

FILE DESCRIPTION

BUREAU FILE

SUBJECT RUTH ALSCHER

FILE NO. 100-395341

SECTION NO. 1 ONLY

SERIALS NOT RECORDED 10/16/52

TABU

6 (06)

## NOTICE

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100-395341

Re: RUTH ALSCHER

Date: FEBRUARY/1978  
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
NR	10/16/52	MEMO: A. H. BELMONT TO D. M. LADD	3	3	
1	10/22/52	LETTER FROM HDQTS. TO DEP. ATTY. GEN. MALONE	2	2	
2	10/20/52	MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON FROM L. B. NICHOLS	1	1	
NR	10/15/51	SEARCH SLIPS RE: RUTH ALSCHER	2	2	
2	10/22/52	LETTER FROM HDQTS. TO NY	2	2	
3	11/17/52	REPORT FROM NY TO HDQTS. COPY OF PAGE 1	8 1	8 1	
4	4/27/53	LETTER FROM NY TO HDQTS.	1	1	
4	5/21/53	LETTER FROM HDQTS. TO NY	1	1	
5	5/13/53	LETTER FROM NY TO HDQTS.	1	1	
6	5/13/53	REPORT FROM NY TO HDQTS COPY OF PAGE 1	10 1	10 1	
6	4/9/53	LETTER FROM HDQTS. TO NY	1	1	

U. S. Department of Justice

(MATERIAL MUST NOT BE REMOVED FROM OR ADDED TO THIS FILE)

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FEDERAL BUREAU

of

INVESTIGATION

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**FOIPA**  
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See also Nos. \_\_\_\_\_

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Mr. D. M. Ladd

October 14, 1952

Mr. A. H. Belmont

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE FBI  
IN THE INTERNAL SECURITY FILE  
Bureau File 62-93875

RUTH ALSCHER  
SECURITY MATTER - C

PURPOSE:

To advise you of information in our files concerning the subject and to recommend that we not furnish any information concerning her to local authorities under this program.

DETAILS:

In the memorandum from Mr. Nichols to the Director dated October 13, 1952, showing the results of the Attorney General's conference at the Department, information is set out to the effect that Mr. Malone of the Department mentioned that Myles Lane, United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, told him of a school teacher by the name of Ruth Alicher, who had been called as a witness in the Remington case but declined to testify, and he felt this should be given to the McCarran Committee. The Attorney General stated that he thought it should be given to the school authorities since the FBI has an arrangement whereby it notifies officials of dangerous individuals. Concerning this matter the Director noted "See that the Alicher matter is properly handled."

The Bureau's files contain no record of the name Ruth Alicher. It was determined, however, that one Ruth Alscher a school teacher in New York City was called as a witness before the Grand Jury in the Julius Rosenberg Espionage case, at which time, according to confidential information furnished by Assistant United States Attorney John W. Foley, she claimed privileges under the Fifth Amendment and the questioning was unproductive.

All references in our files concerning Ruth Alscher were checked and it was ascertained that the only information we have concerning her is information appearing in the Rosenberg and related cases, a summary of which is as follows:

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INITIALS ON ORIGINAL

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Max Elitcher, who was an important Government witness in the Rosenberg and Morton Sobell cases, is the brother-in-law of Ruth Alscher. Max Elitcher's brother, Morris Alscher, married Ruth Holberthal in 1944 while Morris was in the United States Army. He is now deceased and left Ruth Alscher with three small children. She is employed as a school teacher in New York City.

During interviews with Max and Helene Elitcher it was brought out that in 1944 Max and Helene Elitcher visited his mother and sister-in-law, Ruth Alscher. At that time Ruth Alscher went with the Elitchers to a party at the Bird-In-Hand Restaurant in New York City, which party was attended by Julius Rosenberg, Joel Barr, William Perl and Samuel Perl.

(65-59312-449, page 54)

Max Elitcher also recalled being at a party at the home of Joel Barr which party was attended by Ruth Alscher.

(65-59312-16, pages 2 and 5)

Ruth Alscher, 1445 Madison Avenue, New York City, was contacted by Agents on January 10, 1951. She advised that her husband had recently died and left her with three small children, that she was working to support them and had no intention of becoming involved in anything. She said that she wanted to be left alone. Ruth Alscher was subpoenaed before the Grand Jury on January 31, 1951. On the same date she advised Agents that she could not recall ever having been at the Bird-In-Hand Restaurant with her brother-in-law, Max Elitcher and the others. She denied knowing William Perl, Julius Rosenberg and the other individuals involved in the Rosenberg case with the exception of Morton Sobell whom she recalled meeting nine or ten years previously in an apartment in the Bronx. She said she could not recall anything concerning that meeting and never saw him thereafter.

(65-59312-231, page 24)

On June 7, 1951, Alscher was reinterviewed in the presence of Assistant United States Attorney John W. Foley. She refused to answer any questions. She appeared before the Grand Jury again on June 9, 1951, and Foley later confidentially advised the New York Office that Alscher claimed privileges under the

~~Fitch Amendment and the questioning was unproductive.~~ Max Elitcher advised that he tried to talk to Mrs. Inter-in-law on June 7, 1951, but she refused to talk to him or to allow him to enter her home. (65-59312-417) [ ]

The New York Office advised that no other information concerning Alscher appeared in the New York files. Nothing further concerning her was located in the Bureau's files.

Since we have never conducted an investigation of the subject and her name is not in the Security Index, of course, we did not give any information concerning her to local authorities under the Responsibilities of the FBI in the Internal Security Field Program.

Since we have no information of a subversive nature concerning Alscher, it does not appear that investigation is warranted. She refused to testify before the Grand Jury and to give any information to Bureau Agents, allegedly so she would not get involved in anything in view of her three children. It would not now appear desirable to furnish any information concerning her to local authorities.

ACTION:

If you agree with the above observation, it is suggested that Mr. Nichols acquaint Mr. Ross Malone with the true facts of this matter.

Mr. Ross L. Malone, Jr.  
Deputy Attorney General

October 22, 1952

Director, FBI

RUTH ALSCHER  
SECURITY MATTER - C

Pursuant to your request of Mr. Nichols of this Bureau, there is set forth below a summary of pertinent information available concerning the captioned individual.

Ruth Alschler is the sister-in-law of Max Elitcher who was a government witness in the Julius Rosenberg, Ethel Rosenberg and Morton Sobell cases. Max Elitcher's brother, Morris Alschler, married Ruth Holberthal in 1944 while Morris was in the United States Army. He is now deceased and Ruth Alschler who has three children is employed as a school teacher in New York City.

During interviews with Max and Helene Elitcher it was learned that in 1944 they visited his sister-in-law, Ruth Alschler, in New York City. On one occasion Ruth Alschler went with the Elitchers to a party at the Bird-In-Hand Restaurant in New York City which party was attended by Julius Rosenberg, Joel Barr, William Perl and Samuel Perl. Max Elitcher also advised that he remembered being at a party in the home of Joel Barr which party was attended by Ruth Alschler.

Ruth Alschler, 1445 Madison Avenue, New York City, was contacted by Special Agents of this Bureau on January 10, 1951, at which time she advised that her husband had recently died and left her with three small children, that she was working to support them and had no intention of becoming involved in anything. She stated that she wanted to be left alone. Ruth Alschler was subpoenaed to appear before the Grand Jury on January 31, 1951. On that date she advised Agents of the Bureau that she could not recall ever having been at the Bird-In-Hand Restaurant with her brother-in-law, Max Elitcher, and the other individuals involved in the Rosenberg case with the exception of Morton Sobell whom she recalled meeting nine or ten years previously in an apartment in the Bronx. She advised that she could not recall anything

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SEARCHED  
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INDEXED  
OCT 22 1952

*Vertical list of names:*  
Tolson  
Ladd  
Nichols  
Belmont  
Clegg  
Glavin  
Harbo  
Rosen  
Tracy  
Laughlin  
Mohr  
Tele. Rm.  
Holloman  
Gandy

*Vertical stamp:*  
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62 OCT 21 1952

NOTE ON YELLOW ONLY: The information concerning Alschler's refusal to testify (cont'd on page 2)

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concerning that meeting and never saw Sobell thereafter.

On June 7, 1951, Alischer was reinterviewed in the presence of Assistant United States Attorney John J. Foley at which time she refused to answer any questions. She again appeared before the Grand Jury on June 9, 1951. Mr. Elitcher advised that he had tried to talk to his sister-in-law on June 7, 1951, but she refused to talk to him or to allow him to enter her home.

NOTE ON YELLOW ONLY - Cont'd:

Before the Grand Jury is not being set out in the letter to Mr. Malone in view of the confidential "off-the-record" manner in which that information was received by the New York Office and also since that information was previously furnished to Mr. Malone by Myles Lane, United States Attorney Southern District of New York.

October 20, 1952

Tolson	_____
Ladd	_____
Nichols	_____
Belmont	_____
Clayton	_____
Glavin	_____
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Rosen	_____
Tracy	_____
Laughlin	_____
Mohr	_____
Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Rm.	_____
Holloman	_____
Gandy	_____

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON

RE: RUTH ALCHER  
INTERNAL SECURITY MATTER - C

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G...  
A-1-1

Pursuant to the Director's concurrence with the recommendation of Mr. Belmont's memorandum of October 16, 1952, to the effect that I see Malone and advise him of the facts of the Alcher case, this is to record that I saw Malone this morning and furnished him the contents of Mr. Belmont's memorandum of October 16, 1952.

Malone stated that he had not advised Myles Lane of the Attorney General's desire that Lane report these matters to the local school authorities. Malone was very appreciative of the background information on Alcher and of knowing that we had not investigated her. He asked if we could furnish him with a short summary along the lines of my conversation with him.

It is suggested that the Domestic Intelligence Division prepare such a memorandum to Malone basing it upon his request to me, summarizing background on Alcher as set forth in Mr. Belmont's memorandum of October 16. I am wondering, since we have not investigated her since she did refuse to testify, whether we should not make a preliminary investigation to determine whether her statement that she had no intention of becoming involved by virtue of the fact that her husband had died leaving her with three small children, was in fact the real reason for her failure to testify and whether there is any record of her being involved in subversive activities.

Respectfully

*Handwritten signature of L. B. Nichols*

L. B. Nichols

cc - Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Belmont

RECORDED - 118

LBN:ptm

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63 NOV 5 1952

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Alcher, Ruth  
G...  
H...

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Memo to...  
10-22-52  
10-22-52

SEARCH SLIP

Supervisor Zwick Room 1254

Subj: Ruth Alacher

Exact Spelling  
 All References  
 Subversive Ref.  
 Mail File  
 Restricted to Locality of \_\_\_\_\_

Searchers Initial KW  
 Date 10/15

FILE NUMBER

SERIALS

<del>101 - 2115 - 183, 140, 138</del>	<del>P. 5, 13, 14, 19, 20;</del>
<del>75, P. 11, 35, 56, 144</del>	<del>176, P. 8, 9, 13, 14</del>
<del>27, P. 2, 122,</del>	<del>P. 15, 186</del>
<del>65 - 59242 - 560, P. 73, 229</del>	<del>P. 6,</del>
<del>65 - 59244 - 210, P. 54, 59, 65,</del>	<del>140,</del>
<del>65 - 58236 - 922, 62, P. 121,</del>	<del>646, P. 58, 72,</del>
<del>65 - 59312 - 427, 447,</del>	<del>234, P. 9, 10, 24,</del>
<del>649, P. 65, 67, 76,</del>	<del>79, 83, 84, 85, 16,</del>
<del>P. 2, 5, 164, P. 30,</del>	<del>455, 449, P. 54,</del>
<del>65, 56, 59 - 10</del>	<del>70/12</del>



SAC, New York

October 22, 1952

RECORDED - 116

Director, FBI

100-395341-2

RUTH ALSCHER  
SECURITY MATTER - C

For your information the Bureau had an inquiry from the Department concerning the captioned individual. It was stated that Myles Lane, United States Attorney Southern District of New York, had advised the Department that Ruth Alscher refused to testify before the Grand Jury in the Rosenberg case.

A review of the Bureau's files reflects the following information.

Ruth Alscher is the sister-in-law of Max Elitcher who was a government witness in the Julius Rosenberg, Ethel Rosenberg and Morton Sobell cases. Max Elitcher's brother Morris Alscher married Ruth Holberthal in 1944 while Morris was in the United States Army. He is now deceased and Ruth Alscher who has three children is employed as a school teacher in New York City.

During interviews with Max and Helene Elitcher it was learned that in 1944 they visited his sister-in-law, Ruth Alscher, in New York City. On one occasion Ruth Alscher went with the Elitchers to a party at the Bird-In-Hand Restaurant in New York City which party was attended by Julius Rosenberg, Joel Barr, William Perl and Samuel Perl. Max Elitcher also advised that he remembered being at a party in the home of Joel Barr which party was attended by Ruth Alscher.

Ruth Alscher, 1445 Madison Avenue, New York City, was contacted by Special Agents of this Bureau on January 10, 1951, at which time she advised that her husband had recently died and left her with three small children, that she was working to support them and had no intention of becoming involved in anything. She stated that she wanted to be left alone. Ruth Alscher was subpoenaed to appear before the Grand Jury on January 31, 1951. On that date she advised Agents of the Bureau that she could not recall ever having been at the Bird-In-Hand Restaurant with her brother-in-law, Max Elitcher, and the others. She denied knowing William Perl.

JMM - FBI  
CT 23 1952  
MAILED 27

- Tolson
- Ladd
- Nichols
- Belmont
- Clegg
- Glavin
- Harbo
- Rosen
- Tracy
- Laughlin
- Mohr
- Tele. Rm.
- Nease

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*[Handwritten signatures and initials]*

Julius Rosenberg and the other individuals involved in the Rosenberg case with the exception of Morton Sobell whom she recalled meeting nine or ten years previously in an apartment in the Bronx. She advised that she could not recall anything concerning that meeting and never saw Sobell thereafter.

On June 7, 1951, Alcher was reinterviewed in the presence of Assistant United States Attorney John W. Foley at which time she refused to answer any questions. She again appeared before the Grand Jury on June 9, 1951. Max Elitcher advised that he had tried to talk to his sister-in-law on June 7, 1951, but she refused to talk to him or to allow him to enter her home. It should be noted that Assistant United States Attorney John W. Foley confidentially advised your office that Alcher claimed privileges under the Fifth Amendment and the questioning before the Grand Jury was unproductive.

The above is the substance of information in the Bureau's files concerning Alcher.

It is desired that it be determined if the real reason that Ruth Alcher refused to give information to Bureau Agents and to testify before the Grand Jury was because of the fear of becoming involved or if she herself may have been involved in some subversive activities.

You are requested to conduct a preliminary investigation to determine if the subject has been or is engaged in any subversive activities. You should give this matter expeditious attention and a report reflecting the results of your inquiries should be submitted to the Bureau by November 15, 1952.

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK**

EMV

REPORT MADE AT <b>NEW YORK</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>NOV 17 1952</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>10/29, 30; 11/3, 5, 6, 7/52</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>WILLIAM B. HUDSON</b>
TITLE <b>RUTH ALSCHER, was: Ruth Halberthal, Mrs. Morris-Alscher, Mrs. Morris Elicher</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>SECURITY MATTER - C</b>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

Subject born 1/9/23, NYC, resides 2175 Fifth Ave., NYC. Employed by NY Board of Education as school teacher. Subject allegedly attended a dinner party in 1944, at which JULIUS ROSENBERG and WILLIAM PERL were also present. Subject unknown to other informants NYC area.

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3-1*

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*RAB*

*cc - DP  
11-24-52  
gaffer*

- P -

*followed  
2-24-53  
report of 4-27-50*

**DETAILS**

This investigation is predicated upon receipt of information from Confidential Informant T-2, of known reliability, that subject attended a dinner party in 1944, at which party JULIUS ROSENBERG and WILLIAM PERL, convicted espionage agents, were also present.

Background

On November 5, 1952, Confidential Informant T-1, of known reliability, furnished information which reflected that a certified record of birth for RUTH ALSCHER, nee HALBERTHAL, indicates that she was born on January 9, 1923 at New York City

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>L.V.B.</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
<p><b>COPY IN FILE</b></p> <p>5 Bureau 3 New York (100-111786)</p> <p>COPIES DESTROYED 989 JUL 10 1963</p>	<p><b>100-395341-3</b></p> <p>NOV 14 1952</p>	<p><b>SE-36</b></p> <p>RECORDED - 47</p> <p>INDEXED - 47</p>	
	STAMP SECT.		

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*See index  
Ruth Halberthal  
456*

NY 100-111786

to MAX HALPERTHAL, who was born in Austria, and SONIA HALBERTHAL, nee BERULNIK, who was born in Russia.

The subject attended Wadleigh High School, 114 Street and Seventh Avenue, New York City from 1936 to 1939, and from 1939 to 1943, she attended Hunter College, and received a BA degree. From 1943 to 1944, she attended Columbia University Teachers College, and received a MA degree.

T-1 advised that the subject married MORRIS ALSCHER, also known as MORRIS ELITCHER, on July 4, 1944, and that he was born in June of 1916. In July of 1950, the subject was left as a widow as a result of the death of her husband.

The above informant advised that the subject received a temporary license to teach on October 9, 1945, and that she received her permanent appointment on February 6, 1946. She is presently a commerce teacher at Public School number 184, Manhattan, 31 West 116 Street, New York City.

According to T-1, the subject is presently residing at 2175 Fifth Avenue, New York City, and her former address is listed as 1445 Madison Avenue, New York City.

#### Affiliations With the Communist Party

##### Miscellaneous

On July 20, 1950, Confidential Informant T-2, of known reliability, advised that RUTH ALSCHER was present at a dinner party at the Bird-In-Hand Restaurant at 1659 Broadway, New York City in July or September of 1944. Other people attending this party were JULIUS ROSENBERG, WILLIAM PERL, SAM PERL and JOEL BARR. After dinner, according to the informant, Mrs. ALSCHER returned to her residence at 1445 Madison Avenue, New York City.

DAVID GREENGLASS, who was convicted in United States District Court, Southern District of New York, on April 6, 1951 as

NY 100-111786

a soviet espionage agent, advised SA JOHN A. HARRINGTON on various interviews that JULIUS ROSENBERG, a soviet espionage agent, who was convicted in United States District Court, Southern District of New York, on April 5, 1951, told him that JOEL BARR was doing espionage work for the Russian Government overseas, and that JOEL BARR was a former contact of ROSENBERG's in the United States.

A perjury indictment was filed in the United States District Court, Southern District of New York, in March 1951 against WILLIAM PERL. This perjury arose from PERL's denial that he knew JULIUS ROSENBERG and his associates.

SAM PERL is the brother of WILLIAM PERL, and is presently in Europe studying music under the GI Bill of Rights.

Confidential Informant T-2 advised on August 9, 1950 that RUTH ALSCHER was a close friend of BERNICE LEVIN.

On November 18, 1948, Confidential Informant T-3, of known reliability, furnished information which reflects that BERNICE LEVIN registered for Communist Party membership in Group 1 of the West Midtown Branch of the Communist Party, and indicated that she had been in the party for twelve years.

Mrs. RUTH ALSCHER, 1445 Madison Avenue, New York City, was contacted on January 10, 1951 by SA VINCENT J. CAHILL, who attempted to arrange a suitable appointment for an interview.

Mrs. ALSCHER stated that her husband MORRIS ALSCHER recently died, and that she was just recovering from the blow, that she has three young children to care for, in addition to going to business to support them, and that she was completely occupied now and had no intention of becoming involved in anything. She refused to be interviewed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and wanted to be left alone to bring up her family. She stated she never knew anyone named ROSENBERG, and refused to make any appointment for further interview.

NY 100-111786

On January 31, 1951, RUTH ALSCHER appeared in the office of Chief Assistant to United States Attorney MYLES J. LANE, Southern District of New York. At his request, a further attempt was made to interview Mrs. ALSCHER prior to her appearance before the Grand Jury. On this date, she advised SA VINCENT J. CAHILL that she was unable to recall ever having been present at the Bird-In-Hand Restaurant at a dinner party. She further denied acquaintance with WILLIAM PERL, JULIUS ROSENBERG, and other members of the soviet espionage ring with the exception of MORTON SOBELL whom she stated she recalled meeting nine or ten years ago at somebody's apartment in the Bronx. She could recall no details of her original acquaintance with SOBELL, whom she stated she had not seen since that time.

It is to be noted that MORTON SOBELL was convicted in the United States District Court, Southern District of New York, on April 5, 1951 as a soviet espionage agent.

The records of the Clerk's Office, United States District Court, Southern District of New York, Foley Square, New York, reflected that Mrs. ALSCHER appeared before the Federal Grand Jury, Southern District of New York, on January 31, 1951.

On June 5, 1951, Assistant United States Attorney JOHN M. FOLEY, Southern District of New York, advised SA's MAURICE W. CORCORAN and VINCENT J. CAHILL that he had telephonically requested Mrs. RUTH ALSCHER to be present in his office for interview on that date. Mrs. ALSCHER first agreed to appear, but thereafter, cancelled the appointment by telephone.

The records of the Clerk's Office, United States District Court, Southern District of New York, Foley Square, New York, reflected that Mrs. ALSCHER was subpoenaed to appear before the Federal Grand Jury, Southern District of New York, on June 7, 1951. At that time, an attempt was made to interview her by SA's MAURICE W. CORCORAN and VINCENT J. CAHILL in the presence of Assistant United States Attorney JOHN M. FOLEY.

NY 100-111786

However, Mrs. ALSCHER remained silent to all questions asked by the agents and Mr. FOLEY, and would furnish no reason for her refusal to discuss matters relating to the Bird-In-Hand dinner party in New York City in July or September of 1944.

Confidential Informant T-2, previously mentioned in this report, advised on June 7, 1951 that the subject refused to see him, and would not let him enter her home.

The records of the Clerk's Office reflected that Mrs. ALSCHER did not appear before the Grand Jury until June 8, 1951.

Confidential Informants T-4, T-5, T-6 and T-7, all of known reliability, advised on October 10, 1952 and November 3, 1952 that the subject was unknown to them.

The files of the Bureau of Special Services and Investigation, New York City Police Department, contain no record for the subject.

- P -

NY 100-111786

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

MISCELLANEOUS

It is to be noted that an attempt was made by Bureau agents to interview Miss BERNICE LEVIN on October 3, 1950 in relation with the MORTON SOBELL case. It was noted that Miss LEVIN was very uncooperative, and refused to answer any questions asked by the interviewing agents, and refused to view photographs of individuals connected with the Rosenberg Espionage Network.

It is to be further noted that Mr. MAX ELITCHER, brother-in-law of the subject, advised in 1950 that the subject and BERNICE LEVIN were close friends. In this respect, it is to be noted that the subject, when an attempt was made to interview her by Bureau agents, reacted somewhat similar to Miss LEVIN as set forth above.

Mr. SAUL MOSKOFF, Assistant Counsel, New York City Board of Education, advised SA LESTER F. LANGE on November 5, 1952 that the subject was requested, by registered mail, to appear at his office on October 3, 1952 for an interview regarding her Communistic activities. He stated that this correspondence was ignored, and that a telegram was subsequently sent to her requesting her to appear on October 8, 1952. In response to the latter request, the subject sent Mr. MOSKOFF a telegram stating that she was ill, and unable to attend the interview. He stated that the subject had been absent from school since October 8, 1952.

Mr. MOSKOFF further advised that an active investigation of the subject's subversive activities was contemplated in the very near future by their office, and that he would be very happy to furnish this office any information which he obtains.

NY 100-111786

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE (Con't.)

INFORMANTS

<u>Identity of Source</u>	<u>Date of Activity and/or Description of Information</u>	<u>Date Furnished</u>	<u>Agent to Whom Furnished</u>	<u>File Number and Location</u>
T-1 SAUL MOSKOFF Asst. Counsel NYC Board of Education	Background	11/5/52	SA LESTER F. LANGE	Instant report
T-2 MAX ELITCHER Subject's brother-in- law	Attendance at dinner party, 1944	7/20/52	SA VINCENT J. CAHILL (orally)	65-14873- s 127, p.11, 35,36
	Identified BERNICE LEVIN as friend of subject	8/9/50	SA VINCENT J. CAHILL (orally)	100-37158-138
T-3 [REDACTED] b7d	Used to document BERNICE LEVIN			
T-4 [REDACTED] b7d	Negative	10/30/52	JOHN W. DOOLEY	Instant report
T-5 [REDACTED] b7d	Negative	10/30/52	JOHN W. DOOLEY	Instant report
T-6 [REDACTED] b7d	Negative	11/3/52	RICHARD H. BLASSER	Instant report

NY 100-111786

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE (Con't.)

INFORMANTS (Con't.)

<u>Identity of Source</u>	<u>Date of Activity and/or Description of Information</u>	<u>Date Furnished</u>	<u>Agent to Whom Furnished</u>	<u>File Number and Location</u>
T-7 [REDACTED]	Negative b7d	11/3/52	RICHARD H. BLASSER	Instant report

LEADS

NEW YORK

At New York, New York

Will await and report the results of the investigation which is presently being conducted by Mr. SAUL MOSKOFF, Assistant Council, New York City Board of Education.

Will interview Mr. MAX ELITCHER, brother-in-law of the subject, for any information of a subversive nature that he has in his possession concerning the subject.

Will review the Election Records in the Borough of Manhattan to obtain the election record of the subject.

Will obtain a physical description of the subject from available records and personal acquaintances.

REFERENCE Bureau letter to New York, 10/22/52.

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

**NEW YORK**

**NY**

REPORT MADE AT <b>NEW YORK</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>NOV 17 1952</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>10/29, 30; 11/3, 5, 6, 7/52</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>WILLIAM B. HUDSON</b>
TITLE <b>RUTH ALSCHER, was; Ruth Halberthal, Mrs. Morris Alscher, Mrs. Morris Elitcher</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>SECURITY MATTER - C</b>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

Subject born 1/9/23, NYC, resides 2175 Fifth Ave., NYC. Employed by NY Board of Education as school teacher. Subject allegedly attended a dinner party in 1944, at which JULIUS ROSENBERG and WILLIAM PERL were also present. Subject unknown to other informants NYC area.

- P -

**DETAILS**

This investigation is predicated upon receipt of information from Confidential Informant T-2, of known reliability, that subject attended a dinner party in 1944, at which party JULIUS ROSENBERG and WILLIAM PERL, convicted espionage agents, were also present.

Background

On November 5, 1952, Confidential Informant T-1, of known reliability, furnished information which reflected that a certified record of birth for RUTH ALSCHER, nee HALBERTHAL, indicates that she was born on January 9, 1923 at New York City

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<p>5 Bureau 3 New York (100-111786)</p>			

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# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: 4/27/53

FROM : SAC, New York (100-111786)

SUBJECT: RUTH ALSCHER, was  
SM - C

Re Form 0-1 received 2/24/53 and returned 3/4/53.

*G. I. R. 9*

The above referenced form indicated that a report would be submitted by 4/27/53. Due to the expeditious nature of other cases assigned to the agent handling this case, this deadline cannot be met. Investigation has been completed and a report will be submitted as soon as possible.

*4/27/53  
JAN 20 1953  
JAN 20 1953*

*F*

100-395341-4  
JAN 20 1953

WBH:MRG

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*JAN 20 1953*

SAC, New York (100-111786)

May 21, 1953

Director, FBI (100-395341)-4

RECORDED - 112

EDITH ELITCHER, was.  
SECURITY MATTER - C

Reurlet dated April 27, 1953.

You are instructed to submit a report in this case within 30 days from the date of this letter. The Bureau desires that this case be brought to a logical conclusion without delay.

NOTE ON YELLOW ONLY:

Subject sister-in-law of Max Elitcher, Government witness in the Julius Rosenberg case. Refused to testify or answer questions of AUSA. Husband deceased and subject employed as school teacher.

JJW:jal

MAY 21 1953

FBI  
RECORDED UNIT

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Clegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Harbo \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
- Gearty \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Holloman \_\_\_\_\_
- Sizoo \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

COMM - FBI  
MAY 21 1953  
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MAY 25 1953

*[Handwritten signature]*

NY 100-111786

New York, and that she has been residing at this address since July of 1951.

Status of Health

Confidential Informant T-2, of known reliability, advised on February 9, 1953 that the medical report for the subject dated November 20, 1952 reflected that the subject was admitted to the Hospital for Joint Diseases, 1919 Madison Avenue, New York, New York on October 22, 1952 for pelvic and bilateral leg traction.

T-2 further advised that the report reflected that the subject was discharged from the hospital on November 14, 1952 wearing a plaster of Paris body jacket which was to be worn three months. T-2 stated that the report indicated that the subject was totally disabled.

T-2 further advised that a medical doctor from the New York City Board of Education examined the subject in January 1953 and stated that the cast on the subject's body would not be removed until the latter part of February 1953.

AFFILIATION WITH THE COMMUNIST MOVEMENT

Communist Party Activities

Confidential Informant T-3, of unknown reliability, but who was a personal acquaintance of the subject, advised in 1950 that in 1943 RUTH HALBERTHAL told him that she was attending Communist Party meetings or rallies that were being held in New York City, but that she had never openly approached him to attend these meetings with her. He further advised that on one occasion he met the subject's mother and that the subject's mother appeared to be sympathetic with the Russians.

Confidential Informant T-4, of known reliability, advised on December 19, 1952 that he has known the subject for several years and that it was his firm belief that she was connected with the Communist Party in some way. He stated that he was unable to furnish any specific information that would indicate that she was definitely a member of the Communist Party

NY 100-111786

or any of the Communist Party's front organizations. He stated that Communist Party activities were never discussed in any of the conversations that he has had with the subject but that he had always assumed that she knew of his Communist Party activities and that he had always felt that she was also associated in some way with the Party.

### Sympathies

Confidential Informant T-5, of known reliability, advised on January 28, 1944 that RUTH HALBERTHAL, 1445 Madison Avenue, New York, New York, was known to have sent communications in 1943 to Governor DEWEY urging the release of MORRIS U. SCHAPPES.

The records of the Clerk of the General Sessions Court, County of New York, disclosed that MORRIS U. SCHAPPES, an instructor of English at the College of the City of New York, was dismissed from this position on March 15, 1944 following an investigation of Communism in the Educational System of New York by the Rapp-Coudert Joint Legislative Committee. At this hearing SCHAPPES admitted that he had been a member of the Communist Party and active as such on the college campus from 1935 to 1940. He testified specifically that during that period of his activity there were but four members of the City College unit of the Communist Party whereas other witnesses offered testimony showing that there were 50 members.

On the basis of this testimony SCHAPPES was indicted on four counts for giving false testimony before the Committee and was convicted on June 28, 1941 in the General Sessions Court, New York, New York, and was sentenced to serve 18 to 24 months in the State Prison.

Confidential Informant T-6, of known reliability, in 1946 advised that RUTH HALBERTHAL was listed in the address book belonging to JOE and RAY ELSON. Contacted on June 22, 1947 by SAS R.F. O'KEEFE and J. R. SHINNERS, RAY ELSON admitted that she had been a member of the Communist Party for ten years.

Confidential Informant T-11, of unknown reliability, advised that one R. HALBERTHAL of 1445 Madison Avenue, New York City, contacted Mrs. LESTER KARG, Belmar, New Jersey in 1943.

Confidential Informant T-12, of known reliability, advised in 1945 that Mrs. LESTER KARG was a Communist Party member and that she was formerly one of the leading figures of the Shore Branch Communist Party of New Jersey.

NY 100-111786

Confidential Informant T-7, of known reliability, advised on November 11, 1948 that RUTH HALBERTHAL had sent a communication to Federal Judge J. FOSTER SYMES, Denver, Colorado, urging the release of JANE ROGERS. The letter stated in part that it was demoralizing to realize that a young mother who seeks to protect her children's future by participating in political activities could suffer such a fate.

On September 23, 1948 JANE ROGERS was sentenced to four months in the custody of the Attorney General for criminal contempt by Judge J. FOSTER SYMES, United States District Court, Denver, Colorado because of her refusal to answer question propounded to her by the Federal Grand Jury.

Commencing immediately after the above sentence the New York "Daily Worker" and the "California Peoples World" carried the proceedings and instructed readers to write letters of protest to Judge SYMES requesting that he grant bail.

The "Daily Worker" is an East Coast Communist newspaper and the "California Peoples World" is the West Coast Communist newspaper.

SE CLINTON E. POLLOCK ascertained on January 15, 1953 that the records at the Board of Elections, Manhattan, New York, reflected the subject registered for the American Labor Party (ALP) for the years, 1944, 1947, 1948, 1949 and 1951. The records further reflected subject registered for one of the two major political parties in the years 1945, 1946 and 1950. No registration was indicated for 1952.

The "Guide to Subversive Organizations and Publications", dated March 3, 1951, prepared and released by the Committee on Un-American Activities, United States House of Representatives, Washington, D. C., contains the following concerning the American Labor Party:

**"American Labor Party**

"1. For years, the Communists have put forth the greatest efforts to capture the entire American Labor Party throughout

NY 100-111786

"New York State. They succeeded in capturing the Manhattan and Brooklyn sections of the American Labor Party but outside of New York City they have been unable to win control." (Special Committee on Un-American Activities, Report, March 29, 1944, Page 78.)

"2. Among 'organizations that are victims of Communist domination.' (California Committee on Un-American Activities, Report, 1948, Pages 40 and 41.)"

Confidential Informant T-4 advised on December 19, 1952 that the subject campaigned for VITO MARCANTONIO in the Campaign of 1949 or 1950 when MARCANTONIO was campaigning for re-election to Congress. The informant stated that the subject made a house to house campaign getting petitions signed and soliciting votes for MARCANTONIO.

VITO MARCANTONIO is a former American Labor Party Congressman from New York State.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

Confidential Informant T-2 advised on February 9, 1953 that he was unable to furnish any information of a subversive nature concerning the subject inasmuch as no definite action had been taken in the investigation of the subject due to the status of her health.

Confidential Informant T-1 advised on January 29, 1953 that an unknown lady told her in January 1953 that Mrs. ALSCHER must be a Communist because she had come to the lady's apartment in October 1952 crying and told her that she was being investigated by someone regarding her membership in some organization, which she belonged to when she was a child. The informant stated that she was told that Mrs. ALSCHER stated that she did not see why they were investigating her now for being a member and that she could not understand why the investigators were not trying to catch the "big fish."

T-1 further advised that she had no information at all concerning the organization that Mrs. ALSCHER referred to or any information about the so called "big fish." T-1 stated that she

NY 100-111786

did not recall the exact conversation with the lady but somehow she got the impression that Mrs. ALSCHER's job with the New York City Department of Education was in jeopardy and that the investigation was being conducted by the New York City Board of Education.

The following people were contacted in the neighborhood of 2175 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York, and they advised that they were unable to furnish any information concerning the subject's activities or any information that would indicate any disloyalty towards the United States by the subject.

Mr. WILLIAM FRANCIS  
2175 Fifth Avenue, apartment 3-C

Mr. HARLEY MERRIMAN  
2175 Fifth Avenue, apartment 3-B

Mrs. W. ROBINSON  
2175 Fifth Avenue, apartment 2-A

Confidential Informants T-8, T-9 and T-10, all of known reliability, advised on February 27, 1953 that the subject was unknown to them.

The records of the Clerk's Office, United States District Court, Southern District of New York, Foley Square, New York, reflect that RUTH ALSCHER was subpoenaed to appear before the Federal Grand Jury on February 27, and March 2, 1953.

The following description was obtained from Confidential Informant T-2 and personal observation:

Name	RUTH ALSCHER with aliases, Ruth Halberthal Mrs. Morris Alscher Mrs. Morris Elitcher
Date of Birth	January 9, 1923, New York City
Age	30
Eyes	Blue

NY 100-111786

Hair	Blonde
Height	5'4"
Weight	130, approximately (appeared plump)
Occupation	School teacher
Marital Status	Widow
Children	PETER, born February 4, 1945 COLIN, born June 13, 1947 JANE ELLEN, born August 30, 1948
Residence	2175 Fifth Avenue, New York City

- P -

NY 100-111786

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

INFORMANTS

<u>Identity of Source</u>	<u>Date of Activity and/or Description of Information</u>	<u>Date Received</u>	<u>Agent to Whom Furnished</u>	<u>File &amp; Serial Number where Located</u>
T-1 [REDACTED] b7d	Background	3/6/53	WILLIAM B. HUDSON	instant report
	Subject's alleged visit with unidentified lady in Oct. 1952	1/29/53	WILLIAM B. HUDSON	instant report
T-2 [REDACTED] b7d	Background	2/9/53	LESTER F. LANGE	instant report
T-3 [REDACTED] b7d	Attended CP meetings in NYC in 1943	9/15/50	Unknown	100-111786-9
T-4 MAX ELISCHER 164-18 72nd Street, Flushing, NY	Active in MARGANTONIO Campaign, 1949 or 1950	12/19/52	WILLIAM B. HUDSON	instant report
	Believes subject to be member of CP	12/19/52	WILLIAM B. HUDSON	instant report

NY 100-111786

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE (CONTINUED)

T-5	Urged release of	1/28/44	Unknown	100-59086-23
High ranking NYS official	MORRIS U. SCHAPPEES in 1943			
T-6	Anonymous			
T-7	Protesting incarceration of JANE ROGERS, 1948	11/11/48	JOSEPH C. LEARNED	121-5642-1B242
[REDACTED]				
T-8	Negative	3/27/53	ALEXANDER C. BURLINSON	instant report
[REDACTED]	b7d			
T-9	Negative	3/27/53	ALEXANDER C. BURLINSON	instant report
[REDACTED]	b7d			
T-10	Negative	3/27/53	ALEXANDER C. BURLINSON	instant report
[REDACTED]	b7d			
T-11	[REDACTED]			
[REDACTED]	b7d			
T-12	Used to document Mrs. LESTER KARG			
[REDACTED]	b7d			

NY 100-111786

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE (CONTINUED)

LEAD

NEW YORK

At New York, New York

Will await Bureau's decision regarding the recommendation of placing subject's name in the Security Index.

REFERENCE

Report of SA WILLIAM B. HUDSON, 11/17/52, at New York.

**SECURITY INFORMATION-CONFIDENTIAL**  
**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK**

REPORT MADE AT <b>NEW YORK</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>MAY 13 1953</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>12/19/52; 1/8, 9, 15, 29, 27, 16, 20, 21, 30/53</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>WILLIAM B. HUDSON</b>
TITLE <b>RUTH ALSCHER, was</b>		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>SECURITY MATTER-C</b>	

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

Subject resides 2175 Fifth Avenue, NYC, and was put on leave without pay by the NYC Board of Education on 1/5/53. Informants report subject attended CP meeting in 1943. Subject sent communications urging the release of MORRIS U. SCHAPPEL and JANE ROGERS. Subject registered ALP in 1944, 1947, 1948, 1949 and 1951.

- 2 -

**DETAILS:**

**BACKGROUND**

**Employment**

On February 20, 1953 SA LESTER F. LANGE checked the files of the New York City Board of Education, 110 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York, which reflected that effective January 5, 1953 the subject was put on leave without pay by the Board of Education, which leave was to be terminated on September 10, 1953. The purpose of this leave was the restoration of health of the subject.

**Residence**

Confidential Informant T-1, of unknown reliability, who was acquainted with the subject, advised on March 6, 1953 that the subject was residing in apartment 3A at 2175 Fifth Avenue,

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SAC, New York (100-111785)

Jun 9, 1953

RECORDED-8

Director, FBI (100-395341) **6**

ROPH ALSOPH, was.  
SECURITY MATTER - C

Rerep Special Agent William B. Hudson dated May 13, 1953, and Form FD-122 of the same date.

The Bureau is of the opinion that the information developed to date does not warrant the inclusion of the subject in the Security Index and no action is being taken on the recommendation set out in Form FD-122. If information is received in the future warranting reconsideration of this case, the Bureau should be advised.

NOTE ON YELLOW ONLY:

Subject widow, 3 small children, LWOP from employment by New York Board of Education in hospital and reported to be totally disabled. Sister-in-law of Government witness in Rosenberg case. Refused to testify or be interviewed in this case as to her knowledge of subjects. Reported attended CP meetings 1943.

JJW:jal

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Clegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Harbo \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
- Harbo \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

COMM - FBI  
 JUN 10 1953  
 MAILED 30

JUN 15 1953

*Handwritten notes:*  
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 6-11-53  
 [Signature]