

CONFIDENTIAL

Washington, D.C.
24 June 1943

From Carol Jones

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE

Subject: DR. LEO SEILAND
Quadrangle Club, 1155 E. 57th Street
Chicago, Illinois

Re: Investigation in Washington, D.C. and vicinity pursuant to oral instructions from the Officer in Charge, WBO, CIC, to conduct a surveillance of Subject to ascertain his contacts and activities while in Washington, D.C.

(1) On 18 June 1943, this Agent, accompanied by Agent McFatriage, contacted Lt. George Davis, Investigation & Review Branch, CIC, Room 2B655, Pentagon Building, Arlington, Virginia, regarding the surveillance of Subject. LEADS

Lt. Davis stated that he had received a call from the New York City Office of the Counter Intelligence Corps to the effect that Subject had been in New York or was to come to New York, and the New York authorities had discovered that he made reservations at the Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, D.C. and would soon arrive there. Lt. Davis suggested that these Agents contact the Wardman Park Hotel to ascertain when Subject was scheduled to arrive.

(2) Mr. E. T. DeMent, Assistant Manager, Wardman Park Hotel, Connecticut Avenue & Woodley Road, N.W., Washington, D.C., contacted by this Agent and Special Agent McFatriage on 18 June 1943, advised that Subject had written his hotel on 14 June 1943, giving as his address 1155 E. 57th Street, Quadrangle Club, Chicago, Illinois, and requesting a single reservation for the night of 20 June 1943, and the following night. In the same letter to the hotel, he also requested a reservation be made for his friend, Professor E. P. Wigner, for one day beginning 21 June 1943. He also asked that the hotel wire confirmation of the reservation which Mr. DeMent stated they did on 16 June 1943.

Mr. DeMent stated their records show he has hotel credit and his credit card number is 572. Also that he has stayed at the hotel for short periods of time on 12 June 1940, 12 January 1941, 11 May 1941 and 17 May 1943. His address on their records is 420 W. 116th Street, New York. 25C

Washington, D.C.: Charles H. Rosen, Special Agent, CIC (Memos 1,2)
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(3)
On 19 June 1943, this Agent read the surveillance reports on Subject, in IRB, CIG, Room 2D655, Pentagon Building, Arlington, Virginia, for the purpose of securing all the available information concerning Subject's activities when he was under surveillance by the Chicago and New York Field Offices of CIG.

The surveillance reports indicate that Subject is of Jewish extraction, has a fondness for delicacies and frequently makes purchases in delicatessen stores, usually eats his breakfast in drug stores and other meals in restaurants, walks a great deal when he cannot secure a taxi, usually is shaved in a barber shop, speaks occasionally in a foreign tongue, and associates mostly with people of Jewish extraction. He is inclined to be rather absent minded and eccentric, and will start out a door, turn around and come back, go out on the street without his coat or hat and frequently looks up and down the street as if he were watching for someone or did not know for sure where he wanted to go.

(4)
A report of Special Agent W.L. McFatrige, in charge of one surveillance detail is as follows:

On 20 June 1943, this Agent accompanied by Special Agents C. N. Ronan and E. M. Wheeler, and Agents R. M. Kirkpatrick and D. H. Mahaney, proceeded to the Wardman Park Hotel, Washington, D. C., where the Subject was known to have a room reservation for 20 June 1943.

1700 The above Agents arrived at the Wardman Park Hotel and were informed by Assistant Manager Nolan, that Subject had not arrived at the hotel. Arrangements were made with Mr. Nolan for the Room Clerk to designate Subject to these Agents upon his arrival at the hotel.

1750 Agent Craps came to the hotel and informed this Agent he had received a telephone message from Major L. E. Hillman, WBO, CIG, indicating Subject was arriving on the advanced section of the Congressional Limited, from New York City and would arrive at Union Station, Washington, D.C. at approximately 1950.

2030 Subject arrived at the Wardman Park Hotel, Washington, D.C., and was assigned to room 250. He had with him at the time one portable typewriter, one black leather suitcase, and one brown leather Gladstone Bag. Subject's description is as follows: Age, 35 or 40 yrs; height, 5'6"; weight, 165 lbs; medium build; florid complexion; bushy brown hair combed straight back and inclined to be curly, slight limp in right leg causing droop in right shoulder and receding forehead. He was wearing brown suit, brown shoes, white shirt, red tie and no hat.

Washington, D.C.: Charles N. Ronan, Special Agent, CIG (Memos 3,4)
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LEADS

- 2042 Subject observed leaving the elevator in the lobby of the Wardman Park Hotel and carrying a News Week magazine which he proceeded to read while walking through the lobby of the hotel. Subject walked through the entire front lobby of the hotel and went out on the north side of the hotel where he proceeded to walk around the hotel tennis court and paused a moment to observe the Shoreham Hotel. After walking around the tennis court, Subject returned to the lobby of the Wardman Park Hotel and left by the main entrance, walking down the driveway to the drug store in one of the wings of the hotel.
- 2050 Subject observed leaving the Wardman Park Drug Store. Subject appeared to be interested in finding a place to eat but this drug store was very crowded and he did not remain. Upon leaving the drug store Subject walked around on the various sidewalks in the grounds and finally arrived at Connecticut Avenue and Woodley Road, N.W., where he proceeded to walk south on Connecticut Avenue. Subject paused momentarily at three eating establishments in the block below the Wardman Park Hotel on Connecticut Avenue. These included the White Tower, Peoples Drug Store, and Chin's Chinese Restaurant. Subject went into Arbaugh's Restaurant in same block at 2055. This Restaurant was very crowded and Subject waited approximately 10 minutes before he was seated.
- 2135 Subject left Arbaugh's Restaurant and returned to the Wardman Park Hotel. He contacted no one at Arbaughs.
- 2145 Subject entered the lobby of the Wardman Park Hotel and sat down in a chair in the lobby continuing to read his magazine.
- 2210 Subject got up from the chair, walked around in the hotel lobby, out on the veranda and re-entered the hotel, going to his room, at 2225. A light was observed burning in his room shortly thereafter.
- 2300 The Assistant Hotel Manager, Mr. Nolan, stated that Subject had left a call at the hotel desk to be called 0500 Monday morning.
- 2330 Surveillance discontinued at the Wardman Park Hotel after feeling certain Subject would not leave the hotel again this evening.

Washington, D.C.: Charles H. Ronan, Special Agent, CIC
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DR. LEO SZILARD

LEADS

(5)

On 21 June 1943 at 0730 o'clock, this Agent in company with Special Agent, C. W. Townsend, and Agents A. K. Maiera, and W. B. Gray stationed themselves in the lobby and vicinity of the Wardman Park Hotel, Woodley Road & Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. to conduct a surveillance of Subject.

- 0900 Subject not having appeared in the lobby a check was made with the telephone operator who stated that she had called Subject at 0800 and he had answered the telephone.
- 0930 Subject came down the stairs from the 2nd floor alone, and entered Diamond Cab #732, D. C. License Plate #18-429, in the cab stand at the entrance of the hotel.
- 0945 Subject alighted from the cab at the entrance of the Carnegie Institute of Washington, 1530 P Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. He entered and stated at the desk that he wished to see Captain Lavender, Room 319.
- 1245 Subject came out of the Carnegie Institute and walked down to 16th & P Streets, N.W., where he hailed a taxicab going in a northerly direction.
- 1300 Subject alighted from the taxicab at the Wardman Park Hotel and entered the lobby. He was observed pacing up and down the full length of the lobby for approximately 20 minutes. He later purchased a paper and sat down in the lobby but did not appear to be reading it.
- 1345 Subject left the main lobby of the hotel, started down a long corridor, reversed, came back through the lobby, left at the main entrance and walked down to the drug store where he ate lunch.
- 1410 Subject left the drug store, returned to the hotel lobby and took an elevator to the 2nd floor.
- 1425 Mr. O'Donnell, desk clerk at the hotel, advised this Agent that Mr. A. P. Wigner had checked in at the hotel at approximately 1400 and had been assigned to Room 315C. This Agent proceeded to the vicinity of Room 315C and observed Subject going in the direction of Room 315C so returned to the lobby of the hotel.

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1530 Subject and a man, later identified as Mr. E.P. Wigner, alighted from the elevator and walked around the lobby of the hotel. They then went downstairs to the Barber Shop but did not remain long as all of the chairs were occupied. Subject and Wigner came upstairs went to the hotel clerk and inquired how far the Union Station was from the hotel. Mr. Wigner is approximately 40 years of age, medium build, bald head, Jewish features and was conservatively dressed.

1540 Subject and Wigner entered Diamond Cab #440 and left the Wardman Park Hotel. Due to adverse traffic conditions these Agents were unable to continue the surveillance at this time. (See memo 9 for further details of Subject's activities at this time).

Agents Gray and Maiers resumed surveillance at the hotel and this Agent and Agent Townsend proceeded to Union Station but were unable to make contact with Subject and Wigner, and returned to the hotel.

(6)

A report of Special Agent, W.L. McFatriidge in charge of one of the surveillance details is as follows:

On 21 June 1943, this Agent, accompanied by Special Agents B.H. Penny, E.W. Simpson and Agents R.M. Kirkpatrick, D.H. Mahaney, D.H. Roberts and J. E. Craps, proceeded to the Wardman Park Hotel, Washington, D.C., where they relieved Special Agent Ronan and his detail, for purpose of continuing the surveillance.

1630 The above Agents arrived at the Wardman Park Hotel and were informed by Special Agent Ronan, that Subject and Wigner, who is occupying Room 3150 at the Wardman Park Hotel, had been lost by Special Agent Ronan and his detail at approximately 1530. Agents were placed in strategic positions and awaited Subject and Wigner's arrival.

1810 Subject and Wigner were observed entering the lobby of the Wardman Park Hotel where they remained a few minutes in the lobby.

1820 Subject and Wigner were observed leaving the main entrance of the Wardman Park Hotel, where they proceeded down the front driveway to Woodley Road, then to Connecticut Avenue, N.W., and then southeast on Connecticut Avenue where they took a shortcut to the Shoreham Hotel which is one block from the Wardman Park Hotel.

Washington, D.C.: Charles N. Ronan, Special Agent, CIG (Memo 6)

DR. LEO SWILARD

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- 1828 Subject and Wigner entered the front entrance of the Shoreham Hotel, proceeded through the lobby to the Terrace Gardens where they proceeded to have cocktails.
- 1910 Subject and Wigner were observed leaving the Terrace Gardens of the Shoreham Hotel, and proceeded across the lawn of the Shoreham Hotel to 28th Street, N.W. and by taking various shortcuts they finally arrived on Connecticut Avenue, N.W., one block below the entrance to Wardman Park Hotel.
- 1915 Subject and Wigner were observed entering Arbaugh's Restaurant located at 2606 Connecticut Avenue, N.W. Agents Simpson and Roberts followed Subject and his companion into Arbaugh's Restaurant to ascertain whether or not Subject contacted anyone in this restaurant. Subject and Wigner were alone during their stay in this restaurant.
- 2015 Subject and Wigner were observed leaving Arbaugh's Restaurant and walked towards the Wardman Park Hotel at the intersection of Connecticut Avenue, N.W., and Woodley Road.
- 2020 Subject and Wigner entered the lobby of the Wardman Park Hotel where they conversed a few moments and finally went upstairs.
- 2045 Subject and Wigner, were observed coming down the steps from the second floor, walking through the lobby of the Wardman Park, and then Subject and Wigner went outside the hotel and sat down on a bench by the tennis courts. Subject remained only a few seconds. Subject got up and came back into the hotel, where he went to the Information Desk in the lobby and asked the clerk if the hotel was sponsoring any sightseeing tours of Washington. He received a negative reply, and then made a phone call from a pay station in the lobby. These Agents were unable to determine with whom Subject conversed. Subject then went to the house telephone and made a call over this phone. It was learned from the Assistant Hotel Manager, Mr. Brosmer, that Subject had called Mr. E. P. Sullivan of Cincinnati, Ohio, who had been living in Room 265 of this hotel, since 18 June 1943. This Agent was unable to determine the nature of Subject's conversation with Mr. Sullivan. There was no indication Subject had contacted Mr. Sullivan, before or after this conversation. 55C
- 2050 Subject joined Wigner on a bench by the tennis courts where both pulled off their coats, rolled up their sleeves and talked in a foreign language for some time.

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- 2130 Subject and Wigner reentered the Wardman Park Hotel, walked up and down the lobby two or three times as if they were unable to decide what to do. Subject's companion, Wigner, was observed taking an elevator to the third floor.
- 2150 After Wigner went to his room, Subject left the lobby of the hotel and walked down the main driveway to the hotel drug store which is in one of the wings of the hotel.
- 2155 Subject entered the Wardman Park Pharmacy where he proceeded to read a newspaper and ordered what appeared to be grape-fruit juice, and a sandwich.
- 2245 Subject left the Wardman Park Pharmacy and returned by a direct route to the lobby of the Wardman Park Hotel. Subject then sat down in a chair in the lobby for a few minutes, got up and walked up and down in the lobby.
- 2255 Subject was observed going up the stairs that leads to his second floor room, 250.
- 2315 This Agent made inquiry from Assistant Hotel Manager, Mr. Brosmer, as to whether or not Subject had left a time to be called in the morning. Mr. Brosmer informed this Agent that Subject had not left a time to be called. During the time this Agent was conversing with Mr. Brosmer, an elderly gentleman whom Mr. Brosmer identified as Igadore Rabi of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and also Columbia University, asked where he could locate Subject. Mr. Brosmer directed Mr. Rabi to Subject's room. Mr. Brosmer informed this Agent that Mr. Rabi was a resident of this hotel and had been here for approximately one week. 201 250
- 0015 On 22 June 1943, surveillance discontinued in the vicinity of the Wardman Park Hotel because there was no way it could be discreetly determined how long Mr. Rabi would be in Subject's room and indications were Subject would remain in his room for the rest of the night. At the time surveillance was discontinued Subject still had not left a time to be called in the morning, and this Agent was unable to determine whether or not Mr. Rabi was still in Subject's room. The light in Subject's room was still on.

Washington, D.C.: Charles N. Ronan, Special Agent, CIO

DR. LEO SZILARD

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(7)

On 22 June 1942 at 0730 o'clock this Agent, Special Agents Townsend, H. H. Helm, and Agents Gray, Maifers, and J. G. Brock stationed themselves in the lobby and vicinity of the Wardman Park Hotel. Mr. O'Donnel, desk clerk at the hotel, advised this Agent that Mr. E. P. Wigner had paid his bill and checked out of the hotel sometime early that morning, the exact time he did not know. Mr. O'Donnel also stated that Subject had not left a request to be called.

- 1010 Subject entered the lobby of the hotel from the elevator next to his room, walked around the lobby a few times and proceeded to the hotel drug store where he ate breakfast.
- 1025 Subject came back to the lobby, walked back and forth a number of times, purchased a newspaper, went outside and sat in the shade where he occasionally glanced at the newspaper but did not seem to be very much interested in it.
- 1115 Subject came back into the lobby of the hotel, walked around a while and went to the Barber Shop in the basement of the hotel.
- 1135 Subject left the Barber Shop, paced back and forth in the lobby a few times and went out to the hotel drug store where he took three aspirins at the fountain.
- 1155 Subject hailed Diamond Cab #1253, D.C. License Plate #22-863, in front of the drug store and proceeded through Rock Creek Park Drive to Constitution Avenue, N.W.
- 1210 Subject's cab pulled up in front of the public entrance of the Navy Building, 17th & Constitution Avenue, N.W. where Subject alighted. Subject remained outside the entrance as if waiting for someone approximately 10 minutes.
- 1220 Subject entered the reception room of the Navy Building and told one of the ladies that he wished to see Commander Lewis Strauss about personal business. He stated that he had an appointment with Commander Strauss. He also told the lady that he was a friend of Commander Strauss' and was interested in getting into a branch of the Navy. Upon receiving proper credentials he was told that Commander Strauss was in Room 3004, Navy Building and that he might proceed to the room.
- 1245 Subject and a Naval Officer (identified by Special Agent Townsend as Commander Strauss) left the above entrance of the Navy Building and proceeded in a northerly direction on 17th Street to H Street, N.W. Commander Strauss is about 6' tall; weight, 180 lbs.; erect posture, slow walk with long steps.

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(Memo 7)

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- 1300 Subject and Commander Strauss entered the Metropolitan Club, a business men's luncheon club.
- 1355 Subject and Commander Strauss left the Metropolitan Club and walked back the same route to the entrance of the Navy Building where they had come out earlier in the day.
- 1405 Subject shook hands with Commander Strauss and hailed an unidentified cab #159, D.C. License Plate #17-094.
- 1425 Subject alighted from the taxicab at the Wardman Park Hotel and entered the lobby. After walking around for 10 or 15 minutes in the lobby he took the elevator near his room and went to the 2nd floor.
- 1440 Mr. O'Donnel, desk clerk at the hotel, called Subject to ascertain if he was going to remain in the hotel that day. Mr. O'Donnel stated that Subject advised him he would soon be checking out of the hotel as he was going to take the Congressional Limited for New York at 1600 o'clock.
- 1510 Subject came down the elevator, entered the lobby of the hotel, paid his bill and had his bags placed near the door. At this time he also sent the following telegram to G. Weiss, 175 Pine Hurst Avenue, New York City. "ARRIVING KINGS CROWN ABOUT 8:30 P.M. LEO" 25C
- 1520 Subject entered Diamond Cab #1464, D.C. License Plate #23-336 in company with two other men. The cab went to Temporary R Building, 4th and Jefferson Drive, S.W. where the above mentioned two men alighted. (This was obviously a "share the ride plan" as Subject sat in the front seat and was not observed in any conversation with these two men en route).
- 1540 Subject alighted from the cab at Union Station and proceeded to the Coach ticket office where he purchased a ticket.
- 1545 Subject entered Gate #16 of the Pennsylvania Railroad and proceeded to Coach #3809 which he entered. This coach was crowded and he walked through to Coach #3917 where he sat down and put his two suitcases on the rack above the seat. This Agent checked 3 minutes prior to departure time and Subject was in the same coach. This coach was a part of train #52, 2nd Section of the Congressional Limited which was destined for Baltimore, Newark and New York City.
- 1600 The train pulled out on schedule, Subject not having left the coach he was observed sitting in 3 minutes prior to departure time.

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DR. LEO SZILARD

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Agent's note: This Agent would like to corroborate the observation of the Agents in Chicago and New York, that Subject is very eccentric and could easily leave the impression that he was conscious of being followed. Surveillance here was conducted in a residential hotel, where few people were in the lobby and while Subject frequently looked at the Agents, it is this Agent's opinion corroborated by other Agents on the case, that he did not know he was under surveillance. He appears to be highly nervous and very absent-minded. On one occasion he got off the elevator a short distance from his room, entered the room, came out in the hall about five minutes later and asked the maid where the elevator was located.

This Agent wishes to add that Subject's actions are very unpredictable and if there is more than one entrance or exit, he is just as apt to use the most inconvenient as not. It was found necessary to cover all possible exits to insure not losing him. It was also the observation of the Agents in Washington that he has very poor eyesight.

(8)

Mr. Sam Powell, Secretary Treasurer, Diamond Cab Association, interviewed 23 June 1943 at his office, 1735 14th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. regarding the ownership of Diamond Cab Number 440.

Mr. Powell checked his records and advised this Agent that Diamond Cab Number 440 is owned and operated by Laurence A. Bryan, 2813 14th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.

(9)

701 Mr. Laurence A. Bryan, 2813 14th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., interviewed by this Agent and Agent Baer on 24 June 1943 at his residence.

Mr. Bryan stated that he recalled picking up two men at the Wardman Park Hotel on 21 June 1943. He also showed this Agent his Driver's Daily Card which indicated that at approximately 1530 he picked up two passengers at the Wardman Park Hotel and delivered them to the Plaza Hotel, 331 1st Street, N.E., Washington, D.C.

Mr. Bryan stated that when he pulled up to the cab stand at the Wardman Park Hotel the starter stated "Union Station". When the two men got in the cab Bryan stated that he asked them if they wanted to go to the Union Station and they replied that they wished to go down and see the Supreme Court. According to Bryan, when they were nearing the vicinity of the Supreme Court the men asked him where the closest barber shop to the Supreme Court was located. Bryan stated that he told them the Plaza Hotel and that is where he left them off.

Washington, D.C.: Charles N. Ronan, Special Agent, CIC (Memo 8,9)

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Mr. Bryan stated that he recalled one of the men quite well and would recognize him if he saw him on the street. He was, according to Bryan, a man probably about 40 years of age, medium build, bald head, sharp, Jewish features, and wearing glasses. According to Bryan all that he could remember about the other man was that he was rather dark complexioned, and stouter than the man he described.

Bryan stated that he did not recall any of the conversation between the men while they were riding in his cab. He said that they did not talk in a foreign tongue and there was nothing in their conversation to attract his attention. Bryan pointed out that he makes it a practice to be alert to pick up bits of conversation which might be out of the ordinary run of things and there was nothing in their manner or conversation to cause him to be suspicious. He said they more or less gave him the impression that they were "on a lark" and wanted to see the Supreme Court. Bryan concluded his remarks in this regard by stating that they acted to him like out of town visitors in Washington.

Agent's note: This Agent questioned Mr. Bryan at length regarding the gentlemen and was convinced that his recollection of the incident is correct. His description of Wigner is also correct.

Bryan impressed this Agent as being a fairly intelligent and quite observant individual. He also appeared to be very sincere and patriotic as was evidenced by the fact that when contacted on the telephone by this Agent he was willing to take time off from his work and meet with this Agent at any time suggested.

As Bryan was driving Diamond Cab #440 at about 1530, 21 June 1943 when Subject and Wigner were lost near the Wardman Park Hotel and as Bryan's description and records seem satisfactory, it is this Agent's opinion that Subject and Wigner possibly went to the barber shop in the Plaza Hotel, then walked over and went through the Supreme Court and returned to the hotel at 1810 when they were observed by Special Agent McPatridge and his detail. The driving time from the Wardman Park to the vicinity of the Supreme Court is approximately 30 minutes each way. This Agent was advised a tour of the Supreme Court would take about 45 minutes. If this Agent's assumption is correct in the above matter, this would account for the 2½ hours Subject was not under surveillance when he was lost, due to adverse traffic conditions at the Wardman Park Hotel at about 1530, 21 June 1943.

(10)

On 23 June 1943 this Agent in company with Agent Baer contacted Mr. B.T. DeMent, Assistant Manager, Wardman Park Hotel, Connecticut Avenue and Woodley Road, N.W., Washington, D.C. regarding Subject's activities while at his hotel.

Washington, D.C.: Charles N. Ronan, Special Agent, CIC

(Memo 10)

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Mr. Dement took these Agents to the Auditor's Office where a check of Subject's bill indicated that he had made no local or long distance phone calls through the Wardman Park Hotel switchboard.

Mr. Dement then took these Agents to the Desk Clerk who checked the records regarding the departure to Mr. E. T. Wigner. These records indicate that Mr. Wigner checked out of the hotel sometime prior to 0800 o'clock 22 June 1943. Mr. Wigner gave the hotel his address as The University of Chicago, 5517 University Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

65C

A check of the same records indicate that Mr. Isadore I. Rabi has been a guest at their hotel on 23 occasions since February 1942. They were all stays of a short duration. Rabi gave the hotel his address as 97 Avon Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

15C

A check of the same records indicate that Mr. E. P. Sullivan of L. B. Smith Company, Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, has been occupying room 265 since 18 June 1943.

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CLOSED WBO, CIC 24 June 1943

Washington, D.C.: Charles N. Ronan, Special Agent, CIC

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SECRET

THIS DOCUMENT CONSISTS OF 1 PAGE(S)
NO. 3 OF 3 COPIES, SERIES A

4 July 1945

The Right Honorable
The Lord Cherwell
War Cabinet Offices
London, England

Dear Lord Cherwell:

I wonder if it would be taxing your memory unduly if I were to ask you to write me briefly the subjects of discussion in your meeting with Dr. Leo Szilard in May of 1943, when you were in this country.

Dr. Szilard, you will recall, worked in the Clarendon Laboratory during the years 1935 to 1938.

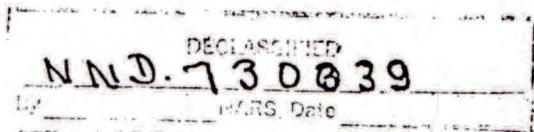
Frankly, Dr. Szilard has not, in our opinion, evidenced wholehearted cooperation in the maintenance of security.

In order to prevent any unjustified action, I am examining all of the facts which can be collected on Dr. Szilard and I am therefore seeking your assistance.

I am looking forward to the day when I will be able to see you again.

Sincerely yours,

L. R. GROVES
Major General, USA





TOP SECRET

SECRET

GREAT GEORGE STREET,

S.W.1.

CONVERSATION WITH DR. SZILARD, MAY 1943, WASHINGTON, D. C.

When I spoke to Szilard in Washington in 1943, he was, so far as I can remember, mainly concerned with a topic which has inflamed so many scientists' minds, namely what sort of arrangements could be made to prevent an arms race with all the disastrous consequences to which this would lead. I do not recall that he offered any solution, although when we had discussed the same matter in Oxford before the war he had advocated some agreement between scientists not to lend themselves to any application of nuclear chain reactions to lethal purposes.

My impression is that his security was good to the point of brusqueness. He did, I believe, complain that compartmentalism was carried to undue lengths in America, but on the other hand, when I asked him about some point - I forget what - deriving from our work at Oxford he replied that he was not at liberty to discuss it as he had passed into the employment of the American Government. We did not, so far as I recollect, have any further conversation on technical processes, but he kept on harking back to his general anxiety about the future of the world.

Cherwell.

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TOP SECRET

GREAT GEORGE STREET,

S.W.1.

12th July, 1945.

My dear General,

Thank you for your letter. I was very glad to hear from you again and to have a talk with Major Traynor who looked after me so well last autumn.

I am sorry to hear that Szilard has been indiscreet. As you may wish to attach it to your file I have put my recollections of our conversation on a separate sheet. As you know he worked in my laboratory at Oxford and always had rather a bee in his bonnet about the awful international implications of these matters. I cannot say that I really took his conversation very seriously, but I think the attached statement gives a fair account of its general tenour.

I think from all accounts that success in your great project is on the verge of being achieved. I hope I may add my congratulations on the unequalled effort in which you have played such a remarkable part. If I could manage it, I should very much like to come over to America again before the year is out and if so I should look forward to seeing you again. But perhaps you will be able to get away yourself and come over here for your long promised visit before then.

With kindest regards believe me

Yours very sincerely

Cherwell.

Major General L.R Groves,
War Department
P. O. Box 2610,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

P.S.

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*I hope your slight
tension is making
good progress.*

SECRET

CONFIDENTIAL

8 August 1945

Dear Lord Cherwell:

Thank you very much for your congratulations. The results lived up to my highest expectations.

I would like also to express my appreciation for your kindness in sending me the statement regarding your meeting with Szilard in May 1943. It was most helpful.

More than ever I am looking forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

L. R. GROVES
Major General, USA

The Right Honorable
The Lord Cherwell
War Cabinet Offices
London, England

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201
(Szilard)
(Cherwell)

DECLASSIFIED
NND. 730039
By _____ NARS Date _____

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ACCESS RESTRICTED

2 p.

The item identified below has been withdrawn from this file:

File Designation 201 Szilard

Date 12 July '45

From CHERWELL

To GROVES

In the review of this file this item was removed because access to it is restricted. Restrictions on records in the National Archives are stated in general and specific record group restriction statements which are available for examination. The item identified above has been withdrawn because it contains:

Security-Classified Information

Otherwise Restricted Information

UR
Authority

5/25/73
Date

WITHDRAWAL NOTICE

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NND730039