

network was Whittaker Chambers and—the long-standing Nation position on this matter to the contrary—according to his widow, whom I met in 1974, John Herrmann was the man who introduced Chambers to Alger Hiss.⁵

In her 1994 autobiography, Hope Hale Davis described her service in the Washington Communist underground with her then-husband, Hermann Brunck, who passed confidential government Labor Board documents to the CPUSA to assist its union organizers. In addition to confirming J. Peters' role as head of the underground, she identified many of the same people that Katherine Perlo and Whittaker Chambers had accused of being members of the underground in which Victor Perlo had played a key role.⁶

The Russian archives gave even more confirmation. In *The Secret World of American Communism* we reproduced several Russian archival documents regarding Peters and the CPUSA underground. Rudy Baker, who had replaced Peters as head of the underground in June 1938, wrote one of them for the Comintern in early 1939, "Brief on the Work of the CPUSA Secret Apparatus."* The first two sentences could not have been more direct: "The CPUSA secret apparatus has been in existence about four years. Its operations have been directed for that entire period by Com PETERS." This is the party underground organization that Navasky and other Hiss defenders claimed did not exist and was not headed by Peters. We also reproduced two messages from Soviet Military Intelligence (GRU) to the Comintern in 1943 inquiring about Peters' supervision of an American Communist group in Washington engaged in "informational work," a standard term for intelligence gathering. Finally, we included a 1947 biographical summary of Peters' career, prepared by the International Department of the Communist Party of the Soviet

*Although the word chosen to translate the Russian is "secret" apparatus, the original text used the word *konspirativnyi*, a cognate of the English word "conspiracy," and the term could as accurately be translated as "conspiratorial apparatus" or "conspiracy apparatus."