

EXHIBIT 12B

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, Washington Field. - ~~STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL~~ DATE: January 4, 1949

FROM : Director, FBI

SUBJECT: JUDITH COPLON
Espionage - R

77-18466

Zora
97-434-5697

Reference is made to my memorandum to you dated December 31, 1948, instructing you to institute a vigorous investigation of this woman in an effort to determine if she is still engaged in activities as a Soviet Espionage Agent. The following additional information is being submitted to you which should be the subject of immediate and exhaustive investigative attention. The person who recruited Sima, (Judith Coplon), was one Zora (code name), who, in December 1944, was apparently working for the Government and was considering transferring to the State Department, OSS or some other analogous agency. It was stated that the agency where Zora was employed would cease its independent operation in one half year. Another message mentions her mother and stepfather who were listed as having been active in the progressive movement, apparently meaning the Communist movement. An immediate attempt should be made through appropriate sources to determine what agency or agencies intended to cease independent operations 6 months after December, 1944. In the investigation of Judith Coplon's women associates, consideration should be given to determining what Government agencies they have been employed by and whether any has a stepfather, which you realize is the only identifying information we have concerning Zora. You will also note, however, that Judith Coplon was living in New York City prior to her transfer to Washington, D. C. Therefore, it might be assumed that Zora was also working for a Government agency in New York City although this is not conclusive.

In December, 1944, the MGB was also considering drawing into the work, Marion Davis, or Davies, who was thereafter to be known by the code name of Lou. On January 15, 1945, there is mention of "signing up Lou" through Zora, indicating that Marion Davis had agreed to work for the MGB.

Regarding Marion Davis, the Bureau references have been reviewed and two individuals have been noted who could possibly be the person we are seeking to identify. However, in view of the lack of information regarding this woman we will probably have to connect her with one of the other two women before we can make a positive identification. The Bureau file references did reveal the following:

A Marion Park Davis, in a period from May 26, 1944, to December 20, 1944, was, according to a technical surveillance on the Argentine Embassy, in contact on a number of occasions with two employees of the Embassy, one Ernesto Uriburu and one Escobar. The technical surveillance reflected that Marion Park Davis was employed by the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs. She was associating socially with these two men and canceled an engagement with Escobar on June 15, 1944, for the following evening because her husband was expected to return to Washington. Uriburu on August 31, 1944, thanked Marion Davis for what she had done for him through the War Department.

cc-New York

FILE STRIPPED

Date: 1/10/49

Initials: [Signature]

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WASHINGTON, D. C.	
ROUTE TO	[Signature]

A Marion Davis, who probably is not identical with Marion Park Davis identified above, contacted Jose Antonio Arze, the Head of the Party of the Revolutionary Left (Communist Party) of Bolivia, in New York City, on December 8, 1944. According to information secured from a technical surveillance [redacted] Arze at that time was in New York City recuperating from a gun shot wound he had received in Bolivia and was in contact with prominent members of the Communist Party, USA, including Earl Browder. Marion Davis at the time of this contact informed Arze that one Roberto had left Mexico on December 8, 1944, for the International Labor Conference which was to be held at Cali, Colombia, on December 10, 1944. b7D

According to information from the technical surveillance, this Marion Davis later obtained a position as a clerk with the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs in Washington, D. C. On January 8, 1945, she again conferred with Arze and told him that she had just received a telegram and was to leave for Washington the following day. Arze desired to see her before she left as he wanted to discuss "some matters of Warren." This probably referred to Avra Warren, who according to an article in the December 31, 1944, newspaper "PM" was the "new Head of the Office of American Republics Affairs," and reportedly had written a report on Bolivia which was the basis for the U. S. recognition of the Villaroal Government in Bolivia.

It was learned through the technical surveillance that this Marion Davis lived at 644 Riverside Drive, New York, telephone Edgecombe 4-6441. Through informant [redacted] (H.C. Staub, attorney for Western Union in New York City), it was learned b7D that the telegram received by Marion Davis was from Thomas Klechek, Director of the Division of the Personnel of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs in Washington. This telegram notified Miss Davis that her application as a clerk in the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs had been approved. The telegram instructed Miss Davis to report to room 7719, Department of Commerce Building, 14th and E Streets, N.W., Washington, D. C.

A mail cover on Enrique De Lozada, who was a contact of Arze and who resided at Pendle Hill, Wallingford, Pennsylvania, reflected that he received a letter on May 25, 1945, addressed to Mr. Antonio De Lozada from one Marion Davis, 9609 66th Avenue, Forest Hills, Long Island, New York.

We have also conducted considerable investigation of one Marian Rubins Davis and her husband, Horace B. Davis, who are contacts of Mary Jane Keeney. However, this Marian Rubins Davis was not employed by the Government and left with her husband from Cumberland, Maryland, in June, 1944, to reside in Illinois. She and her husband are both active in the Communist Party, USA. Their present address is in Kansas City, Missouri.

The appropriate records of the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs should be examined to determine the background of Marion Park Davis and the Marion Davis who was hired in January, 1945. The background information available regarding these two women should be carefully examined in order to determine if they are acquainted with Judith Coplon or with a woman associate of Judith Coplon, who, you will realize, might be Zora.

A memorandum is being directed to you in the Sovme Case submitting to you the complete text of the available material regarding these women. All leads in this case must be expeditiously handled and the Bureau promptly advised of all developments.