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Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
510 South Spring Street, Room 900  
Los Angeles 13, California  
March 4, 1949

Director, FBI

Re: JAY DAVID WHITTAKER CHAMBERS, was.  
ALGER HISS, ET AL  
PERJURY  
ESPIONAGE - R; IS - R  
(Bufile 74-1338)

*Handwritten notes:*  
J. White  
M. ...  
C. ...

Dear Sir:

Reference New York teletype of March 2, 1949, in which Los Angeles was advised that the deadline set by the Bureau for the summary report for the ALGER HISS trial is March 7, 1949. New York requested the Los Angeles Office to submit a report immediately on the information furnished to date by WILLIAM EDWARD CRANE, inasmuch as some of it may be included in the summary report.

In view of the large volume of information obtained from CRANE in the interviews to date, it is not possible to incorporate it into a report in time to reach New York for use prior to March 7, 1949. The Bureau and the New York Office were so advised by Los Angeles teletype of March 3, 1949, and it was stated that an air mail special delivery letter would be forwarded containing information received from CRANE regarding ALGER HISS and associates.

Early in the interview, CRANE volunteered that he recalled having heard the names ALGER HISS, DUGGAN, DEAN ACHESON, ADOLPH BERLE, and WHITE in a conversation concerning the younger set of the State Department. He stated that he could recall no details concerning this conversation, but that he did retain the impression that material was to be expected from some of these people. He said that he thought DUGGAN may have been mentioned as a possible source. At the same time, he stated that he had a vague recollection of some sort of a "Department of Justice deal," but that he was unable to recall anything about it.

CRANE advised that this conversation was between CHAMBERS and himself and either one of two Soviet agents whom he knew under the cover names of PETER and DAVE. It will be noted that CRANE stated that he had read in the newspaper that CHAMBERS had identified the agent PETER as a Colonel. In view of this and CRANE's description of PETER, it is apparent that the person referred to was Colonel BORIS BYKOV. The person known to CRANE as DAVE was later identified by CRANE from a photograph as DAVID ZIMMERMAN. CRANE stated the more he thought of it the more he felt that it was ZIMMERMAN, rather



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AMSD

cc: New York (65-14920) (AMSD)

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than BYKOV, who was involved in this conversation; however, on another occasion, CRANE stated that it might have been BYKOV, rather than CHAMBERS, who partook in this conversation.

CRANE was questioned concerning his reference to ALGER HISS, and he stated that he recalled the full name of "ALGER HISS" being mentioned. He said that, at that time, he did not know that HISS had a brother, DONALD. He said, further, that he considered the name ALGER HISS a striking one which he would not forget. CRANE was shown photographs of ALGER HISS, but he was unable to identify them as representing anyone that he could recall having ever seen. CRANE also advised that he had never heard the names "AMUR," "LENA," and "AMURAL GERHISS." CRANE also stated, in response to questioning, that he had never been told that any documents he photographed had come from ALGER HISS.

CRANE advised, with reference to DUGGAN, that he had just heard the last name in this conversation.

CRANE stated that the full name of DEAN ACHESON was used in this conversation, and that this was another striking name which he would retain. He never met DEAN ACHESON.

CRANE also stated that ADOLPH BERLE, who was mentioned by his full name, likewise had a striking name. CRANE recalled that, when he read anti-Soviet statements made by ADOLPH BERLE years later, they were a source of surprise to him in view of his impression gained in this conversation.

CRANE could not recall whether WHITE was mentioned by last name only, but he said that he had the definite impression that this related to HARRY DEXTER WHITE, formerly of the Treasury Department.

Subsequently, CRANE added to this information that he had a rather persistent but vague recollection that someone else had been mentioned, but that he could not recall anything further about it. He said that he believed the person had a rather common name. The names of COLLINS, REMINGTON, and SILVERMAN were mentioned to him, but he did not recognize them.