Dear:

Enclosed are copies of documents from FBI records. Excisions have been made to protect information exempt from disclosure pursuant to Title 5, United States Code, Section 552 and/or Section 552a. In addition, where excisions were made, the appropriate exempting subsections have been cited opposite the deletions. Where pages have been withheld in their entirety, a deleted page information sheet has been substituted showing the reasons or basis for the deletion. The subsections cited for withholding information from the enclosed documents are marked below:

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<th>Section 552</th>
<th>Section 552a</th>
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(See Form 4-694a, enclosed for an explanation of these exemptions.)

Pursuant to your request, 615 page(s) were reviewed and 359 page(s) are being released.

During the review of material pertinent to the subject of your request, documents were located which

- originated with another Government agency(ies).
  These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

- contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).
FILE DESCRIPTION

SUBJECT

JOSEPHINE BAKER

FILE NUMBER

62-95834
SECRET

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

URGENT

JOSEPHINE BAKER, SPECIAL INQUIRY. REBUCABLE TODAY.

ROLLAND O. L'ALLIER

RECEIVED: 61

5:00 PM

RECORDED 562 - 95834 - 2
November 5, 1951

Jo Baker

The attached letters were sent in by Walter Winchell. They concern Josephine Baker, the colored singer who was recently involved in the incident at the Stork Club.

Concerning the top letter, which is from one [redacted] and alleges that he saw Josephine Baker in Leningrad, as a guest of the Soviet Union, in 1936, Mr. Winchell states: "Hoover, can we check this please?"

Attachments

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 9/4/32 BY SP-1 GSX/PR

50 DEC 1957
November 26, 1951

From Walter Winchell

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/2/82 BY 5/P/59/92

INFORMATION CONTAINED REIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
TE 9/2/82 B9/5/59/92
Monday
October 29th, 1951

Dear W. W. (Walter Winchell)

Just read your column on J. B. (Josephine Baker) in today's Daily Mirror, in your last paragraph Mr. Rayburn gives a summation of J. B.'s attitude in the year 1935. In 1936 I visited Leningrad from Helsinki, Finland on a 3 day visit. The month was June "I think"? Anyhow the correct dates on, still on, the U.S.S.R. visa issued in Helsinki on my old passport, a British passport, I'm a Scotchman. Well I wandered into the Russian bar at the hotel one night after the ? I was there & who was the "Big Shot" of the evening, surrounded by Red Commisars & French Reds, & actually singing & drinking with them to her heart's content, but J. B. The only colored person there. She came to the U.S.S.R. with a large group of French Reds, who in 1936 were being rewarded by the Politbureau for their work in the French Elections that year by a free trip to the U.S.S.R. "as guests of the Soviet Union." If you with your connections "check up" you will probably find J. B. is just a highly colored copy & a poor one at that of Mati Hari. But still doing her stuff for Uncle Joe. The Reds wined & dined her no end & were laughing up their sleeves at her, as they have no Negroes in the U.S.S.R., she was just a novelty, & a good stooge. Looks to me she is still following the line everywhere she goes.

Sorry she implicated you Walter, but that might have been one of her assignments? You know how the Reds "love you."

Sincerely,

[Redacted]

COPY-eff

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/2/52 BY [Redacted]
Dear [Name],

This is an unclassified document. I will provide the translation and analysis of the content in your envelope.

Best regards,

[Signature]
Dear Mr. Winchell,

At 57 this happens to be my first letter to Press etc. etc.

Re-Jos. Baker business, you are now on right tract. J.B. is a $1 phoney as you knew all along. I was surprized that it took you so long to collect your wits this time. Don't slip.

and have lived in Brunswick, Ga. my entire life. Our population happens to be unusual, 50% white, 50% colored. It's one of the few communities in U.S. not counting Talmadge, Rep. (He has yet to get a majority vote out of our county, neither has______).

We have never had a race riot, lynching or trouble of any sort, thought you'd be interested in this --- BUT!

We also (Jews I mean now) have the famous "Cloister" hotel at our famous Sea Island, which is definitely restricted to Jews. Of course the dining rooms & club rooms are open to the public, but from what I understand the service is also slow. Of course or should I say I have yet to patronize their public rooms.

But I have tried several times to get a reservation at the Stork Club and they are always "So Solly." Aren't you hanging out at the wrong Bistro???? Forgot to mention I'm supposed to be a nice Jew.

Brunswick, Ga.

COPY-eff

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/2/32 BY EB C84PK
Monday

Dear Mr. Bache,

Herein is my classified

This happens to be

my first letter to

PLease, etc., etc.,

Re: Joe Barker

Business, you are now

right.

You know all along


Mr. Gentry

---------
I was surprised that it took you so long to collect your own with this time. Don't slip up.

I have heard in Drummond that my entire life — our population happens to be unusual — 50% white, 50% colored, the one of the few communities in the S. L. C.
Springfield, Mass.
October 28, 1951

Dear Walter Winchell,

I have always considered you to be a good judge of character, and after reading your Sunday column on my notorious countrywoman, Jo Baker, I am convinced of it. It was good to see that you had seen right through her race hating campaign. She professes to want to help our race, and yet she calmly goes about destroying the little progress made toward better race relations. It seems that instead of aiding our race, she is instead just stirring up every little incident that could possibly be interpreted as racial. Not to say that she should sit by while Negroes are insulted, but it does seem funny that no matter where she goes, some white person always picks her out to abuse. If she is so terribly anxious to do something about racial prejudice, why doesn't she join the various colored organizations or contribute to our charities? Maybe she does, but I've never heard of it. Her chief ambition in life seems to be to make fabulous salaries, wear priceless gowns, marry European counts and arrest Texans for supposedly calling her a nigger. It made me sick to read how she had gone to France and depicted us as near slaves in this wonderful country of ours. I know there is still a lot to be desired in the treatment of Negroes, but her running to Paris to be "treated like a human being" isn't helping any. Why couldn't she stay here and fight like millions of other Negroes are doing? My mother says that years ago when she saw Jo Baker perform in New York, her act was so immoral that its no wonder they "panned" her. I know she has come a long way from what she was, but from what I've read, she had no scruples about how she got there either. If she loves Paris so much, why didn't she stay over there and "live like a human being"? Since all Negroes can't afford Parisienne hospitality, we'll just have to stay here and improve our country. When Miss Baker forced Miami Club owners to admit Negroes while she was acting there, it probably never occurred to her that the minute she left, the barriers would again be resumed. Most of my race don't want to be tolerated." All we ask is a fair chance to prove ourselves. I suggest Jo Baker copy our Negro celebrities like Ray Robinson, Lena Horne, Duke Ellington and others. Of course if she can't stand this wicked treatment, she can always go back to her beloved France, and good riddance.

Sincerely yours,

A colored student

COPY-eff

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/2/56 BY G. LEWIS
Dear Walter Winchell,

I have always considered you to be a good judge of character, and after reading your Sunday column on my not-so-usual countrywoman, Jo Baker, I am convinced of it. It was good to see that you had seen right through her race-baiting campaign. She professes to want to help our race, and yet she calmly goes about destroying the little progress made toward better race relations. It seems that instead of aiding our race, she is instead just riling up every little incident that could possibly be interpreted as racial. Not to say that she should not try to help, but it does seem funny that no matter where she goes, white people always seem irate to abuse her. If she is so terribly anxious to do something about racial prejudice, why doesn't she join the various colored organizations or contribute to our charities? May be she does but I've never heard of it. Her chief ambition in life seems to be to make fabulous salaries, even price-less gowns, many European cars, and arrest letters for supposedly calling her a nigger. It made me sick to read how she had gone to France and depicted us as near to slaves in
This wonderful country of ours. I know there is still a lot to be done in the treatment of Negroes, but the running to Paris to be treated like a "human being" isn't helping any. Why couldn't she stay here and fight like millions of other Negroes are doing? My mother says that years ago when she saw J. Baker perform in New York, she was so immoral that it's no wonder they banned her. I know she has come a long way from what she was, but from what I lived read, she had no scruples about how she got there either. If she lives Paris so much, why didn't she stay once there and "live like a human being?" Since all Negroes can't afford Parisian hospitality, we'll just have to stay here and improve our country. When Miss Baker forced Miami Club owners to admit Negroes while she was acting thus it probably never occurred to her that she would as she left, the barriers would again be resumed. Most of my race don't want to be "tolerated" All we ask is a fair chance to prove ourselves. I suggest J. Baker copy our Negro celebrities like Ray Robinson, Lena Horne, Duke Ellington and others. Of course if she can't stand this wicked treatment, she can always go back to her beloved France, and good riddance.

Sincerely yours,

A colored student
Office Memorandum  UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO: The Director
FROM: D. M. Ladd
SUBJECT: JOSEPHINE BAKER

DATE: November 2, 1951

PURPOSE:

To advise you, pursuant to your request, of information appearing in our files relative to Josephine Baker, Negro singer and entertainer.

SCOPE OF SEARCH:

In the preparation of this memorandum Baker's name was searched through the single initial and with a combination of the first name with various middle names and initials. Baker's known married names were also searched. The search was not limited to locality and included a search of both criminal and subversive references.

PERSONAL HISTORY:

According to the April 2, 1951, issue of "Life" magazine, Josephine Baker is the daughter of a St. Louis, Missouri, Negro washer woman. This article stated that Baker, who as of the time of the article, was alleged to be 45 years of age, began her Paris night club career in 1925, and has spent most of her life since that time in France.

This "Life" article further stated that Baker was reported to have at one time been married to a Negro tap dancer and supposedly married one Pepito Albertino in the 1920's. In 1937, Baker gave up her United States citizenship and married a French broker by the name of Jean Lion. This marriage was dissolved by a divorce in 1940. Baker married her present husband, a Frenchman, band leader Jo Boullion, in 1947.

According to the March 12, 1951, issue of "Time" magazine, Baker has been a French citizen since 1937, and during the occupation of France by the Germans, during World War II, spent her time in North Africa. This article further stated that while in North Africa, Baker became a Lieutenant in the Free French Air Force, did intelligence work, drove an ambulance, and entertained troops.

RECORDED: 122 62-9583 07-84
INDEXED: 122

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HERIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE. (X) - 99
BUREAU INVESTIGATION:

No investigation has been conducted by this Bureau relative to Josephine Baker.

INFORMATION APPEARING IN BUREAU FILES:

Activities in Defense of Willie McGee

As you will recall, the Communist Party during the early part of 1951, took a great interest in and engaged in extensive activity in the defense of Willie McGee, a Negro who was convicted in the State of Mississippi on the charge of rape of a white woman and, subsequently during May, 1951, was executed by the State of Mississippi for that offense.

"Counterattack," a publication of "Facts to Combat Communism," 55 West 42nd Street, New York City, in Letter No. 200 dated March 22, 1951, carried an item entitled, "Josephine Baker Won't Support Communist Fronts." According to "Counterattack" Baker cancelled a speaking engagement at a "Save Willie McGee Rally" scheduled for March 19, 1951, when she learned that the rally was sponsored by the American Labor Party and that Paul Robeson, well-known Negro entertainer and Communist Party apologist, and former United States Representative Vito Marcantoni of New York City would also speak at the same rally. (100-350512-393)

In a report dated March 29, 1944, the Special Committee on Un-American Activities, House of Representatives, stated that "For years the Communists have put forth the greatest efforts to capture the entire American Labor Party throughout New York State. They succeeded in capturing the Manhattan and Brooklyn sections of the American Labor Party, but outside of New York City they have been unable to win control."
According to the April 14, 1951, issue of "L'Unita Del Popolo" Josephine Baker was very interested in and urged the salvation of Willie McGee. (100-122084-184)

The California Committee on Un-American Activities in a 1948 report characterized "L'Unita Del Popolo" as being among publications which the Committee found "to be Communist initiated and controlled or so strongly influenced as to be in the Stalin Solar System."

The Civil Rights Congress has been cited as Communist by the Attorney General.
Relative to Baker's interest in the Willie McGee case while in Detroit, Michigan, the May 16, 1951, issue of the "Daily Worker" carried a story under the by-line of William Allen entitled, "Pulitzer Prize" Paper Gagged Josephine Baker." According to this story Baker, who at that time was appearing at the Fox Theater in Detroit, Michigan, contacted the editor of the "Detroit Free Press" and advised him that she would like to make a statement on the "legal murder" of one of her people, Willie McGee, who she stated was an innocent man framed on a charge of raping a white woman. This article went on to state that after receiving assurances that her statement would be printed in the "Detroit Free Press," the statement never appeared.

Alleged Racial Discrimination by Stork Club

On October 16, 1951, according to newspaper articles appearing in numerous newspapers throughout the country, Josephine Baker, Mrs. Essie Buchanan, Harlem service leader, and Mr. and Mrs. Roger Rice, of the French theater, alleged that they had been made to wait an unreasonable length of time before being served.
feed at the Stork Club in New York City. The principals involved complained that they had been subjected to racial discrimination.

As you will recall, Walter Winchell, in his Sunday night broadcast of October 21, 1951, in referring to this incident stated that he had been at the Stork Club at the same time as Baker on October 16, 1951, but had left before she had, and at no time while he was there had he noted anything proximating an "incident." Winchell continued to the effect that he had later heard that after he had left, Baker and her party became involved in some "incident" and that Baker had been insulted. Winchell stated that he himself deplored the situation but that he was equally perturbed that he was being brought into the picture and that pressure was being brought to bear upon him to denounce the alleged discriminatory actions of the Stork Club management against Baker and her party.

In his broadcast of October 28, 1951, Winchell mentioned the Baker incident and in effect stated that he could not be pressured into denouncing Sherman Billingsley and the Stork Club.

In Winchell's syndicated column appearing in the public press on October 29, 1951, Winchell quoted a letter which had been addressed to him by George B. Schuyler, New York editor of the "Pittsburgh Courier," a leading Negro newspaper. This letter in effect accused Baker of being "used" by the Communists and Communist Party front organizations and denounced the criticism of Winchell which resulted from the alleged discrimination against Baker at the Stork Club.

The Stork Club has been subjected to periodic picketing since October 16, 1951.
FOREIGN ACTIVITIES:

According to a report of the United States Military Attache, Paris, France, dated May 13, 1949, a copy of which was furnished to this Bureau, Josephine Baker provided part of the entertainment at a rally sponsored by the DeGaulle Political Party held in Paris, France, on May 1, 1949. General Charles DeGaulle was the principle speaker at this particular rally. (109-12-331-037)

(100-48754-101)
Under date of June 19, 1951, Dorothy B. Perebee, President, National Council of Negro Women, Inc., 1318 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C., addressed a letter to you advising that the National Council of Negro Women would present Josephine Baker on July 2, 1951, at the National Guard Armory in Washington, D.C. An invitation was extended to you to attend.

By letter dated June 27, 1951, Miss Helen W. Gandy, acknowledged the above referred to letter for you and advised that a prior engagement would prevent you from attending. (100-345801-6)

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For your information.
When Josephine Baker came over on her last trip, she was delayed for many hours because she was trying to bring in a Russian maid. She was not permitted to do this. How do you like that? She won't even employ a Negro maid.

I'm sure of my facts on this.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/23/42 BY 20:16:01

RECORDED - 132
INDEXED - 132
63 DEC 19 1951
Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

☑ Deleted under exemption(s) (b)(6)(c) (b)(7)(D) with no segregable material available for release to you.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

☐ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies)

_____________________________________________________, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies)

______________________________________________________ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

______________________________________________________

☐ For your information:

______________________________________________________

☑ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

62-95834-1614-6297552
**TO:**

- Director
- Mr. Tolson, 5744
- Mr. Ladd 5736
- Mr. Belmont 1742
- Mr. Clegg, 5256
- Mr. Glavin 5517
- Mr. Harbo 7625
- Mr. Rosen 5706
- Jon Tracy 4130 IB
- Mr. Laughlin 1742
- Mr. Nichols 5640
- Mr. McGuire 5642
- Mr. Wick 5625
- Mr. Crosby 5636
- Mr. Jones 4236
- Mr. Leonard 6222 IB
- Mr. Trotter 7204
- Mr. James 7204
- Mr. Wherry 5537
- Mr. English 5627

---

**See me**

**For your info**

**Note & return**

**For appropriate action**

---

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 9-14-52  BY 501 CPKPS

L. B. Nichols
Room 5640, Ext. 691
If the McCarran Committee called today and asked if it would be possible to have a summary of any information in the Bureau's files concerning

also asked if it would be possible to have a summary of any derogatory information in the Bureau's file on Josephine Baker, the Colored chanteuse, who it will be recalled, recently was involved in an incident at the Stork Club in New York City in which she alleged that she had been discriminated against.

Appropriate memoranda are being prepared and will be submitted to you for approval.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 9/29/52 BY 903/694/DSK

JUL 15 1952
Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO: Mr. Telson
FROM: L. B. Nichols

SUBJECT: JOSEPHINE BAKER

DATE: June 30, 1952

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 9/EB2 BY SP. 163176R\n
cc: Mr. Ladd
Mr. Belmont

RECORDED 42 169-95839-6

13 JUL 24 1952
Memorandum to Mr. Tolson
Re: Josephine Baker

June 30, 1952

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. It is suggested that a summary be prepared on Josephine Baker for the McCarran Committee.

2. [Redacted]

I concur.

D.

b70
July 15, 1938

JOSEPHINE BAKER

The above information is furnished for whatever action you deem appropriate.

memorandum, Nicholas to Tolleson 6/30/32 Re: Josephine Baker

Original to Bureau of Internal Revenue
62-95834

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREBIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/18/62 BY 201088/1962

Office Memorandum

TO: MR. D. M. LADD
FROM: A. H. BELMONT

DATE: July 15, 1952

SUBJECT: JOSEPHINE BAKER
(McCarran Committee Request)

PURPOSE:

To furnish information concerning Josephine Baker—pursuant to the request of the McCarran Committee.

BACKGROUND:

Reference is made to Mr. Nichols's memorandum to Mr. Tolson dated June 30, 1952—and that a summary of information contained in Bureau files be furnished to the McCarran Committee.

There is attached hereto a blank memorandum for the Bureau of Internal Revenue. There is also attached a blind memorandum, thought suitable for dissemination, which incorporates information received from reliable Bureau informants and from public sources.

SCOPE OF SEARCH:

In the preparation of these memoranda, the search was limited to the main file and any references since November, 1951, at which time all previous references were reviewed in connection with a memorandum for the Director concerning Josephine Baker. Baker's name was also searched in the Identification Division where no criminal record was found. However, an Alien Registration print received in January, 1951, was located on one Josephine Baker, a French Negro artist who was born on June 3, 1906, at St. Louis, Missouri, in connection with Visa Application No. 1510052.

BUREAU INVESTIGATION:

No investigation has been conducted by the Bureau concerning Josephine Baker.

Attachment (2)

RECORDED 9/62 95834-7
INDEXED 9/17 AUG 8 1952

COPIES DESTROYED

11 DEC 1 1964

[Handwritten notes and signatures present]
INFORMATION NOT INCLUDED IN BLIND MEMORANDUM:

The following information is not being included in the blind memorandum as there is no evidence that Miss Baker actually took part in these Communist activities on her behalf.

According to the November 22, 1951, issue of the "Daily Worker," east coast Communist newspaper, a Conference on Equal Rights for Negroes in Arts, Sciences, and Professions was held on November 10, 1951, at "The Pythian" in New York City, under the auspices of the National Council of the Arts, Sciences and Professions. The November 14, 1951, issue of the "Daily Worker" stated that one of the measures adopted at this conference was a telegram to Josephine Baker commending her forthright action in the Stork Club incident. (100-3-4212 p. 86; Dissemination: McInerney, D/R, 2/14/52)

The National Council of the Arts, Sciences and Professions has been cited as a Communist front by the Congressional Committee on Un-American Activities in a House Report No. 1954, dated April 6, 1950. (100-3-4-7089 p. 30; Dissemination: ONL, 05 0-2, D/R, 3/21/52)

In regard to the Stork Club incident, it will be recalled that on October 15, 1951, according to newspaper articles appearing in numerous newspapers throughout the country, Josephine Baker, Mrs. Bessie Buchanan, Harlem service leader, and Mr. and Mrs. Roger Rice, of the French theater, alleged that they had been made to wait an unreasonable length of time before being served food at the Stork Club in New York City. The principals involved complained that they had been subjected to racial discrimination. (62-95834-4)

DISSEMINATION:

The substance of pertinent information appearing in the blind memorandum has been appropriately disseminated.
ACTION:

That the attached blind memorandum be forwarded to the McCarran Committee.

That the attached blank memorandum be forwarded to the Bureau of Internal Revenue via liaison channels.
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

JOSEPHINE BAKER

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

According to the April 8, 1951, issue of "Life" magazine, Josephine Baker is the daughter of a St. Louis, Missouri, washer woman. This article stated that Baker, who was of the time of the article, was alleged to be forty-five years of age, began her Paris night club career in 1925, and has spent most of her life since that time in France.

The article further stated that Baker was reported to have at one time been married to a tap dancer and supposedly married one Pepito Albertino in the 1920's. In 1937, Baker gave up her United States citizenship and married a French broker by the name of Jean Lion. This marriage was dissolved by a divorce in 1940. Baker married her present husband, a Frenchman, band leader Je Bouillon, in 1947.

According to the March 12, 1951, issue of "Time" magazine, Baker has been a French citizen since 1937, and during the occupation of France by the Germans, during World War II, spent her time in North Africa. This article further stated that while in North Africa, Baker became a Lieutenant in the Free French Air Force, did intelligence work, drove an ambulance, and entertained troops.

ACTIVITIES IN THE DEFENSE OF WILLIE Mcgee

Josephine Baker took a great interest in and engaged in extensive activity in the defense of Willie McGee, a Negro who was convicted in the State of Mississippi on the charge of raping a white woman and, subsequently during May, 1951, was executed by the State of Mississippi for that offense.

"Counterattack," a publication of "Facts to Combat Communism," 55 First and Street, New York City, in letter No. 200 dated March 29, 1951, carried an item entitled, "Josephine Baker Won't Support Communist Fronts." According to "Counterattack" Baker cancelled a speaking engagement at a "Save Willie McGee Rally" scheduled for March 19, 1951, when she learned that the rally was sponsored by the American Labor Party and that Paul Robeson, well-known entertainer and Communist Party apologist, and former United States Representative Vito Marcantonio of New York City would also speak at the rally. (100-350-512-393).

ORIGINAL TO ATTORNEY GENERAL

McCarthy Committee

SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL
The Civil Rights Congress has been cited by the Attorney General as coming within the purview of Executive Order 9835.
SECRET

CC: Mr. L. C. Laughlin
Mr. Nichols
Mr. D. J. Sullivan
Mr. Belmont

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
July 31, 1952

DIRECTOR, FBI
SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNAL SECURITY
(MCCARRAN COMMITTEE)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

Attached are memoranda containing data in the files of this Bureau, copies of which have been furnished to a representative of the McCarran Committee pursuant to requests received from that Committee for information concerning the following individuals:

Josephine Baker

In response to requests for information in the Bureau’s files concerning the following individuals, the Committee’s representative was advised orally that there was no derogatory information identifiable with the subjects of their inquiry:

The Committee’s representative was advised orally that there was no information in the Bureau’s files which could be identified with the following individuals, concerning whom a request for information was made by the Committee:

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]
Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- Deleted under exemption(s) (b)(7)(C) (b)(1) with no segregable material available for release to you.
- Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- Documents originating with the following government agency(ies) __________________________, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); ___________________________________________ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

______________________________________________________________________

For your information:

______________________________________________________________________

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

62-958347
Pursuant to a request from the McCarran Committee for information regarding Communist infiltration of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America (UEWIA) in the Philadelphia area, the Committee's representative was orally advised that Tom Delaney and Sam DiVaria, both former Communist Party members and both organizers of Local 155 of the UEWIA in Philadelphia, recently led an attempt to eject the Communists from this Local. Further advice was given that the anti-Communist activities of Delaney and DiVaria, as regards the UEWIA in Philadelphia, were given considerable publicity in the local press in Philadelphia, and further, that both Delaney and DiVaria had given representatives of the "Philadelphia Evening Bulletin" information for a series of articles on the Communist Party infiltration into the UEWIA in the Philadelphia area.

Further oral information was furnished that Delaney and DiVaria had been interviewed by representatives of the House Committee on Un-American Activities as a result of the publicity they received in the Philadelphia area.

In answer to a request for information concerning the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers - IUM the Committee's representative was orally advised that there was in publication a book entitled "Official Proceedings of the 47th Convention, International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers, Held in Nogales, Arizona, 9-10, 14-31." The Committee's representative was further advised that this book contained the identities of all persons participating in the Convention and also included all of the talks and statements made at the Convention ordination, and all of the resolutions which were proposed and passed at the Convention. Further oral information was
given to the Committee's representative that according to reliable reports, the resolutions passed at the Convention were entirely consistent with the then current Communist Party line.

It was further stated that a pamphlet entitled "It's a Trick," published by the Educational Department of the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers - IND, Chicago, Illinois, encouraged Union members to fight for the rights of Communists to be members of this Union and of any Union.

Further oral advice was furnished to the Committee's representative that the January 29, 1951, issue of "The Union," the official publication of the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers - IND, contained an attack against the McCarran Act, charging that it was a thought-control law. This attack is consistent with the Communist Party propaganda directed against the McCarran Act.

Further information was furnished that the July 30, 1951, issue of "The Union" carried a statement issued by the Executive Board of the Union on July 18, 1951, which condemned the Supreme Court's decision upholding the conviction of the national leaders of the Communist Party under the Smith Act.
Also pursuant to requests, the following addresses were furnished to a representative of the McCormick Committee:

John Clark  
President, International Union of Mine, Mill  
and Smelter Workers  
3403 South Lincoln Street  
Inglewood, Colorado.

Orville D. J. Larson  
Vice President, International Union of Mine, Mill  
and Smelter Workers  
409 Hicks Canyon  
Miami, Arizona.
Dear Sir:


The article, with two photos of JOSEPHINE BAKER, is headed "Josefina Baker A Serviço De Uma Grande Causa" (Josephine Baker at the Service of a Great Cause). JOSEPHINE BAKER is the United States night club and musical comedy star who went to France in the '20s and became a big attraction there. It is believed that she became a French citizen. It will be recalled that some months ago, when she was in the United States, she became involved in an incident at the New York night club, The Stork Club, in which she accused the management of racial discrimination. In some way, Walter Winchell, the newspaper columnist, came into the picture in opposition to her. The writer knows of the incident only through sparse newspaper attention given it here in Brazil.

The attached article tells of her intention to form a Rio de Janeiro branch of the World Association Against Racial and Religious Discrimination. [Newspapers September 4, 1952, announce that the event took place.] The president of the organization in Rio is to be AFONSO ARINGOS DE MELLO FRANCO, sponsor of an anti-racial law, and presently a member of the Federal House of Deputies, and just named House leader of the UDN (União Democrática Nacional - National Democratic Union - conservative party in opposition to the present government).

The article reports the results of an interview with JOSEPHINE BAKER, who is presently in Rio, where she has had a
successful run in at least two night clubs and one theater in a small revue. Other names in the World Association are ELEANOR ROOSEVELT, RAFAEL CAMACHO, ARTHUR GARFIELD HAYS, BARRY GRAY and TED FOSTON. She refers to the Stork Club incident, and to Winchell. As to that incident, she said that she and her friends won out, "Today there is a law against racial discrimination in the State of New York."

The closing paragraph states that she will attend the official installation ceremonies of the association in Haiti and in Cuba. It does not state when this will be. At another point in the article, it states that from Rio she will go to Uruguay.

The above is for the completion of the Bureau's files.

Very truly yours,

[Martin Carlsen]

MARTIN CARLSEN
LA

Attachment
MC:jar
JOSEPHINE BAKER A SERVIÇO DE UMA GRANDE CAUSA

Vai ser inaugurado no Rio, por iniciativa da famosa atriz negra, mais um ramo da Associação Mundial Contra a Discriminação Racial e Religiosa — Será seu presidente o deputado Affonso Arinos de Mello Franco — O Brasil, diz Josephine, por ter atingido e um admirável progresso dentro dos melhores princípios democráticos, é um país-símbolo da concretização do ideal por que se bate.
Josephine Baker, que acabou de visitar a Américas, passou alguns dias em Nova York, onde se dedicou a atividades artísticas e à promoção de suas obras de arte. Durante a sua estadia, a cantora e atriz participou de várias apresentações, algumas das quais foram realizadas em teatros e restaurantes da cidade.

A visita de Josephine Baker à América foi recebida com grande entusiasmo, tanto por sua personalidade quanto pelo seu talento como artista. Durante sua estadia, a cantora e atriz participou de várias apresentações, algumas das quais foram realizadas em teatros e restaurantes da cidade.

Juntamente com Josephine Baker, trabalharam na Associação Mundial Contra a Discriminação Racial e Religiosa, membros conhecidos como e de Eleanor Roosevelt, Ralph Bunche, Arthur Garfield Hays (o maior periódico de direitos humanos nos Estados Unidos), Harry de Gray, Ted Penne, etc. A Associação já conta com mais de 200 membros, entre os quais a Espanha, a França, a Itália, a Romênia, a Áustria, o Brasil e outros países.

No Brasil — diz Josephine Baker — a Associação está fundada há dois anos. Sua missão é promover e sensibilizar a sociedade brasileira para o combate à discriminação racial e religiosa. A organização tem como objetivo principal promover a igualdade entre brasileiros de diferentes origens raciais e religiosas, buscando erradicar todas as formas de discriminação e intolerância.

No entanto, o trabalho da Associação é um desafio, já que a sociedade brasileira ainda atrapalha com ideias preconceituosas e estereótipos. A organização conta com a dedicação e a perseverança de sua diretoria e de seus membros, que estão constantemente em busca de soluções para o problema.

Ainda assim, a Associação conseguiu fazer avanços significativos, principalmente em relação à inclusão e ao respeito pelas diferenças. Além disso, a organização tem se tornado uma references para outras organizações de direitos humanos no Brasil.

Em resumo, a visita de Josephine Baker a América foi um momento importante para a promoção da igualdade e do respeito pelas diferenças. A cantora e atriz mostrou-se comprometida com a causa e dedicada à promoção da igualdade racial e religiosa, dando um exemplo aos outros que também lutam por esses ideais.
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

October 14, 1958

Director, FBI

JOSEPHINE BAKER

There is attached a memorandum dated October 14, 1958, concerning Josephine Baker which incorporates information appearing in our files.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue has been advised of the allegations concerning Baker's income as reflected in the attached memorandum.

Attachment

1 - Ross L. Malone, Jr.
Deputy Attorney General

(Untagged

RECEIVED: 15 OCT 1958
HELD: 26 OCT 1958
DELIVERED: 14 NOV 1958
TSC: 26 OCT 1958
CONFIDENTIAL
SECURITY INFORMATION

DECLASSIFIED ON 26 OCT 1972
DELIVERED ON 26 OCT 1958
TSC: 26 OCT 1958
CONFIDENTIAL
SECURITY INFORMATION

DECLASSIFIED ON 26 OCT 1972
DELIVERED ON 26 OCT 1958
TSC: 26 OCT 1958
CONFIDENTIAL
SECURITY INFORMATION
Biographical Data

According to the April 2, 1951, issue of "Life" magazine, Josephine Baker is the daughter of a St. Louis, Missouri, washerwoman. This article stated that Baker, who was of the time of the article, was alleged to be forty-five years of age, began her Paris night club career in 1925, and has spent most of her life since that time in France.

The article further stated that Baker was reported to have at one time been married to a tap dancer and supposedly married one Pepito Alberino in the 1930's. In 1937, Baker gave up her United States citizenship and married a French broker by the name of Jean Lion. This marriage was dissolved by a divorce in 1940. Baker married her present husband, a Frenchman, head leader Jo Bouillon, in 1947.

According to the march 18, 1951, issue of "Time" magazine, Baker has been a French citizen since 1937, and during the occupation of France by the Germans, during World War II, spent her time in North Africa. This article further stated that while in North Africa, Baker became a Lieutenant in the Free French Air Force, did intelligence work, drove an ambulance, and entertained troops.

Activities in the Defense of Hillie Maece

Josephine Baker took a great interest in and engaged in extensive activity in the defense of Hillie Maece, a Negro who was convicted in the State of Mississippi on the charge of rape of a white woman and, subsequently during May, 1951, was executed by the State of Mississippi for that offense.

"Counterattack," a publication of "Facts to Combat Communism," 35 West 42nd Street, New York City, in letter No. 300 dated March 25, 1951, carried an item entitled, "Josephine Baker Won't Support Communist Fronts." According to "Counterattack" Baker cancelled a speaking engagement at a "Save Hillie Maece Rally" scheduled for March 19, 1951, when she learned that the rally was sponsored by the American Labor Party and that Paul Robeson, well-known entertainer and Communist Party apologist, and former United States Representative Vito (100-983-893-983) New York City would also speak at the rally.

Enclosure: 35-983-100-398-983\n
Security Information - Top Secret

Date of Review: July 9, 1952

Josephine Baker

Summary
In a report dated March 29, 1944, the Special Committee on Un-American Activities, House of Representatives, stated that "for years the Communists have put forth the greatest efforts to capture the entire American Labor Party throughout New York State. They succeeded in capturing the Manhattan and Brooklyn sections of the American Labor Party, but outside of New York City they have been unable to win control."

Relative to Baker's interest in the Hallie McGee case, while in Detroit, Michigan, the May 10, 1951, issue of the "Daily Worker," east coast Communist newspaper, carried the story under the by-line of William Allen, State Board member, District No. 9, Communist Party, and Michigan correspondent for the "Daily Worker," entitled "'Pulitzer Prize' Paper Seeks Josephine Baker." According to this story Baker, who at that time was appearing at the Fox Theater in Detroit, Michigan, contacted the editor of the "Detroit Free Press" and advised him that she would like to make a statement on the "legal murder" of one of her people, Hallie McGee, who she stated was an innocent man framed on a charge of raping a white woman. This article went on to state that after receiving assurances that her statement would be printed in the "Detroit Free Press," the statement never appeared. (100-3-90-216)
Tribute to Josephine Baker and twelve other personalities for their work on behalf of Negro artists.

10/13/51 (Criminal Division 10/5/51)


U.S., OSI - 11/21/51.

100-14569-115 p. 194 (Diss.), D/R - 5/20/52.
According to an Associated Press release dated Mexico City April 10, 1933, which appeared in the "Washington Star" on the same date, Baker, in Mexico City, had announced the formation of an organization known as the "World League Against Racial Discrimination." According to this release, Baker stated that the league would fight discrimination against not only the Negro race but all others who were the targets of restrictive practices. Baker further announced that headquarters of the league would be in Mexico with branches in Cuba, Guatemala and El Salvador.

According to an article which appeared in the August 29, 1932, issue of "O Globo," a newspaper published in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Baker, while in that city, announced her intention of forming a Rio de Janeiro branch of the World Association Against Racial and Religious Discrimination. (62-95834-8)

According to articles appearing in the public press during the first part of October, 1932, Baker was in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and she was quoted as having made anti-American remarks to the press of that country.

According to Robert C. Ruark's column which appeared in the "Washington Daily News" on October 10, 1932, Baker in Buenos Aires, after visiting President Juan Peron, President of Argentina, had made such quotations which appeared in "Critica," Buenos Aires newspaper as: "The persecutions are more shocking than before World War II with lynchings, condemnations without trial and electrocutions the order of the day." To this Ruark commented: "She is speaking of America. How she would know about pre-World War II is rather baffling since she lived abroad and was used to a series of Frenchmen."

Ruark's column also attributed the following remarks to Baker:

"White men pride of democracy and civilization and send the Negroes to die in Korea. In this horror of discrimination, where is democracy?"

"In America they hunt Christ with a gun and hang him from a tree."
"I have personally seen many lynchings and much brutality. The horror of seeing men, women, and children killed like animals will never fade from my mind.

"I was terrified on my last trip home. They wouldn't let me live in peace. My brother-in-law stumbled into a white man whose son complained 'Daddy, you promised me I could kill the next block I saw.'"

Aurak further stated that Baker was quoted as having read the series in "Critics" and as having said "It's all unfortunately absolutely true."
TO: MR. D. M. LADD
FROM: A. H. BELMONT
SUBJECT: JOSEPHINE BAKER

DATE: October 14, 1952

PURPOSE: ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

To submit for your approval a blank memorandum
for transmittal to the Attorney General which contains
information from our files concerning captioned individual.

DETAILS:

As you will recall, under date of July 15, 1952,
pursuant to a request received from the McCarran Committee,
a memorandum concerning Baker was prepared and furnished to
that Committee. On July 31, 1952, the Attorney General was
advised of the McCarran request and the original of the Baker
memorandum was forwarded to him. There is attached hereto a
blank memorandum which includes the information which was
furnished to the McCarran Committee in the memorandum of
July 15, 1952, plus information received subsequent to that
date.

However, this was not
furnished to the McCarran Committee because of the sources.

The remainder of the information appearing in the
blank memorandum on pages 9 and 10 has been received in the
Bureau subsequent to the date of the McCarran memorandum.

BUREAU INVESTIGATION:

No investigation has been conducted by this Bureau
concerning Baker.

COPIES DESTROYED

11 DEC 1 1964
Attachments

RECORDED: 95-834 - 10

63 OCT 31 1952
EX. 164

SECRET
SECRET

Memorandum to Mr. D. M. Ladd from A. H. Belmont
Re: JOSEPHINE BAKER

ACTION:

If you approve, there is attached hereto a cover letter to the Attorney General transmitting a blank memorandum concerning Baker.

I am sending it through but for life of me I don't know why it is placed as a "blank" memo. As & presents contents of files & nothing for us to be ashamed of.

Also when did mead write Dr. Rev. me

b70
Office Memorandum

TO: The Director
FROM: Mr. D. M. Ladd
SUBJECT: JOSEPHINE BAKER

DATE: October 20, 1952

PURPOSE:

(1) To reply to your inquiry as to why a memorandum to the Attorney General which was submitted as an enclosure with a memorandum from Mr. Belmont to Mr. Ladd under date of October 14, 1952, was submitted as a "blank memorandum."

(2) 

DETAILS:

You will recall that on date of July 15, 1952, pursuant to a request from the McCarran Committee, a memorandum concerning Josephine Baker, colored singer, was prepared and furnished to that Committee. On July 31, 1952, the Attorney General was advised of the McCarran request and the original of the Baker memorandum was forwarded to him. Under date of October 14, 1952, a blank memorandum which included information which was furnished to the McCarran Committee, plus information received subsequent to July 15 was submitted with a memorandum from Mr. Belmont to Mr. Ladd to be forwarded to the Attorney General. You commented "I am sending it through but for the life of me I don't know why it is placed as a 'blank' memo. It represents contents of FBI files and nothing for us to be ashamed of." You further inquired "Also when did we advise Internal Revenue re...

With reference to the blank memorandum, it was not intended to conceal the FBI as a source of information, it being noted that this was a blank memorandum form on Bureau letterhead. This form was used for convenience.
to avoid sending a lengthy letter to the Attorney General.
The New York Office has been requested to furnish an immediate reply to the Bureau's inquiry.

**ACTIONS**

None. The above is for your information.
FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

AMERICAN BUREAU, BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON, D.C.

October 15, 1952

Embassy's Despatch 406, October 6

ACTION
DEPT.

Received from the State Department through Liaison channel.

Date 10-24-52

Josephine Baker - Anti-Race Prejudice Organization

It has been reported to Mission that Josephine Baker, now
terminating a two-week engagement in Buenos Aires (see reference
despatch) plans to return to Argentina within three months to
establish and direct an anti-race prejudice organization in Latin
America, with headquarters in Buenos Aires.

Then and if there is verification of this report, Mission
will advise the Department.

Barbara Aitken
Assistant Press Attaché

74 NOV 26 1952

INFORMATION COPY

67 NOV 7 1952

CONFIDENTIAL

INFORMATION COPY

62-95834/2
Recent Local Reporting - Josephine Baker Interviews

For the Department's information, Mission is attaching sample clips from local dailies which published Josephine Baker's open letter to U.S. correspondent Horatio Clark after publication of his article about her in a recent edition of The New York Daily News.

In connection with the letter addressed to Mr. Clark and signed by Miss Baker, "Democracia", "Critica", "La Prensa" and "Noticias Argentinas" described Mr. Clark's article as an attack against Miss Baker and commented editorially with the supposition that Miss Baker's comments in earlier interviews (dispatch 406 of October 6th) had aroused an angry reaction in the United States which was spearheaded in Argentina by correspondent Clark. Also widely quoted by local dailies were Miss Baker's comments criticizing Mr. Clark, an Argentine correspondent who was said to have accompanied Mr. Clark, and race discrimination in the United States in general. A translation of her published letter to Mr. Clark reads, in part, as follows:

"You are a typical scandal monger. You are the type of person who fights to prevent the people from joining hands in friendship...you are the type of people who criticize others and send falsehoods about them to the United States...you well know that in the United States negroes are the object of threats and intimidations and that people of the white race who fight for our cause are the victims of terrorist acts. Nevertheless I can tell you, Mr. Clark, and all who want to hear it, that negroes are no longer afraid. I have been telling the truth about race discrimination in the United States but now that you have attacked me in your articles, I propose to tell the absolute truth about the horrors which the atrocities which occur there and which are directed against all those who try to defend human rights...those who attacked people like Berry Gray and Pearl Bailey, Mr. Clark, are living proof that North American democracy is a farce."

Accompanying the publication of Miss Baker's letter were reports of a protest from an organization called "Accion Incomunica de la Republica Argentina" which expressed its support of Miss Baker's denunciation and suggested that journalists like Mr. Clark and his Argentine companion should not be allowed to remain in Argentina.
The Argentine Communist weekly "Propositos", which appeared before Miss Baker's denunciation of Mr. Clark, features a front page photograph of Miss Baker with an article headlined "The Great Negro Artist Issues a Call for the Unity of People". After a flattering description of Miss Baker's personal appearance, the author of this account reports that Miss Baker, in an interview, had expressed her intention to deliver three speeches. One was to be on the subject of race discrimination, another upon religion and culture, and a third on the urgent need for the people to join together in a spirit of unity and fraternity.

Barbara Atkinson
Assistant Press Attaché

Enclosure:
One envelope containing clippings

NA/WM

DECLUZZIFIED
Local Press Comment - Johnston makes speech on racial discrimination
Before Japan on community in Buenos Aires

For the Department's information, a sign of interest in the subject of racial and religious discrimination,-delivered to a select group of Japanese living in Buenos Aires and a number of Argentine intellectuals and professionals, Johnston's speech 1-quotes in part by the Buenos Aires daily 1-800.411

Translated, Mr. Johnston's speech reads in part as follows:

"As we well know, I am dedicating 1 life to the struggle for the
rights of man being, as they were or will be, because I do not believe
in the superiority of the white race or in the inferiority of the negro
race... I believe that we will agree with me that it is essential that
the white and black races be united in brotherhood, but especially
that the colored people of the world be united so that they can recover
their influence in the world in that confidence which they are rapidly
losing because they have been told they are inferior...

"I believe that the United Nations is made of the contribution of
their colored brothers in all parts of the world and that our good
works may bring them to their realization. If we who joins together
against the odious injustice, the situation of the world will change
rapidly....

"I remember that at the beginning of the last war, France and
particularly reason to go to war with Germany; but when we was informed of the atrocities and injustices committed against Jews, negroes, and others innocent (victims) of the white race, the spirit of fraternity,
equality and liberty lifted her to the point of arms and she pleased
herself to join the crusade to save the ideal and justice of the world
I also with her, and I will again with her should it be necessary
because this is of us to be just and to protect our
other brothers;"
"If the people of North America and South Africa and other countries where racial and religious discrimination exists were to cross the border and pass a law against it, I believe that discrimination would disappear immediately.

"If, on the contrary, men continue not taking this problem seriously, someday they will be suffocated by the monster of hatred, then people are aroused there are no limits to their vengeance.

"God has given to you and to me this mission...When a man is gravely ill and the doctor discovers that an operation can save his life, the doctor operates. The man may suffer by this operation but his life is saved. Thus it is with our struggle in many parts of the world where discrimination exists. We must at times hurt the people in order to save them.

"When I reflect on the situation in South Africa and other countries where race discrimination has been transplanted and above all on the situation in North America - I tremble with horror. I can very well understand why some negroes hate their white brothers...

"I want to tell you about my experience in San Francisco, California, one of the many cities in North America where discrimination exists. Let us speak of the situation of the yellow race, a situation which is deplorable.

"When I went to Los Angeles and San Francisco, I put myself at the disposition of the NAACP and of the Urban League. These organisations are fighting to obtain civil rights for the colored people.

"We went to banks, to large stores, hospitals, radio studios, television studios, railroad companies, breweries, restaurants and hotels, and we requested better work, better salaries and better social conditions. We requested that they return to the Japanese the businesses which had been confiscated after Pearl Harbor. Speaking of the Japanese, let me turn to a tragic situation.

"After Pearl Harbor, the Japanese were placed in concentration camps or were ordered to leave the country. Their businesses were confiscated. Some were so panicked that they sold them for almost nothing. These businesses represented a lifetime of struggle and work. All disappeared within a few hours. Some Japanese gave their businesses, their homes and their furniture to their negro brothers because they preferred that they benefit by the ownership of their possessions than that the white people should profit by them.

"The order was to leave the only home they knew, the only country they had lived in, the only life they knew..."
The next four paragraphs of Miss Baker's speech describe the "state, confused, miserable, humble and profoundly sad" situation of the Japanese in the United States during the war years, and conclude with her description of the ways in which the white citizens of the United States would occasionally allow a Japanese actor, painter, or artist ("not more than one or two in a generation") to attain limited success "as a pacification" because "the whites knew that a little would ease the Japanese race and the white race could continue being masters."

Miss Baker continued: "This same system is being employed with the negroes, Hindus, Indians and other colored races who live in North America."

"It is for this reason that I am calling for unity of all the colored people of the world to regain their dignity and their self-confidence. I am also calling upon our white brothers to join us... in proving to those who believe that the colored race is inferior... that all men are equal... that there is but one race, the human race."

Miss Baker concluded her remarks with the announcement that she will go to Japan in April or May for the official inauguration of the World Cultural Association Against Racial and Religious Differencations. To supply the necessary financial backing of this organization, Miss Baker announced that she would perform in fifteen recitals, proceeds from which would be given to the organization's fund.

Before leaving Buenos Aires, it is anticipated that Miss Baker will give additional lectures on race discrimination, and the pattern which she has established indicates a likelihood that the treatment of Latin American minorities (Puerto Ricans, Mexicans) in certain sections of the United States may be the subject of some of them.

Since Miss Baker is presently a citizen of France, an additional copy of this despatch is being sent to our Embassy in Paris.

[Signature]
Assistant Press Attaché

[Attachment: Newspaper clippings]
Of possible interest to the Department, Embassy is attaching representative clippings of a series of local press interviews with Josephine Baker, presently in Buenos Aires for a two-week engagement at a local film and vaudeville theatre.

Representing herself as a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People, (a group to which, as all government daily papers point out Ralph Bunche also belongs), Miss Baker delivered a series of detailed and impassioned accounts of race prejudice in the United States, all of which have been given dramatic play by most newspapers in Buenos Aires. Even the daily "Critica" has published the interview in a series of five chapters to date. Among quotes attributed to Miss Baker are the following:

"I will not cease (in my mission) to awaken the conscience of the world against the gravity and urgency of the problem. Above all, because I know that now is the moment to strike at the heart. As you know, the persecution of my race in the United States, and considerably less in South Africa, has been renewed in a most alarming degree since the relative respite during the second World War. Lynchings, confessions without trial, electrocutions, are dealt out coldly to negroes in order to force the climate of racial violence. These are the order of the day. In the country where I was born they continue to speak of 'democracy' and 'civilization' while negroes are sent to die in form in the same miserable way as they are treated in the Yankee south."

"There are many, very many people, who, with the greatest naivete, look upon the United States as a model. It is necessary to open their eyes."

"Let me recall to the inhabitants of Latin America the card placed in the hospita; in Texas, until seventy days a Mexican State but later appropriated with blood and fire by the Yankees: 'This is a clean establishment, and neither negroes nor Mexicans are admitted.'"
"What does the famous statue of Liberty represent? Where is the democracy about which so many North Americans speak with conviction? The people in the United States who struggle against race prejudice and for justice live in terror."

On days subsequent to the interview Miss Baker paid tribute to Eva Perón at a meeting with General Confederation of Labor and made a personal call on Senor Paul Alejandro Apolito, Subsecretary of Information.

She has been acclaimed by the local press as "Queen of African Rhythm" and "Venus of Ebony".

Barbara Atten
Assistant Press Attaché

Attachment:
1 envelope containing clippings
For the Department's information, Mission attaches sample clippings from local dailies which reported the first of Josephine Baker's series of three lectures on racial and religious discrimination to be delivered before public gatherings in Buenos Aires. Admission to these lectures is free although it has been reported to Mission that tickets from the Subsecretariat of Information must be obtained before entrance actually is granted.

Miss Baker delivered her opening discourse on Tuesday, November 4, the evening following her benefit performance at the Teatro Colon for the Eva Peron Monument fund. The speech was delivered by Miss Baker in English and simultaneously translated into Spanish by interpreter Julio Cesar Barton.

Embassy officer who attempted to attend the lecture given at Teatro Colon reported that although the theatre itself was not over-filled, its entrance was crowded with would-be attenders who were not permitted to enter without tickets, obtainable at the Subsecretariat of Information. (Although all local dailies had announced previously that entrance would be "absolutely free", they neglected to publish the information that it was necessary first to obtain tickets from the Subsecretariat.) Embassy Officer attending reports that among those denied admission to Miss Baker's lecture was a group of negroes who complained about being barred from entrance while the audience was filled with white citizens.

Typical headlines of dailies reporting Miss Baker's speech is "Democracia's "There is no Civilization where the Spirit of the Ku Klux Klan is latent," Said Josephine Baker" and El Mundo's "It is Not Wise to Trust North American Promises Says Josephine Baker." The following are translated excerpts taken from the complete text of Miss Baker's speech as published by El Mundo.
"Today I am going to talk to you about discrimination and all its horrors. I have selected South Africa—where the situation is deplorable—and North America, where it has arrived at its peak, although this is where we least would expect it considering the preachings of Democracy and the (U.S.) criticism of other countries which they consider not democratic."

After a short discourse on race discrimination as, according to Miss Baker, it is practiced in South Africa, she continued; "In North America there are states which have laws to defend discrimination and there are also states which lack these laws, but who practice discrimination as if they had laws which gave them this right."

Miss Baker then quoted extensively from several issues of Jet Magazine and the Pittsburgh Courier on the subject of race discrimination. In the Pittsburgh Courier of August 30, 1952, Senator John Sparkman is attacked; among Miss Baker's quotations from Jet (October 9, 1952), one attacks Vice-President elect Richard Nixon on grounds that he is anti-Semitic and anti-Negro in his attitudes. Other quotations cite alleged instances of negro persecution in various sections of the United States. A situation involving the visit of Barmes Judge J. Thum Bajah to the State Department in Washington, which, according to Miss Baker, was reported in the September 4, 1952 issue of Jet, was also quoted.

Miss Baker continued: "Ladies and gentlemen, I have read to you about some of the horrors existing in a country which calls itself the guiding democracy of the world. I ask you: should such horrors exist in any country and especially in one which wishes to govern the world?"

"The United States is not a free country and, believe me, I am not jealous of those who live there....I have heard that steps are being taken to prohibit my return to the United States. This would not worry me in the slightest if I knew that the negroes no longer needed me. The reason I had to flee from that country two and one-half years ago was to put my name and myself at their disposal, and to do for them which I know they could not do for themselves....If my entry into the United States is forbidden, for me this (will be) an honor because it will show that my work for humanity has been successful."

Miss Baker concluded her speech with a dissertation on North American troops in France, alleging that, despite French participation in the liberation forces, the North Americans "had the inescapable idea of taking possession of France", and that only by the miraculous arrival of Free French troops led by General De Gaulle had Paris been saved for the French. One of the final paragraphs which, as
El Mundo is emphasized by being set in large capital letters, reads, in translation as follows: "While the North American army needs us, (the United States) smiles and makes promises. But when we are no longer necessary, it humbles us and reveals that it feels no great love for us. This proves that it is not wise to trust in North American promises."

Miss Baker terminated her remarks with the statement: "This is the same thing that happened with the liberation of the slaves."

Barbara Atken
Assistant Press Attaché

Attachments:
4 newspaper clippings

BA/94
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCATEGORIZED

TO: MR. A. H. BELMONT
FROM: V. P. KEAY
SUBJECT: JOSEPHINE BAKER
NAME CHECK REQUEST

SYNOPSIS:

Name check request received from the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) for information concerning Josephine Baker. Reason for request, may apply for admission to U.S. Baker has been associated with several Communist-front groups and active in the defense of Willie McGee, who was convicted in Mississippi on the charge of rape in May, 1951, and was defended by the Civil Rights Congress.

Baker has recently made numerous anti-American remarks in South America. Recommended that memorandum and report be furnished INS.

PURPOSE:

To advise that a name check request has been received from INS concerning captioned individual and to recommend that the attached memorandum and report be disseminated in answer thereto.

BACKGROUND:

INS has submitted a name check request concerning Josephine Baker, born June 3, 1906, St. Louis, Missouri. The reason for the request was given as "may apply for admission to U.S."

DETAILS:

No investigation has been conducted by this Bureau concerning Josephine Baker.

On November 2, 1951, a memorandum was prepared for the Director containing information in Bureau files concerning Baker. Under date of July 15, 1952, pursuant to a request from the McCarran Committee, a memorandum concerning Baker was prepared and furnished to that Committee. Under date of October 14, 1952, a memorandum was prepared and furnished to the Attorney General.
Memo to Mr. A. H. Belmont  
from V. P. Keay  

RE: JOSEPHINE BAKER  
NAME CHECK REQUEST  

Josephine Baker, a colored singer, gave up her United States citizenship in 1937 when she married a French broker named Jean Lion. She has been associated with several Communist-front groups. She was active in the defense of Willie McGee, a Negro who was convicted in the State of Mississippi on the charge of rape of a white woman and subsequently, during May, 1931, was executed by the State of Mississippi for that offense. McGee was defended by the Civil Rights Congress.

Baker left the United States in June, 1952, for South America. While in South America she has made numerous anti-American remarks to the press of that country.

There are attached for dissemination to INS a copy of the memorandum furnished the Attorney General on October 14, 1952, and a report dated October 30, 1952.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the attached memorandum and report be furnished INS in answer to this request.
November 12, 1952

JOSEPHINE BAKER
Born June 6, 1906 at
St. Louis, Missouri

Security Information - Confidential

According to the April 3, 1951, issue of "Life" magazine, Josephine Baker is the daughter of a St. Louis, Missouri, washer woman. This article stated that Baker, who as of the time of the article, was alleged to be forty-five years of age, began her Paris night club career in 1925, and has spent most of her life since that time in France.

The article further stated that Baker was reported to have at one time been married to a tap dancer and supposedly married one Pepito Albertino in the 1920's. In 1937, Baker gave up her United States citizenship and married a French broker by the name of Jean Lion. This marriage was dissolved by a divorce in 1940. Baker married her present husband, a Frenchman, band leader Jo Bouillon, in 1947.

According to the March 12, 1951, issue of "Time" magazine, Baker has been a French citizen since 1937, and during the occupation of France by the Germans, during World War II, spent her time in North Africa. This article further stated that while in North Africa, Baker became a Lieutenant in the Free French Air Force, did intelligence work, drove an ambulance, and entertained troops.

Josephine Baker took a great interest in and engaged in extensive activity in the defense of Willie McGee, a Negro who was convicted in the State of Mississippi on the charge of rape of a white woman and, subsequently during May, 1951, was executed by the State of Mississippi for that offense.


According to "Counterattack" Baker cancelled a speaking engagement at a "Save Willie McGee Rally" scheduled for March 19, 1951, when she learned that the rally was sponsored by the American Labor Party and that Paul Robeson, well-known entertainer and Communist Party apologist, and former United States Representative Vito Marcantonio of New York City would also speak at the rally.
In a report dated March 29, 1944, the Special Committee on American Activities, House of Representatives, stated that "For years the Communists have put forth the greatest efforts to capture the entire American Labor Party throughout New York State. They succeeded in capturing the Manhattan and Brooklyn sections of the American Labor Party, but outside of New York City they have been unable to win control."

Relative to Baker's interest in the Willie McGee case while in Detroit, Michigan, the May 16, 1951, issue of the "Daily Worker," east coast Communist newspaper, carried the story under the by-line of William Allan, State Board member, District No. 7, Communist Party, and Michigan correspondent for the "Daily Worker," entitled "Pulitzer Prize Paper Gagged Josephine Baker." According to this story Baker, who at that time was appearing at the Fox Theater in Detroit, Michigan, contacted the editor of the "Detroit Free Press" and advised him that she would like to make a statement on the "legal murder" of one of her people, Willie McGee, who she stated was an innocent man framed on a charge of raping a white woman. This article went on to state that after receiving assurance that her statement would be printed in the "Detroit Free Press," the statement never appeared. (100-3-90-218)
The Civil Rights Congress has been cited by the Attorney General as coming within the purview of Executive Order 9835.
According to an Associated Press release dated Mexico City April 16, 1952, which appeared in the "Washington Star" on the same date, Baker, in Mexico City, had announced the formation of an organization known as the "World League Against Racial Discrimination." According to this release, Baker stated that the league would fight discrimination against not only the Negro race but all others who were the targets of restrictive practices. Baker further announced that headquarters of the league would be in Mexico with branches in Cuba, Guatemala and El Salvador.

According to an article which appeared in the August 29, 1952, issue of "O Globo," a newspaper published in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Baker, while in that city, announced her intention of forming a Rio de Janeiro branch of the World Association Against Racial and Religious Discrimination.

According to articles appearing in the public press during the first part of October, 1952, Baker was in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and she was quoted as having made anti-American remarks to the press of that country.
SECRET

SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL

According to Robert C. Ruark's column which appeared in the "Washington Daily News" on October 10, 1962, Baker in Buenos Aires, after visiting President Juan Peron, President of Argentina, had indorsed such quotations which appeared in "Critica," Buenos Aires newspaper as: "The persecutions are more shocking that before World War II with lynchings, condemnations without trial and electrocutions the order of the day." To this Ruark commented "She is speaking of America. How she would know about pre-World War II is rather baffling since she lived abroad and was wed to a series of Frenchmen."

Ruark's column also attributed the following remarks to Baker:

"White men praise of democracy and civilization and send the Negroes to die in Korea. In this horror of discrimination, where is democracy?"

"In America they hunt Christ with a gun and hang him from a tree."

"I have personally seen many lynchings and much brutality. The horror of seeing men, women and children killed like animals will never fade from my mind.

"I was terrorized on my last trip home. They wouldn't let me live in peace. My brother-in-law stumbled into a white man whose son complained 'Daddy, you promised me I could kill the next black I saw.'"

Ruark further stated that Baker was quoted as having read the series in "Critica" and as having said "It's all unfortunately absolutely true."

For your information, here is a copy of the report of Special Agent dated October 30, 1962, at New York, New York in the case entitled 100-392496-5)

The foregoing information is being furnished as the result of your request for an FBI file check and is not to be construed as a clearance or a nonclearance. It is for your confidential information and is not to be disseminated outside of your agency.
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10 DEC 1952 by [Redacted]

Reference is made to the report of [Redacted] dated October 30, 1952, at New York, relative to the above-captioned individual.

The New York office, as the office of origin in this case, must follow this investigation closely and advise the Bureau promptly of any and all developments pertaining to the activities of [Redacted] in association with Josephine Baker.

cc - 2 - Los Angeles (Attachment) 62-95834

[Redacted] 1952
SECRET AIR COURIER

Date: November 21, 1952

To: Legal Attaché
   Paris, France

From: John Edgar Hoover, Director
   Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: JOSEPHINE BAKER
   INTERNAL SECURITY - FR

Attached for your information is a copy of the report
of Special Agent [redacted] dated October 30, 1952, at New York,
entitled [redacted].

This matter must receive preferred attention and your
reply submitted to the Bureau at an early date.

Attachment

cc - Foreign Service Desk
cc - 100-392496

53 DEC 8-1952
Attached herewith is a photostatic copy of an undated "G-2 Log Entry" furnished to this office by G-2, Governors Island, New York City.

The above is forwarded for the information of the Bureau in view of the current publicity being given MRSS BAKER.
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62-95834-17
Office Memorandum - United States Government

To: Director, FBI

From: SAC, Los Angeles (100-0)

Subject: Josephine Baker, Society of World Cultures

INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Date: November 17, 1952

SECRET

[Redactions and crossed out text]

EXEMPT - SUGGESTING

RECORDED-39 162-95/34 - 1613

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68 DEC. 17 1952
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☐ For your information: ____________________________

☐ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages: 62-95834-18
Local Press Treatment - Josephine Baker’s Speech

Concluding a series of three public conferences presented on November 4, 5 and 6 to audiences in Buenos Aires, Josephine Baker spoke on the subject: "Why Non-Race Discriminating Countries Should Join the Crusade for the Liberation of Humanity."

As previously announced by many local dailies, the subjects to be included in this terminating discourse were the following: "The Octopus and Race Discrimination"; "Experience in Brazil"; "Influence of the Press"; "Negro Armies and White Armies"; "Loyalty of the Negro in the War"; "White Actors Imitate the Negroes"; "The Ku-Klux-Klan"; "Associations Against Race Discrimination". According to advance notices, Miss Baker also planned to discuss the irritation of the North American press resulting from her visit with President Peron.

Although not all of Miss Baker’s proposed subjects of discussion were dealt with in detail, the following translation of excerpts from the speech as published in El Mundo indicates the subjects which were given particular emphasis:

"Racial and religious discrimination is like an octopus which releases a black liquid to conceal itself...to give you an idea as to how the octopus functions, I will tell you that I was in Brazil some months ago...there I found a fantastic change...the great buildings which circled the beach of Copacabana did not impress me...and that was my first impression of North American influence...the second was the reaction of some of the people with whom I had contact in relation to my crusade. I sensed a resistance and a fear when I told them of discrimination in North America...."

"I was in Montevideo a month ago...I realized that an organization was also necessary there. The situation is not against negroes but against the Jews, which I consider equally hateful and attack with equal strength, since they, too, are our brothers."
"It was a bit of a surprise to find that the greater part of the (Uruguayan) press is a bit hostile and fearful to speak about my organization, because it is based on the problem of discrimination which exists especially in North America. Upon my arrival in Montevideo, the press was very kind to me, but after my speeches, only one newspaper dared to publish my discourse, and they told me that they had received a friendly visit from the American Embassy requesting them not to publish it. Of course this did not stop them (the one newspaper) but you understand what I mean concerning the influence of the press."

Turning to a discussion of World War II during the North African campaign, Miss Baker continued: "I personally hoped that by taking the Negro Americans in this war, my people would never again suffer from discrimination. ... I was stunned to realize that the same people with whom and for whom we were fighting would use us for their own ends."

"Ladies and gentlemen, we, the Free French, lacked uniforms and, while the Yankees held the gold of France under their control, we, the Free French who fought by their side, struggled for sheer idealism, with empty stomachs, without shoes for our feet. Our soldiers did not receive their pay for months and months. We were considered the poor relations. They asked us and they needed us desperately because this war was to save Wall Street from a crash like that of 1929."

"To the Free French, had discarded all material thoughts; we were fighting for an ideal... In our ranks we saw men from Argentina, Brazil, and many parts of the world. They knew that that meant America, while North America was calculating how much money it could get out of the war."

Miss Baker continued her speech with references to situations involving the negro actor Canada Lee, Willie McClure, and W.C. Handy, a negro composer who was allegedly unable to obtain hotel lodging in St. Louis, and a criticism of the activities of the Ku Klux Klan. She concluded:

"At this moment in North America I am branded... because I have the courage to speak of the atrocities resulting from race and religious discrimination."

"In the white newspapers of that country, there is hardly anything printed about Negroes. But I am the latest news. I am the traitress; I am the undesirable. According to the newspapers they are taking measures to prohibit my entry to North America. I hope they know that none of these threats can prevent my carrying on my work."

"I have been fortunate in that I have received support from freedom-loving people. I am not下发."

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It seems there was a mix-up with the previous pages which contained a significant amount of text. The current page appears to continue the narrative around the theme of discrimination and its impact on the Free French and the African American experience during World War II. The text reflects a strong sense of the author's personal experiences and the broader context of the challenges faced by minority groups in the face of such societal pressures.
until all men are equal...and although they can prevent my entry into their country, they will not stop my activities as long as there are those who need me.

"In North America I am considered the mouthpiece of President Peron. I would consider this a great honor if it were true; but since I am not aware of what the President thinks or says, it would not be easy for me to be his instrument as they say. Besides, I believe that President Peron is loved and respected by his people for having used his own beliefs.

"Upon hearing that for the first time, I was surprised...it even shocked me. But since then I have come to the conclusion that the thing which has most inflamed North America is not my campaign against discrimination but my being here in Argentina. North America will not pardon me for having visited this country, for admiring it and its people and its leader. She (North America) is trying to deceive you in the same way that she is deceiving so many innocent people of the world with her falsehoods.

"Every day I receive articles published in North American newspapers which angrily attack me. Every time I realize with greater clarity that it is not only for my claims against discrimination, because I have said these same things in other countries and in North America itself. It was precisely when I arrived in Argentina that the boat exploded. It seems as though I have committed a terrible crime in cordiality and in being received affectionately by President Peron and by the Argentine people... I committed the unpardonable crime of leaving flowers before the image of Senor Peron and of visiting the works of the Foundation... what most infuriated them was my visit to the social works of Senor Peron and my having signed the book of gold with the words 'Your Sister'. Ladies and Gentlemen, for the North Americans that was the crime of the year.

Miss Baker concluded her discourse with the naming of the following countries where her Association presently exists: Scandinavian countries, Italy, Mexico, North America, Japan, Cuba, Haiti, Brazil, France, Uruguay, Johannesburg, South Africa. She said she hoped a new branch would be established in Buenos Aires.

Although El Mundo printed Miss Baker's speech in full, most dailies (with the exception of the two English-language papers and Herald, which did not carry it at all) published extracts. Singled out for particular emphasis were Miss Baker's remarks about the attitude of the United States toward her visit in Argentina and her comment about the possibility of a prohibition being put upon her entry into the United States. Erica localized its report of November 8: "Yankee Ambassador Prohibited Uruguayans from Reading Josephine Baker's Speech".
El líder y otros gobiernos señalan que una emisora de radio, Daily Le Post, publicó un supuesto informe de la U.S. Justice Department a un diario extranjero, indicando que Miss Baker fue arrestada por un empleado del Departamento de Justicia por no presentar la documentación necesaria para regresar a los Estados Unidos. El diario Daily Le Post, que es uno de los diarios que han estado publicando informes erróneos de Miss Baker, señaló que su nombre no se mencionó en este caso.

The English-language Buenos Aires Herald is the only newspaper in the city that has published a story erroneously attributed to United Press about Representative Adam Clayton Powell's account of the incident that if true, would mean that Miss Baker had made statements that, even if true, she should not be allowed to re-enter the country.

Cointinued with the reporting of Miss Baker's arrest, another daily, Le Post, published its own account of the incident, suggesting that the arrest of Miss Baker in Argentina was the result of a misunderstanding. The newspaper referred to Miss Baker's visit to Argentina and her conferences, suggesting that the arrest was due to the misunderstanding.

Copy of El Mundo's report of Miss Baker's arrest is attached.

[Signature]
Assistant Press Attaché
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