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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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MEMORANDUM FOR: THE DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

SUBJECT: Johannes STEELE, was

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1. Reference is made to our memorandum of 14 March 1950 [redacted] (b) (3) concerning the activities and contacts in France of Johannes STEELE, the writer and suspected Communist, and to your reply of 11 April 1950.

2. The following information on STEELE was received [redacted] (b) (1) on 28 August 1950; (b) (3) (S)

a. In February 1950 STEELE was a member of a delegation of the Partisans of Peace putting a motion (not specified) before the French National Assembly.

b. On 4 March 1950 STEELE left France to go to Moscow via Prague.

c. STEELE's friend, Marcel Ernst PRETECILLE @ Ogier de PRETECKILLE @ ~~Marx FREEMAN~~, is the director of the Agence Telepresse, a "Soviet controlled" news agency reportedly established in Moscow in 1947, and editor in chief of the Mouvement Syndical Mondial published by the Federation Syndical Mondial (F.S.M.) (World Federation of Trade Unions). He is in contact with a number of French and foreign Communists and makes frequent trips for the F.S.M.

3. The following additional information on individuals in France with whom STEELE had been in contact was obtained from other [redacted] (b) (1) (b) (3) (S)

a. ~~Georges Claude DANGON~~, referred to in [redacted] as Mr. DANGON, was born in Paris on 11 December 1884 and, at the present time, he resides at 20 rue de Tournon, Paris 6e. He has been in the publishing business for several years and is considered an expert in this field. During the German occupation of France DANGON published several papers clandestinely and after the war the French government offered him a position as director of the National Press in recognition of his services. DANGON did not accept the position as he preferred to continue his professional

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career. The only significant information on DANGON developed is the fact that a woman named Madame G. DANGON of 20 rue de Tournon, Paris 6e, is the secretary of Pierre COT, the former Minister of Air for France and Radical Socialist deputy, who has been suspected of being "used" by the Communists.

b. Michel (Mikael) HOFFMANN, referred to in paragraph 5 of [redacted] as Mr. HOFFMANN, is a naturalized French citizen born at St. Petersburg (presumably Russia) on 16 November 1906. He lives with his wife, Luba HOFFMANN, and their two children at 1 rue des Eaux, Paris 16e. He is a literary agent and the director of the Agence HOFFMANN, which, until recently, had offices at 75 rue Caumartin, Paris 9e. In 1948 HOFFMANN described himself as "the official and exclusive representative for France and the French speaking areas for the following American literary agencies and publishing houses:

(b) (3)

- Curtis Brown Ltd., 347 Madison Avenue, New York City.
- E.P. Dutton & Co., 286 Fourth Avenue, New York City.
- Brandt & Brandt, 101 Park Avenue, New York City.
- Wm. Morrow & Co., 425 Fourth Avenue, New York City.
- McIntosh & Otis, 18 East 41st St., New York City.
- Maxim Lieber, 489 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

HOFFMANN was issued non-immigration visa #4790 at the American Embassy in Paris on 6 January 1949. At that time he stated that he was coming to the United States for approximately one month to contact American publishing firms giving Curtis Brown, Ltd., 347 Madison Avenue, New York City, as his address. No derogatory information concerning HOFFMANN has been uncovered.

c. Paul DELALANDE, referred to as Colonel DELALANDE in [redacted] has lived at 8 rue Las Cases, Paris 7e, for the past twenty years, and he has been employed for a long time by the Etablissements Edgar BRANDT, a firm engaged in mechanical construction, ironwork, gas generators, precision tools, metallurgy, explosives, chemical products, and ammunitions. Nothing derogatory is known of Paul DELALANDE or the Etablissements Edgar BRANDT.

(b) (3)

d. Paul DAVIER, born 1 May 1901 at St. Etienne (Loire) France, became a naturalized American citizen at Newark, New Jersey, on 2 April 1924. He was married to Helen MARSH on 19 November 1937. His brother, Maurice DAVIER, lives at South Norwalk, Connecticut.

He holds U.S. Passport No. 145746 U 72704, issued 16 October 1946 at Washington, D.C., renewed until 29 November 1949. DAVIER is a lawyer and he has represented the C.I.O. (Congress of Industrial Organizations) as well as several American firms, including that of one David GLICK, Park Building, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

4. No further information was obtained on the Benjamin LEHR referred to in [redacted] who, reportedly holds U.S. Passport No. 80185 issued at Washington, D.C. on 17 May 1949. We would appreciate receiving any information the Bureau may be able to obtain on LEHR that would assist us in determining if an international Communist network is functioning under the cover of the publishing companies with which STEELE has been in contact. We would also appreciate receiving any information the Bureau may be able to obtain showing that Paul DAVIER's brother, Maurice DAVIER, and his former business associate, David GLICK, have been engaged in Communist activities. The Bureau will be furnished any additional information on STEELE and the individuals mentioned in this report received from abroad. (b) (3)

FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

[redacted]

ROBERT B. GIBSON
Assistant Director

(b) (3)

(b) (3)

[redacted]