test letters directed to JOHN W. GOOLDY, c/o General Delivery, Hamtramck Post Office Substation, by New York and Washington Field were also not detected and were picked up at the Hamtramck Post Office Substation.

The results of the survey to date have been disappointing; however, the survey will be re-instituted after the start of the new year.

New York and Washington Field will be furnished at a later date with the names and address of individuals to whom subsequent test letters should be directed. The Bureau's attention is invited to the fact that T. EMMETT SULLIVAN had initially stated that a project of this type would be a gigantic undertaking. However, he would be most willing to "give it a try" if it would be helpful to the security of the United States.

T. EMMETT SULLIVAN and his assistants have been most helpful and it is realized that they have expended considerable Post Office personnel time and effort in connection with the project. Notwithstanding the fact that the survey has been disappointing to date, it is felt that it should be re-instituted after the holidays and continued for a reasonable period. This will be closely followed and an analysis will be furnished to the Bureau after a 30 - 30 day trial period subsequent to its reinstatement.

DIRECTOR, FBI (65-57093)

January 31, 1962

SAC, DETROIT (65-3133)

GUE SURVEY  
ESPIONAGE - R

Re Detroit letter to Bureau, dated December 21, 1961.

T. BENNETT SULLIVAN, Superintendent of Mails, Detroit, Michigan, Post Office; and G. J. GETTY, Administrative Assistant to Mr. SULLIVAN, were contacted by SA EARL J. ROTHBROS and SA WILLIAM R. BILLING on January 9, 1962. Mr. SULLIVAN advised that he would instruct appropriate Post Office Supervisors to reinstitute the above project in an effort to detect "suspect" letters originating from New York City or Washington, D.C.

Washington Field Office and New York are requested to utilize the following names when submitting test letters. It is suggested that such letters be forwarded in the near future so that an evaluation may be made as to the practicality of the project.

MICHAEL STASIAK  
c/o IVAN KOWENKO  
4213 Tarnow  
Detroit 10, Michigan

JOHN W. COOLDY  
General Delivery  
Mantramack 12, Michigan

Washington Field Office and New York advise Detroit when test letters will be submitted.

- 2 - Bureau (REGISTERED)
- 2 - New York (65-15406) (REGISTERED)
- 2 - Washington Field (65-8400) (REGISTERED)
- 1 - Detroit

LJA/slk  
(7)

