



THE FOREIGN SERVICE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

American Embassy  
1, Grosvenor Square  
London, W. 1  
October 20, 1952

Rec'd 21.10.52

9A  
ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO

No. 4169-100-594

Dear Mr. White,

Re: Charles Spencer CHAPLIN, also known  
as Charlie CHAPLIN, alias Israel  
THORNSTEIN

Pursuant to our discussion on October 17, 1952, there is attached a memorandum dated October 20, 1952, summarizing available information regarding the above person who was born in London, England, on April 16, 1889, and who has been active in the theatrical business since the age of seven. CHAPLIN went to the United States in 1910 and, although he never became a citizen, he has resided there since that time.

It is stated that an unknown issue of "PRAVDA" allegedly contains "an enthusiastic tribute to CHAPLIN as a Communist and friend of humanity in connection with the first production of a CHAPLIN film in Russia." This issue of "PRAVDA" is apparently dated before October, 1947, and is alleged to have given "a great boost to 'Comrade Charlie' as one of those whose heart was on the right side, and, according to the latest reports from America, had joined the Communist Party." If possible, I would appreciate your locating and providing me with a copy of this publication.

I would also appreciate receiving any information you may have which would tend to confirm CHAPLIN's actual Communist Party membership or the fact that he is or has been regarded by national or international Communist Party functionaries as the "equivalent of a Party member"; also, whether there is any information which would confirm CHAPLIN's financial and/or cultural contributions to the Communist movement. Lastly, could you also ascertain whether CHAPLIN's correct name is Israel THORNSTEIN, as has been alleged, and whether his surrendered British passports, if available, reflect his travel in or to the Soviet Union at any time.

Sincerely yours,

J. A. Cimperman  
Legal Attache

Enclosure  
Mr. Dick White  
Leconfield House  
Curzon Street  
London, W. 1

SECURITY INFORMATION - SECRET

THC RB  
23/10/52

October 20, 1952

RE: Charles Spencer CHAPLIN, also known  
as Charlie CHAPLIN, alias Israel  
THORNSTEIN

According to a December, 1923 report, it was confidentially reported that CHAPLIN was identified as being a member of the "Severance Club," whose membership consisted of wealthy radicals of the "Parlor Bolseviki" type.

On January 10, 1923, a confidential informant advised that a \$1,000 donation was made just before Christmas in 1922 to the Communist Party, USA. However, no record was made of it and the donor's identity was withheld. The informant pointed out, however, that it was generally understood that the money came from CHAPLIN. In this connection, one Communist had advised the informant that CHAPLIN did make it but does not want it to be known.

Information was received on December 19, 1939, that Raphael RUSH of 11218 Victory Boulevard, North Hollywood, California, was an International Comrade, and had been placed in contact with the movie colony for the purpose of raising funds for "A Soviet America to come." According to the information furnished, CHAPLIN was one of those who had contributed liberally.

An informant advised on August 6, 1942, that never in the history of the Communist Party have the hidden intellectual membership "thrown all caution to the wind and come out in the open for the very things the Party is demanding." He then followed this report with a list of Communist members who were in this group of intellectuals, and included the name of Charlie CHAPLIN in it.

It was learned on June 19, 1942, that one Vincent DOBRICH said on one occasion, "Sure, I'm a registered Communist. So is Harry Bridges. You take that guy Charlie Chaplin. He is a real guy. He is a member of the Party. Only a couple of weeks ago he gave a speech at a Communist meeting in San Francisco."

It was learned on December 7, 1942, that CHAPLIN was in Chicago. While he was in Chicago, he contacted Howard LAWRENCE, Midwest representative of "The Daily Worker." According to the information received, CHAPLIN had worked closely with LAWRENCE in connection with the "Salute to Russian Allies Rally" on November 25, 1942. The place this rally was held was not given.

**SECURITY INFORMATION - SECRET**

An informant advised on an unknown date that CHAPLIN had contributed \$750 to the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship, Incorporated.

An informant advised that on October 24, 1943, Gregori KHEIFETS, alleged Soviet espionage agent, arrived in Los Angeles, California, from San Francisco. Among the people he contacted was CHAPLIN, whom he saw at a dinner party given by Mikhail KOLOTOZOV. KHEIFETS has been identified as a Soviet espionage agent and said that CHAPLIN was "doing a great work."

An informant advised on February 15, 1944, that Gregori KHEIFETS, previously identified, advised him that CHAPLIN had done much for the Party and on account of his efforts they were attempting to deport him at that time.

On April 18 and 21, 1947, an informant advised that CHAPLIN may or may not be a member of the Communist Party. However, he is extremely cooperative and to some extent controlled by the Party. The informant added that CHAPLIN will always go along with the Party and has helped it financially. He felt that CHAPLIN had financially aided the Communist West Coast paper, "The People's World."

In a statement made by Joan BERRY on January 7, 1944, in connection with CHAPLIN's violation of the White Slave Traffic Act, Miss BERRY alleges that CHAPLIN had informed her that he had been offered a position in Russia as a Commissar, and that he had told her that he had given some thought of going back to Russia.

SECURITY INFORMATION - SECRET