

as "boots") for Soviet agents and discussed what happened to Ewald after he returned to the Soviet Union.⁴⁰

In one remarkable passage of his article Chambers not only recorded almost verbatim the Mary Martin cable transcribed by Alger Hiss but also explained the reasons for Soviet interest in Henderson's dispatch.^{*41}

Chambers was obviously familiar with the Mary Martin wire, presumably through Hiss's copy of that cable. And so similar are Henderson's February 10 dispatch concerning his interview with Mrs. Rubens and Chambers's description of that interview in his 1938 article that it is reasonable to conclude that Chambers had read Henderson's cable on the episode. Chambers's nearly exact quotation of Loy Henderson's January 28 telegram confirms that among the "handwritten matters" he possessed when he wrote his warning letter to former comrades in Soviet espionage that same year was the Mary Martin cable he said had been given him by Alger Hiss.⁴²

The facts are highly significant: Alger Hiss transcribed Henderson's confidential Mary Martin telegram in January 1938, although the dispatch had nothing to do with his duties for Sayre; Chambers restated the memo practically verbatim in an article later that year (along with material from other secret cables sent by Henderson during the same period); and in 1948 Chambers turned over Hiss's verbatim copy of the Mary Martin cable along with summaries of three other secret State Department documents, all in Hiss's handwriting.

When later confronted with the four memos, Hiss acknowledged having written the three partial summaries, but initially said that the Mary Martin transcription was not in his handwriting. He stuck by this in discussions with his attorneys until the spring of 1949, when FBI laboratory experts and Hiss's own handwriting examiners confirmed that he had transcribed Henderson's cable.⁴³

Hiss explained that he frequently wrote memos to himself, such as the four turned over by Chambers, to brief Sayre on departmental dispatches passing through the office. When asked by his attorney whether there was any military information in the four handwritten notes, Hiss replied: "Only in the sense that they refer to munitions to China from France." In fact the three memos other than the Mary Martin cable were entirely concerned with military information. Asked why he had drawn the matters described in the three March 1938 memos to Sayre's attention, Hiss told his attorneys that although Sayre's area of responsibility lay in international economics, "he was interested in subsidiary matters as they affected neutrality, the Philippines or the League of Nations." Moreover, he "was naturally very much interested in the developments of the Sino-Japanese war as they

* Chambers also discussed the Robinson-Rubens case at this time with Herbert Solow, who prepared a notarized memo of his discussions with Chambers on November 28, 1938.