

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-459865)

DATE: SEP 28 1971

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (100-170446) (C)

SUBJECT: SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS
FOR SOCIAL AND POLITICAL
ACTION (SESPA)
IS - NEW LEFT

ReBulet to NY, dated 8/4/71; NY letter and LHM to Bureau, dated 9/29/70, and NY airtel and LHM to Bureau, dated 11/30/70, captioned "SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS FOR SOCIAL ACTION (SESPA); ANTI-WAR DEMONSTRATION AT RIVERSIDE RESEARCH INSTITUTE (RRI), NEW YORK CITY, 11/13/70; IS-MISCELLANEOUS; VIDEM"; NY teletype to Bureau, dated 8/7/71, captioned "DEMONSTRATIONS COMMEMORATING ATOMIC BOMBING OF JAPAN, 8/6 - 9/71; VIDEM".

Enclosed for the Bureau are eight copies of an LHM containing information regarding captioned organization subsequent to referenced NY LHMs, dated 9/29/70, and 11/30/70.

Four copies of this LHM are being furnished to 108th MI Group, NYC.

The Special Agents who observed a demonstration at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge, Mass., on 1/8/71, were [redacted] and [redacted].

SESPA activity at Riverside Research Institute (RRI), New York, New York, observed by the following Agents:

- 2/17/71 - [redacted] and [redacted]
- 2/19/71 - [redacted] and [redacted]
- 8/6/71 - [redacted] and [redacted]

b6
b7c

[redacted] is the subject of NY file 100-172943.
[redacted] is the subject of NY file 100-174007.

REC-41 100-459865-18

- ② - Bureau (Encls. 8) (RM)
- 1 - New York

SEP 29 1971

JRN:lap
(3)

55 OCT 5 1971

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3-4-96 BY SP4 JAL/ak



NY 100-170446

SEYMOUR MELMAN is the subject of a closed case captioned, "SEYMOUR MELMAN, IS-R", (Bufile 105-78987; NYfile 105-36247).

[redacted] is the subject of NY file 100-150699.

Neither of the above individuals qualifies for inclusion on the SI.

The NY files reflect no pertinent subversive information identifiable with [redacted] and [redacted]

The sources used in the attached LHM are:

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

b2
b6
b7C
b7D

This LHM is being classified "~~Confidential~~" because the unauthorized disclosure of information furnished by [redacted] [redacted], live sources of continuing value, could reveal the identity thereof and could be prejudicial to the security interests of the United States.

Activities of SESPA at New York, appear to be open, taking the form of protests mainly against the RRI by leafleting and sit-ins at that institute. Although arrests have taken place at some of the demonstrations at RRI, these arrests occurred when individuals voluntarily offered themselves for arrest by sitting at the entrances of RRI.

Available information indicates that SESPA is a non-violent, legitimate, pacifist type organization, the stated purpose of which is "a national organization within the technical professions concerned with establishing a basic level of professional ethics in science and engineering".

NY 100-170446

In view of the above, no further investigation is being conducted by New York and this case is being placed in a closed status.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Scientists and Engineers
For Social and Political
Action (SESPA)

Professor of Industrial Engineering Seymour Melman said last night. 'We have not had any response from them, so we're going to demonstrate at MIT personally to see if we can't jog them into motion.'

"Professor Melman and others in the Columbia group demonstrating at MIT are members of the New York branch of SESPA (Scientists and Engineers for Social and Political Action) an organization of university scientists opposed to all military-related research at universities and other institutions.

"SESPA scientists from Columbia and other schools in the New York area have been picketing against the Riverside Research Institute in New York City for the past year. The Riverside Institute, formerly the Electronic Research Laboratories, was affiliated with Columbia until 1968.

"Professor Melman asserted that the picketing at the Riverside Institute has been 'very effective.'

"'Since the picketing began, fifteen Riverside employees have resigned,' he said, adding that some of these people have found new jobs through SESPA's 'Civilian Work Job Placement Plan.'"

On January 8, 1971, Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) observed a demonstration in front of the Rodgers Administration Building, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge, Massachusetts. Approximately 13 males and females handed out leaflets entitled "Moral Irresponsibility at MIT". The leaflet stated the demonstration was sponsored by the New York City, New York Chapter of SESPA. The purpose of the group's action, as stated in the leaflet, was to remind students and employees at MIT that the institute is probably the most important military research center in the United States and as such plays a major role in promoting war in Vietnam.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Scientists and Engineers
For Social and Political
Action (SESPA)

The leaflet called for an end to war research at MIT. The following SESPA pledge was printed on the leaflets:

"I pledge that I will not participate in war research for weapons production. I further pledge to council my students and urge my colleagues to do the same."

[redacted] on January 8, 1971, advised the demonstration at MIT was peaceful and no arrests were made.

[redacted] on February 16, 1971, advised that demonstrations sponsored by SESPA were going to be held at 8:45 AM on February 17, 1971, and at 4:30 PM on February 19, 1971, at the RRI, 80 West End Avenue, New York, New York.

b2
b6
b7C
b7D

On February 17, and 19, 1971, Special Agents of the FBI observed activities at 80 West End Avenue, New York City, the location of RRI. No demonstrations were observed on February 17, 1971, from 8:40 AM to 10:00 AM. A lone unknown female was observed at the entrance to RRI on West 64th Street, New York City, passing out a leaflet issued by SESPA, urging opposition to RRI's defense work. The female departed at 9:30 AM and there were no incidents or arrests.

On February 19, 1971, eight demonstrators were observed at the RRI, New York, New York. These demonstrators carried placards reading "No Federal Pollution Funds for ABM" and "Don't Sell your Brains to Killers."

This demonstration was peaceful and there were no incidents or arrests.

[redacted] on February 24, 1971, furnished information that the American Physical Society Convention was held at New York City during the period of February 1-4, 1971. An organization known as "SESPA" tried to interrupt the speech of a Dr. LANE of the Polaroid Company. There were approximately 25 persons in this group and they were extremely vociferous.

Scientists and Engineers
For Social And Political
Action (SESPA)

[redacted] on May 19, 1971, furnished the following information:

On May 10, 1971, the organization Scientists and Engineers for Social and Political Action held a demonstration at the Riverside Research Lab in the Midtown area of Manhattan (New York). The demonstration actually consisted of a sit-in in the entrances of the research lab. It lasted from approximately 8:30 AM to 9:15 PM and resulted in four arrests. Those arrested were [redacted], a graduate student at Columbia University; [redacted] student at Columbia University; [redacted] student at Columbia University and [redacted], former student at Columbia University, and a former employee of the (Riverside) research lab. According to this source, the spokesman for the SESPA group was a Columbia University student, [redacted].

N.Y.

[redacted]

The 1970-71 student directory for Columbia University (CU) reflects that [redacted] local mailing address is [redacted], CU. He is a student in Graduate Facilities in CU and his permanent address is listed as [redacted] Massachusetts, [redacted].

b2
b6
b7C
b7D

[redacted] on July 27, 1971, furnished information that [redacted], telephone number [redacted], was one of two "contacts" for SESPA pickets at RRI, New York, New York, in August, 1971.

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] on July 27, 1971, furnished information that [redacted], telephone number [redacted], was one of two "contacts" for SESPA pickets at RRI, New York, New York, in August, 1971.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Scientists and Engineers
For Social and Political
Action (SESPA)

[redacted] [redacted]

On April 15, 1971, [redacted], white male, born [redacted], at [redacted], Massachusetts, address [redacted] New York, New York, [redacted]

in New York City. This demonstration was held at the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) building, 120 Church Street, New York, New York, and was sponsored by War Tax Resistance (WTR), a New York headquartered group which publicly advocates non-payment of taxes for war purposes.

[redacted]

b2
b6
b7C
b7D

[redacted] on July 12, 1971, furnished information that [redacted], a senior in Columbia College, majoring in [redacted] and a member of SESPA, was one of the first registrants at People's Coalition for Peace and Justice (PCPJ) National Conference, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, June 25 - 27, 1971.

A PCPJ press release dated March 1, 1971, described itself as being headquartered in Washington, DC, and consisting of over 100 organizations employing massive civil disobedience to combat the issues of war, racism and repression.

On August 6, 1971, Special Agents of the FBI observed an anti-war picket line demonstration sponsored by SESPA and held at RRI, 80 West End Avenue, New York City. The demonstration commenced at 12:00 noon and consisted of 14 individuals distributing leaflets publicizing nuclear weapons research conducted at RRI. The demonstrators called for an end to development of nuclear weapons.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Scientists and Engineers
For Social and Political
Action (SESPA)

The demonstration ended at 12:25 PM without incident after an unidentified male delivered a short speech urging scientists and engineers to devote their energies to peaceful scientific projects.

[] on September 9, 1971, advised that SESPA is a small organization of faculty members and a few students who publicly oppose expenditures for military type research. This source stated SESPA is not believed to be a militant or revolutionary type group and their activities consist mainly of picketing and leafleting in opposition to military research.

b2
b7D

- 6* -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~