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L.B.

PF 710,549/E.2/DRJJ.

SF 30/6/7/2.

To: SLO East Africa.

From: Head Office.

Charles CHAPLIN

Would you please refer to your letter of 10th February, 1958.

79a 2. I enclose a note on the above-named.

DRJ
D.R. Johnston-Jones.

27th February, 1958.

/DPT

Enc: 3 pages

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NOTE FOR PF.710,549.

Charles Spenser CHAPLIN, when resident in America, was the subject of several reports associating him with Communism. These reports, the veracity of which we are unable to check and which do not impress us by their prima facie quality, induced the American authorities to rule in 1952 and 1953 that he would not be permitted to re-enter the U.S.A. without satisfying the Immigration authorities that under regulations in force he was a suitable person to do so. The implication was that he was not so. CHAPLIN thereafter took up residence in Switzerland.

2. We have no substantial information of our own against CHAPLIN, and we are not satisfied that there are reliable grounds for regarding him as a security risk. His name has, of course, been exploited in the interests of Communism as one of the victims of "McCarthyism".

3. It is of some interest that when CHAPLIN was last in London in 1957 in connection with his film "A King in New York" (a not very successful satire which featured "McCarthyism") he was at some pains to avoid entanglement with the Russian Embassy here. He did not want to run the risk of political embarrassment.

4. It may be that CHAPLIN is a Communist sympathiser but on the information before us he would appear to be no more than a "progressive" or radical.

H. P. Goodwin

F.I.A.
24.2.58.

H. P. Goodwin

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