

REPORT MADE AT WASHINGTON, D. C.	DATE WHEN MADE 5-27-49	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 5/23,24,25/59	REPORT MADE BY DONALD D. CONNORS JIF
TITLE O JAY DAVID WHITTAKER CHAMBERS, was, etal		CHARACTER OF CASE PERJURY ESPIONAGE - R INTERNAL SECURITY - R	

## SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

FRANK E. DUVALL, Watch Officer, Division of Communications, U. S. Department of State, furnished information with regard to routing of communications in State Department. DUVALL advised he has been interviewed by EDWARD McLEAN and served with subpoena as defense witness.

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## REFERENCE:

Bureau File No. 74-1333  
New York teletype to Bureau and Washington Field dated May 20, 1949

## DETAILS:

AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

It will be recalled that New York teletype dated May 20, 1949 requested that FRANK DUVALL (ph), who was Chief Watch Officer, Division of Communications, U. S. Department of State, during the pertinent period covered by the Baltimore papers, be interviewed by the Washington Field Office. It is noted that DUVALL has offices in Room 6024, New State Department Building, 21st and Virginia Avenue, Northwest, Washington, D. C., and resides at 1020 North Buchanan Street, Arlington, Virginia.

FRANK E. DUVALL was interviewed on May 23 and 25, 1949. He advised that he has been with the State Department since 1918. From 1918 until 1932, DUVALL was with the Records Division, at that time called the Indexing Division. In 1932 when Mr. STANLEY HORNBECK was Chief of the Far Eastern Division, DUVALL was his administrative assistant until approximately August, 1937 at which time Mr. HORNBECK was made Political Advisor. At this time, Mr. DUVALL accompanied Mr. HORNBECK when the latter made this

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change and acted as his assistant until approximately December 1, 1942. At this time he was made Watch Officer under Mr. CORDELL HULL, then Secretary of State. Mr. DUVALL explained that the term "Watch Officer" and the duties of this office were originated by Mr. HULL. According to DUVALL, Secretary HULL did not wish to close his office completely during the night hours because of the war and the earlier tension and so installed a Watch Officer to read and appraise important communications. The Watch Officer could then notify an appropriate official of the Department of State for immediate action if he deemed it necessary.

It is observed that the following information with respect to the routing of State Department Communications is as told by DUVALL:

#### TELEGRAMS AND CABLEGRAMS

: During the pertinent period covered by the Baltimore Papers, cablegrams and telegrams came into the code room of the State Department where they were decoded, edited and typed. The typed copies were usually made on a stencil and mimeographed. There was one action copy of each incoming communication which action copy was printed on yellow paper and is thus, in State Department jargon, termed the "yellow". Information copies of the same communication were mimeographed on plain white paper and thus were called "whites" or "info copies". The yellow copy from the code room was sent to the Records Section and if the communication were of a confidential nature, it was sent to the confidential file.

In the Records Section the communication was digested, briefed and a tally card was made. The purpose of this tally card was to indicate to the Records Section the location of, at all times, the yellow of the incoming communication. The action copies were routed by the Records Section by the placing in the upper left-hand corner with a green pencil, the abbreviation of the office to which the action copy would go. A green pencil was used because communications were sometimes routed from one office to another without going through the Records Section if the chief of one office so desired and the chief of this office or his clerical help would generally use a red or a blue pencil. Thus, a green pencil was the distinctive mark of the routing of the communication.

From the Records Section, the yellow was sent to the action office, that is, the office which was deemed appropriate to take the necessary action. When the action had been completed, this office routed the communication back to the Records Section where it was ultimately filed. (DUVALL advised as an aside that State Department requirements were that "all documents should repose forever in the Records Section")

With respect to the information copies or the "whites", it is noted that they were mimeographed at the same time as was the yellow copy. The information copies were sent direct, however, to the various offices which had a legitimate reason for receiving information copies. It is noted that in the telegraph room was maintained a large fan-type distribution box and a clerk in the code room or telegraph room would place information copies of these communications in the appropriate slots in this distribution box from which they would be picked up by messengers. It is noted that any office receiving the action copy of a telegram or cablegram would also receive an information copy. Further, it would sometimes happen, because the yellow had to go to the Records Section and the confidential file, that the action office would receive its information copy before it received the yellow. The code room with respect to the information copies kept in its files one white copy of the incoming communication which was rubber stamped. The rubber stamp used noted all of the various offices in the State Department and thus offices receiving an information copy of the communication were noted by a check mark. This rubber stamped copy is permanently maintained in the telegram section and these records are filed numerically by post. Thus for example, Moscow Cable No. 30, of 1938, would be filed between Moscow Cablegram No. 29 and 31, of 1938, and London Cablegram No. 38 would be filed in a separate file in the same manner. The offices receiving information copies of this type of communication supposedly destroyed their information copy when it had served its purpose. Actually, according to DUVALL, many of these offices maintained their own separate filing system and kept their information copies for a considerable period of time.

It is noted that the old rubber stamp formerly used has now been replaced by a distribution slip which is a separate sheet of paper containing designations of all offices and which, after being appropriately marked, is stapled to the file copy of the communication.

It is noted that the single exception to this procedure deals with the Passport and Visa Division which have their own Division of Communications and Records. Thus, copies of cablegrams and telegrams and other communications which are routed to the Passport or Visa Divisions, do not revert to the Central Communications and Records file but remain in the Record Section of the Passport or Visa Divisions.

#### DISPATCHES, MEMORANDA AND LETTERS

During the pertinent period these types of communications came into the mail room of the old State, War, Navy Building, which mail room was in the basement. They were then sent to the Records Section for sorting and after sorting into geographical elements were routed to the appropriate office. Before they were routed to any office they were briefed by the

Records Section and put on record as has been set out with respect to yellow copies of cablegrams or telegrams. This type of communication was also routed by green penciled notations in the upper right-hand corner. It is noted that with respect to this type of communication, the original and all copies went first to one office, that is, to whatever office was deemed appropriate; that office could then make further records of the matter and could detach copies from the original and routing copies. As a matter of theory, the rerouting was supposed to have been done through the Records Section so the tally maintained by the Records Section would show the location of the original and all copies at all times. As a matter of practice, rerouting was sometimes done without the channeling through the Records Section. The original and all copies of this type of communication theoretically reverted to the Records Section for permanent filing but in practice this sometimes did not work out.

From 1916 until 1949, Mr. DAVID A. SOLOMON was Chief of the Communications and Records Section and it is noted that Mr. SOLOMON once each year caused a check to be made of the outstanding tallies and attempted to locate any documents shown "out" on tallies to various offices. According to Mr. DUVALL, this greatly facilitated the accurate reflection of the tallies.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

With respect to intra-departmental memoranda and other communications, it is noted that these were handled by the Records Section in theory, that is if the Eastern European Division wished to send a memorandum originating in its own office to the Far Eastern Division, such memorandum should go through the Records Section for appropriate tally but according to Mr. DUVALL, such communications were sometimes sent directly from one office to another without passing through the Records Section and although all such communications in theory reverted to the Records Section for filing, in actual practice, it sometimes happened that such communications never reached the Records Section. Such occasions, however, were rare. Whenever copies of communications were sent to other governmental offices such as Army, Navy, Justice Department, etc., an appropriate notation was made on the file copy of this communication so the Records Section could tell at a glance if a copy of that particular communication had been routed to another government agency.

It is noted that according to Mr. DUVALL, the rubber stamps mentioned above were maintained in the code room and used from about 1936 until about 1942 or 1943 when they were replaced by the distribution slip. Mr. DUVALL is not certain as to the exact period in which the rubber stamp was used. Mr. DUVALL advised that he was one of three Watch Officers at the time this office was established and that the others were Mr. AARON S. BROWN, presently a State Department employee, and one Mr. WILLIAM MORELAND. Mr. MORELAND is

still with the State Department but is stationed in Ireland.

Mr. DUVALL advised that all Assistant Secretaries of State, as well as Secretaries of State, maintained their own filing system in which they kept copies of pertinent communications. Mr. DUVALL advised that most of these individuals took these files with them when they left the Department of State after destroying extraneous matter therein. This custom was so well established, according to Mr. DUVALL, that it was the regular duty of some individuals to check these files periodically in order to make certain there were no originals of any communications in these files.

Mr. DUVALL advised he had been interviewed approximately two months ago by EDWARD McLEAN, Attorney for ALGER HISS and McLEAN had gone over the information covered above with DUVALL. McLEAN did not advise DUVALL that he desired his testimony at this time but DUVALL advised that on May 23 he had been issued a subpoena to testify in New York as a witness for the defense on May 25, but has since received word from McLEAN indicating that he is not to appear until McLEAN recontacts him and tells him on what date his testimony is desired.

With respect to ALGER HISS, DUVALL recalled that when HISS worked for HORNBECK, he, DUVALL, occupied Room No. 376 in the State, War, Navy Building. HORNBECK occupied Room 380 and HISS occupied Room 374 $\frac{1}{2}$  or as it was later termed, 374A. DUVALL stated that he considered HISS to be overcautious with respect to communications and recalled very often HISS would place communications in envelopes, give them to DUVALL and ask DUVALL to give them to HORNBECK. DUVALL pointed out that he did not even have to go into the corridor to make this delivery and added that HORNBECK never enveloped communications when requesting DUVALL to give them to HISS. DUVALL advised although he knew HISS fairly well from working with him, he did not know HISS socially, had never been in the HISS residence and had no letters from HISS. He advised he had no knowledge whatever with regard to any typewriters HISS might own. DUVALL recalled that HISS sometimes took material home in order to work on it and added that this was an established custom at the State Department. He stated that HORNBECK very frequently took material home with him as would all other principal State Department officers. DUVALL noted that he had no reason or occasion to doubt the loyalty of ALGER HISS but added he desired to see any person who would betray his country punished for this action.

DUVALL recalled that shortly after PEARL HARBOR, one MAX THORNBERG or MAX THORNBERG, a petroleum advisor at the Department of State, had, in the presence of DUVALL in DUVALL's office, in some excitement, recounted to HISS the exact losses sustained at Pearl Harbor. DUVALL advised that this was no more than two or three days after Pearl Harbor when such losses were highly secret. After THORNBERG left the room, HISS told DUVALL that he