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AMERICAN RED CROSS

ONICK, WILLIAM FREDERICK

ONICK, VERA ORLOFF

BELOGRODSKI, VALENTINA

RUSSIAN-AMERICAN SOCIETY

BELOGRODSKI, WALTER

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21 November 1957

SUBJECT: **FREDERICK WILLIAM ONICK** - American Red Cross Representative

1. PERSONAL HISTORY - SUBJECT was born 4 July 1921 at San Francisco, California. His parents were both born in Russia; his mother is deceased and his father, was born 18 December 1894, immigrated to the United States in 1913, was naturalized in 1934 and presently resides at 26 Rocklyn Court, Corte Madera, California. SUBJECT attended San Francisco Junior College and Golden State College, both at San Francisco, California. He served in the U. S. Army from 20 May 1942 to 21 April 1946 and from 11 October 1951 to 31 October 1954 at which time he was released from active duty; he maintains a commission in the Army Reserve. SUBJECT was employed in private industry from 1946 to 1951. He was employed by the American Red Cross, 17 November 1954, serving at Pier 91, 13th Naval District, Seattle, Washington, prior to his assignment at Ladd Air Force Base, Alaska. SUBJECT resided at 2952 Jackson Street, San Francisco from 1937 to 1942; at 26 Rocklyn Court, Corte Madera, California from 1946 to 1951 and at 3717 26th Place West, Seattle, Washington from 1954 to 1956. SUBJECT married VERA ORLOFF on 7 October 1946; this marriage was dissolved by divorce in April 1949. SUBJECT married VALENTENA BELOBRODSKI on 28 April 1955.

2. SUMMARY -

a. Investigation did not disclose any membership by SUBJECT in any designated or cited organization. The investigation revealed considerable information concerning SUBJECT's parents, his former wife and his present wife. This information, which was developed by CIC, Army, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Civil Service Commission and a source in Canada is set out below.

b. WILLIAM FREDERICK ONICK is SUBJECT's father. Investigation concerning this individual is as follows:

- (1) It was reported that he subscribed to the Daily People's World (DPW), the West Coast Communist paper in 1938, 1939, 1941, 1942 and 1943.

He was affiliated with the Russian American Society (RAS) from 1943 to 1947. He was elected to offices in the RAS and in connection with his affiliation of the RAS, attended functions at the Soviet Consulate in San Francisco, California.

He promoted the collection of funds for the Soviet Children's Hospital in Moscow, Russia.

In 1944, he attended a meeting at San Francisco, California, where the main speaker was ROBERT MINOR, a national functionary of the Communist Party. (See pages 92-93; 179-182)

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- (2) One W. ONICK, not otherwise identified was reported on 20 January 1939 as a contributor of \$10.00 to a sustaining fund of the Daily People's World. (See page 183)
- (3) One M. ONICK, 2952 Jackson Street, San Francisco, California, was reported as a subscriber to the Daily People's World in 1938, 1940, 1941, 1942 and 1943. SUBJECT resided at this address; his stepmother's name is MARY ONICK. (See page 16; 95)
- (4) WILLIAM ONICK was interviewed by the FBI, 22 March 1956 and advised that he had been a member of the RAS from 1943 to 1947 and active in that organization. He stated that his motivation for joining was a desire to aid the Russian-American War effort. He stated that he visited with and was in contact with officials of the Russian Consulate in San Francisco on numerous occasions. He denied knowledge of any intelligence or espionage activities on the part of the Russians. (See page 198-200)
- (5) WILLIAM ONICK advised he had recently (1955) received a letter from his son, who stated he had a deep desire to effect a transfer with the Red Cross to Alaska, but had been unable to receive the necessary clearance. His son indicated an inability to understand the denial of clearance. His father understood the clearance to be in connection with his Red Cross assignment with the Navy Department. (See page 202)

c. VERA ORLOFF ONICK was SUBJECT's first wife. Investigation concerning this individual revealed the following information:

- (1) She was born 24 March 1923 at San Francisco, California. Prior to her employment with the Department of the Army, she worked for the U. S. Food and Drug Administration.

In the 1940s she was a member of and active in the RAS. She and her family were acquainted with representatives of the Russian Consulate prior to 1948. In 1945, her picture appeared in a San Francisco daily paper along with the wife of the Russian Consul General at San Francisco in connection with a function sponsored by the All-Slavic Council of Northern California. As of 1948, the officers of this organization were reported as pro-Communist or Communist Party members, however, in former years the organization was believed not to be under Communist influence.

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Her father, JOHN ORLOFF, was reported as an active member of the RAS from the early 1940s until 1955. He was reported to have been invited to join the Communist Party but declined, stating that he was already performing the work but did not have time for meetings or direct party activities. He was a National delegate to the Fourth All Slav Congress in 1948; this organization was reported as an affiliate of the American Slav Congress, a designated organization. (See page 104-105; 164-169; 187-190)

- (2) In connection with her employment with the Department of the Army, VERA ONICK was furnished and answered a Civil Service Interrogatory. In her answer, denied membership in the Communist Party; furnished information as to her father's activities, but denied any membership or sympathy for the Communist Party or involvement in subversive activities. There was attached to her answers a deposition by VERA ORLOFF, executed by the law firm of Gladstein, Anderson, Resner and Sawyer, in which she stated that Executive Order 9835 and the loyalty program violated her constitutional rights under the First, Fifth and Tenth Amendments of the Constitution. Other protestations of the matter were also set out. (See page 232-239)
- (3) The law firm referred to above has been reliably reported to be composed of Communists or Communist sympathizers and to have represented Communist Party officials for years. (See page 225)
- (4) VERA ORLOFF ONICK was listed on a roster of terminated civilian employees of the Army by reason of loyalty. This information was furnished 12 October 1950 by the Intelligence Field Office, Fort MacArthur, California. (See page 106)
- (5) In contrast to the above, files of G-2 Army, Washington, D. C., reflect that the Civil Service Commission rated VERA ONICK on 25 August 1949 as "eligible" for continued employment. The Army thereafter recommended that the case be closed. These records also reflected that she resigned her position 2 December 1949 to get married. (See page 242)

d. VALENTINA BELOGRODSKI is SUBJECT's present wife. She was born in Poland 12 February 1923, emigrated to Canada at an early age and permanently entered the United States 21 August 1955. In essence, the investigation revealed the following concerning VALENTINA BELOBRODSKI:

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- (1) She was employed by the Soviet Purchasing Commission in Vancouver, Canada, from May 1946 to February 1947. She performed duties for S. G. LUKIANOV, who has been positively identified as a Soviet Intelligence Agent.

Her family was reported as having been long interested in the Russian Workers and Farmers Club and its successor, the Federation of Russian Canadians, described as a Communist-controlled organization.

In 1950, she admitted former membership in the National Council for Canadian Soviet Friendship Society. She was listed on the Board of Directors in January 1945. This organization has been described as the forerunner of the present Canadian Soviet Friendship Society (Communist Front) and was not considered as being under open Communist control until 1947.

Her brother, WALTER HELOBRODSKI, was reported in 1955 as a member of the Labor-Progressive Party (Communist), and as of 1950, he was secretary of the Polish Democratic Association, described as a Communist Front. (See page 99; 202; 209; 211; 212; 215-216)

- (2) VALENTINA ONICK was interviewed by a Government agency on 30 April 1956. She advised, in essence, as follows: She was employed by the Soviet Purchasing Commission in Canada from May 1946 to January or February 1947, working under SERGEI LUKIANOV. She stated that she was not trusted with any highly classified information.

She admitted having been affiliated with the National Council for Canadian Soviet Friendship Society (NCCSFS), also known as the Canadian-Soviet Friendship Society (CSFS), the Canadian-Soviet Friendship League (CSFL) and indicated having been on the Board of Directors of that organization during 1943 or 1944.

She believed her brother WALTER to be a member of the Polish Democratic Association (PDA).

It should be noted that the NCCSFS, CSFL and PDA are described as being Communist-controlled. The NCCSFS first became openly Communist dominated in 1947. (See page 100-101; 178-179; 194; 207-213)

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(3) VALENTINA HELOERODSKI was interviewed by a source abroad 31 March 1950. This source stated that she proved quite cooperative, but she was unwilling or unable to provide any information of value concerning Soviet personnel in Canada. She furnished information as to her employment at the Soviet Purchasing Commission in Vancouver; her association with the Canadian Soviet Friendship League, also known as the Canadian Soviet Friendship Society and with the Federation of Russian Canadians. (See page 216-218)

e. SUBJECT was reported as an associate of CHARLES B. GIBCO, not otherwise identified. This source, of unstated reliability, referred to SUBJECT as being affiliated with the CP. He was also reported as an associate of H. LUCCA of Summit Drive, Corte Madera, California. FBI reports state that HUMBERT LUCCA, Summit Drive, Madera, was a CP member in 1943 and subscribed to the DFW in 1953. (See page 184-185)

f. Concerning SUBJECT's marriage to VERA ORLOFF, a source stated that animosity has existed between the ONICK and ORLOFF families for several years. (See page 201)

g. It is noted that SUBJECT received correspondence from one T. HELOBRODSKI, 3919 Alice Street, Vancouver, B. C., Canada, on 13 April 1956. (See page 156) He received correspondence from one J. HELOBRODSKI, 3919 Alice Street, Vancouver, B. C., on 15 May 1956. (See page 158)

h. Numerous references, associates and neighbors of SUBJECT were interviewed and commented favorably, concerning SUBJECT's character, reputation and loyalty. Comments of others interviewed concerning SUBJECT, which are worthy of note, are set out below:

- (1) PETER CANELLI, fellow employee of SUBJECT at Walter H. Moore Dry Goods Company, San Francisco, California, declined to recommend SUBJECT for a position of trust because of drinking habits and talking a lot while under the influence of alcohol. (See page 36)
- (2) CARL Q. RIZNICK, former employer of SUBJECT, recommended SUBJECT and commented that SUBJECT's first marriage was solely to please the fathers of SUBJECT and his first wife. (See page 38)
- (3) LEIZER RIZNICK, former employer of SUBJECT, recommended SUBJECT and commented that SUBJECT and his father have a close relationship and that SUBJECT's father would do almost anything to please his son. (See page 39)

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- (4) KENNETH BALL recommended SUBJECT for a position of trust. Mr. BALL commented that SUBJECT's father and mother tried to maintain the ties of their Russian ancestry but for ethnic rather than political reasons, inasmuch as SUBJECT's father always celebrated Russian holidays and advised SUBJECT to marry a "good Russian girl." This reference also commented that SUBJECT's father considered the Communists responsible for his leaving his homeland. (See page 44)
- (5) JAMES DOHERTY, San Francisco, California, believed SUBJECT's first wife's parents were "pro-Soviet and probably Communists" basing this opinion on their continual stressing for more cooperation between the United States and Russia. Mr. DOHERTY stated that SUBJECT's father has a strong liking for his native country and its customs, but does not agree with the present Russian form of government. Mr. DOHERTY recommended SUBJECT. (See page 48)
- (6) ALFRED FERRERA, Corte Madera, California, recommended SUBJECT but did state that he had seen Russian literature at SUBJECT's home, believed to be a pamphlet concerning the Battle of Stalingrad with JOSEPH STALIN's picture on the front. (See page 50-51)
- (7) ARTHUR E. KROSS, Assistant Field Director, American Red Cross, Seattle, Washington, had no reason to question SUBJECT's loyalty. Mr. KROSS did mention that he had attended a party at SUBJECT's residence which surprised him, inasmuch as SUBJECT had, as a guest, a Negro and IRVING AUGUST, who had been forced to resign his American Red Cross position for security reasons. (It should be noted that AUGUST is reported to have associated with CP members and possibly to have been a CP member in 1948; to have subscribed to the DFW and to have refused to cooperate with the FBI regarding his involvement in the recruitment program for the Israeli Air Force in 1949.) (See page 52-53; 130-132)
- (8) MARY LOU PALLAT, Seattle, Washington, recommended SUBJECT for a position of trust. She did comment that SUBJECT appeared to be suffering from hypertension with reference to his clearance for overseas assignment. This reference also commented that SUBJECT was "alarmed" because AUGUST had been denied clearance and stated that she had recommended AUGUST for a position of trust. (See page 57-59)

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- (9) Miss ANN VISCHANSKY, San Francisco, California, advised that formerly she had been engaged to SUBJECT. The interviewing agent stated that reference appeared to be emotionally disturbed during the interview. In essence, this reference reported no unfavorable security information, but alluded to SUBJECT's unreliability in financial affairs and to his borrowing money from friends and subordinates. She also mentioned that his father has had to help SUBJECT out financially. She would not recommend SUBJECT for a position of trust. (See page 60-61)
- (10) HOMER F. JOHNSON, Seattle, Washington, believed SUBJECT a loyal American citizen. Mr. JOHNSON did state that SUBJECT was aware of a problem concerning his clearance and had not taken advantage of opportunities to express any anti-Communist attitude. SUBJECT had related to Mr. JOHNSON that he knew some American Russians might believe in Communism and that it was alright if they wanted to, but that he wanted no part of any type of politics. (See page 78-79)
- (11) KATHLEEN KIRCHESSNER, San Francisco, California, recommended SUBJECT for a position of trust. However, she stated that she had lived out of wedlock with SUBJECT from January 1954 to June 1954. She described SUBJECT as having a "small boy attitude" and being a "playboy." She also stated that SUBJECT owes her \$20.50. (See page 82)

i. In connection with instant matter, local agency checks and neighborhood investigation were conducted concerning SUBJECT in pertinent areas. No additional substantive information was developed.

j. SUBJECT answered "No" on DD Form 396 (SPH), dated 9 September 1953, to questions concerning memberships (See page 20). The Red Cross records contain information that SUBJECT answered "No" to a question concerning membership in organizations inimical to the interests of the United States. (See page 42)

k. SUBJECT was interviewed 15 December 1955 by CIC and, in essence, advised as follows:

"On 15 December 1955, SUBJECT was interviewed by CIC and advised that as of 1945, although not a member, he had attended social functions of the Russian-American Society (RAS) at the Russian Consulate, San Francisco, and may have attended one or two subsequent social gatherings of that organization. He stated that during the period 1942-45, his parents were closely associated with the RAS in San Francisco, although he was not sure that they were members. In approximately 1945, his father withdrew his support because he felt that the RAS had ceased to serve a humanitarian purpose and was becoming political in nature."

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SUBJECT advised Army authorities that he is a Democrat, and said of Communism: "There may be something good about it, there may be something good about the English government or any other government, or on the other hand, there may be something bad about it. I have never had a taste of it so I really don't know," and "Communism is not a threat to the American way of life. There is not any reason to be scared of them." (See page 4-6; 192-194)

1. SUBJECT's case was processed pursuant to AR 600-10 with reference to his Army Reserve status, and a favorable determination rendered under date of 30 August 1956 (See page 1-2). The case did not go before any board but was closed favorably following review by the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2. (See page 242)

m. SUBJECT was cleared by the Secretary of the Navy 31 January 1957 for access to Navy installations. This clearance was based on the file utilized by the Department of the Army in considering SUBJECT's case as an Army Reserve officer. The Navy Department expressed agreement with the conclusions of the Army concerning the information in the file. (See page 242)

3. This summary is classified SECRET in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 30b(2)(k), AFR 205-1.

F. L. Welch

F. L. WELCH
Assistant Chief
Counterintelligence Div.
Dir of Special Investigations
The Inspector General

*Some information
considered as non
available to A. Force
John [Signature]
11/7/57*

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