

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. D. M. Ladd

DATE: November 17, 1949

FROM : H. B. Fletcher *HBF*

SUBJECT: *JAHAM*

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Gurnea
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Mohr
- Mr. Pennington
- Mr. Quinn Tamm
- Tele. Room
- Mr. Nease
- Miss Holmes
- Miss Gandy

Purpose

To advise of the identification of Mrs. Alger (Priscilla) Hiss by Mrs. Edith Murray, former maid of Mr. and Mrs. Whittaker Chambers in Baltimore, Maryland, from 1934 to 1936.

Background

Mrs. Edith Murray, colored, was the maid of Mr. and Mrs. Whittaker Chambers while they resided at 903 St. Paul Street and 1617 Eutaw Place, Baltimore, Maryland, during 1934-1936. After considerable investigation, the Baltimore Office located Mrs. Murray and she was interviewed on September 28 of this year. *95-1*

Mrs. Murray advised that she recalls a lady from Washington who visited the Chamberses at 1617 Eutaw Place, Baltimore, Maryland. While she was employed by the Chamberses she knew them under the name Cantwell. She said that this lady came to visit Mrs. Cantwell three or four times. On one occasion, in April or May of 1936, this lady from Washington came to the Cantwell apartment and stayed with the Cantwells' daughter that day and throughout the night until about noon the following day, while Mrs. Cantwell went to New York City. She said she recalls preparing and eating both breakfast and lunch with the lady from Washington. She was shown a photograph of Mrs. Alger (Priscilla) Hiss and she said that the photograph might be a picture of the lady from Washington who visited the Cantwells. She said she was never introduced to her by name. She was also shown a photograph of Alger Hiss and she said that the photograph looked something like the man who had accompanied the lady from Washington on one of the visits to the Cantwells. *92-1*

Mrs. Murray was taken to New York City in an effort to definitely identify Mr. and Mrs. Hiss when given an opportunity to view them in person. Today, when Mrs. Priscilla Hiss got off the elevator in the Federal Building, Edith Murray definitely identified her as the lady from Washington who had visited the Cantwells in Baltimore, Maryland. She did not hesitate in making this identification. *M*

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It is of interest to note that Mrs. Murray advised that she does not receive a daily newspaper and only gets the Sunday edition of a newspaper. She said that she had never heard over the radio or through any other means that her

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EX-9

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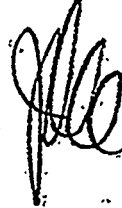
Memo to Mr. Ladd
Re--JAHAM

former employer, Mr. Cantwell, was, in fact, Mr. Chambers who was connected with the first Alger Hiss trial in New York. Mrs. Murray had previously been taken to the Chambers' farm at Westminster, Maryland, where she definitely identified Mr. and Mrs. Chambers as the persons named Cantwell who previously employed her as a maid.

Action

There is attached hereto for your approval a memorandum to Mr. Alexander M. Campbell.

Attachment

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