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Chief, Appraisal Section

14 JUL 1955

Ward K. Greene
Appraisal Section

WILCOTT, James Bernard, Jr. #109301
WILCOTT, Elsie Louise #109300

1. The Subject persons are man and wife. James Wilcott is currently assigned as a Staff Agent, GS-07, to DDP/WH at JMWAVE. His wife was employed by this Agency [redacted] during 1960 and has held past staff employment but does not appear to be currently employed. The Chief, PSD has requested that an overall review of the Subject persons' records be made in light of information which has recently been developed. Such information indicates that James Wilcott has had contacts with possible known Communists and with individuals involved in the integration movement.

2. A review of the file of James Wilcott reflects that he is 33 years of age, married, and native-born of native-born parents. He graduated from high school in 1948 and from 1948 to 1952 served in the United States Army. From 1953 to 1957 he attended college, being privately employed during the same period. On 4 March 1957, James Wilcott entered on duty with this Agency. During polygraph interview at that time, [redacted] and was favorably re-polygraphed in 1958. His security file reflects no derogatory information from 1958 to the present, with the exception of Army medical records reviewed in 1956 which indicated that he "complained continually of backache, but that medical examination revealed no organic cause. Conference with his Company Commander revealed an 'extremely poor adjustment' to military life and indicated that he continually used his alleged medical disability in order to get out of work and built such a wall around himself that his Company Commander felt that he was of no use to his outfit."

3. A review of Elsie Wilcott's file reflects that she is 30 years of age, married, and native-born of native-born parents. She attended college until 1954 and from 1954 to 1956 was privately employed. In March of 1957 she entered on duty with this Agency as a Clerk-Typist, GS-04, having been favorably polygraphed. In September of 1958 she resigned to continue her education. In 1960, Elsie Wilcott was issued security approval for Contract Type A employment at the Tokyo Station. (She and James Wilcott were married in September of 1954.)

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4. On 5 April 1965, James Wilcott advised a representative of EAB that while visiting with members of an integration movement, he had come in contact with an individual who professed to be a member of the Communist Party. Although the reasons for his contacts with these individuals are not entirely clear, a review of Subject's statements reflects the following: On 10 April 1965, James Wilcott, hereafter referred to as Subject, was in contact with one Ray Robinson Junior (NR-OS Indices), a representative of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee. Robinson asked Subject to come to 1618 Corcoran Street, Washington, D. C. to meet a number of integration movement people. According to Subject's statements, when he arrived at this address a group of about eight people were sitting around "drinking and smoking marijuana." Among these was one Alex Passikloff (NR-OS Indices), a self-admitted Communist.

5. After various discussion with members of the group, Subject agreed to drive Passikloff and one Alfred Smith, a student at Howard University, to New York City. They arrived in New York City about 5:00 a. m. on 11 April 1965, and went to the apartment of friends of Passikloff, identified as Joseph A. and Betty Rotandi (NR-OS Indices). The Rotandi's are also described as dedicated Communist Party members. During this day, Subject, Passikloff and the others visited an individual identified as Hlyden Jackson (NR-OS Indices) who is the head of a new organization called Council for Jobs and Freedom of New York (NR-OS Indices). Subject and others also "ended up" at the West Side W. E. B. Dubois Club in New York City. (The W. E. B. Dubois Clubs are well identified as a new National Marxist organization, branded by J. Edgar Hoover as "spawned by the Communist Party, U. S. A.")

6. There are a number of questions currently unanswered in the case of the Subject persons. Among these are: How long has James Wilcott been involved in the SNCC movement?; Where was Elsie Wilcott during the trip to New York City; and Why did James Wilcott allow himself to become involved in this matter to the extent of going to New York City with these persons and visiting other individuals who are allegedly self-admitted Communists?

7. Subject has apparently reported to his station at JMWAVE. However, it is believed that his involvement with the aforementioned individuals is extremely serious, for the most part because of unanswered questions. Therefore, it is considered that he should be interviewed in depth as soon as possible regarding his involvement in this matter. It is recommended

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that the Security Officer, JMWAVE be briefed on this case and asked to conduct a comprehensive interview of Subject.

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