

MCRP

Hans Albrecht Bette

MCRP

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 05-24-2006 BY

60322/AUC/LP/CPB/PVR

FILE # 65-60333 SECTION # 1

DATE: 11-11-75

REVIEWER: AG Pok

DIVISION: 5

Only the following serials pertinent to the FOIA release in the JULIUS ROSENBERG case were reviewed for classification:

SERIALS: 15, 26 pr

not classified

SERIALS	REVIEWERS FULL NAME	COMMENTS	DATE	BY
15, 26	Meerapof	Serial 15	7/27/75	M

COPIED FOR FOIPM

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 05-24-2006 BY
60322/AUC/LP/CPB/PVR

ATTENTION

The following documents appearing in FBI files have been reviewed under the provisions of The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (Title 5, United States Code, Section 552); Privacy Act of 1974 (PA) (Title 5, United States Code, Section 552a); and/or Litigation.

FOIA/PA Litigation Executive Order Applied

Requester: _____
Subject: _____
Computer or Case Identification Number: _____
Title of Case: _____ Section _____
* File _____
Serials Reviewed: _____

Release Location: *File _____ Section _____

This file section has been scanned into the FOIPA Document Processing System (FDPS) prior to National Security Classification review. Please see the documents located in the FDPS for current classification action, if warranted. Direct ^{b6} inquires about the FDPS to RIDS Service Request Un _{b7C}

File Number: 65-HQ-60393 Section 1
Serial(s) Reviewed: All

FOIPA Requester: _____
FOIPA Subject: _____
FOIPA Computer Number: 1017968

File Number: _____ Section _____
Serial(s) Reviewed: _____

FOIPA Requester: _____
FOIPA Subject: _____
FOIPA Computer Number: _____

File Number: _____ Section _____
Serial(s) Reviewed: _____

FOIPA Requester: _____
FOIPA Subject: _____
FOIPA Computer Number: _____

THIS FORM IS TO BE MAINTAINED AS THE TOP SERIAL OF THE FILE, BUT NOT SERIALIZED.

ATTENTION

DO NOT REMOVE FROM FILE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **ALBANY**

SE **65-3114**
FILE NO.

REPORT MADE AT SEATTLE, WASHINGTON	DATE WHEN MADE 8-7-50	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 7-28-50	cb6 b7c
TITLE ALFRED SARANT		CHARACTER OF CASE ESPIONAGE - R	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Dr. HANS A. BETHE, 4723 East 36th Street, Seattle, Washington, advised first met VICTOR K. D. ROSS in December, 1945, when ROSS recommended to him as attorney. ROSS performed legal services for BETHE in connection with house purchase. ROSS initiated social acquaintance-ship by inviting BETHES to his home, which invitation was returned by BETHE, however, no close relationship developed. BETHE stills maintains friendly but not close relationship with ROSS. Claims ROSS' opinions very close to Communist Party line. In February, 1946, ROSS told BETHE that SARANT was working for Bell Telephone Laboratories, N. Y. C., and was very interested in studying physics. ROSS solicited BETHE help to enable SARANT to enter Cornell as graduate student. BETHE did not commit himself to any sponsorship, but agreed to talk with SARANT to ascertain if qualified. BETHE first met SARANT, May, 1946, with ROSS re SARANT's qualifications to enter graduate school. SARANT not qualified and was so advised by BETHE. BETHE recommended SARANT study to further qualify himself before application could be considered. BETHE claims he told Head of Physics Department, Cornell, that he saw no reason to recommend SARANT and subsequently SARANT's application refused. SARANT went to Ithaca, New York, fall 1946, which BETHE considered strange because SARANT had no job or assurance of acceptance at Cornell. In late fall of 1946, Physics Laboratory, Cornell, began construction of synchrotron and because electrical engineers needed, SARANT applied for and received job. BETHE claims synchrotron not confidential work and SARANT had no access to any confidential

ORIGINAL FILED IN 65-3114

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

COPIES OF THIS REPORT

- 5 - Bureau
- 3 - Albany
- 2 - Seattle

65-60398-1

RECORDED - 11/11

SEP 20 1951

SECRET

data at Cornell. Only confidential information at Cornell at time SARANT there was on BETHE's [redacted] [redacted], which information maintained in two safes in BETHE's office at Cornell. BETHE claims SARANT close friend of [redacted] graduate student in physics, Cornell, who BETHE describes as "close to the left". [redacted] described as close friend of a Professor MORRISON of Physics Department, Cornell, and that both [redacted] and MORRISON active in Progressive Party, Ithaca, New York. [redacted] January, 1950, had access to combination of a safe containing confidential information relating to BETHE's [redacted]. BETHE denies close relationship with SARANT, stating has not talked to SARANT for over one hour during entire time he has known him. Explains BETHE'S gave present to SARANT baby because of feeling of obligation for free legal service rendered by [redacted] and because of acquaintanceship of BETHE's wife with [redacted] who resided next door to SARANTS. BETHE denies ever knowing or contacting JULIUS ROSENBERG, WILLIAM PERL, JOEL BARR, MAX ELITCHER, MORTON SOBELL or HARRY GOLD. Denies that any approach in any manner ever made to him on part of any person to furnish information to an apparent espionage agent. Possibility that BETHE may have been target of Russian espionage and given to SARANT as an assignment in espionage ring presented to BETHE, and he stated that SARANT did not pursue the development of his friendship and BETHE never got impression that SARANT wanted technical data nor did SARANT ever ask for such. BETHE states his impression of SARANT is that SARANT is "leftist in his ideology".

b6
b7C

b7D

b6
b7C

- RUC -

DETAILS: AT SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [redacted] and the writer.

b6
b7C

SE 65-3114

Dr. HANS A. BETHE, 4723 East 36th Street, Seattle, Washington, was interviewed on July 28, 1950. Dr. BETHE has been employed as a summer faculty member of the Physics Department, University of Washington at Seattle. Dr. BETHE advised that he first met VICTOR K. D. ROSS in December, 1945, when ROSS was recommended to him as an attorney by a fellow professor at Cornell, [redacted] ROSS was engaged by BETHE to perform legal services in connection with a purchase of a home in Ithaca. Dr. BETHE states that ROSS did considerable legal work in connection with this matter. BETHE stated that ROSS refused to accept a fee for his legal services in connection with this house purchase and when asked why, ROSS stated that it would be necessary for him to charge Dr. BETHE approximately \$1,000.00 if he were adequately paid for his services, and he knew that Dr. BETHE did not desire to pay that large a fee. BETHE stated that it was his impression that ROSS desired his friendship and that this may have been the major reason for refusing a fee. ROSS impressed BETHE as being an individual who sought the friendship of college professors and may have desired BETHE's social acquaintanceship because of BETHE's reputation as a nuclear physicist.

b6
b7C

ROSS initiated a social acquaintanceship with Dr. BETHE by inviting the BETHEs to his home, which invitation was returned on one occasion by the BETHEs; however, no close social relationship developed. BETHE stated that ROSS since has drawn up a will for BETHE and performed legal service for BETHE's wife in drawing up a charter for a club to aid an Ithaca hospital in which [redacted] is interested. BETHE stated that he still maintains a friendly, but definitely not a close relationship with ROSS, stating he has nothing in common with ROSS on which to base a close friendship. BETHE stated that he has paid ROSS for his legal service in connection with this will and charter.

b6
b7C

ROSS and BETHE, during the few times they met socially, had violent political discussions, according to BETHE. He stated that he and ROSS thoroughly disagreed on politics and the heated arguments he had with ROSS left BETHE with the impression that ROSS' opinions were very close to the Communist Party line. He further stated it was his impression that ROSS was politically naive. BETHE stated that he has no information to indicate that ROSS is a Communist Party member, but does know that ROSS has been an active supporter of the Progressive Party.

SE 65-3114

In February, 1946, ROSS told BETHE about his son-in-law, ALFRED SARANT, who at that time was working for Bell Telephone Laboratories at New York City and who was very interested in studying physics. BETHE states that ROSS asked him if he could help SARANT enter Cornell University as a graduate student. BETHE claims he told ROSS that he was not in a position to commit himself to sponsor anybody, but would be glad to talk to SARANT to ascertain if SARANT were sufficiently qualified to enter the graduate school at Cornell. BETHE states that it was not his impression at the time that ROSS was attempting to push him into sponsoring SARANT and that the discussion regarding ROSS' son-in-law was entirely normal and brought up during normal conversations. During approximately May, 1946, BETHE first met SARANT when SARANT was brought to BETHE's office at the University of Cornell by his father-in-law, ROSS. BETHE states that he talked with SARANT at this time for a short time concerning SARANT's qualifications. BETHE claimed that from his discussion with SARANT, it was apparent that SARANT was not qualified to enter the graduate school in physics and that he so advised SARANT. Dr. BETHE advised that he told SARANT it would be necessary for him to further qualify himself before his application could be considered inasmuch as there were many better qualified students who were seeking admission to the graduate school at Cornell and that many students better qualified than he were being refused admittance because of the large number desiring acceptance in this field. BETHE recommended several general physics texts for SARANT to study, but told him that his chances for admission were not good.

Later, BETHE told the Head of the Physics Department at Cornell that in regard to SARANT's application, he, BETHE, saw no reason to recommend SARANT and that subsequently SARANT's application was refused. Also concerning SARANT's application, BETHE states that he received a letter from Bell Telephone Laboratories in New York City in which the Bell Telephone Company advised that SARANT had been an agitator in union activities while employed at Bell Telephone Laboratories.

In view of BETHE's refusal to sponsor SARANT's acceptance by the Physics Department at Cornell as a graduate student, he said that he was very surprised when SARANT decided to go to Ithaca anyway in the fall of 1946. He said that he considered it very strange that SARANT

SE 65-3114

should give up a position with Bell Telephone Laboratories because he definitely gave SARANT no encouragement and SARANT had no assurance whatsoever of acceptance at Cornell. Further, Dr. BETHE states to his knowledge SARANT had no promise of any job in Ithaca when he first went there. Several months later, which Dr. BETHE placed as approximately late fall in November or December, 1946, the Physics Laboratory at Cornell University began construction of a synchrotron. He explained that this machine is used to generate electrons and is in no respect confidential. Electrical engineers were required for this construction and SARANT applied and received a position as an electrical engineer. BETHE states that he does not know how SARANT knew of this position, but states that SARANT used the Physics Library at Cornell from time to time for individual study and also was acquainted closely with one [redacted] a graduate student in physics at the University. It was Dr. BETHE's guess that SARANT probably heard of a possible position on this construction through [redacted] [redacted] was described by Dr. BETHE as "close to the left and active in the Progressive Party".

b6
b7C

Dr. BETHE stated that during the time that SARANT was employed at Cornell, the University had no confidential contracts and that SARANT had no access to confidential data in his work on the synchrotron. BETHE stated that the only confidential information of which he was aware at Cornell University at this time was contained in various documents relating to a confidential consultant contract which BETHE has had with the Atomic Energy Commission since the termination of his duties at Los Alamos, New Mexico, but claims that SARANT had no access to this information. BETHE stated that [redacted] formerly was employed at California Technical Institute and may have had access to classified information at that time which possibly could have been available to SARANT.

Concerning the confidential information in the possession of BETHE, he stated that all documents relating to his consultant contract are now maintained in two safes in his office at Cornell University. The combination to one safe is known only to himself and the combination to the other safe is known only to himself [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] The last mentioned combination was changed by order of the Atomic Energy Commission in [redacted] but the previous combination to this safe was known to [redacted] and [redacted]

b6
b7C

b7C
b6
b7D

SE 65-3114

both of the Physics Department at Cornell. BETHE stated that [redacted] probably did not know SARANT and was not close to [redacted] knowing [redacted] only as a graduate student. [redacted] [redacted] also did not probably know SARANT and was acquainted with [redacted] only as a graduate student at the University. [redacted] advised, however, that [redacted] was close to [redacted] and both were active in the Progressive Party in Ithaca. He stated that this [redacted] [redacted] was [redacted] of the County Progressive Party at Ithaca at that time.

b6
b6
b7C

Concerning BETHE's relationship with SARANT, BETHE categorically denied that he had ever maintained any close relationship with ALFRED SARANT, stating that he had probably not talked to SARANT for over a total of an hour in all the time he had known him and that the longest conversation he ever held with SARANT was during the first meeting with him. BETHE denied ever discussing any confidential data with SARANT and further denied that he ever entertained SARANT in his home or was ever in SARANT's home. He stated he would describe his relationship with SARANT as being distantly acquainted with him. He stated, however, that his [redacted] was a close friend of [redacted] [redacted] which resulted because [redacted] had taught at a nursery school where the BETHE children had attended and that [redacted] was very much loved by the BETHE children. [redacted] and [redacted] visited back and forth quite a bit and because of the fact that ALFRED SARANT and his wife were next-door neighbors of the [redacted] [redacted] had been in the SARANT home on several occasions, probably with [redacted] [redacted] BETHE stated that his wife pitied [redacted] because [redacted] SARANT was the type of woman who had extreme difficulty in managing her household and was constantly beset with little problems. Dr. BETHE explained that he and his wife had given a present to the SARANTS on the birth of their child because of the feeling of obligation for the free legal service which had been rendered by [redacted] [redacted] BETHE stated that he had no idea what the gift had been and is sure that the value was definitely not in any respect equal to the legal service rendered. He stated that his wife took care of this matter.

b6
b7C

Dr. BETHE denied ever knowing or contacting JULIUS ROSENBERG, WILLIAM PERL, JOEL BARR, MAX ELITCHER, MORTON SOBELL or HARRY GOLD.

SE 65-3114

BETHE denied that any approach in any manner has ever been made to him on the part of any person to furnish information to an apparent espionage agent. The possibility that Dr. BETHE may have been a target of Russian espionage and that his development may have been given to SARANT as an assignment in an espionage ring was presented to Dr. BETHE. He stated that SARANT did not pursue the development of his friendship and BETHE never got the impression that SARANT wanted technical data nor did SARANT ever ask for such. He reiterated that he has had hardly any actual contact with SARANT. BETHE states that his impression of SARANT is that SARANT is "leftist in his ideology", which impression he received because of SARANT's association with [redacted] and also because of [redacted] views. He further stated that he had no evidence to indicate that SARANT was a Communist and actually had no personal information to indicate that SARANT even sympathized with the Communist Party and that BETHE's impression that SARANT was a "leftist" is based on no actual knowledge on his part. SARANT, according to BETHE, is a frustrated type who gives the impression that he feels that he has never had a chance to perform adequate with his ability; however, according to BETHE, SARANT's technical ability is strictly average.

b6
b7c

Dr. BETHE advised that he had no knowledge of any espionage activities on the part of any person except what has appeared recently in the public press and stated that he had no further information concerning ALFRED SARANT.

-REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN-

SE 65-3114

REFERENCE: Albany teletype to Bureau and Seattle, dated July 26, 1950.
Seattle teletype to Bureau and Albany, dated July 28, 1950.

SECRET

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. C. E. HENRICH *CH*
FROM : MR. E. F. EMRICH
SUBJECT: HANS ALBRECHT BETHE
ESPIONAGE - R

DATE: August 31, 1951

DATE: 12-11-2006
CLASSIFIED BY 60309/uc/TAM/KSR/cb
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X 3.3(1)
12-11-2031

Tolson _____
b2 _____
b6 _____
b7C _____
b7D _____
Tracy _____
Harbo _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Tele. Room _____
Nease _____
Gandy _____

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

PURPOSE

To recommend that the Bureau immediately open a file in the above-captioned matter and conduct an appropriate investigation relative to the activities and associates of Hans Albrecht Bethe, Professor in the Physics Department of Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, and one of the leading nuclear physicists in the United States. *1-1*

To advise that Bethe was investigated prior to April, 1947, as an Atomic Energy Act applicant as a result of which he was given a Q clearance by AEC.

To further indicate that recently upon interview Bethe has admitted his association with Emil Julius Klaus Fuchs, convicted Soviet agent. Also, that Bethe's name was furnished to Julius Rosenberg, convicted Soviet agent, through Harry Gold, confessed Soviet agent, by David Greenglass, in June, 1945, as a possible recruit for the espionage network and one whom Greenglass considered as "leftist" inclined.

To further advise that Rosenberg is reported to have informed [redacted] that Bethe was one of the contacts of [redacted] a known member of the Rosenberg espionage network who has fled the United States.

To note that Bethe is known to have expressed his opinion wherein he advocated a free exchange of scientific data among all scientists. Further, that Bethe is expected to attend the International Conference on Nuclear Physics to be held in Chicago, Illinois, on September 17, 1951.

BACKGROUND

Summary
Hans Albrecht Bethe was born in Strasbourg, Germany, on July 2, 1906. He received his Ph.D. degree in science from the University of Frankfurt, Munich, Germany, and was there-
Munich

*attach 5/1
2-978*

EFE:mpm *mpm*

RECORDED - 45
INDEXED - 45

SEP 24 1951

EX - 67

18

Emr
AVE

Cd 5

SECRET

after employed as a lecturer and teacher of theoretical physics in Germany until 1933. From 1933 to 1935, he resided in England, performing research work at Manchester and Bristol, England. Bethe was brought to the United States from England as a refugee from Germany in 1935 by the faculty of the Department of Physics, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York. Since that year, he has been a professor of physics at Cornell University.

b6
b7c

From 1942 to 1943, Bethe was connected with the Radiation Laboratory of MIT, Cambridge, Massachusetts, and from 1943 to 1946, he served as division leader in the Theoretical Physics Department of the University of California at Los Alamos, New Mexico. Since 1947, he has been a consultant for the Brookhaven National Laboratory and the University of California at Los Alamos. He is also known to have served in an advisory capacity on the highly confidential "Lexington Project" wherein the results of research on the NEPA (Nuclear Energy for the Propulsion of Aircraft) Project were developed.

Bethe is married to [redacted] who is reported to be the daughter of a professor in Germany who was famous for his work in connection with X-rays. Bethe received his United States citizenship on February 10, 1941, at Ithaca, New York. (116-2241)

PREVIOUS INVESTIGATION

Bethe was investigated in early 1947 as an applicant under the Atomic Energy Act for the position of consultant at the Brookhaven National Laboratory, Long Island, New York. His associates and acquaintances reported him to be of excellent character and reputation. It was indicated by these acquaintances that they considered him strongly anti-Nazi and anti-Communist. The investigation reflected that Bethe was not closely associated with his fellow staff member at Cornell University, Philip Morrison, who was alleged to have worked closely with the Communist Party, although no actual CP membership was ever established. At the conclusion of this investigation, Bethe was given a Q clearance by AEC. (116-2241)

RECENT INFORMATION

Bethe was known to be and admitted being closely associated at Los Alamos with one [redacted] an admitted CP member who was discharged from the project as a security risk. He also admitted a close association with [redacted] for the University of California at Los Alamos. [redacted] was reported in 1948 to be a member of various organizations which were Communist infiltrated, and to be in contact with persons having Communist sympathies. (116-8793-14;116-22541-34)

REC [handwritten initials]

b6
b7C

Bethe upon interview in February, 1950, admitted he had known Emil Julius Klaus Fuchs, convicted Soviet agent, since 1934, having met him at the University of Bristol, England; further, that Bethe visited him in Schenectady, New York, in 1946 and at Ithaca in the Spring of 1948 or 1949. Bethe visited Fuchs in England (Harwell) during the Summer of 1948. (65-58805-326)

REC [handwritten initials]

An article appeared in the New York Journal American on February 5, 1950, wherein Bethe is quoted with respect to his knowledge of the activities of Fuchs. According to one of the press correspondents, Bethe, subsequent to his official statement as appearing in this article, commented off the record that he could understand why Fuchs did what he did. He was reported to be sympathetic with Fuchs' attitude because "After all, a scientist is of the world and works for the world." (65-58805, Sub A)

REC [handwritten initials]

David Greenglass, confessed Soviet agent, advised previously that he furnished the name of Bethe to Rosenberg along with a list of scientists employed at Los Alamos. Further, that he never met Bethe but from conversation with several of the employees had gained the impression that Bethe was "leftist" inclined. These employees upon interview denied ever making such statements or implications concerning Bethe. Greenglas on interview on July 2, 1951, advised that he furnished the name of Hans Bethe to Harry Gold, confessed Soviet agent, on June 4, 1945, as a possible Soviet espionage recruit. He stated that, according to one [redacted] his fellow employee at Los Alamos, Bethe was a Communist. He mentioned that he gave Bethe's name pursuant to a request received through

b6
b7C

his wife who, in turn, had received her instructions from Julius Rosenberg, convicted Soviet espionage agent. He indicated that the list including Bethe's name was thereafter turned over by Gold to Anatole Yakovlev, then Vice Consul of the USSR Consulate in New York. Greenglass informed that he never thereafter spoke to Rosenberg or Gold about Bethe, nor does he know whether Bethe was ever actually recruited into espionage work. (65-59220-777 9 10 51)

(S)

[REDACTED]

b1

On April 4, 1951, [REDACTED] advised that Rosenberg, while discussing Alfred Sarant, a known member of the Rosenberg espionage network, who has fled from the United States, indicated that Sarant had a contact in Cornell University whom he mentioned as being a [REDACTED] (phonetic). On April 27, 1951, this same informant stated that he was subsequently advised by Rosenberg that Sarant had two excellent sources in the [REDACTED] (ic) and [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]. The [REDACTED] ut that Rosenberg was referring to [REDACTED] both of whom were [REDACTED] in the Physics Department at Cornell University.

b2
b6
b7C
b7D

b7D

It is noted that Sarant upon interview prior to his departure from the United States admitted a social acquaintance with Bethe, who sponsored his (Sarant's) entrance into the graduate school at Cornell University. Further, it is mentioned that there was located among Sarant's possessions a receipt dated March 7, 1949, from the Robinson Airlines calling for the airline's transportation of Philip Morrison to New York City. Sarant was unable to explain in what manner he obtained possession of this receipt.

During the permissive search of Sarant's home a letter dated September 21, 1946, was located. This letter, which was written by William Perl, another member of the

