

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]

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

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

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

JRN:lap
(3)

55 OCT 5 1971

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

SEP 29 1971



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]

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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.

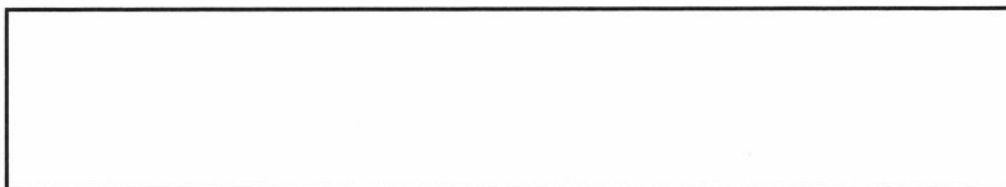
Activities of SESPA at New York, appear to be open, taking the form of protests mainly against the RRI by leafleting and sit-ins at that institute. Although arrests have taken place at some of the demonstrations at RRI, these arrests occurred when individuals voluntarily offered themselves for arrest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

NON-SYMBOL INFORMANT ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

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CAUTION: NOT TO BE DISSEMINATED TO
RESIDENT AGENTS, DETACH.

CONFIDENTIAL



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to

File No. Bu 100-459865

NY 100-170446

New York, New York

SEP 28 1971

Scientists and Engineers
For Social and Political
Action (SESPA)

All sources used in this memorandum have furnished reliable information in the past.

[redacted] on October 16, 1970, made available a leaflet captioned "Know Your Neighbor" which leaflet announced picketing by SESPA at the Riverside Research Institute (RRI), New York, New York.

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The above-mentioned leaflet, issued by SESPA, contained the following self-description of SESPA:

"SESPA is a national organization within the technical professions concerned with establishing a basic level of professional ethics in science and engineering."

The "Columbia Spectator", a student newspaper at Columbia University, New York, New York, issue of January 7, 1971, page 1, contained an article captioned "SESPA Members to Picket MIT". This article reflects in part as follows:

"A dozen Columbia scientists and graduate students will picket at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology tomorrow to protest against the institution's continued participation in government-sponsored, military research.

"We're writing to the MIT people, calling them, we appeared before a group of them, and we've tried inviting them here to discuss professional ethics - the morals - of doing work which has as its ultimate purpose the destruction of human life,"

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ON 9-21-77

GAT/RDB

CONFIDENTIAL

GROUP I

Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification.

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) OF
DATE 9/27/77

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

ENCLOSURE 100-

25-18

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3-2-86 BY SP4 BJA/mkb

~~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.

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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."

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

[] 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.

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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.

[] 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.

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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].

[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].

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[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.

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Scientists and Engineers
For Social and Political
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[redacted] [redacted]
On April 15, 1971, [redacted], white
male, born [redacted] at [redacted] Massa-
chusetts, 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.

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[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.

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Scientists and Engineers
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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.

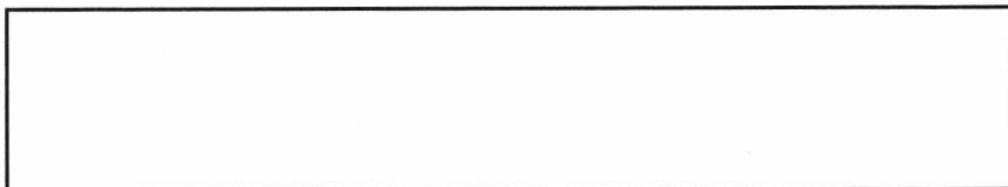
[] on September 9, 1971, advised that SESPA is a small organization of faculty members and a few students who publicly oppose expenditures for military type research. This source stated SESPA is not believed to be a militant or revolutionary type group and their activities consist mainly of picketing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

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

New York, New York

SEP 28 1971

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