

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SUBJECT

Arrest and Interrogation of Herman FIELD DATE DISTR. 2 July 1954

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DATE 7/14/02 BY SP/AF

*Bohannon*  
7/16/54

*Noel Field*

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. The disappearance of Noel and Herta FIELD caused Herman FIELD to initiate a private search for his brother. The initial investigation lead to Czechoslovakia and here Herman FIELD contacted Kurt MARCUS and Willi NOVE. These individuals told Herman FIELD that Noel had gone to Poland and that was the last that they had heard of him.   
Herman FIELD attempted to obtain a visa to Poland from Czechoslovakia, but this visa was refused. Herman then tried to organize political pressure in Poland which would assist him in obtaining the visa.

2. Herman was a well-known architect and, as a result of his professional ties, he knew Helena CYRKUS in Warsaw. Helena CYRKUS is described as being a well-known Polish architect, and she attended a fair or conference in New York after 1945. Helena CYRKUS also attended a fair in Bergamo, Italy. Helena is married to Simon CYRKUS, but [redacted] could not recall the husband's profession. Herman called Helena from Prague by telephone and told her that he wanted to come to Poland but he was having difficulties in obtaining a visa; Herman asked Helena if she could assist him in obtaining a visa. Helena did not know the true reason for Herman's desire to come to Poland, so she contacted her good friend, General SPYCHALSKI, and asked him to intervene in behalf of Herman FIELD.

3. SPYCHALSKI was Minister for Construction at this time and he thought he might obtain some good ideas from Herman FIELD, so SPYCHALSKI called General RADKIEWICZ of the MBP (Ministry of Public Security) and referred this matter to RADKIEWICZ. RADKIEWICZ knew that the Hungarians were preparing

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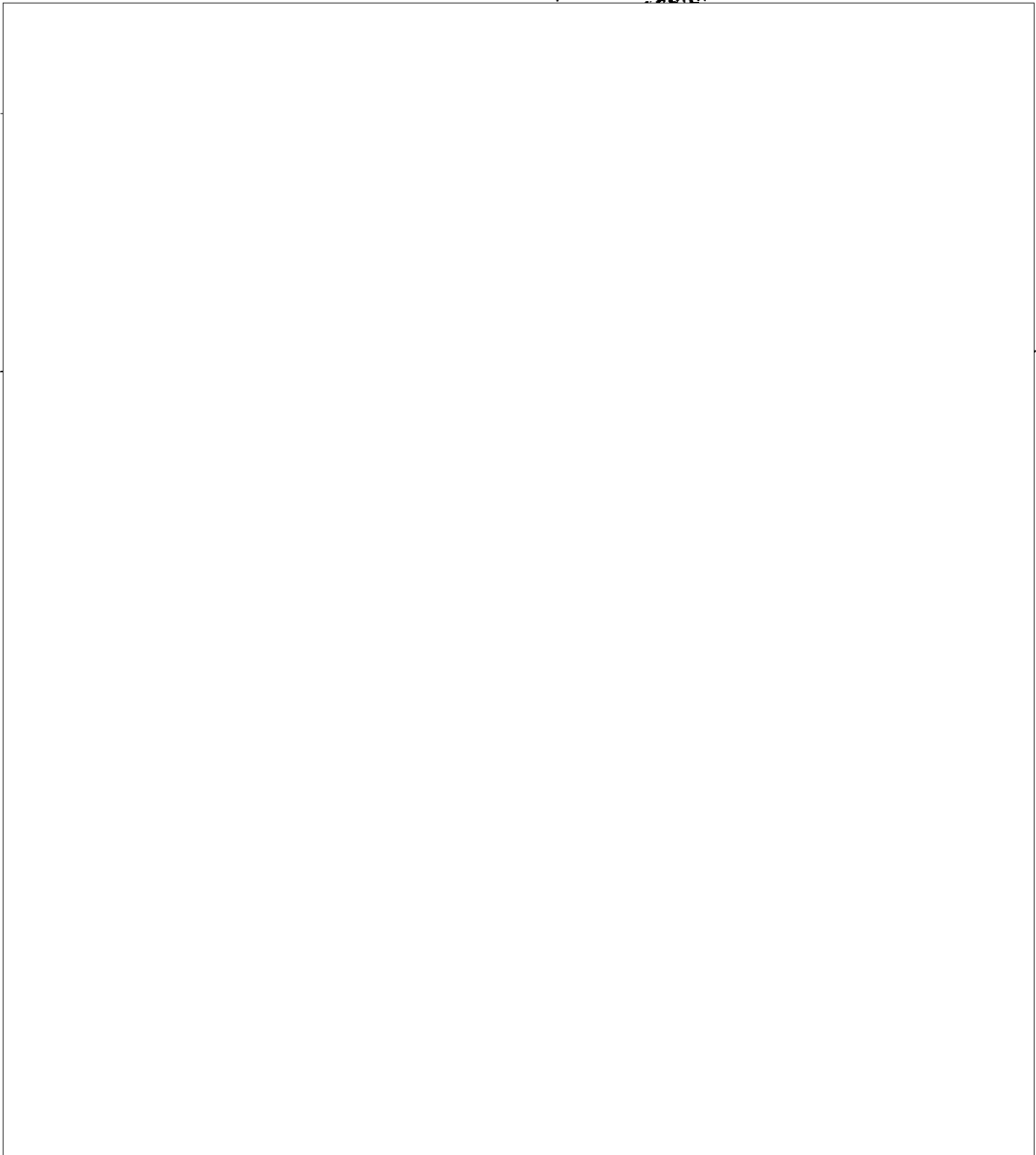
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(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#")

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MAIL ROOM



[REDACTED]

the RAJK trial and that Noel FIELD would be incriminated in this trial [redacted]

4. Mela GRANOWSKA was also a contact of Herman FIELD from the days when Herman had his committee (Komitet Uchodzcow) in Poland to assist Czechoslovakians to leave Czechoslovakia after that country had been annexed by Germany. Herman FIELD called Mela GRANOWSKA and asked her to assist him in obtaining a visa to Poland. [redacted] GRANOWSKA [redacted] a branch chief in the Personnel Section of the Ministry of Energy. GRANOWSKA was alarmed by this request and reported it to Luna BRYSTYGIER of MBP Department V. GRANOWSKA knew BRYSTYGIER from their ZPP (Union of Polish Patriots) days in Moscow. BRYSTYGIER reported this incident and BIERUT decided that GRANOWSKA should call Herman FIELD in Prague. GRANOWSKA was instructed to tell Herman that she would try to obtain the visa, and if she were successful, Herman was to plan to stay with GRANOWSKA while he was in Poland. These instructions were carried out and BRYSTYGIER recruited GRANOWSKA as an MBP agent.
5. Herman FIELD arrived in Poland and was escorted by GRANOWSKA to visit Helena CYRKUS and Col. Leon GECOW. Source claims that Herman became acquainted with GECOW in Switzerland. GECOW was president of the Polish Red Cross at the time of his arrest in the FIELD case. Herman FIELD speaks German and all of his conversations in Poland were conducted in the German language.
6. When Herman FIELD was scheduled to leave Poland, he was escorted to the Warsaw Airport by Helena CYRKUS and GRANOWSKA. CYRKUS left the airport first and when GRANOWSKA left, Herman started walking toward the Prague airplane. At this point, Herman FIELD was arrested by the MBP.
7. The MBP waited until this moment in order to permit Herman FIELD to officially pass through customs and officially be listed as a passenger. Since the arrest took place under such circumstances the Poles can deny knowledge of Herman's whereabouts.
8. [redacted] Lt. Col. PIASECKI of Department X conducted the interrogation of Herman FIELD. In an attempt to force Herman to confess, PIASECKI read him excerpts from the RAJK trial and told him that his brother Noel had testified against Allen DULLES and other American intelligence agents. At no point in the interrogation did Herman FIELD admit that he was a spy or that he had ever conducted espionage on behalf of the American Government. [redacted] physical violence has not been used against Herman FIELD. Lt. Col. PIASECKI drew up the formal charges against Herman, and this statement of charges has excerpts from the RAJK trial. Herman maintains that he is and has been a true Communist.\*
9. The fact that Herman helped Communists to leave Czechoslovakia during 1939 is not taken into consideration by the Poles. [redacted] Herman was also active in Communist work in Switzerland during the war.

10. The only evidence against Herman FIELD is guilt by association. He did belong to the USC (Unitarian Services Committee), which the Poles consider to be a cover agency for American intelligence, and his brother was an espionage agent. BIERUT hinted that it would be convenient if Herman were eliminated but such a hint could not be interpreted as an order or even as a suggestion. Such a statement is usually understood to mean that the officers in charge could arrange a convenient method for eliminating Herman provided they took full responsibility in the event that any complications occurred.

11. [redacted] Herman was becoming nervous and his mental state was deteriorating. He also threatened to commit suicide and had gone on several hunger strikes.

12. [redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted] The Hungarians stated that they had no interest in Herman FIELD and would not accept him.

13. [redacted] a report concerning the Herman FIELD case, in which he stated that Herman might attempt to take his own life, and since he had admitted nothing and no evidence had been uncovered he should be considered innocent and should be protected. The report had to be placed in the official files. The existence of such a written statement of innocence made it almost impossible for anyone to assume the responsibility of becoming his executioner. [redacted] if Herman had not had the misfortune to have a famous brother, he would probably have been released.

14. [redacted] the United States has exchanged notes with Poland concerning the location of Herman FIELD. The Poles deny that Herman FIELD is in their custody; [redacted] Herman FIELD was in prison in Miedzeszyn, Poland. BIERUT told ROMKOWSKI that "Herman FIELD is to remain in prison in Poland until the Communist revolution takes place in the United States". This was stated in a sarcastic vein and was meant to denote that Herman is never to be released.

[redacted]