

February 13, 1945

MR. GURNEA

SA WINFRED E. HOPTON

SECURITY SURVEY OF STATE DEPARTMENT
ALGER HISS, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, SPECIAL POLITICAL
ACTION DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF STATE
(Supplement to memorandum of SA Roy L. Morgan
to Mr. Gurnea dated February 7, 1945.)

DAH - pre '48 meeting's
@ WC - 1942 statement
DAH - State Dept.
2-P memo re investig of AH
1941-42, WC st's about
+ State Dept. letter
favorable

The report of former Special Agent T. W. Dawsey dated January 21, 1941, at Washington, D. C., in the case entitled, THE WASHINGTON COMMITTEE FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION, reflects on page 99 thereof the following:

"The Washington Committee for Democratic Action maintains a 3 x 5 index card system entitled, 'Members List' which contains the following data"

Under this there are numerous names listed, including the following:

"Mr. Alger Hiss
3415 Volta Place, N. W.
State Department

(((Mrs. Alger Hiss (Priscilla)
3415 Volta Place
(Husband with State Department)"))

It may be stated that the Washington Committee for Democratic Action which is now allegedly defunct was on the Attorney General's list as a subversive group in connection with Hatch Act investigations. It was originally considered a so-called front organization. It is to be noted, however, that there was some doubt as to whether the above list was actually a membership list or a mailing list.

(((The Bureau files further reflect that in a letter from the New York Office to the Bureau dated May 14, 1942, entitled, WHITTAKER CHAMBER, ESPIONAGE, R, information was furnished by Whittaker Chamber to Bureau Agents as follows:"))

Chamber advised that he himself was a member of the Communist Party from 1924 until the spring of 1937; that he was managing editor of the Daily Worker from 1926 to 1930, and later became editor of the New Masses for about one year's time during 1933; that during approximately four years prior to his exit from the Party he was a member of the underground movement of the Communist Party stationed in Washington, D. C.; that his particular interest

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at that time was organization of the Communist Party in the Government at Washington, D. C., at the time during which the New Deal was blossoming. He stated they began to organize men in the New Deal set-up and to make such individuals a part of the underground organization of the Communist Party.

Chamber advised that Alger Hiss was a member of the underground organization. He stated that Hiss had left the N.A.A. but remained in Government service. According to Chamber, Alger Hiss went into munitions investigations and later became Assistant Solicitor General, after which he became assistant to the Assistant Secretary of State.

A report by Special Agent M. C. Clements, Washington, D. C., dated February 16, 1942, in the case entitled ALGER HISS, Assistant to the Advisor on Political Relations, Department of State, INTERNAL SECURITY, HATCH ACT, recites that the Special Committee on Un-American Activities, House of Representatives, lists Mr. Hiss as a member of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action. The report states, however, that an informant advised that the name of Mr. Hiss does not in fact appear in the active indices of that organization, but that the name of his wife does appear therein.

Mr. Hiss, in a sworn statement to the Agent, stated that he has never been a member of the Communist Party, nor was he ever a member of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action.

This report reflects that Hiss was born November 11, 1904, in Baltimore, Maryland. He received an LLB degree at Harvard University. A copy of this report was transmitted to the Secretary of State and in a letter from G. Howard Shaw to the Director of this Bureau it is stated that Alger Hiss "is well and favorably known to various of the higher officials of the Department and is a valued employee. The report of investigation affords no basis for administrative action."

WEH:MTS