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INFORMATION REPORT

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KAMBONA, Oscar

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

TANGANYIKA

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NO FOREIGN DISSEM

COUNTRY Tanganyika

REPORT NO. [redacted]

(b)(3)

SUBJECT Views of Oscar KAMBONA

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SOURCE: [redacted]

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- Oscar KAMBONA is an essentially shy and diffident person outside the standard scope of African personal relations. Once he gets beyond the non-African sphere, he makes and maintains friendships on a peculiarly emotional, all-or-nothing basis. Not surprisingly, this means that his foreign friends are few. For example, he maintains some sort of mail relationship with perhaps five or six Americans. He seems genuinely fond of [redacted] and also [redacted]. These are presumably persons with whom he relatively quickly was able to establish a warm feeling; and once past this phase, he evidently relies heavily on such people for advice and information and makes no secret of his regard for them. Although [redacted] and [redacted] are special cases among Americans, KAMBONA does not seem to have any universal antipathy either for Americans or for American ideals. Publicly, he usually confines himself to espousing Pan-Africanism and socialism. (b)(6)
- His reputation for being abrupt and uncooperative also stems from his basic shyness. He finds it so difficult to carry on casual conversation with strangers that he has often broken appointments without notice and failed to turn up for engagements previously accepted. (b)(6)
- KAMBONA is a definitely ambitious man with only a modest amount of intelligence to back up those ambitions. Although he seems an effective politician both with the voting public and in Tanganyika African National Union (TANU) party circles, this arises from an apparently instinctive skill at leadership and mass manipulation (strictly in African terms), rather than from any more broad perceptiveness or calculation. He is a person of reasonable honesty and sincerity, but seems to have no deep convictions about democracy, individual freedom, or fair play. And he is clearly capable of ruthlessness in pursuing his considerable ambitions. (b)(6)
- He is married and has one child, born in October 1961; and he seems genuinely fond of his wife, whom the foreign community in Dar-es-Salaam consider one of the most beautiful African women there. Both husband and wife are subject to frequent illnesses which incapacitate them for two or three days at a time. KAMBONA himself seems physically robust, though perhaps too frail for the heavy pace he sets for himself. He seems to enjoy flattery, provided it is not too

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obvious, and takes considerable pride in his wife and child. He is in fact quite affectionate with children generally.

5. He keeps in his office several souvenirs from Ghana and admires Kwame NKRUMAH greatly. He regularly speaks of Julius NYERERE with respect and the two men never show any strain or animosity when they appear together. Nevertheless, it is common gossip in Dar-es-Salaam that NYERERE does not fully trust KAMBONA, fearing that his urge to power is a peril.
6. Once he realizes that a given project is to his personal advantage, especially if he can claim the public credit for it, he works easily and effectively with others. For example, he delights in receiving credit for stimulating scholarship aid and is fully the candid politician in arranging such matters and admitting his motivation.

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