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PAUL M. RAIGORODSKY

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STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. D. M. Ladd

DATE: August 22, 1953

FROM : Mr. A. H. Belmont

SUBJECT: PAUL MARK RAIGORODSKY
INFORMATION CONCERNING
Bufile 124-8218

Classified by 5668 SJK/STH
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Paul Mark Raigorodsky believed to be the subject of inquiry. Raigorodsky investigated under European Recovery Program during August and September, 1952, and then residing at Dallas, Texas. Born August 25, 1898, in Russia and naturalized April 28, 1921. Entered United States May 20, 1920. Served in Russian and United States Armies. Attended Universities in Russia and Czechoslovakia and graduated as civil engineer from University of Texas in 1924. From 1929 to August, 1952, served as officer in Petroleum Engineering Incorporated, Glen Rose Gasoline Company and Claiborne Gasoline Company, all at Dallas, Texas. From September 26, 1941, to July 12, 1943, employed as Assistant Director, office of Petroleum Co-ordinator for War Natural Gas and Natural Gasoline, Washington, D. C. Raigorodsky reported to be close personal friend of Senator Landon Johnson of Texas. In July, 1941, Petroleum Engineering Incorporated, through Raigorodsky, sold gasoline distilling equipment to the Amtorg Trading Corporation for shipment to Russia. Investigation conducted under European Recovery Program reflects all acquaintances consider him loyal citizen. He is described as a shrewd businessman and wealthy. Raigorodsky married Ethel Margarite McCaleb in 1924. They were divorced in December, 1944. Security investigation of his former wife indicates she was a Communist Party member in Austin, Texas, during 1943 and 1944 while attending the University of Texas, that she associated with Communists, contributed funds to the Communist Party and supported front groups. During interview on August 13, 1952, she admitted Raigorodsky extremely anti-Communist. On June 29, 1945, Raigorodsky in contact with Nila Magidoff, subject of Espionage - R investigation, who is reported to have given hundreds of pro-Russian speeches throughout the United States from 1941 to 1945. Nila Magidoff is married to Robert Magidoff, reported to be Soviet agent. Reason for contacts not known but Nila Magidoff on interview stated she met Raigorodsky on speaking tour and that he is not pro-Soviet. During October, 1953

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
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cc - Bufile 100-12262

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November and December, 1943, Raigorodsky in contact with Laurie Sharpe, believed to be a British agent seeking information on Brigadier General Juan Beigbeder Atienza, subject of an Espionage-Spanish investigation and anti-Franco. No indication Sharpe engaged in subversive activities. (S)(u)

RECOMMENDATION:

None.

DETAILS:

A check of the Bureau files indicates that the subject of the inquiry is undoubtedly Paul Mark Raigorodsky who was last reported residing in Dallas, Texas. An investigation was conducted on him under the European Recovery Program during August and September, 1952. At that time Raigorodsky listed his residence as the Stoneleigh Hotel, Dallas, Texas. Raigorodsky first came to the attention of the Bureau on August 22, 1940, in a complaint received at San Antonio that he, by profession a consulting petroleum engineer, was seeking to sell gasoline distilling equipment to the Russian government and that an unidentified group of people were meeting at his home in Kerrville, Texas. Export license granted July 2, 1941, to the Amtorg Trading Corporation to ship distillation equipment to Moscow to be exported by Petroleum Engineering Incorporated, Tulsa, Oklahoma, through Raigorodsky.

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