

**SUBJECT: Maurice Hyman HALPERIN**

1. Maurice Hyman HALPERIN, a summary of whose background and activities appears as Attachment A, on 15 July 1957 made reservations through the "Mundus Tours" in Mexico for "four engineers" on KLM flight #652 leaving Mexico for Amsterdam at midnight on 20 July 1957. On the afternoon of 19 July 1957, the individual in the tourist agency with whom HALPERIN had made the original reservations advised KLM that three of the persons who would travel on the above reservations were Alfred K. STERN, Martha STERN, and Robert STERN. The fourth reservation was cancelled. The STERNS had previously obtained fraudulent Paraguayan passports, alleging that they were citizens of that country. These passports have been declared void by the Government of Paraguay. We do not know what part, if any, HALPERIN played in obtaining the passports, but we do know that he was so intimately associated with the STERNS and their affairs that it would be surprising if he were not involved in the passport deal. Martha Dodd STERN and Alfred K. STERN were indicted by a Federal Grand Jury in the Southern District of New York on 9 September 1957 on a charge of conspiring to obtain and transmit to the USSR information relating to the national defense of the United States. The STERNS continued directly behind the Iron Curtain, where they have remained.

2. Considerable publicity resulted from this escape of the STERNS. This publicity also involved a number of American Communists then residing in Mexico. The attached clippings (Attachment C) list Maurice HALPERIN in this group.

3. In September 1958 the Mexican Government started deporting American Communists. According to the press, among those listed for deportation was Maurice HALPERIN. HALPERIN applied for a U.S. passport on 26 July 1958. He

and his wife obtained their passports at the American Embassy on 26 August 1958 and departed Mexico on 13 October 1958. They went behind the Iron Curtain and are residing in Moscow. Our latest information indicates that HALPERIN is working for the Soviet Government and is also in the process of writing a book.

**Attachments:**

- A - Summary of HALPERIN's background and activities.
- B - Newspaper stories regarding HALPERIN's dismissal from Boston University.
- C - Newspaper stories regarding activities of American Communists in Mexico.

Attachment A

**SUBJECT: Maurice Hyman HALPERIN**

1. Maurice HALPERIN received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1926 in the field of Romance Languages, and a Master of Arts degree from the University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma, in 1929, also in the field of Romance Languages. In 1931 he received a Doctor of Philosophy degree in the field of Comparative Literature from the University of Paris, Paris, France. Early in his career HALPERIN developed an intensive interest in the civilization of Mexico. Prior to 1941 he made ten trips to Mexico and spent the equivalent of two years in that country.

2. HALPERIN was a professor at the University of Oklahoma from 1931 to 1941. From 1941 to 1945 he was employed with the Coordinator of Information (COI) and the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) where he was assigned to the Latin American Division, becoming ultimately the head of that Division. The Latin American Section of the Research and Analysis Unit of OSS was transferred to the Department of State under Executive Order No. 9, 621, dated 20 September 1945. HALPERIN, as Chief of this Unit, was also transferred to the Department of State. On 31 May 1946 he resigned from the Department of State due to ill health. In June 1946 he obtained employment in New York City with the American-Jewish Conference, handling minority groups and acting as a liaison official between that organization and the United Nations at Lake Success, New York. In the summer of 1949, HALPERIN made a trip to South America and in the fall of 1949 he became head of the Latin American Regional Students Section at Boston University, College of Liberal Arts, Boston, Massachusetts. He was not officially dismissed from this position until 6 January 1954; however, he went to Mexico on 28 November 1953 where he remained until October 1958.

3. In 1941 the Oklahoma State Legislative Committee investigating subversive activities in the State of Oklahoma learned that HALPERIN had been a member of a group of individuals who traveled to Cuba in 1935 in what was described as a Communist-inspired "Commission of Investigation of Conditions in Cuba" arranged by Communist leaders and sponsored by front organizations. Upon landing in Cuba, the delegation was arrested by the Cuban authorities and expelled after one day of confinement on the ground that it was a subversive group and may have planned an uprising of some nature. The State Legislative Committee also learned that in 1940 HALPERIN had cashed a check for \$436.01 drawn on the Bank of Foreign Trade, Moscow, USSR; that he associated with individuals of known leftist tendencies; that he had submitted articles to the "New Masses" and the "New Republic"; and that he had been a member of the following organizations regarded by the Committee as leftist: Civil Liberties Committee, American Federation of Teachers, and Oklahoma Federation of Constitutional Rights.

4. On the basis of its findings, the Oklahoma State Legislative Committee recommended that HALPERIN be dismissed from his position at the University of Oklahoma. HALPERIN was subsequently discharged from the University on 8 September 1941, at which time he was on sabbatical leave. However, he was reinstated on 11 February 1942 and his sabbatical leave continued for the fiscal year ending 1 July 1942. It has been reported that this reinstatement was brought about by protests made by the Association of University Professors and that HALPERIN was reinstated without prejudice with the understanding that he would resign at the termination of his sabbatical leave in order that no undue hardship would be sustained in his efforts to find other employment.

5. Although the above information was known to appropriate officials of COI/OSS, it was felt at the time that the

explanations given by him in regard to his trip to Cuba and the check drawn on the Moscow Bank of Foreign Trade "exonerated" him.

6. In November 1945 Elizabeth Terril BENTLEY, an admitted former espionage courier, stated that she had become acquainted with HALPERIN in the latter part of 1942 through arrangements made by Jacob GOLOS, a known Soviet espionage agent who died on 27 November 1943. She further stated that HALPERIN supplied GOLOS with information to which he had access in his office, including mimeographed bulletins and reports prepared by OSS on a variety of topics and excerpts from State Department cables to which he had access. References to BENTLEY's contact with HALPERIN while he was employed by OSS are contained in BENTLEY's book "Out of Bondage" on pages 200, 210, 261, 263-266.

7. On 20 November 1953 HALPERIN was suspended without pay from his position of Associate Professor of the Latin American Regional Students Section at Boston University, College of Liberal Arts, after he refused on constitutional grounds to tell the U.S. Senate Internal Security Subcommittee whether he was ever a member of the Communist Party. This action was taken as a result of public disclosures on television of a letter from Mr. J. Edgar HOOVER to Mr. Harry H. VAUGHN dated 8 November 1945 and declassified on 16 November 1953 in which Mr. HOOVER stated that as a result of investigative operations, information had recently been developed from a highly confidential source indicating that a number of persons employed by the Government of the United States had been furnishing data and information to persons outside the Federal Government who in turn were furnishing the information to espionage agents of the Soviet Government. The letter linked HALPERIN with Harry Dexter WHITE, Dr. Gregory SILVERMASTER, and other government officials then suspected of espionage. HALPERIN had been

suspended previously by Boston University in March 1953 for refusing to answer questions of a Senate Internal Security Subcommittee hearing in Boston, but was reinstated after being reprimanded and severely censured. Copies of newspaper articles relating to HALPERIN's dismissal from Boston University are attached, as Attachment B. It will be noted that according to these articles HALPERIN and his family left their home in Massachusetts in the middle of the night without informing officials of Boston University of his departure. He was officially dismissed from the University on 6 January 1954.

8. After his arrival in Mexico, HALPERIN became a member of the American Communist Group in Mexico (ACGM) and was associated closely with Alfred K. STERN and his wife, Martha Dodd STERN, who had arrived in Mexico on 5 July 1953. Following the arrest of the Soviet agents, Jack SOBLE and his wife, Myra SOBLE, and Jacob ALBAM on 25 January 1957, it was disclosed that the STERNS had been implicated in Soviet espionage activity with Jack SOBLE. On 29 July 1957 the STERNS fled from Mexico to Czechoslovakia ostensibly to avoid being extradited to the United States to testify before a Special Grand Jury in regard to their association with Jack SOBLE and the "double agent" Boris MORROS utilized by the FBI in the Jack SOBLE case. An investigation of the way in which the STERNS had been able to leave Mexico clandestinely disclosed that their airplane reservations had been obtained for them by HALPERIN without disclosing to the airlines that they were to be used by the STERNS until the day before their departure. HALPERIN was very closely associated with the STERNS throughout this period and was intimately involved in their plans for escape.

9. The public disclosure of the assistance HALPERIN rendered the STERNS at the time of their flight from Mexico resulted in the dismissal of HALPERIN and his wife, Edith HALPERIN, from positions in Mexico City in which they were

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employed. Up to that time, Edith HALPERIN had been employed as a teacher by the American School Foundation, and HALPERIN had been employed by the Mexican Government in La Financiera Nacional, S. A., and at the National School of Political and Social Sciences of the University of Mexico. In addition, an ice cream company by the name of Cia Mistram S. A., in which HALPERIN and Noah SEBORER had held stock was liquidated by them in the summer of 1957. Noah SEBORER was a member of the ACGM with HALPERIN.

10. After the decision of the Supreme Court in the Kent and Dayton cases, HALPERIN conferred with his attorney and on his attorney's advice filed an application for a passport with the American Embassy in Mexico on 26 July 1958 (presumably his wife did also), and he and his wife were issued passports on 26 August 1958.

11. In August and September 1958, newspapers in the United States carried several articles about the American Communists in Mexico and the efforts being made by the Mexican Government to have them deported. (Copies of some of these articles are attached as Attachment C.) HALPERIN's name was among those mentioned by the press. When HALPERIN commenced making plans to leave Mexico he obtained airplane reservations in the name of another person in the same manner he had used when obtaining airplane reservations for the STERNS. The HALPERINs finally departed from Mexico on 13 October 1958. At the time of his departure, the Government of Mexico had his case for deportation under consideration.

12. We received information shortly after HALPERIN's departure from Mexico that he was employed in Moscow by the USSR. This was confirmed on 15 July 1960 when the HALPERINs appeared at the American Embassy in Moscow and presented their U. S. passports for renewal. HALPERIN stated that he had been in the USSR since December 1958 and that he is employed by the USSR Academy of Sciences where he is doing research in

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the foreign field, specifically, relating to undeveloped countries. It will be recalled that HALPERIN is something of an authority on Latin American affairs. Our information indicates that this probably is the field in which he is working at the present time. The Soviet Academy of Sciences is directly subordinate to the Council of Ministers.



