

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: April 30, 1956

FROM: [redacted], LOS ANGELES

SUBJECT: HANNAH ARENDT
Wa. Hannah Arendt Blucher
~~INTERNAL SECURITY - R~~
SM-X

On April 5, 1956, [redacted] Fresno, California, advised SA [redacted] that his daughter, [redacted] was presently studying philosophy under Professor PAUL RICOERUR at Strasbourg, France. Mr. [redacted] advised he felt that HANNAH ARENDT was very dangerous to the best interests of this country in view of the fact she is a professor who travels around the United States instructing at numerous colleges as a visiting professor. He stated his daughter changed her thinking completely after taking courses from HANNAH ARENDT at the University of California at Berkeley, California, in 1955, and feels that it was her influence which had influenced his daughter to go to Europe to study under Professor PAUL RICOERUR. Mr. [redacted] advised that from all the information he had been able to gather, he could not say that HANNAH ARENDT was a Communist, but stated she was advocating a totalitarian philosophy in her political courses.

Mr. [redacted] furnished the following information concerning HANNAH ARENDT, which he obtained from sources in Berkeley, California. HANNAH ARENDT was born in 1906, educated in Konigsberg, Germany, and majored in philosophy. She also studied theology and Greek. She received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Heidelberg, Germany, in the year 1928. Her first book "The Concept of Love in Augustine" appeared in 1929 at the publishing house of Springer in Berlin. In 1930, she began to write a biography of RAHEL VARNHAGEN von ENSE under the auspices of the Notgemeinschaft der deutschen Wissenschaft which could never appear since the author had to leave Germany in 1933 as she is a Jewess. From 1933 until 1940, she lived in Paris where she was the leader of the Youth Alijah and also studied European history. She immigrated from Southern France to the United States in 1941. She became a regular sponsor of the "Partisan Review", "Commentary," "Review of Politics" and "Kenyon Review."

- 2 - Bureau (REGISTERED)
- 2 - New York (REGISTERED)
- 2 - San Francisco (REGISTERED)
- 1 - Los Angeles (105-3361)

SE 43

MAY 7 1956

TOP SECRET

Supplemental

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/23/86 BY SP-1 A6100

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7-9-56

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LA 105-3361

From 1946 to 1948, she was the chief editor of the "Big Kafka" edition of the Schocken Publishing Company. In 1949, the publishing company of Lambert Schneider in Heidelberg published a volume of her essays. In 1951, this book "The Origins of Totalitarianism," now published in Germany appeared in America. In 1952, she received a Guggenheim Fellowship for her works in the field of political theory and science. She delivered the results of this study to the public in the autumn of 1953 in a series of lectures under the auspices of the "Christian Gauss Lecturers" at Princeton University. In the same year, she gave a second series of lectures at Notre Dame University. In May, 1954, she received a prize of the American Academy for Arts and Letters for her literary achievements. In the spring of 1955, she was a guest professor of Political Science at the University of California at Berkeley, California. Her maiden name is stated to be COHEN and she married a man named ARENDT whom she divorced and later married a man named BLUCHER who is a professor of philosophy at Bard College on the Upper Hudson. It was described as a progressive type of institution originally connected with the Columbia University, according to WOODWARD. She is still married to Professor BLUCHER and is now residing at 140 Morningside Drive in New York.

Mr. [] stated that the book "Who's Who in World Jewry" has the following data concerning HANNAH ARENDT. She was a research fellow at the Kaiser-Leopoldische Museum in 1931 to 1932; general secretary of the French Branch of the German Youth Movement in 1935 to 1938; regional director of Jewish Cultural Reconstruction Committee (US) in 1944 to 1946; executive secretary of the same committee in 1949 to 1952; later was on the Board of Directors. At the present time, she is best described as a writer and visiting professor.

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The following is a brief description of the subject as obtained from information in Mr. [] possession:

She is a small, rotund, stoop shouldered woman with a crew-like haircut, masculine voice and a marvelous mind. She is described as being very positive, dominating, enthusiastic, and an eloquent speaker, and as being about fifty years of age.

Information concerning HANNAH ARENDT is being furnished the Bureau, San Francisco and New York for information purposes.

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (105-47336)
FROM : [redacted] SAC, NEW YORK (105-0-4670A)
SUBJECT: HANNAH ARENDT
SECURITY MATTER -X

DATE: 7/11/56

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Re O-1 form dated 7/9/56, inquiring as to status of this case. O-1 form is attached.

In the opinion of the New York Office, Los Angeles letter of 4/30/56, which carried the character as Internal Security-R, contained a non-specific complaint which did not warrant any active investigation.

Files of the New York Office are negative on HANNAH ARENDT with the following exception:

(U) [Mail cover on [redacted] reflected that in October 1946, he received mail from HANNAH ARENDT Schoelen Books, Inc., 342 Madison Avenue, New York City. It will be recalled that [redacted] was named by Elizabeth Bentley as a member of the Communist underground group at Washington, D.C.

Los Angeles letter of 4/30/56, has been appropriately indexed and filed in a zero file. No further action is contemplated UACB.

RECORDED - 88

INDEXED-88

2 - Bureau (105-47336) (Att-1) RM
1 - NY 105-0-4670A

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ENCLOSURE

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Classified by SP-7 AG/W
Declassify on: OADR 1/23/86
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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, *New York* (Your file) DATE: *7-9-56*FROM : Director, FBI (Bufile and serial *105-47336*)

SUBJECT:

Hannah Arendt ✓ *105-0-4670* (acher ref.)
Sm-x Office of Origin: *NY*

1. () The deadline in this case has passed and the Bureau has not received a report. You are instructed to submit a report immediately. In the event a report has been submitted, you should make a notation of the date on which it was submitted on this letter and return it to the Bureau, Room No. *1254*.

Report submitted *CH 262396*

Report will be submitted

Reason for delay

Re. L.A. letter dated 4-30-56.

2. (✓) Advise Bureau re status of this case.
3. () Advise Bureau when report may be expected.
4. () Surep immediately.

(Place your reply on this form and return to the Bureau. Note on the top serial in the case file the receipt and acknowledgment of this communication.)

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
JUL 10 1956	
FBI - NEW YORK	

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1955 O-377906

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