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Sec. 2

FEDERAL BUREAU

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SECTION 2  
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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FORM NO. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

NEW YORK

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY FILE NO. 100-83801

JP

DATE MADE NEW YORK	DATE WHEN MADE 3/28/51	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 2/6, 15, 16, 19, 27, 28; 3/5-7/51	REPORT MADE BY JOHN J. CONNOLLY
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PETER SEEGER, was: Pete Seeger,  
Pete Bowers

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT  
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

CHARACTER OF CASE  
SECURITY MATTER - C

DECLASSIFIED BY 568SLD/MLC  
ON 4/23/85 Appel 83-6259

SUMMARY OF FACTS:  
Classification  
How Conducted

Top Serial  
4-774  
ENCL. cc-70A  
1. REC'D 4-1-55  
2. 4-7-55  
3. 4-7-55

Subject employed as singer in the Weavers vocal quartet. Business address of quartet is Weavers-Cromwell Music Co., 129 West 52nd St., NYC. The quartet is presently on tour. They are scheduled to return to NY during the latter part of May. Subject and his wife own a home on Route 9, Beacon, NY. This is where they reside when not on tour. SEEGER was born May 3, 1919, at NYC. Subject has been identified as a member of the CP, USA. He has led and taken part in the Almanac Singers and People's Songs, both of which were Communist front musical organizations. Subject belonged to People's Artists, Inc., likewise a Communist front organization. Subject has entertained at CP and CP front affairs. Background information and description set out.

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP(S) OF DATE

APR 9 1955  
SF 7 51 1955  
6/19/60

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP(S) ON 6/18/85 declass 30 lines

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DECLASSIFY ON: OADR

cc-DR  
4/3/51  
med/ed

100-3-135-114  
11-1-51  
R. W. Mahoney/BA

Corrections re Matthews  
by let to RAB/INS  
7/2/55

208,744  
SABBT/Imw

DATE OF REVIEW per release 11/30/80

DEFERRED REPLYING

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: Edward Scheidt

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100-800845-11

RECORDED - 3  
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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FORM No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

NEW YORK

NY FILE NO. 100-83801

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REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK	DATE WHEN MADE 3/28/51	REPORT MADE BY JOHN J. CONNOLLY
TITLE PETER SEEGER, was: Pete Seeger, Pete Bowers		CHARACTER OF CASE SECURITY MATTER - C
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:		
<p>Subject employed as singer in the Weavers vocal quartet. Business address of quartet is Weavers-Cromwell Music Co., 129 West 52nd St., NYC. The quartet is presently on tour. They are scheduled to return to NY during the latter part of May. Subject and his wife own a home on Route 9, Beacon, NY. This is where they reside when not on tour. SEEGER was born May 3, 1919, at NYC. Subject has been identified as a member of the CP, USA. He has led and taken part in the Almanac Singers and People's Songs, both of which were Communist front musical organizations. Subject belonged to People's Artists, Inc., likewise a Communist front organization. Subject has entertained at CP and CP front affairs. Background information and description set out.</p>		
- P -		
APPROVED AND FORWARDED:		SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE
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DETAILS: Residence and Employment

[Confidential Informant T-1, of known reliability, advised, on March 7, 1951,] *(S) u*  
that PETER SEEGER is a member of the Weavers Quartet. The informant stated that this group has recently become popular for its singing renditions by means of recording such songs as "Good Night Irene" and "Tzena, Tzena, Tzena".

[Confidential Informant T-1] *(S) u* stated that the subject and the remainder of the group are presently on tour in the West. [T-1] said that they will spend several nights in various cities entertaining at theaters, night-clubs, etc. *(S) u*

[Confidential Informant T-2,] *(S) u* of known reliability, advised that the following is the itinerary of the Weavers Quartet:

Week of March 22, 1951	-	Riverside Casino, Reno, Nevada
Week of March 30, 1951	-	Orpheum Theater Omaha, Nebraska
Week of April 13, 1951	-	Nicolell Hotel Minneapolis, Minnesota

Copies Continued

2 - Washington Field  
3 - New York

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Week of April 27, 1951

- This week will be spent making new recordings.

Week of May 13, 1951

- Several appearances in Montreal, Canada (the names of the places where the group will appear are not known to the informant).

Week of May 31, 1951

- Palmer House Hotel  
Chicago, Illinois

[Confidential Informant T-1] advised that SEEGER'S business and mailing address is in care of Weavers-Cromwell Music Company, 120 West 52nd Street, New York City. His home address, according to the informant, is Route 9, Beacon, New York, and his home mailing address is Route 9, Beacon, New York. [T-1] related that he expects the subject and his wife will reside at that address for sometime after May, 1951, unless the commitments of the Quartet do not allow this. Mr. and Mrs. SEEGER own a home at the Beacon address.

Birth Record

Files of the Board of Health, Borough of Manhattan, New York, reflect, on Certificate No. 20503, that PETER SEEGER was born on May 3, 1919, at Manhattan, New York. The father is described as CHARLES LOUIS SEEGER, born in Mexico City, a musician and 32 years of age at the time of subject's birth. The subject's mother's name is shown as CONSTANCE EDSON SEEGER, born in Colorado, housewife, 32 years of age, and the mother of 3 children including PETER. The SEEGER'S residence was shown as Patterson, New York.

Background

[Confidential Informant T-3] of known reliability, furnished the following background information relating to the subject:

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[Confidential Informant T-3] stated that the subject was born as previously stated on May 3, 1910, at New York City. [T-3] stated that the subject's father's name was CHARLES LEWIS SEEGER and his mother's name CONSTANCE SEEGER. The informant related that CHARLES LEWIS SEEGER was a musicologist, that is to say, a person who studies the science and art of music, and assembles the works of various composers into volume or catalog form.

The following are other members of the SEEGER family, according to [Confidential Informant T-3]:

Brothers: CHARLES LEWIS SEEGER, JR.  
JOHN SEEGER

Grandmother: Mrs. TRACY EDSON

The subject's education was described by [Confidential Informant T-3] as follows:

1924-1932 Grammar School  
Springhill, Connecticut  
(Graduated)

1932-1936 High School  
Avon-Old-Farms, Connecticut  
(Graduated)

1936-1938 Harvard University  
Cambridge, Massachusetts  
(Non-graduate)

[Confidential Informant T-3] related that SEEGER was employed from 1940 to 1945 by the Almanac Singers as an entertainer. The informant went on to state that the Almanac Singers was a group of individuals who

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wandered about the United States entertaining by singing folk songs and songs written by members of the group. According to [T-3] PETER SEEGER was the organizer of this group, and, although the group changed from time to time, the subject remained its leader until very shortly before his entering the United States Army. (S) u

SEEGER entered the United States Army on July 24, 1942, through Local Board No. 2, Jackson County, Scottsboro, Alabama. Subject left the United States Army early in 1946.

[Confidential Informant T-3] advised that the subject married EILEEN TASHIHOHTA, of New York City, during 1943. (S) u  
SEEGER

Membership and Connection With the Communist Party

[Confidential Informant T-4] of known reliability, reported that the subject was a member of the Communist Party in 1945. The informant obtained this information from ALEXANDER TRACHTENBERG and V. J. JEROME. [T-4] described TRACHTENBERG as an official of the Communist Party and JEROME as a Communist Party member, who was editor of "Political Affairs." (S) u

Concerning "Political Affairs", the "Daily Worker", published January 1, 1945, stated that "'Political Affairs' is a magazine of, by and for American labor for genuine progressive and forward-looking people in every walk of life, who seek authoritative and scientific analysis of political issues and problems as they unfold in the National and world arenas. The 'Political Affairs', like its predecessor 'The Communist' is headed by EARL BROWDER and is the leading journal of Marxist thought and opinion in the United States." EARL BROWDER, during January of 1945, was president of the Communist Political Association.

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[Confidential Informant T-4] recalled that the subject was a folk singer. He believed that SEEGER entertained at a closed dinner session in honor of ELLA REEVE BLOOR, which was held in conjunction with the National Convention of the Communist Party during 1944. The informant also recalled that the subject was very active in People's Songs, Incorporated. *du*

[Confidential Informant T-4] was unable to furnish any further information regarding SEEGER. He said that he lost track of SEEGER'S Communist activity after the latter part of 1945. *du*

[Confidential Informant T-4] stated that ELLA REEVE BLOOR was an old member of the Communist Party and highly respected by Communists. *du*

[Confidential Informant T-5], of known reliability, advised that the subject's services were obtained in connection with the entertainment given at a party held on March 15, 1947 at the Jefferson School of Social Science, 201 West 72nd Street, New York City, and under the auspices of the West Midtown Club of the Communist Party. *du*

The Jefferson School of Social Science has been declared by the Attorney General as coming within the purview of Executive Order 9835.

Confidential Informant T-6, of known reliability, advised, on July 30, 1947, that the subject attempted to make an appointment with MAX WEISS. T-6 advised that MAX WEISS was employed by the Communist Party at its National headquarters, 35 East 12th Street, New York City. *du*

[Confidential Informant T-7], of known reliability, advised that MAX WEISS was a member of the Communist Party. *du*

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[Confidential Informant T-8] of known reliability, advised that PETER SEEGER, 120 Mac Dougal Street, Brooklyn, New York, signed a petition issued by the Communist Party, New York State, 35 East 12th Street, New York City. This petition was addressed to United States Senators ROBERT F. WAGNER and IRVING M. IVES in protest of the Taft-Hartley Law. The petition was circulated during the Spring of 1947, according to the informant.

[Confidential Informant T-9] of known reliability, advised, on September 12, 1940, that the subject was a member of the Communist Party in New York. The informant further advised that the subject was known to ELLA REEVE BLOOR, previously referred to. [T-9] also advised that BLOOR was a member of the Communist Party and was known as a charter member of this organization. (S) u

[Confidential Informant T-10] of known reliability, advised that PETER SEEGER has entertained at closed meetings of the Communist Party. The informant stated that he has never heard of non-Communist Party members being admitted to these meetings. He could not state positively, however, that the subject is a member of the Communist Party. (S) u

[Confidential Informant T-11] of known reliability, advised that the Communist Party uses PETE SEEGER as its chief entertainer. According to the informant, the subject is available for entertainment at any type of Party meeting. [T-11] advised that SEEGER has been hired on numerous occasions by MAY MILLER, New York State Organizational Secretary of the Communist Party, to entertain at closed meetings of the Communist Party and rallies held by that organization. (S) u

The following Confidential Informants, of known reliability, were unable to furnish information relating to Communist Party membership on the part of the subject: [T-12, T-13, T-14, T-15, and T-16] (S) u

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~Subject's Activities in Singing Organizations

The following information is being set forth so that SEEGER'S activity with various singing organizations will be made clear:

Almanac Singers

The New York "World Telegram", published January 4, 1943, described the Almanac Singers as a group which had performed songs highly critical of the United States building a larger Army and Navy, Selective Service, aid to Britain, etc. The organization suddenly changed the tone of their songs to one favoring the above and urging greater activity in defense and Selective Service when the Soviet Union was attacked and at war with Germany.

[Confidential Informant T-3] verified the above information. [T-3] stated that Almanac Singers was a group which traveled throughout the United States concentrating on the Southern States. [T-3] stated that the Almanac Singers all used the same last name professionally. This name was BOWERS. The subject therefore was known while serving with the Almanac Singers as PETER BOWERS. [T-3] reported that the members of the Almanac Singers changed from time to time, but that the subject remained with them constantly. According to the informant, two of the individuals who appeared with the Almanac Singers were WOODIE GUTHRIE and MILLARD LAMPELL. *CP Member*

[Confidential Informant T-9] described GUTHRIE as a member of the Communist Party, who was a singer and resided in New York during 1949.

[Confidential Informant T-4] advised that MILLARD LAMPELL was a Communist and among the first writers of Communist leanings to infiltrate the radio writing field.

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[Confidential Informant T-3] <sup>OXu</sup> stated that the Almanac Singers were booked through the International Workers Order on many occasions during their travels.

The International Workers Order has been cited by the Attorney General as coming within the purview of Executive Order 9835.

The Almanac Singers were cited by the House Un-American Activities Committee in its report of 1948, page 49, as a group of Communist entertainers.

People's Songs, Incorporated

"The Worker", an East Coast Communist newspaper, published March 31, 1945, page 7, column one, reflected that PETER SEEGER was among those who founded an organization known as People's Songs. The article, which was written by WOODIE GUTHRIE, previously mentioned, stated that People's Songs, Incorporated, was being organized to make songs available throughout the United States for entertainment at "Progressive" affairs, picket lines, etc. GUTHRIE stated that People's Songs would publish new music and knew others for use in conjunction with matters of current interest regarding labor and legislative activity. The same article stated that WOODIE GUTHRIE assisted SEEGER in organizing People's Songs.

Records of the Department of State, New York Supreme Court, as reviewed by SA ROBERT W. COHOLAN in January, 1949, reflect that People's Songs, Incorporated was formed pursuant to the Corporation laws of the State of New York, on February 13, 1946. In the original application for incorporation, it was reflected that PETER SEEGER was to be one of the Directors of the Corporation.

The "People's Songs Bulletin," published for July and August, 1948, listed PETER SEEGER as Chairman of the organization, according to [T-6] <sup>OXu</sup>

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The above mentioned "Bulletin" reflected that it was published by People's Songs, Incorporated, every two months.

[Confidential Informant T-3] <sup>AM</sup> furnished several issues of "People's Songs Bulletin". It was found that these "Bulletins" contained news regarding local chapters of People's Songs, Incorporated, throughout the United States, as well as words and music for songs and suggestions as to their production. It was also noted that some of the songs were traditional American folk songs while others were highly critical of the foreign policy of the United States, the treatment of Negro people and the Taft-Hartley Law.

The 1948 report of the California Committee on Un-American Activities, page 392, cited People's Songs, Incorporated, as a Communist front organization. The report stated, "All productions of People's Songs, Incorporated, follow the Communist Party line assiduously as do the people behind the organization."

The "People's Songs Bulletin", published February, 1949, announced that People's Songs was being discontinued due to lack of funds. The same "Bulletin" announced that PETER SEEGER was National Director of the People's Songs, Incorporated.

[Confidential Informant T-17] <sup>AM</sup> of known reliability, advised that PETER SEEGER was President of People's Artists Concert Booking Agency.

The 1948 report, page 392, of the California Committee on Un-American Activities cited People's Artists as a Communist front organization.

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The "New York World Telegram", of September 25, 1946, carried an article on page 24, by ~~FREDERICK WOLTMAN~~ to the effect that the subject and other of People's Songs, Incorporated, "a Communist musical troupe" are selling "class struggle to the masses" over the New York City owned radio station WNYC, every Monday night. WOLTMAN asserted that People's Songs, Incorporated have written songs for the Communist Party May Day Parade.

The Weavers

[Confidential Informant T-18, <sup>(b)</sup> of known unreliability, advised, on June 16, 1950] that PETE SEEGER was singing with a quartet known as The Weavers. The informant advised that The Weavers was the outgrowth of a group known as the Almanac Singers, which group was active during the Progressive Party campaign in 1948. (X) u

According to [Confidential Informant T-17,] the group first sang at the Progressive Party Convention, in Philadelphia, and later at rallies and meetings held during the campaign. The informant stated that this group consisted of 4 individuals, who were the subject, ~~LEE HAYS~~, ~~RONNIE SILBERT~~, a woman, and ~~FRED HELLERMAN~~. The quartet later became known as The Weavers, according to the informant. (X) u

[Confidential Informant T-18] stated that FRED HELLERMAN was a member of the Communist Party, in 1949. (X) u

[Confidential Informant T-9] advised that LEE HAYS was a member of the Communist Party and was known to ELLA REEVE BLOOR, previously mentioned. [T-9] went on to state that LEE HAYS has written and published songs for the Communist Party and that he resided in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, with ~~WALTER LOWENFELS~~, the Philadelphia correspondent for the "Daily Worker", and the Pennsylvania edition of "The Worker", both of which are East Coast Communist newspapers. (X) u

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[X] [Confidential Informant T-4] <sup>(B)</sup> advised, on May 18, 1948, that LEE HAYS was a Communist.

[X] During 1940, [Confidential Informant T-6] <sup>(B)</sup> advised that RONNIE GILBERT was connected with People's Songs, Incorporated, during the time that that organization existed.

Subject's Activity on Behalf of the Communist Party and Communist Party Fronts

[X] [Confidential Informant T-3] <sup>(B)</sup> advised that the subject was Secretary of the Harvard Student Union, a Chapter of the American Students Union, while he attended Harvard University in 1936 and 1937.

The American Student Union was cited as a Communist front on January 3, 1939, page 80, January 3, 1940, page 9, June 25, 1942, page 16, and March 29, 1944, page 159, in reports of the Un-American Activities Committee of the United States House of Representatives.

[X] [Confidential Informant T-6] <sup>(B)</sup> advised, during 1946, that PETE SEEGER was listed among new lecturers for the Jefferson School of Social Science, according to the catalog of that School for the Fall term, 1946. According to the informant, SEEGER was described in the catalog as National Director of People's Songs, Incorporated, and widely known as a folk singer, recording artist, and musician.

The "Daily Worker", published March 20, 1946, page 10, column 5, reflected that SEEGER was scheduled to be an entertainer at a supper held by the Community Club No. 2, Thomas Jefferson Section, Communist Party, New York State, held on March 31, 1946, at 201 West 72nd Street, New York City.

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The "Daily Worker", published May 24, 1946, page 8, column 2, indicated that SEEGER was scheduled to be an entertainer at a Veterans' Conference held at the Central Plaza Annex, 40 East 7th Street, New York City, May 5, 1946. The Conference was under the sponsorship of the American Youth For Democracy.

The American Youth For Democracy has been declared by the Attorney General as coming within the purview of Executive Order 9835.

[Confidential Informant T-19,] <sup>Au</sup> of known reliability, advised that the subject appeared on the platform of the May Day Parade, held on May 1, 1946, under the sponsorship of the United May Day Committee.

The United May Day Committee has been declared by the Attorney General as coming within the purview of Executive Order 9835.

The "Daily Worker", published May 1, 1946, page 6, column one, contained May Day greetings from the "Disc Company of America, official producers of USSR records." It was indicated in this advertisement that PETER SEEGER was a recording artist of the Disc Company of America.

[Confidential Informant T-20,] <sup>(Au)</sup> of known reliability, advised, on May 7, 1946, that a Win the Peace Rally was held at the Hotel Granada, Brooklyn, New York. PETER SEEGER sang at this affair, and represented People's Songs, Incorporated at the meeting. The informant stated that many Communists were present at the meeting.

[Confidential Informant T-20,] <sup>(Au)</sup> advised that the subject was a sponsor for the Veterans Against Discrimination of the Civil Rights Congress of New York, 55 West 42nd Street, New York City. The informant furnished this information on May 20, 1946.

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The Civil Rights Congress has been declared by the Attorney General as coming within the purview of Executive Order 9835.

The "Daily Worker", published September 5, 1946, page 7, column 3, advised that an entertainment was to take place on September 15, 1946, at Town Hall, sponsored by the Civil Rights Congress and staged by People's Songs, Incorporated. SEEGER was featured among the entertainers to appear on the program.

[Confidential Informant T-21] of known reliability, advised, on June 11, 1947, that a meeting was held at Manhattan Center, New York City, under the auspices of "Main Stream", which the informant described as a Marxist literary quarterly. The meeting protested the Un-American Activities Committee of the United States House of Representatives having conducted an investigation regarding Communism, in Hollywood, California. Speakers at this meeting felt that the Hollywood actors, producers, etc., should not be investigated and that the Committee on Un-American Activities should be abolished.

[According to Confidential Informant T-21] SEEGER was present and sang a number of songs which strictly followed the Communist Party line.

The "Daily Worker" published July 11, 1947, page 11, column 5, announced that PETER SEEGER was holding a party in honor of BOOTS CASSETTA, an individual associated with People's Songs, Incorporated. This party was to be held at SEEGER'S home, 120 Mac Dougal Street, New York City. Any person reading the advertisement was invited to attend the party.

The "Daily Worker", published August 16, 1947, page 8, column 1, advertised a week-end holiday to be held for "New Masses", at Camp Allaben, Napanoch, New York. The advertisement advised that the week-end was to be Labor Day week-end, and sports, entertainment and lectures were offered to those who attended.

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PETER SEEGER, "well known folk singer" was one of the entertainers scheduled to appear at the above.

"New Masses" was cited as a Communist front publication by the Special Committee on Un-American Activities, House of Representatives, 79th Congress, on March 29, 1944.

*MC* Confidential Informant T-6 advised, on October 8, 1947, that People's Songs planned to hold its first National Convention in Chicago, Illinois. PETE SEEGER was Director of People's Songs at that particular time, according to the informant. (S)

A rally was held on October 24, 1945 at the Hotel Pennsylvania, on behalf of the American Committee for Yugoslav Relief, Incorporated. The subject was observed as one of the entertainers at the meeting. This meeting was attended by SAS HOWARD LITTLE and EDWARD W. BUCKLEY and the subject was observed by them. The American Committee for Yugoslav Relief, it may be noted, has been designated by the Attorney General as coming within the purview of Executive Order 9835.

*u* Confidential Informant T-22, of known reliability, advised, on July 16, 1947, that a meeting of the Progressive Forum took place at 13 Astor Place, New York City, on the above mentioned date. The subject was present and sang a number of folk songs. (S)

[Confidential Informant T-22] stated that a number of those present at the above meeting were members of the Communist Party. (S)

[Confidential Informant T-19] advised that SEEGER furnished entertainment at a number of Progressive Forums held during 1947. The informant did not know the exact dates on which they were held. (S)

[Confidential Informant T-18] on July 20, 1950, advised that during 1947 HARRY KLEIN, a Communist Party member, ran the Progressive Forums at the Panel Room, 13 Astor Place, New York City. The Forums consisted of (S)

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political discussions following the Communist Party line. KLEIN discussed his plans for the Forum with Communist Party members and he was criticized on several occasions by the Communist Party when they were not pleased with the speakers, subjects, etc. of the Forums.

[Confidential Informant T-18] <sup>Ja</sup> also advised that SEEGER was one of the entertainers for the Progressive Forum meetings.

The "Daily Worker", published April 4, 1948, page 10, column 4, contained an article advertising a concert, entitled "Songs For Action", sponsored by People's Songs, Brooklyn branch, to be held at the St. Felix Street Playhouse, 126 St. Felix Street, Brooklyn, on April 4, 1948. The subject was scheduled to be present.

The "Daily Worker", published April 5, 1948, page 12, column 4, announced that the subject was to be an entertainer at "Showtime for Wallace", on April 5, 1948, sponsored by the National Council of the Arts, Sciences and Professions, at Cafe Society Downtown.

The National Council of the Arts, Sciences and Professions was cited as a Communist front organization by the California Committee on Un-American Activities, report for 1949, page 698.

"~~The~~ Pilot", a publication of the National Maritime Union of America - CIO, published April 9, 1948, page 8, column 1, reflected that the subject would attend a dance held by the National Maritime Union's Women Auxiliary on April 23, 1948, at the Hotel Diplomat, 108 West 43rd Street, New York City, under the sponsorship of Mr. and Mrs. PAUL ROBESON.

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[In June, 1950, Confidential Informant T-4] ~~OSu~~ advised that PAUL ROBESON was a concealed Communist Party member in the years prior to 1945. The informant had no information regarding the subject subsequent to that time.

The "Daily Worker", published March 26, 1948, page 12, column 1, announced that People's Songs, Incorporated was presenting an "Un-American Hootenanny", featuring PETE SEEGER and others, at Irving Plaza, 15 Irving Place, New York City, March 26, 1948.

The "Daily Worker", published May 14, 1948, page 6, column 1, announced "Freedom records presents 'Ballads for un-Americans' written by OSCAR BRAND, featuring PETE SEEGER."

[Confidential Informant T-19] ~~OSu~~ advised that OSCAR BRAND appeared in the May Day Parade, during either 1948 or 1949 as a singer with PETE SEEGER.

[Confidential Informant T-23] ~~OSu~~ of known reliability, advised that the subject was an entertainer at a National Convention of the National Conference on American Foreign Policy in Greece, at the Hotel Capitol, New York City, on June 5-6, 1948.

[Confidential Informant T-15] ~~OSu~~ advised, on June 10, 1948, that the National Conference on American Foreign Policy in Greece, held June 5-6, 1948 was called by the American Council for a Democratic Greece, which organization has been declared the the Attorney General as coming within the purview of Executive Order 9835.

The "Greek-American Tribune", published June 11, 1948, page 1, announced the above Conference, and stated that the subject entertained at it. The "Tribune" stated that the Conference protested American opposition to the Communist Government in Greece and accused the United States of attempting to place Fascists in power in Greece.

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[Confidential Informant T-24] of known reliability, advised that the "Greek-American Tribune" located at 132 West 14th Street, New York City, is headquarters for Greek Communists in the United States. The informant also related that this publication continuously follows the Communist Party line.

[Confidential Informant T-25] of known reliability, advised that a Caucus for Peace was held on April 9, 1949, at Manhattan Center, sponsored by the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Appeal Committee. Members of the Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade were present and spoke against inclusion of Franco Spain in the Atlantic Pact. The subject sang a song which was sung by members of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade during the Spanish Civil War.

The Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Appeal Committee and the Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade have been declared by the Attorney General as coming within the purview of Executive Order 9835.

The "Daily Worker", published April 28, 1949, page 12, column 5, announced that PETE SEEGER, FRED HELLERMAN, LEE HAYS and others planned a show known as "Now Is The Time" in honor of the 12 indicted Communist leaders at the Panel Room, 13 Astor Place, New York City, on April 30, 1949, immediately following the May Day Parade. Individuals who took part in the May Day Parade were invited to attend.

The "Daily Worker", published May 5, 1949, page 13, column 3, announced that the "Now Is The Time" show was sponsored by the Cultural Division of the Communist Party.

4 (according to "SW" 5-4)

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[ Confidential Informants T-15 and T-22 ]<sup>du</sup> advised that the Committee for a Democratic Far Eastern Policy sponsored a rally at City Center Casino, entitled "Hail New China Ally For Peace". The meeting favored immediate recognition of Communist China by the United States and the subject was one of the entertainers at the meeting. ~~du~~

The Committee for a Democratic Far Eastern Policy was cited by the Attorney General as coming within the purview of Executive Order 9835.

The "Daily Worker", published August 15, 1949, page 11, column 1, announced that People's Artists, Incorporated were presenting a Summer musical concert starring PAUL ROBESON as featured artist for the benefit of the Harlem Civil Rights Congress on August 27, 1949 at Lakeland Acres Picnic Grounds, Peekskill, New York. The subject was scheduled to appear on the program with ROBESON and the meeting was for the benefit of the Harlem Chapter of the Civil Rights Congress. The "New York Times" published August 28, 1949, page 1, column 2, and page 52, column 3, announced that representatives of the Veterans of Foreign Wars picketed the entrance to the above picnic grounds, preventing the concert goers from entering the picnic grounds.

The "Daily Worker", published August 24, 1949, announced that the picnic grounds mentioned above were picketed on August 27, 1949 by a group of Fascists, who belonged to the Veterans of Foreign Wars and other organizations. The paper accused the local Police Departments of not furnishing adequate protection for the artists and concert goers. The article went on to relate that PETE SEEGER was one of approximately 40 artists and concert goers who succeeded in getting into the picnic grounds and who were attacked by the "Fascist mob".

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The "New York Times", dated September 2, 1949, page 2, and the "Daily Worker", of September 1, 1949, page 3, column 1, announced that another concert, similar to that mentioned above, would be held on September 3, 1949 at Hollow Brook Golf Course, Peekskill, New York, under the auspices of the Westchester Citizens' Committee for Law and Order, and the Civil Rights Congress.

The Westchester Citizens' Committee for Law and Order was organized of individuals who unsuccessfully attempted to attend the first ROBESON concert, according to the "Daily Worker" article.

The "Daily Worker", published September 5, 1949, page 3, column 1, announced that the subject appeared at the second concert held at Peekskill, New York, on September 3, 1949.

[Confidential Informant T-10] advised that PETE SEEGER sang at the September 3, 1949 concert [T-10] also advised that a protest parade was staged by several veterans organizations during the concert and the automobiles of several of the concert goers were stoned by people who protested the concert. *ax u*

The "Daily Worker", published September 29, 1949, page 13, column 3, announced that Charter Records, a "Progressive record company" produced a record known as the "Peekskill Story" with HOWARD FAST as narrator and featuring PETE SEEGER and The Weavers. *(a) u*

The "Daily Worker", published November 10, 1949, page 10, column 1, announced that HOWARD FAST made a speech at the St. Nicholas Arena, New York City, on October 29, 1949, at which time he made the following remarks:

"....There is no nobler, no finer product of man's existence on this earth than the Communist Party. At its worst, it is better than the best that this rotten and dying ruling class of ours has brought forth...."

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The "New York Sun", published December 12, 1949, page 15, stated that PETER SEEGER was one of 27 who filed suit in Federal Court for a total of \$2,000,000.00 because they were deprived of their civil rights and suffered personal injuries which allegedly took place when they attempted to hold Sunday afternoon concerts near Peekskill, New York, during August and September, 1949. The plaintiffs asked for a permanent Court Order to enjoin the defendants from future interference with their right to assemble in Westchester County.

In connection with the riots held at Peekskill, New York, during August and September, 1949, the "Daily Worker", published September 1, 1949, page 3, column 1, advised that the subject appeared at a protest meeting held at the Golden Gate Ballroom in Harlem on August 30, 1949. PAUL ROBESON and ~~BEN DAVIS~~ also appeared.

DAVIS, it will be noted, is one of the 11 Communist leaders convicted in Federal Court on charges of teaching and advocating the overthrow of the United States Government.

The "Daily Worker", published September 9, 1949, page 5, columns 4 and 5, announced a city wide Labor Youth League meeting at Manhattan Center on September 9, 1949 in protest of the "violence" at Peekskill. The subject was scheduled to entertain.

[Confidential Informant T-19] <sup>(P) u</sup> advised that the subject appeared at the above meeting. <sup>(P) u</sup>

Mr. MELVIN ~~WILLIAMSON~~, National Administrative Secretary of the Labor Youth League, stated at a public Lenin Memorial meeting held at Manhattan Center, 311 West 34th Street, New York City, in 1947, that the Labor Youth League would be for the youth of the present, what the Young Communist League had been for the youth of the 1930's.

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The Young Communist League and the Labor Youth League, it will be noted, have been designated by the Attorney General as coming within the purview of Executive Order 9835.

[During 1949, Confidential Informant T-26] of known reliability, advised that a record was produced by Encore Records, Incorporated, on which the subject was a singer. The record was entitled "The Talking Atom" and the song expressed an opinion that the United States would use the Atom Bomb to back up its capitalist form of Government and to intimidate other smaller nations.

[Confidential Informant T-27] of known reliability, advised that PAUL ROBESON gave a concert, on March 28, 1950, at Manhattan Center for the benefit of victims of the "Peekskill Riots", which took place in August and September, 1949. The subject was among the entertainers at the concert. [Security of the hall was entrusted to Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade.] HOWARD FAST, previously mentioned, told those present of the violence which took place at the concerts. He stated that he was present on both occasions having been selected as Master of Ceremonies. FAST told of the 40 young men and women who held back the American Legion and Catholic War Veterans "attackers".

The "Daily Worker", published March 29, 1950, page 4, column 1, described the above concert by PAUL ROBESON, which was titled "Shoulder to Shoulder". It was stated that this concert protested Federal Judge CONGERS delay of a hearing on the Federal Damage Suit filed by PAUL ROBESON and others, among whom was the subject. The "Daily Worker" stated that the subject appeared on the program.

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[Confidential Informant T-18 advised, on March 24, 1950,] that he saw a photograph taken during the May Day Parade during 1948 or 1949. The informant advised that the subject appeared in this photograph standing on a float with a banjo in his hands and apparently in the process of singing a song. The informant could not recall precisely which year the photograph was taken. *AM*

The "Daily Worker", published April 30, 1950, page 32, column 5, announced a May Day Jamboree, was to be held May 1, 1950, at the St. Nicholas Arena after the May Day Parade. The subject was one of those scheduled to appear on the program.

The "Daily Worker", published May 15, 1950, page 4, column 4, described the funeral services of a deceased lawyer named JOSEPH BRODSKY. The article described him as a Communist who died at an early age because of his devotion to the Party. The article contained a statement made by PETE SEEGER that BRODSKY never asked for a legal fee when he gave legal advice to People's Songs.

The "Daily Worker", published May 19, 1950, page 1, column 5, announced that WILLIAM PATTERSON, Executive Secretary of the Civil Rights Congress, HOWARD FAST and the subject were scheduled to address a special membership meeting of People's Artists at the headquarters of the organization, 106 East 14th Street, New York City. It was stated that plans were in the offing to set up cultural units to operate in political and economic campaigns of the unions and mass organizations. Special emphasis would be given to the creation of cultural units for the re-election of VITO MARCANTONIO to the House of Representatives and to the struggle for peace and Civil rights.

The above mentioned May Day Parades were sponsored by the United May Day Committee, which Committee has been designated by the Attorney General as coming within the purview of Executive Order 9835.

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[Confidential Informant T-4] has stated that VITO MARCANTONIO was under the discipline of the Communist Party for a number of years, and that he followed the Communist Party line in all of his political endeavors.

The "Daily Worker", published September 26, 1950, page 8, column 5, announced a meeting entitled "Spotlight on Asia" featuring ~~SEEK HUN KIMM~~, North Korean diplomat, on October 9, 1950, at the Hotel Diplomat. The meeting was sponsored by the Committee for a Democratic Far Eastern Policy.

#### Miscellaneous

[Confidential Informant T-28, of unknown reliability, advised, on September 15, 1948, that he visited Camp Woodland near Phoenicia, New York, where he observed the subject singing songs which followed the Communist Party line. The informant advised that this was a Camp for children where they were inculcated with Communist ideologies.]

[Confidential Informant T-3] advised that while the subject was serving with the United States Army at Keosler Field, Mississippi, he was a constant associate of ~~WALTER S. NEFF~~, a Communist, and ~~DAVID SACKSON~~ and ~~NICK DEMAS~~, who were exceedingly friendly toward the Communist Party. [T-3] also stated that the subject was a friend of ~~ELY JAFE~~, a Communist worker in the State of Oklahoma, prior to 1942.

The files of the Credit Bureau of Greater New York, as checked by SA GORDON C. LUND, contained no record of the subject.

#### Description

The following descriptive information was obtained from [Confidential Informant T-1] except where otherwise noted:

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Name: PETER SEEGER, was: Pete Seeger, Pete Bowers  
Address: Route 9, Beacon, New York  
[According to Confidential Informants T-1 and T-2] *gm*  
Former address: 129 Mac Dougal Street  
Brooklyn, New York  
[According to Confidential Informant T-6] *gm*  
Date of Birth: May 3, 1919  
Place of Birth: New York, New York  
Height: 6' 1"  
Weight: 143 lbs.  
Eyes: Blue  
Hair: Brown  
Build: Slim  
Complexion: Fair; face badly pimpled  
Scars or marks: Rather prominent red nose  
Marital Status: Married  
Relatives: CONSTANCE SEEGER (Mother)  
CHARLES L. SEEGER (Father)  
CHARLES L. SEEGER, JR. (Brother)  
JOHN SEEGER (Brother)  
EILEEN TASHI OHTA SEEGER (Wife)  
Army Serial No: 34335466  
Race: White

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ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

~~u~~  
~~u~~  
Confidential Informant T-6 advised, on January 24, 1949, that the first "A.D. Citizen", published by the American Labor Party, 1st Assembly District, 28 Greenwich Avenue, New York City, Volume 3, No. 3, January, 1949, announced a Legislative Conference held by the American Labor Party on January 29, 1949, at the Hotel Brevoort, 5th Avenue and 8th Street, New York City. One PETER SEEGER was a sponsor. ~~(A)~~

The American Labor Party was cited as a Communist Party front on March 29, 1944 by the House of Representatives, Committee on Un-American Activities. ~~(A)~~

[Confidential Informant T-29,] of known reliability, advised that the name of CHARLES SEEGER, the subject's father appeared in the indices of the American Peace Mobilization, during 1940. ~~(A)~~

The American Peace Mobilization has been declared by the Attorney General as coming within the purview of Executive Order 9835. ~~(A)~~

[Confidential Informant T-30,] of known reliability, advised that RUTH CRAWFORD SEEGER, step-mother of the subject, and CHARLES SEEGER, father of the subject, were friendly during the 1940's with JENNIE MILLER, wife of ROBERT T. MILLER, III, whom [Confidential Informant T-31,] of known reliability, described as being involved in a Soviet espionage conspiracy. [T-30] stated that he believed the subject was acquainted with the above individuals, but could not further describe the acquaintance. ~~(A)~~

[Confidential Informant T-32,] of unknown reliability, advised, on June 19, 1942, that TAKASHI OHTA wrote article for a Communist newspaper published in the United States in the Japanese language and distributed in the United States and Japan prior to 1941. The informant also stated that OHTA was a Captain in the Chinese Communist Army many years before he came to the United States, and had previously been exiled for political reasons. ~~(A)~~

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[Confidential Informant T-32] described VIRGINIA BARRY OHTA, the wife of TAKASHI OHTA, as a Communist fellow traveler. Mr. and Mrs. OHTA, described above, are the parents of EILEEN T. OHTA, the subject's wife.

[Confidential Informant T-3] advised that EILEEN OHTA SEEGER was Recording Secretary of the Japanese-American Committee for Democracy about 1943, while the subject served in the United States Army.

[Confidential Informant T-33] of known reliability, advised that the Japanese-American Committee for Democracy was a Communist dominated organization, which existed in the United States during World War II and attempted to influence Japanese in the United States and Japanese-Americans towards Communist thought.

[Confidential Informant T-34] of known reliability, advised during March, 1949 that a check for \$30.45 was made out by the Communist Party, New York State, to one PETE SEEGER, not further identified.

It will be noted that the publication "Red Channels" was reviewed. The information contained therein with one exception was already included in the details of this report. The exception mentioned above is the fact that the subject is alleged to have been an instructor in Schools for Political Action, a session of which was held in Washington, D.C. "Red Channels" claims that the subject appeared in the catalog of this School. A lead is being set out for Washington Field to attempt to verify this. The School allegedly was in session June 26-29, 1946.

[Confidential Informant T-6] advised on October 8, 1947 that People's Songs planned to hold its first National Convention in Chicago, Illinois, during 1948. It will be noted that the subject was National Director of this organization; therefore, a lead is being set out for Chicago in an attempt to

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ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE (Cont'd.)

develop further information regarding the subject. ~~(S)~~

The "Daily Worker" of October 1, 1947, page 11, column 5, indicated that the subject was in Los Angeles.

For the same reason as stated above, a lead is being set out for Los Angeles.

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LEAD PAGE

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CHICAGO

At Chicago, Illinois

Will contact informants and other sources for information regarding the People's Songs Convention allegedly held during 1947, at Chicago. ~~(S)~~ ~~(U)~~

DETROIT

At Detroit, Michigan

~~(S)~~ It will be noted that Confidential Informant T-3 advised that the Almanac Singers spent considerable time at Detroit. It is therefore requested that available sources of information be contacted in an attempt to learn further the activities of the Almanac Singers.

LOS ANGELES

At Los Angeles, California

Will contact available sources and check indices in an attempt to develop information regarding subject's trip to that City during 1947.

WASHINGTON FIELD

At Washington, D.C.

Will attempt to verify the fact that the subject was an instructor in Schools for Political Action in Washington, D.C., June 26-29, 1946. It will be noted that "Red Channels" reflects that the subject taught in this School, according to the School's official catalog.

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LEAD PAGE (Cont'd.)

NEW YORK

At New York, New York

Will await the Bureau's decision regarding the FD-122 which has been submitted.

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CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

The Confidential Informants mentioned in the report of SA JOHN J. CONNOLLY, at New York, dated March 28, 1951, are as follows:

T-1 A pretext call to the Weavers-Cromwell Music Company, 129 West 52nd Street, New York City, made by the writer.

T-2

[REDACTED]

T-3

G-2 report dated March 25, 1943.

T-4

FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

LOUIS F. BUDENZ, former Communist Party member and Managing Editor of the "Daily Worker" presently Assistant Professor at Fordham University. He was interviewed by SA WILLIAM J. MC. CARTHY on June 30, 1950.

T-5

[REDACTED] interviewed by SA CHARLES F. HEINER.

T-6

[REDACTED] contacted by SAS EVERETT K. DEANE and HERBERT P. LARSON.

T-7

[REDACTED]

T-8

Petitions received by US Senators ROBERT WAGNER and IRVING IVES and turned over to the Bureau. The petitions were forwarded by the Bureau to New York with letter dated June 9, 1947 captioned "COMMUNIST PARTY, USA".

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CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS (Cont'd.)

T-9 [redacted] contacted by SA THOMAS F. HANNIGAN, September 12, 1949.

T-10 [redacted] contacted by SA EDWARD W. BUCKLEY.

T-11 [redacted] contacted by SA EDWARD W. BUCKLEY.

T-12 [redacted] contacted by SA FRANK J. SMITH.

T-13 [redacted] contacted by SA RICHARD T. CLANCY.

T-14 [redacted] contacted by SA RICHARD T. CLANCY.

T-15 [redacted] contacted by SA RICHARD T. CLANCY.

T-16 [redacted] contacted by SA RICHARD T. CLANCY.

T-17 [redacted] FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

T-18 [redacted] contacted by SA HEINRICH VON ECKARDT.

T-19 [redacted] contacted by SA AUGUST J. MICEK.

(S)

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CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS (Cont'd.)

T-20

[Redacted]

T-21

T-22

contacted by SA EDWARD W. BUCKLEY.

T-23

[Redacted] contacted on June 19, 1948 by SA VICTOR A. LEMAITRE.

T-24

[Redacted] This individual has furnished reliable information on Greek Communist activities in the past. He was interviewed by SA MICHAEL S. BOHAN.

FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

T-25

[Redacted] contacted by SA CHARLES F. HEINER, April 9, 1949.

T-26

[Redacted] who was interviewed by SAS THORNTON M. WOOD and MELVIN A. THOMPSON, and who played the phonograph record mentioned in this report.

T-27

[Redacted] contacted by SA FRANK R. LONGO.

26  
(S)

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CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS (Cont'd.)

T-28

[Redacted]

[Redacted] interviewed  
September 15, 1948 by SA  
CHARLES F. HEINER.

T-29

An anonymous source

T-30

[Redacted]

T-31

T-32

FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

[Redacted] interviewed on  
June 19, 1942 at the New  
York Office. Name of inter-  
viewing agent not available.

T-33

[Redacted]

T-34

[Redacted] contacted by SA (A)  
CHRISTOPHER MORAN.

*Handwritten marks: "u" and a circled "A"*

REFERENCE: New York letter to the Bureau, 8/8/50.

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