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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

MAR 14 1950

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

SUBJECT: Johannes STEELE @ Herbert STEEL
@ Johannes Herbert Von STAHL

[Handwritten signature]
[Handwritten initials]

1. Reference is made to your memorandum of 22 August 1949, subject Johannes STEELE, was, Johannes Herbert Von STAHL, Herbert STAHL, Herbert STEELE, Bureau file number 100-2267, forwarded to this Agency in reply to our memorandum of 1 August 1949 [redacted] (b) (3)

2. This Agency has since been informed that STEELE arrived in Paris on 20 July 1949 and stayed at the Hotel Claridge [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

(b) (1)
(b) (3)
(S)

4. On 22 July 1949 STEELE attended a meeting of the French National Assembly [redacted]

[redacted]

5. During his stay in Paris STEELE [redacted]

(b) (1)
(b) (3)
(S)

[redacted]

was also reported to have been in contact with the following individuals:

Colonel DELALANDE, "director" of the Etablissements BRANDT.
Mr. HOFFMAN, literary agent, of 75 rue Caumartin.

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4-11-50
[Handwritten initials]

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Mr. Paul DAVIER of 11 rue Chasseloup Laubat.
Mrs. Madeleine BRAUN, the Communist Deputy.
Mr. DANGON, director of a printing establishment at 20 rue de
Tournon.
Mr. Marcel PRETECEILLE, a Journalist and a suspected "Cominform
agent" connected with the news agency Tele-Press.

6. According to our records one Paul DAVIER, born 1 May 1901 at St. Etienne (Loire), France, resided at 158 East 55 Street, New York, N.Y. in 1943. A personal history statement completed by DAVIER in 1943 when applying for a position with OSS shows that DAVIER was employed by the New York State Bureau of Motor Vehicles as an Adjudicator from 1941 to 1942, and by the New York State Labor Relations Board as a Trial Examiner from 1938 to 1941 on a per diem basis. In his personal history statement DAVIER claimed that he was a member of the American Labor Party (15th A.D. 962 Madison Avenue, New York City), and a member of the American Civil Liberties Union. We have no other information concerning him as his application for employment was not accepted.

7. The records of this Agency also indicate that a Spanish Communist named Ognier ~~de~~ PRETECEILLE @ Marcel Ernst PRETECEILLE, born 1 October 1901, resided at 32 rue Laborde, Paris, in 1947. At that time PRETECEILLE was reported to be director of Tele-Press, then described as a small "Soviet-financed" French news agency. It will be recalled that this Agency reported that PRETECEILLE dined with STEELE on 9 June 1948 when STEELE was in Paris. (see [redacted] of 23 June 1948). (b) (3)

8. This Agency would appreciate being furnished any information the Bureau may have on Benjamin LEHR and Paul DAVIER. We would also appreciate receiving any new material the Bureau may have obtained on STEELE linking him with Communist elements abroad. An attempt is being made by this Agency to procure further information on the Colonel DELALANDE, the Mr. HOFFMAN, and the Mr. DANGON referred to in paragraph 5 above, as we have no other information concerning them. Any further reports on STEELE and/or his contacts abroad received by this Agency will be transmitted to the Bureau promptly.

FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE (b) (3)

[redacted]
ROBERT A. SHELTON
Assistant Director

Ref. No. [redacted]

(b) (3)

Distribution: Department of State

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