

him to increase the espionage activity of his Washington sources. He was particularly interested in securing government documents that could be sent on to Soviet intelligence sources in Moscow. Four of Chambers's sources had access to documents: Abel Gross, an employee of the Bureau of Standards, Julian Wadleigh at the State Department, Harry Dexter White of Treasury, whose documents were conveyed by another Treasury Department employee, George Silverman, and Hiss. When Bykov expressed an interest in gaining expanded access to stolen documents, Chambers's role in underground operations changed.¹²

Beginning in the fall of 1936, the Soviets established a photographic workshop in Baltimore. Sources would bring documents home from work, where they would be transferred to Chambers, who would take them to Baltimore to be photographed. Chambers would then return the documents to his sources the same night, or by the next morning. Once a week Chambers would journey to New York with photographed copies for Bykov.¹³

By that time Hiss had moved from the Nye Committee to the Justice Department, where he had worked on the case of *United States v. Butler*, in which the government made an effort to salvage the legislation that created the AAA, only to have it declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in January 1936. After the *Butler* case came down, Hiss continued to work at the Justice Department until September 1936, when he accepted a position in the office of the Assistant Secretary in the State Department. The job offered a salary of \$5,600 a year, and Hiss had been making \$7,500 in the Justice Department. Although Hiss later claimed that he was attracted to the State Department because of his long-term interest in the field of international relations, the State Department was an unlikely choice for a young man dedicated to the goals of the early New Deal, which were largely domestic in their orientation. In addition, the State Department was thought to be among the more hide-bound and less progressive of the federal government's old-line agencies. But one member of the assistant secretary's office in the State Department described it as being, in the 1930s, "the best possible place to work" for someone interested in gaining access to confidential diplomatic and military documents.¹⁴

Bykov's arrival, and the new procedures he instituted for photographing stolen government documents, coincided with Hiss's occupying a position that would expand his opportunities for espionage. Before long Hiss's brief case was "well filled," as Chambers put it, with documents he thought of interest to the Soviets. Hiss was so productive in bringing home documents that he precipitated a further change in the Soviets's methods for obtaining them. As Chambers recalled,