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Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D.C. 20535

April 18, 2017

MR. JOHN GREENEWALD JR.  
[REDACTED]

FOIPA Request No.: 1356888-000  
Subject: PONOMARYOVA, NINA APOLLONOVNA

Dear Mr. Greenewald:

The enclosed documents were reviewed under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), Title 5, United States Code, Section 552. Deletions have been made to protect information which is exempt from disclosure, with the appropriate exemptions noted on the page next to the excision. In addition, a deleted page information sheet was inserted in the file to indicate where pages were withheld entirely. The exemptions used to withhold information are marked below and explained on the enclosed Explanation of Exemptions:

**Section 552**

☐ (b)(1)

☐ (b)(2)

☒ (b)(3)

50 U.S.C. 3024(i)(1)

☐ (b)(4)

☐ (b)(5)

☒ (b)(6)

☐ (b)(7)(A)

☐ (b)(7)(B)

☒ (b)(7)(C)

☐ (b)(7)(D)

☒ (b)(7)(E)

☐ (b)(7)(F)

☐ (b)(8)

☐ (b)(9)

**Section 552a**

☐ (d)(5)

☐ (j)(2)

☐ (k)(1)

☐ (k)(2)

☐ (k)(3)

☐ (k)(4)

☐ (k)(5)

☐ (k)(6)

☐ (k)(7)

6 pages were reviewed and 6 pages are being released.

☐ Document(s) were located which originated with, or contained information concerning, other Government Agency (ies) [OGA].

☐ This information has been referred to the OGA(s) for review and direct response to you.

☐ We are consulting with another agency. The FBI will correspond with you regarding this information when the consultation is completed.

☒ In accordance with standard FBI practice and pursuant to FOIA exemption (b)(7)(E) and Privacy Act exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. § 552/552a (b)(7)(E)/(j)(2)], this response neither confirms nor denies the existence of your subject's name on any watch lists.

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(c) (2006 & Supp. IV (2010)). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist. Enclosed for your information is a copy of the Explanation of Exemptions.

For questions regarding our determinations, visit the [www.fbi.gov/foia](http://www.fbi.gov/foia) website under "Contact Us." The FOIPA Request Number listed above has been assigned to your request. Please use this number in all correspondence concerning your request. Your patience is appreciated.

You may file an appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy (OIP), United States Department of Justice, Suite 11050, 1425 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20530-0001, or you may submit an appeal through OIP's FOIAonline portal by creating an account on the following web site: <https://foiaonline.regulations.gov/foia/action/public/home>. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within ninety (90) days from the date of this letter in order to be considered timely. If you submit your appeal by mail, both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal." Please cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so that it may be easily identified.

You may seek dispute resolution services by contacting the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at 877-684-6448, or by emailing [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov). Alternatively, you may contact the FBI's FOIA Public Liaison by emailing [foipaquestions@ic.fbi.gov](mailto:foipaquestions@ic.fbi.gov). If you submit your dispute resolution correspondence by email, the subject heading should clearly state "Dispute Resolution Services." Please also cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so that it may be easily identified.

☐ The enclosed material is from the main investigative file(s) in which the subject(s) of your request was the focus of the investigation. Our search located additional references, in files relating to other individuals, or matters, which may or may not be about your subject(s). Our experience has shown when ident, references usually contain information similar to the information processed in the main file(s). Because of our significant backlog, we have given priority to processing only the main investigative file(s). If you want the references, you must submit a separate request for them in writing, and they will be reviewed at a later date, as time and resources permit.

☑

See additional information which follows.

Sincerely,



David M. Hardy  
Section Chief  
Record/Information  
Dissemination Section  
Records Management Division

Enclosure(s)

Enclosed are cross-references which are identifiable with the subject of your request. Cross-references are defined as mentions of the subject of your request in files to other individuals, organizations, events, or activities. In processing the cross-references, the pages considered for possible release included only those pages which mention the subject of your request and any additional pages showing the context in which the subject of your request was mentioned. The cross-reference pages were processed pursuant to the provisions of the FOIA and are being released to you in redacted form.

This material is being provided to you at no charge.

## EXPLANATION OF EXEMPTIONS

### SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552

- (b)(1) (A) specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and (B) are in fact properly classified to such Executive order;
- (b)(2) related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency;
- (b)(3) specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than section 552b of this title), provided that such statute (A) requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on issue, or (B) establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld;
- (b)(4) trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;
- (b)(5) inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency;
- (b)(6) personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- (b)(7) records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information ( A ) could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, ( B ) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, ( C ) could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, ( D ) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of record or information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source, ( E ) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law, or ( F ) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual;
- (b)(8) contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of an agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions; or
- (b)(9) geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

### SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552a

- (d)(5) information compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action proceeding;
- (j)(2) material reporting investigative efforts pertaining to the enforcement of criminal law including efforts to prevent, control, or reduce crime or apprehend criminals;
- (k)(1) information which is currently and properly classified pursuant to an Executive order in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy, for example, information involving intelligence sources or methods;
- (k)(2) investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes, other than criminal, which did not result in loss of a right, benefit or privilege under Federal programs, or which would identify a source who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(3) material maintained in connection with providing protective services to the President of the United States or any other individual pursuant to the authority of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3056;
- (k)(4) required by statute to be maintained and used solely as statistical records;
- (k)(5) investigatory material compiled solely for the purpose of determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications for Federal civilian employment or for access to classified information, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(6) testing or examination material used to determine individual qualifications for appointment or promotion in Federal Government service the release of which would compromise the testing or examination process;
- (k)(7) material used to determine potential for promotion in the armed services, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished the material pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence.

# Relationship between England and Russia

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mason \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

*Brinkman*

## Soviet Woman Athlete Convicted of Shoplifting

LONDON, Oct. 12 (AP).—Nina Ponomareva, Soviet Olympic discus champion, was convicted today of shoplifting five cheap hats from a London department store but was given an absolute discharge on payment of 3 guineas (\$8.32) costs. The athlete denied stealing the hats, testifying she bought them.

The verdict was handed down by Magistrate Clyde Wilson when Nina made a surprise appearance to answer the charges. She took the stand for 55 minutes and flatly denied stealing the hats. "I bought them," she said.

Nina's arrest on August 29 angered the Soviet authorities so much that they canceled the Soviet-British track and field meet in which she was to be competitor.

The Russians called the arrest a "dirty provocation."

Nina failed to show up in court on August 30 and Magistrate Wilson issued a warrant for her arrest. The hefty discus thrower disappeared, presumably into the Soviet Embassy which has diplomatic immunity.

In giving his decision the magistrate said: "I realize the fallibility of human nature and

the fact that C. and A. Modes displayed there constitute a considerable temptation to a number of women. I think the interests of justice will be discharged if I discharge her absolutely on payment of 3 guineas costs."

He said he found the case against her proved.

Defense Counsel Mervyn Griffith-Jones indicated Nina had been in the Soviet Embassy ever since she failed to show in court August 30.

"She has in fact not been a free woman," he said.

Mr. Griffith-Jones indicated Nina would be returning to Russia at the "earliest possible moment." She is expected to go back, either by plane or by the Soviet ship Molotov leaving London later today.

Nina is a favorite for the 1956 Olympic woman's discus gold medal at Melbourne next month. She won the event in the 1952 Helsinki games under her maiden name of Nina Romaschkova.

The 27-year-old athlete, an attractive figure in a fawn raincoat, lipstick and a green blouse, said on the stand she had no religious beliefs and made an

affirmation she would tell the truth about the incidents of August 29.

She said she was married to a doctor, lived in Moscow where she is a school teacher and has a son, Sasha, 2½ years old. She said she never had been in trouble with the police before.

Nina testified she paid £1 (\$2.80) for four feather hats and got change from £1 for a red woolen hat.

The store detective, Miss Margaret Bolsen, testified earlier that Nina had not paid for the hats, which were produced as evidence.

### Court Room Packed

The court room was packed and there were hundreds standing outside when today's hearing started. Miss Belsen testified she began watching Nina when the Soviet athlete "looked all around her—looked furtively, around her." She said she did not see Nina pay for the hats.

Another prosecution witness, Mrs. Ella Olive Hogg, a member of the store's staff, said she saw Nina put a red woolen hat in her left coat sleeve and then saw her pick up two bags with the hats between them, holding them to her side while she walked away from the counter.

Nina bent forward, her face pale, as she listened attentively to the testimony, through an interpreter. Mr. Griffith-Jones, expressed to Magistrate Wilson Nina's "very sincere apologies for not surrendering" in the first place.

"She has no any understanding of our language or procedure; was appalled at the publicity in which she became involved and was most distressed about the whole matter," he said.

"She has now been advised and has accepted the advice given to her" and has voluntarily and of her own accord surrendered to the police and so she appears before you this morning. I hope, in these circumstances, you won't put it against her that she failed to surrender."

Two weeks ago the British government refused a Soviet request that the case be dropped and suggested that the famous woman athlete be brought to court.

NOT RECORDED  
191 OCT 18 956

Wash. Post and Times Herald \_\_\_\_\_  
Wash. News \_\_\_\_\_  
Wash. Star *A. F. Jones* \_\_\_\_\_  
N. Y. Herald Tribune \_\_\_\_\_  
N. Y. Mirror \_\_\_\_\_  
N. Y. Daily News \_\_\_\_\_  
Daily Worker \_\_\_\_\_  
The Worker \_\_\_\_\_  
New Leader \_\_\_\_\_

Date *10-12-57*

61 OCT 23 1956

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Mason \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
 Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

# Relationship between England and Russia

MR. ~~BRANIGAN~~

(CHINA)

LONDON--SOVIET DICS CHAMPION NINA PONOMAREVA ENDED SIX WEEKS OF HIDING IN THE SOVIET EMBASSY TODAY AND WAS PROMPTLY ARRESTED ON A SHOP-LIFTING CHARGE AND TAKEN TO MAGISTRATES COURT FOR TRIAL.

THE DOORS OF THE COURT WERE LOCKED ONCE THE FORMAL CHARGE WAS MADE. SHE WAS ACCUSED OF STEALING FIVE 90-CENT BARGAIN HATS FROM A LONDON DEPARTMENT STORE WHILE ON A SHOPPING TOUR LAST AUGUST WITH HER ATHLETIC RUSSIAN FRIENDS.

THER WAS NO ADVANCE ANNOUNCEMENT SHE WOULD APPEAR IN COURT. ALERT REPORTERS FIRST NOTICED THE CHUNKY 27-YEAR-OLD MOTHER SITTING IN A REAR ROOM OF THE HARLBOROUGH STREET COURT, AWAITING TO APPEAR BEFORE MAGISTRATE CLYDE WILSON.

10/12--ES1003A

NINA PONOMAREVA

*File*

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52 OCT 22 1956

WASHINGTON CITY NEWS SERVICE

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191 OCT 18 956

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Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Mason \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
 Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

*Relationship between England and Russia*

WHL BRANIGAN

(MINA)

LONDON--A CHARGE OF THEFT WAS PROVED TODAY AGAINST SOVIET DISCUS  
 THROWER MINA PONOMAREVA, BUT SHE WAS DISCHARGED ON PAYMENT OF THREE  
 GUINEAS (NINE DOLLARS) COSTS.

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WASHINGTON CITY NEWS SERVICE



Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Mason \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
 Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

**ADD NINA, LONDON**

**A BRITISH COURT FOUND SOVIET DISCUS CHAMPION NINA PONOMAREVA GUILTY OF STEALING FIVE HATS FROM A LONDON SHOP. BUT IT FREED HER WITH PAYMENT OF LIGHT COURT COSTS TO PERMIT HER TO RETURN TO RUSSIA "AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE MOMENT."**

**NINA PLEADED INNOCENT TO THE THEFT CHARGE, WHICH MOSCOW HAD SAID WAS A "PROVOCATION" DESIGNED TO EMBARRASS AN EMINENT ATHLETE.**

**HOWEVER, MAGISTRATE CLYDE WILSON, BEFORE WHOM SHE WAS TRIED IN JAMPACKED MARLBOROUGH STREET COURT, RULED THAT THE CHARGES OF SHOPLIFTING HAD BEEN PROVED AGAINST THE 27-YEAR-OLD MOSCOW SCHOOLTEACHER.**

**BUT, APPARENTLY MINDFUL OF INTERNATIONAL REPERCUSSIONS, HE RELEASED HER UNCONDITIONALLY ON PAYMENT OF THREE GUINEAS (NINE DOLLARS) COURT COSTS.**

**DEFENSE ATTORNEY MERVYN GRIFFITH-JONES SAID ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE FOR NINA TO "RETURN TO RUSSIA AT THE EARLIEST MOMENT."**

**THE SOVIET SHIP MOLOTOV ALREADY HAD UP STEAM AT LONDON'S SURREY DOCKS IN PREPARATION FOR SAILING TONIGHT.**

**10/12--EG1147A**



Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

*Relationship between Russia & England*

## Britons Urge Bolshoi Ballet to Reconsider

LONDON, Sept. 24.—“All friends in Britain urge you to come”—that message was sent to the Bolshoi Theatre ballet company in Moscow as it considered cancelling its visit to Britain.

It was sent by the chairman and secretary of the British Soviet Friendship Society, John Platts-Mills and Pat Sloan. It said that cancellation could only please those who desire to worsen British-Soviet relations.

The famed ballet company, due to leave next week for Britain, had announced in a letter to Izvestia that it had put off the trip because of champion discus thrower Nina Ponomareva and the “case of the five hats.”

The Ponomareva incident concerns the arrest of a Soviet woman discus thrower in London recently when five cheap hats were alleged by a store to have been found in her shopping bag.

The telegram from the British society read:

“While understanding your anxiety Ponomareva incident we are terribly disturbed by today's news proposed cancellation British visit. All friends in Britain urge you to come. Cancellation can only please those who desire to worsen British Soviet relations.”

### SPORTSMEN'S CALL

In a statement last night D. Curtis, general secretary of the British Workers Sports Association, said: “The people in Britain have very

great sympathy for the Russian point of view in the way the case of Nina Ponomareva was handled, but by withdrawing their talent from the track and stage the Russians have done the cause of international understanding tremendous harm, and their strongest critics tremendous good.

“We look to the Soviet Union for a magnanimous reappraisal of the whole position in the interest of better understanding between nations.”

Mikhail Chulaki, director of the Bolshoi Theatre ballet company, said in Moscow that British government action to withdraw the shoplifting charges against Nina Ponomareva would provide the “guarantee” desired by the ballet before it goes to London.

But so long as the British Government failed to make efforts to settle that case, and so long as the 120-member company felt their personal safety in Britain was not guaranteed, the visit planned for Oct. 3 was “impossible.”

V. T. Stepanov, chief of the Soviet Ministry of Culture's foreign relations department, said that cancellation of the visit would be a great disappointment to the Bolshoi.

“They have spent a very great sum of money to prepare for the trip and members of the company gave up a month of their holidays for preparations,” he said.

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NOT RECORDED  
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Wash. Post and Times Herald \_\_\_\_\_  
 Wash. News \_\_\_\_\_  
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 N. Y. Herald Tribune \_\_\_\_\_  
 N. Y. Mirror \_\_\_\_\_  
 N. Y. Daily News \_\_\_\_\_  
 Daily Worker 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Worker \_\_\_\_\_  
 New Leader \_\_\_\_\_

Date SEP 25 1956

61 SEP 28 1956

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Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Boardman  
Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Mason  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Parsons  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Nease  
Mr. Winterrowd  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Holloman  
Miss Gandy  
Mr. Brennan

Relationship between England  
and Russia

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(WC)

Int 9-1

(RUSSIAN)

LONDON--RUSSIA ANGRILY BROKE OFF A PRE-OLYMPIC TRACK AND FIELD MEET WITH BRITAIN TODAY BECAUSE OF SHOPLIFTING CHARGES AGAINST ITS HAT-LOVING STAR WOMAN DISCUS THROWER.

SOVIET TEAM MANAGER KONSTANTINE KRUPIN ORDERED HIS TEAM OUT OF WHITE CITY STADIUM AFTER THE BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE REFUSED TO INTERVENE IN THE COURT CASE AGAINST 27-YEAR-OLD MME. NINA PONOMAREVA.

SHE WAS ARRESTED WEDNESDAY ON A CHARGE OF STEALING FIVE HATS WORTH \$4.65 FROM A LONDON BARGAIN BASEMENT.

SHE WAS BOOKED AT A POLICE STATION AND RELEASED IN CUSTODY OF SOVIET CONSUL GENERAL ALEXANDER STARTSEV. HE PROMISED TO PRODUCE HER IN COURT YESTERDAY, BUT NEITHER HE NOR SHE SHOWED UP.

THE CASE QUICKLY MUSHROOMED OUT OF ALL PROPORTIONS INTO A MINOR INTERNATIONAL INCIDENT. SCOTLAND YARD SENT OUT A "WANTED" ALARM FOR THE FINERY-LOVING RUSSIAN WOMAN ATHLETE AND POLICE WITH GUARD DOGS PATROLLED THE AREA AROUND THE SOVIET EMBASSY WHERE SHE IS BELIEVED TO HAVE TAKEN REFUGE.

SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICIALS CONFERRED THIS MORNING WITH FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIALS IN AN ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN DIPLOMATIC INTERVENTION IN MRS. PONOMAREVA'S CASE. THIS MOVE APPARENTLY FAILED, AND THE SOVIET TEAM WITHDRAWAL FROM THE SCHEDULED WEEKEND TRACK AND FIELD MEET FOLLOWED.

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Washington City News Service