

# OFFICIAL DISPATCH

VIA: Air Pouch  
SPECIFY AIR OR SEA POUCH

DISPATCH NO. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
CLASSIFICATION

TO : [REDACTED]  
FROM : [REDACTED]

DATE: AUG 25 1950

SUBJECT: GENERAL - Espionage  
SPECIFIC - Russell Alton McNUIT

[REDACTED]

2. McNUIT is of interest because of his connection with Julius ROSENBERG and David GREENGLASS, who have been arrested on charges of engaging in espionage in behalf of Soviet Russia. For your assistance, the following background data, received from the Federal Bureau of Investigation under memorandum dated 7 August 1950, is submitted:

"In an interview with David GREENGLASS on July 18, 1950, he advised that he first met Russell Alton McNUIT during the Summer of 1946, when the latter visited the offices of the G and R Engineering Company, 300 East 2nd Street, New York City, New York. According to GREENGLASS, McNUIT spoke to ROSENBERG and himself on this occasion and discussed a proposition with them whereby he would be their contact for exporting machinery to South American countries. He mentioned that McNUIT was accompanied by a man whom he introduced as his partner but whose name GREENGLASS could not recall. He described this partner of McNUIT as being short in stature and dark-complexioned. He further recalled that this man was supposed to have been born in Tampa, Florida, to be of Spanish ancestry, and to have attended school with McNUIT. GREENGLASS mentioned that ROSENBERG advised him at the time of this discussion that McNUIT and his partner were 'okay', which, according to GREENGLASS, meant that they were Communists.

[REDACTED]

RELEASING OFFICER

APPROVED FOR RELEASE  
Date 10 Nov. 81

COORDINATING OFFICER

[REDACTED]

AUTHENTICATING OFFICER

[REDACTED]

CLASSIFICATION

\*GREENGLASS stated that McNUIT and his partner visited the offices of the G and R Engineering Company a number of times while this export proposition was being planned. It was understood that the partner, by reason of his knowledge of Spanish, would make the necessary business contracts and would thereafter receive one-half or one-third of McNUIT's salary until the export business got going. He advised that this export proposition was never actually put into operation. GREENGLASS mentioned that McNUIT and possibly his partner left the United States for some South American country shortly after these discussions, and may still be located in that country. Sometime during the Summer of 1948 or 1949 he learned that McNUIT was coming back to the United States for a visit.

\*GREENGLASS also advised that McNUIT had at one time been a principal in a land development corporation in Westchester County, New York. He believed that ROSENBERG may have invested \$5,000 in this development. In view of the close association that existed between ROSENBERG and McNUIT, it was GREENGLASS' opinion that McNUIT may have been an espionage contact of ROSENBERG.

✓ \*Russell Alton McNUIT was born in La Cygne, Kansas, on May 21, 1914. He attended Junior College at Independence, Kansas, for two years. He then studied civil engineering at Kansas State College for one year. He continued his studies in civil engineering at Brooklyn Polytechnical Institute for three additional years. After leaving Brooklyn Polytechnical Institute, he obtained a position as assistant in the office of the Borough President of Manhattan from 1937 until 1942. He thereafter was employed as a designing engineer on steel and concrete structures for the Republic Steel Corporation, Port Henry, New York, from 1942 to 1943, and subsequently as designing mechanical draftsman for the Chemical Construction Company, a subsidiary of American Cyanamid Corporation, New York, for about one month. In 1943 he was employed as a designer-draftsman on structural steel and reinforced concrete for the Kellex Corporation of New York City at their project in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and he remained in this position until July 1945. Upon his leaving the Kellex Corporation, he became president and consulting advisor for the Industrial Planners and Designers, Inc. of New York City, and he remained with that company until February 1947, when he left for Caracas, Venezuela. It was learned that at the time of his departure he had a two-year contract to represent some firm, the identity of which is not known.

\*According to a report of the Dies Committee on Un-American Activities, it was noted that on August 23, 1940, a former member of the Central Executive Board of the Communist Party of Kansas, testified that Ernest McNUIT, father of Russell McNUIT, had served with him on the State Executive Committee of the Party in Kansas. He also testified that Ernest McNUIT's sons, Russell and Waldo, were members of the Communist Party.



[REDACTED]

3. The files [REDACTED] contain no further record of McNUTT. The FBI is particularly interested in any information indicating that McNUTT contemplates returning to the United States for either a visit or permanent residence.

[REDACTED]

col [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

22 August 1950

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]