

OFFICIAL DISPATCH

VIA _____
(Specify Air or Sea Pouch)

DISPATCH NO. [REDACTED]

AIR POUCH

[REDACTED]

SEP 14 1951

TO

DATE _____

FROM

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT

GEN
SPECIFIC

Communist Matters
Russell Alton McHITT

DOC. MICRO. SER.
OCT 5 1971
MICROFILMED
1965

REFERENCES: [REDACTED]

1. There is attached for your information a copy of a report made by a special agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation regarding subject. You will note that this report sets forth the results of interviews with McHITT in New York City on 16 June and 23 June 1951.

2. For your information, it was the intention of the U.S. Attorney, Southern District of New York, to subpoena McHITT to appear before a Federal Grand Jury in that district. However, prior to his being subpoenaed to appear before the Grand Jury it was learned that McHITT had left Miami, Florida, by plane on July 29, 1951.

Attachments: 1

[REDACTED]

DOC. MICRO. SER.
OCT 5 1971
MICROFILMED

(Releasing officer)

(Coordinating officer)

(Manufacturing center)

FORM NO. 51-29
JUN 1949

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 10 NOV 81

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SEP 20 1951

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Education

"The subject attended grade school at La Cygne, Kansas; high school, Independence, Kansas; Junior College, Independence, Kansas (1932-1933); Kansas State College, Manhattan, Kansas (1934); Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute, Brooklyn, New York, 1937 to 1940 (attended evening sessions and received a Civil Engineering degree).

Employments

"McNUTT stated he has had the following employments:

"Works Project Administration in New York City, 1935 or 1936 to 1939.

"New York State Civil Service for the Borough President of Manhattan, 1939 to February 1942 as an assistant engineer.

"Republic Steel Corporation, Port Henry, New York, February 1942 to October or November 1942. (While employed by Republic Steel Corporation, he resided at Moriah and West Port, New York.)

"Chemical Construction Corporation, a subsidiary of American Cyanamid Corporation, from November 1942 to approximately November 1943. Subject advised that he was engaged in structural steel designing work and that he was employed at New York City for the greater period of time, but recalled that he was assigned to a project at Cactus Ordnance at Dumas, Texas for approximately three months.

"The Kellex Corporation, a subsidiary of W. H. Kellogg, 233 Broadway, New York City, from November 1943 to June or July 1945. He stated that in connection with his work for The Kellex Corporation, he performed structural design of water cooling flumes at Oak Ridge, Tennessee. He stated, however, that for the greater part of time he was employed in the New York City office.

"Industrial Planners and Designers, Inc. (IP&D, Inc.), 1841 Broadway, New York City, from July 1945 to January, 1947.

[REDACTED]

"McNUTT said that he invested approximately \$500.00 to \$600.00 in the IP&D, Inc. at the time of its formation, and that he was made President of the concern. He advised that IP&D, Inc. was made up of a group of architects, engineers and draftsmen who all had office space at 1841 Broadway. McNUTT stated that he continues to be a stockholder in IP&D, Inc. but that he was relieved of all duties and obligations of the concern at the time he went to South America in January, 1947.

"McNUTT explained that while with IP&D, Inc., he was primarily engaged in a project at Yorktown Heights, New York, known as the Yorktown Development Corporation. McNUTT stated that he and Max SIMON, whom he described as a former fellow employee at the Kallax Corporation, and an officer of IP&D, Inc., decided to form the Yorktown Development Corporation. He advised that the Yorktown Development Corporation purchased 36 acres of land along the Taconic State Parkway at Yorktown Heights, New York. According to McNUTT, the project at Yorktown Heights got under way during the early fall of 1945. He stated the purpose was to develop this property also as to make it attractive to buyers.

"He advised that they constructed a water supply line, installed roadways, constructed a swimming pool and added other features that would make the property conducive to better living. He stated that the Yorktown project was not a success because immediately after the war, building materials and supplies were scarce and the project proved too costly.

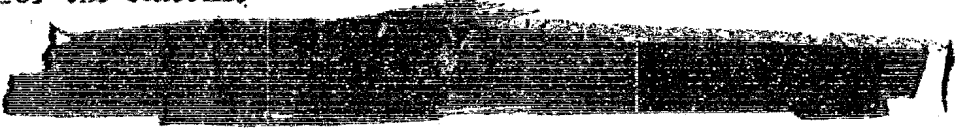
"He added that the Yorktown Development Corporation is still an active organization, and that he continues to hold stock in the concern.

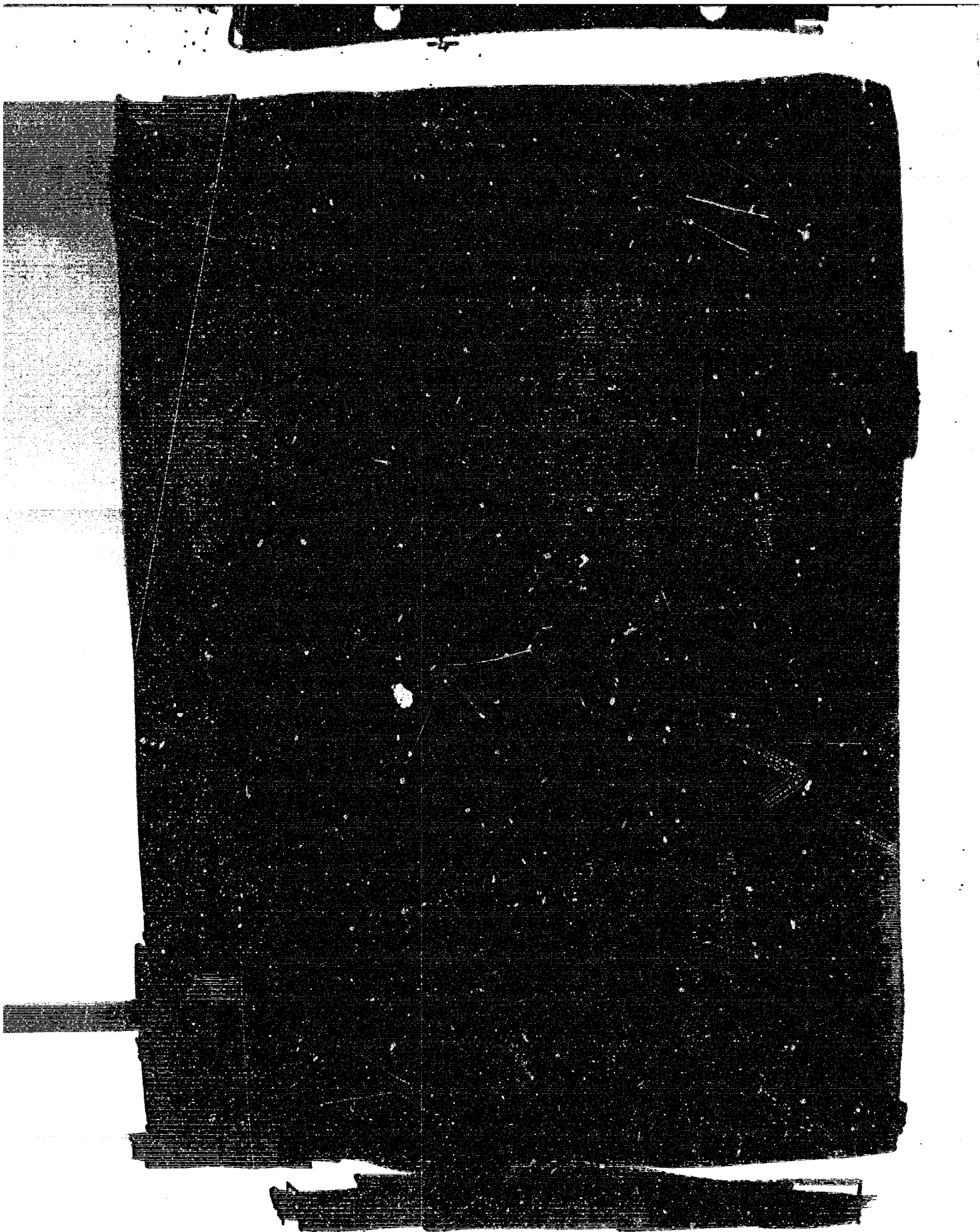
"McNUTT advised that approximately \$16,000.00 to \$18,000.00 was invested initially in the Yorktown project. He stated that some of the stockholders in the Yorktown Development Corporation were Sigmond DIAMOND (McNUTT's brother-in-law), Max SIMON, Harry KORN (also an officer of IP&D, Inc.), Phillip SIMON (a brother of Max SIMON), and Julius ROSENBERG, who invested approximately \$1,000.00 to \$15,000.00 in the Yorktown Development Corporation.

"McNUTT stated that he does not recall how Julius ROSENBERG became interested in the Yorktown Development Corporation, but believed he asked ROSENBERG to purchase stock in the corporation.

"Raymond Concrete Pile Company of Venezuela
from January, 1947 to April, 1949, at Caracas,
Venezuela.

"McNUTT advised that in December, 1946 he made application for employment with the Raymond Concrete Pile Company, 140 Cedar Street, New York City, for a position with Raymond Concrete Pile Company of Venezuela. He advised that he received the position of office engineer at Caracas and left the United States during January, 1947. He said that as office engineer for the Raymond concern, he was responsible for all engineering work going through the main office at Caracas. He also made all local purchases for the concern.





brother, Waldo McNUTT. He said that it was possible that Waldo was the one who took ROSENBERG to the farm for the first time. McNUTT thought that he saw ROSENBERG at his parents' farm on several other occasions.

McNUTT, when first questioned, stated that he never visited Julius ROSENBERG at his home, and then stated that it was possible that he visited ROSENBERG at his home about 1940 or 1941 when he arranged to drive ROSENBERG to the farm at Hackensack. He stated he had never been in ROSENBERG's home except on that occasion. He stated he does not recall where ROSENBERG was living at that time and did not recall whether he was living at Knickerbocker Village or elsewhere.

McNUTT said that after meeting ROSENBERG, he recalled that on one occasion ROSENBERG, some time about 1945 or 1946, visited at McNUTT's office of IP&B, Inc., 1841 Broadway, New York City. He said that the purpose of this visit on the part of ROSENBERG was to solicit work for his (ROSENBERG's) machine shop on the lower East Side of New York City.

McNUTT further advised that he once accompanied ROSENBERG to his shop on the lower East Side of New York City, at which time he looked over the ROSENBERG machine equipment.

McNUTT said that he did not remember meeting David GREENGLASS at the time of accompanying ROSENBERG to his shop. He denied having any business conversation with ROSENBERG and stated that when he visited ROSENBERG, he (McNUTT) was alone.

At this point a photograph of Raymond A. LOPEZ was exhibited to McNUTT and he readily identified it. He said that he first met LOPEZ while they were working together at the Kellax Corporation at New York City. He advised that LOPEZ left Kellax during 1944 to take a job with Groves - Drake, Inc. at Caracas, Venezuela. He said that in that connection, LOPEZ was engaged in the construction of an aqueduct for the Venezuelan government at Caracas. McNUTT advised that LOPEZ next returned to the United States some time during 1946. He said that LOPEZ, after returning to the United States, called him (McNUTT) by telephone from Tampa, Florida. He further advised that LOPEZ at a later date came to New York City and contacted him, at which time he gave him 'glowing accounts' of business opportunities in South America.

When it was brought to McNUTT's attention that he had formed an import-export firm, he recalled this fact and advised that LOPEZ, after telling him of the 'glowing accounts' of business opportunities in South America, and he entered into a partnership to engage in the import-export and construction business in South America. He said that they entered a trade registration for the firm of McNUTT and LOPEZ, or LOPEZ and McNUTT, in New York City at the time of forming this partnership. He said that McNUTT advertised their business on one occasion in the 'New York Sunday Times'.

McNUTT said that in connection with this partnership, he and LOPEZ discussed business possibilities with approximately 15 to 20 individuals in business firms. He said that even though they had made these various

business contacts, he and LOPEZ had never performed actual work of any kind whereby they received a commission, salary or any remuneration. He added that the firm did not perform any duties whatsoever.

"McNUTT was then asked if he recalls visiting Julius ROSENBERG accompanied by Raymond A. LOPEZ at the G and R Engineering Company on the Lower East Side of New York. McNUTT stated that he does not recall ever going to the G and R Engineering Company accompanied by Raymond LOPEZ. He further stated that he could not recall any agreement to share the profits with LOPEZ, and could not recall ever discussing with ROSENBERG any plan to export material to South America, through which LOPEZ was to receive one-half or one-third of the profits or salary received by McNUTT as a result of the export business engaged in on the part of McNUTT and LOPEZ for the G and R Engineering Company.

"At this point McNUTT would neither affirm nor deny that LOPEZ visited ROSENBERG at the G and R Engineering Company, stating that he could not recall any such instance.

"McNUTT stated that LOPEZ is presently employed as Chief Engineer for the Sales Department of the Creole Petroleum Corporation at Caracas, Venezuela. He said that LOPEZ travels quite often for the Creole Petroleum Corporation, but that he maintains his residence at Caracas.

"It will be further noted that David GREENGLASS also advised that he recalls that he once went to an architect's office near Columbus Circle and 59th Street, New York City to make a payment of about \$1,000.00 on the shares in a land development proposition at Yorktown Heights in Westchester County, New York on behalf of Julius ROSENBERG.

"McNUTT, when questioned concerning the above, stated that he does not recall David GREENGLASS or any one else ever delivering a package containing approximately \$1,000.00 to the office of Industrial Planners and Designers, Inc.

"McNUTT further advised that he believed he once received a letter from Julius ROSENBERG while in South America. He recalled that ROSENBERG made a request for the liquidation of his interest in the Yorktown Development Corporation.

"Information Concerning Subject's
Employment with The Kellex
Corporation (Manhattan Engineering
Project)

"McNUTT advised that he was performing drafting work on concrete flanges while employed by The Kellex Corporation at Oak Ridge, Tennessee and New York City.

"He stated that in connection with the work performed at Kellex, he did not know what he was working on. He was asked what he thought he was working on and he replied that he did not know. In answer to the question

[REDACTED]

as to what he and his fellow-workers thought they were working on, he answered that he and his fellow-engineers thought they were working on a high octane gasoline refinery or on a synthetic rubber plant. He stated they thought it could be a synthetic rubber plant because there was a lot of talk and newspaper articles about synthetic rubber at that time.

"He was asked what necessity there was for concrete cooling flumes in either a high octane gasoline or synthetic rubber plant, and he stated he did not know. He was asked if he knew about the manufacturing processes of high octane gas and synthetic rubber today and he stated he did not know.

"It was pointed out to him his speculation as to the work he was doing did not appear logical and he admitted that this was possible and he further admitted that the size of the concrete flumes he was working on made it apparent that the installation in which they were to be used was one which would generate tremendous quantities of heat. However, he still refused to admit that he knew what he was doing.

"He stated that he had never discussed his work with Julius ROSENBERG or any one else, and that not even his wife knew what he was doing. He stated that he and all other employees of the Kellax Corporation were warned not to discuss their work with any one.

"He said that he never gave any information concerning his work at Kellax to Julius ROSENBERG, and that ROSENBERG never questioned him concerning his work.

"Information Concerning Subject's
Co-Ownership of Indian Lake Lodge,
Indian Lake, New York

"McNUTT, when asked if he ever had any interest other than those previously mentioned, advised that he could not recall any other such interest. When it was brought to McNUTT's attention, he admitted that he purchased Indian Lake Lodge in the Adirondacks with a (Mr.) Leo REISER for \$17,000.00 in the spring of 1943. He said that his wife Edna and Sally REISER (wife of Leo REISER) operated the lodge during the season (summer months). He stated that at the time of buying Indian Lake Lodge, he was employed at the Kellax Corporation in New York City, and that he would go to the lodge on weekends to assist with the operation of it.

"He stated that he and REISER made purchase of the lodge through a real estate agent at Glens Falls, New York. He said that a \$5,000.00 down payment was necessary and that he and REISER each paid \$2500.00 as his share of the payment. McNUTT stated that at the time of purchase he had approximately \$1,000.00 and it was then necessary for him to borrow \$1,500.00 from his wife's parents.

"McNUTT explained that the lodge had accommodations for approximately 100 people and that they obtained guests by advertising in newspapers and by means of inviting associates to the lodge.

[REDACTED]

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He said that in the fall of 1946 he and EXNER decided to sell Indian Lake Lodge and received \$44,000.00 for it. He advised that they were represented by a lawyer named Hy GOLD, who had offices at 225 Broadway, New York City at the time of the 1946 transaction. He recalled that a dentist named BEISS (ph) purchased this lodge.

He said that to the best of his knowledge, Julius ROSENBERG never visited Indian Lake Lodge. McNUTT further advised he could not recall ever inviting ROSENBERG to visit this lodge.

Membership in Federation
of Architects, Engineers,
Chemists and Technicians

McNUTT stated that he was a member of the Federal of Architects, Engineers, Chemists and Technicians (FAECT), having joined the organization in New York City in approximately 1940. He advised that he could not recall the identity of the individual who solicited his membership in FAECT. He said that he attended meetings of the FAECT at a meeting hall somewhere downtown New York City, and could not recall which branch or unit of the organization he belonged to. McNUTT said that he never knew Julius ROSENBERG to be a member of the FAECT.

Concerning the FAECT, the following is noted. On page 151 of the book entitled 'A Story Of The CIO' by Benjamin STOLBERG appears the following:

'Only four CIO unions are under complete control of Stalinist officials.'

According to Benjamin STOLBERG, listed among these four unions is the Federation of Architects, Engineers, Chemists and Technicians.

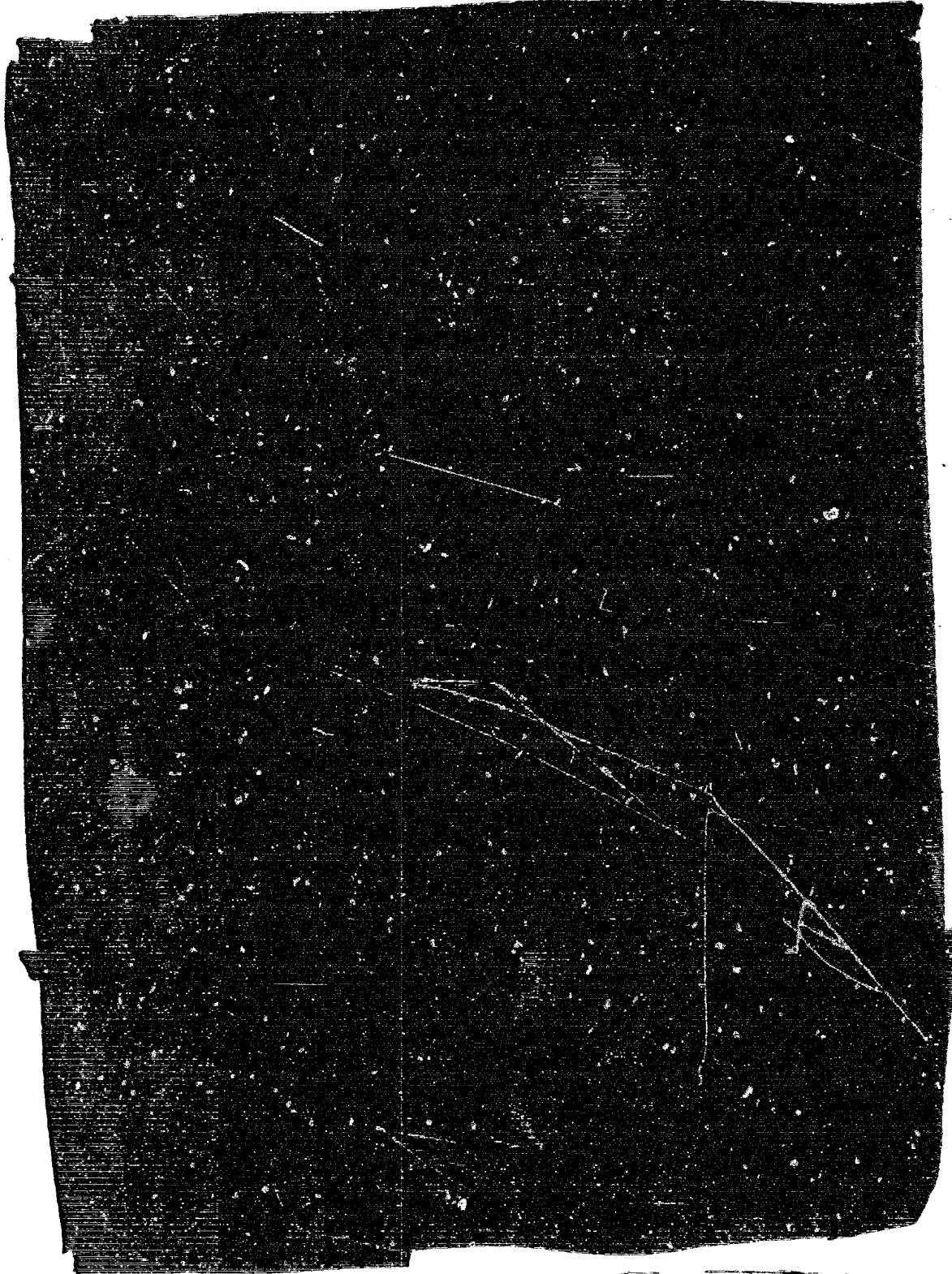
The following information regarding the FAECT appears on pages 264 and 265 of the above mentioned book by Mr. STOLBERG:

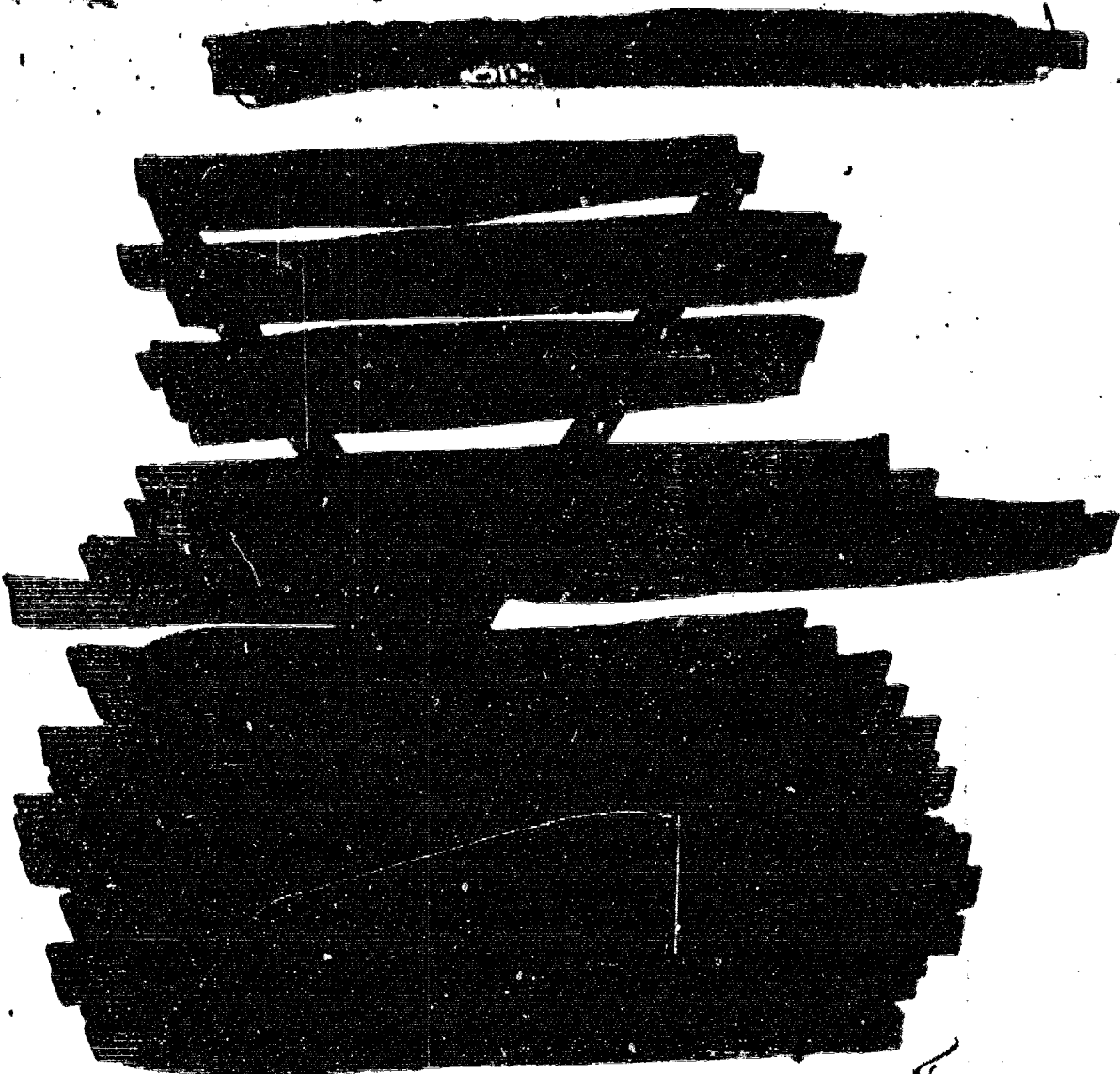
'The Federation of Architects, Engineers, Chemists and Technicians was organized in 1934 mainly from the technical staff in the Works Project Administration. From the very beginning the Federation has been under Stalinist leadership, and its rank and file are chiefly Communist Party followers.'

Photography Equipment Owned
By Subject

McNUTT was asked what type of photo equipment he owned and advised that in about 1938 or 1939 he purchased a Volgen 116 camera and later purchased an Argo-Flex camera and a Revere motion picture camera. He stated that when he first took up photography, he purchased some equipment

to do his own developing and printing. He stated that he made a few prints and thereafter discontinued his own developing. McNUTT stated that he never performed any type of photo copying work for Julius ROSENBERG or any one else.





"McNUTT, upon being exhibited a photograph of Michael SIDOROVICH, advised that the photo looks like an individual that he had met at his father's farm at Haddam, Connecticut. He recalled that this individual's wife was tall and thin. He further stated that he was not familiar with the name Michael SIDOROVICH, and further, that he could not recognize the photograph of Anna SIDOROVICH."

