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**SECRET**  
SECURITY INFORMATION

4 December 1953

INFO: HEADQUARTERS

Operational/PARAM

OBOPUS - Messages for RNCASTING

REF: NECA-1175

1. We are forwarding a copy of the letter received by RNPENNON from the American friend of Mrs. RNCASTING, and his reply to it. We leave it to your discretion to pass it to Mrs. RNCASTING through the existing channel in the manner you think best. If you think it is undesirable, let us know so that we can consider an alternative. The question in paragraph 4.(B) below can be tied to this if you think it desirable.
2. We believe there is a strong possibility that the letter to RNPENNON was inspired by KUGOWN. He, himself, pointed out that the estate is in an isolated spot, and had been abandoned for 30 years. The wrecking could have been done by ordinary vandals. Furthermore, he wondered how his correspondent could know it was the work of Communists.
3. You will probably note a story in the 3 December issue of Al Ahram that Alexandria customs have presented RNCASTING with a customs bill of L.E. 9,400.
4. To clear up several matters, we suggest you query RNCASTING on the following points:
  - (A) Try to confirm the allegation contained in paragraph 11 (D) of reference. (This information was briefly given to you orally by [redacted] while you were here.) We suggest you do it indirectly, as, "Rumors have come to our attention that you are the subject of a hostile campaign by Urugayan Communists. Can you confirm this and do you have any evidence that this campaign might come to attempts at physical violence on yourself or family? If so, who are the individuals concerned?"
  - (B) In connection with RNPENNON's letter, ask RNCASTING if he would be willing to have Mrs. RNCASTING and their son leave the country immediately. For one thing, such action would establish definitely whether or not the Egyptian Government will refuse them exit visas.

(C) We are not quite

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- (C) We are not quite clear on the customs demand. Is the L.E. 9,400 customs bill mentioned above identical to the L.E. 10,000 demand previously reported? Has RNCASTING actually been given a bill? If so, what is holding up the matter? We gathered from your remarks to us that RNCASTING is willing to pay the bill. However, if it is he who is holding the matter up, perhaps we should suggest to him that he go ahead and pay it.
5. We shall have to be careful with any reply to the question in paragraph 4.(A) above. Since RNCASTING has said nothing to us on this matter, and since it was given to a Franciscan, it appears somewhat as though it could be a plant on the part of RNCASTING to enlist the support of the Papal representative here. Hence, anything that comes from RNCASTING on this score cannot be considered pure confirmation. *Also we do not wish to alarm him unnecessarily by giving him the impression that we have received independent reports concerning Communist threats to the persons of Mrs. RNCASTING and their son.*

Enclosures:

As described above.

- (1) Letter to RNPENNON
- (2) Reply by RNPENNON

PNG

Distribution:

- 2 - [ ] (w/encls)
- 4 - Headquarters (w/encls)
- 1 - [ ] (w/encls)
- 1 - [ ] (w/encls)

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SECURITY INFORMATION

Enclosure No. (1)

Copy of letter to RNPENNON

*to MECA 1178*

Dear RNPENNON,

I am writing to ask for information about Mrs. RNCASTING.

Mrs. RNCASTING is half American the completely European.

We understand thru a friend of ours that RNCASTING is being held for some reason. This does not interest us too much, but we are quite concerned about the young boy and Mrs. RNCASTING.

Would you take a minute and let us hear something.

We can arrange her transportation with son to U.S.A anytime.

Her Sejasset Estate on L. I. was almost wrecked <sup>by</sup> ~~the~~ the communists about a month ago and stands like a ghost with all windows and doors smashed.

Very sincerely,

(Mrs.) Page Johnson

November 23

*25-6-4-1571*  
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to RECA-1178

Reply by RNPENNON

Mrs. Page Johnson  
120 East 75th St.  
New York, New York

My Dear Mrs. Johnson,

I have received your note of 23 November 1953 in which you ask for information about the situation of Mrs. RNCASTING and son.

Although the family and certain members of the entourage of RNCASTING are planning eventually to proceed to the United States, RNCASTING is involved in certain fiscal complications with the Egyptian Government. It does not seem likely that he will leave the country until these questions have been resolved. I am informed that RNCASTING and his family continue to reside in their Alexandria house. They are not being "held" except perhaps in the sense that the Egyptian authorities might interpose objections in their leaving the country before having settled their affairs to the Egyptian Government's satisfaction.

A member of the staff at the Consulate General in Alexandria, where Mrs. RNCASTING is registered for a United States visa, will inform her of your inquiry. Should she and the young boy desire to proceed to the United States in advance of her husband, and should the Egyptian Government grant them exit visas, be assured that the Consulate General will render them every appropriate assistance.

A member of my staff is keeping abreast of developments in this matter and as soon as there is a change in the situation, I shall let you know.

RNPENNON

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