

NY 65-14920

MR. STETTINIUS informed Agents that he was going to Florida for three or four weeks in order to have some peace and quiet to finish his book. He offered his services to Agents upon his return if he could be of any further assistance.

On January 17, 1949, ROBERT LYNCH, the Executive Assistant to MR. EDWARD R. STETTINIUS, Jr., was interviewed at his office at 521 Fifth Avenue, by SA John F. Sullivan. MR. LYNCH related that he could not definitely state who had been responsible for ALGER HISS' appointments, but was in a position to suggest individuals who would probably be more able to answer that question. He named in the order of probability LEO PASVOLSKY; ISAIAH BOWMAN, now with Johns Hopkins University; G. HAYDEN RAYNOR, now connected with the United Nations in New York City; JACK ROSS, who was vitally connected with the organization of the San Francisco Conference and had been the Directing Officer of Administration and who he stated was now Special Assistant to the United States Delegation to the United Nations in New York; and EASTON ROTHWELL, now with the Hoover Library at Stanford University, who had been LEO PASVOLSKY's right hand man.

In thinking the matter over, MR. LYNCH stated that ROSS roomed with ALGER HISS at San Francisco and was quite close to him; that he was a reliable individual and probably would be a good man to contact on the matter. He also suggested that DR. FREEMAN MATHEWS, presently Ambassador to Sweden and who had been a key man in the State Department on all international conferences, should be contacted as he would know who had picked HISS or had suggested his name.

MR. LYNCH advised Agent that MISS MARY McDONNELL, who had been his secretary for the past eight years and who had accompanied him and MR. STETTINIUS to various State Department and international conferences, was present in the office and might be able to shed light on the problem as she saw most of the executive papers while working for them. MISS McDONNELL was interviewed, but she was unable to supply any information of value.

Neither MISS McDONNELL nor MR. LYNCH when questioned stated that they had ever suspected ALGER HISS of being a Communist or engaged in Communist or espionage activities. MR. LYNCH immediately added that he had worked in the State Department and wished to point out that it was his experience that there had been no security with respect to the handling of files and it would have been a simple matter for anyone to take a file or to borrow it from an official's desk when that party was temporarily absent.