

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

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

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

DATE: 9/29/70

Re Bureau routing slip dated 7/30/70, concerning captioned matter, with attached letter and enclosures from

[Redacted]

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Enclosed for the Bureau are 10 copies of an LHM concerning captioned matter. Two copies each of LHM are enclosed for Albuquerque and SF as LHM sets forth activity of SESPA within those divisions.

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

SOURCES

1st source

IDENTITY

[Redacted]

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR
ADD. DISSEMINATION

2 destroyed

- 2-Bureau (Encs. 10) (RM)
- 2-Albuquerque (Encs. 2) (INFO) (RM)
- 2-San Francisco (Encs. 2) (INFO) (RM)
- 1-New York (105-36247) (SEYMOUR MELMAN)
- 1-New York

EX-11
REC-24

ST-111

100-459865-3
22 OCT 1 1970

ENCLOSURE
WHB: ihr
(8)

EX-112

AGENCY: G-2, ONI, OSI, SEC. SER., STATE

Defense Supply Agency
RAO, ASD, CDD, CDDH

DATE FORW: 10/12/70

HOW FORW: RIS

BY: JFM: dlt

cc + encl 910-10

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
3-4-96 BY SP4B JG/MLB

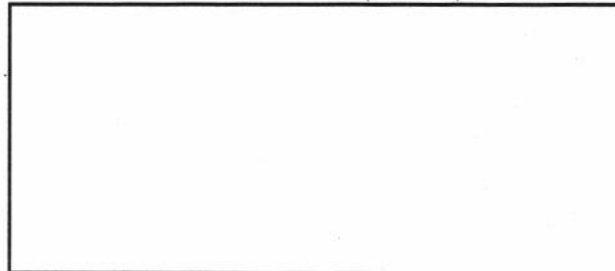


NY 100-170446

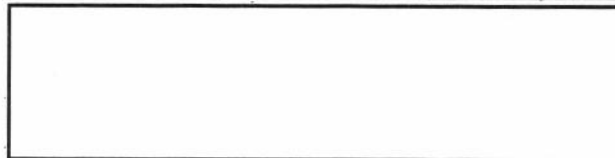
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SOURCES (CONT'D)

2nd source



3rd source



4th source



5th source



The LHM is classified, "~~Confidential~~" because of information contained therein from the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th sources, which if disclosed, could result in the identification of these sources of continuing value and thus impair their future effectiveness. Such impairment could have an adverse effect on the national defense interest of the country.

SAS [redacted] and [redacted] interviewed Dr. SEYMOUR MEERMAN on 12/12/67.

SAS [redacted] and [redacted] observed the demonstration on 8/6/70.

There are no Bureau approved characterizations concerning the Committee of Returned Volunteers and Asian Americans for Action. Information concerning the 8/6/70 demonstration where these organizations were mentioned was previously furnished the Bureau by airtel and LHM dated 8/14/70, captioned, "HIROSHIMA-NAGASAKI WEEK, AUGUST 2-8, 1970; IS-MISC, VIDEM."

NY 100-170446

NY files contain no identifiable information suitable to characterize the following individuals mentioned in LHM:



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SEYMOUR MELMAN was the subject of case captioned, "SEYMOUR MELMAN; IS-R", Bufile 105-78987.

On 8/13/70, [redacted] (conceal), advised SA [redacted] that he could furnish no information in addition to that furnished by [redacted], the 3rd source mentioned in LHM.

NY files and investigation revealed no one connected with SESPA, who are employed by RRI. In view of the fact that the activities of SESPA at NY consist mainly of the passing of leaflets in front of RRI, offering assistance in obtaining other employment for its employees, no further investigation is being conducted by the NYO, and this case is being closed by the NYO.



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

New York, New York

September 29, 1970

In Reply, Please Refer to

File No. NYfile (100-170446)

Scientists and Engineers For
Social and Political Action

In July, 1970, a source, another government agency which conducts security investigations, furnished a series of handouts distributed by the Scientists and Engineers for Social and Political Action (SESPA) at the Riverside Research Institute (RRI), New York, (NY), urging personnel to abandon "war work" and offering assistance in obtaining other employment. Some of the handouts contained announcements of meetings of NY SESPA which were to be held in February, March and April, 1970, at 325 Pupin Laboratory, Columbia University (CU). The following identification was contained on several of the handouts:

(S)(u)
New York SESPA
c/o R. Wallace
Box 115 Pupin Lab
Columbia University"

"c/o J. (Joseph) Shapiro
Department of Physics
Fordham University"

The above handouts also requested that for confidential consultation to find stimulating and useful non-defense work, to call Professor Seymour Melman at 280-2936. Information was also set forth that NY SESPA would take part in the April 15 moratorium by protesting in front of RRI.

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ON 3-4-96

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GROUP I

Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) OF
DATE 9/24/77

100-459865-3
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.

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Scientists and Engineers For
Social and Political Action

Dr. Seymour Melman

On December 12, 1967, Dr. Seymour Melman, Associate Professor of Industrial Engineering, CU, was interviewed by Special Agents of the FBI in his office, Room 304, Mudd Hall, CU, New York City (NYC). Melman was informed that the specific purpose of this interview concerned possible violations of Section 462 of Title 50 of the United States Code relating to counselling, aiding or abetting another to refuse or evade registration or service in the Armed Forces. (u)

Professor Melman claimed that he had "never directly given counsel to any individual" to violate Selective Service Laws and that no one has ever come to him for advice relating to his draft status. He claimed that his appearance as a peace delegate at the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C., on October 20, 1967, was made as an individual and not as a representative of any specific group. He referred to this appearance as "a moral act" on his part to protest the illegality of the Vietnam war and to request the Department of Justice to investigate war crimes which have been committed by the Armed Forces in Vietnam and even by the "Commander-in-Chief". (u)

He produced a research paper which he stated consisted of 600 pages of documentation of the United States behavior in Vietnam in relation to the laws of war. He referred to United States Army Field Manual Number 27-10, page 178, which states that every violation of the laws of war is a war crime. He claimed that the constitutionality of Selective Service itself has never been tested in court. It was his opinion that because of the illegality of the Vietnam war, certain actions taken by Selective Service could be considered violations of the laws of war. (u)

Special Agents of the FBI
December 12, 1967

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Scientists and Engineers For
Social and Political Action

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[redacted] [redacted]
A second source, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised on August 12, 1970, that [redacted], born [redacted] graduated [redacted] attended [redacted] from [redacted], received a Bachelor of Science Degree from the [redacted] AT

[redacted] BOSTON, MASS
[redacted], and is currently enrolled in [redacted]. His permanent residence is [redacted] Massachusetts and his local address is [redacted] (1)

[redacted] NEW YORK, N.Y.
The first source also furnished a pamphlet containing "A personal Pledge for students, teachers, and professionals in science and engineering", produced and circulated by SESPA, which reads as follows: (S) (U)

"I pledge that I will not participate in war research or weapons production. (S) (U)

"I further pledge to counsel my students and urge my colleagues to do the same." (S) (U)

The above pamphlet stated that on June 14, 1969, 80 scientists and engineers from the San Francisco Bay area gathered to affirm the above pledge in a small public ceremony, and that the pamphlet was prepared to explain the motivations that led to that act, and to present some statements and brief essays written by a number of scientists in response to this pledge. The pamphlet stated that the essays set forth (which were 13 in total), do not represent the official views of any organization. At the end of this pamphlet, it was stated that to learn more about the activities of SESPA and to join or to make financial contributions to SESPA, to write: (S) (U)

"Scientists and Engineers for Social and Political Action (SESPA)
Box 3704
Stanford, California" (S) (U)

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Scientists and Engineers For
Social and Political Action

On August 12, 1970, the second source advised he was aware of an organization at CU called SESPA. He stated that SESPA is quite persistent in picketing RRI, 632 West 125th Street, NYC, and is against war research and production of any type. He stated SESPA aims to encourage employees of RRI (formerly the Electronics Research Laboratory of CU, but is now a private organization) to find work elsewhere. He stated that Seymour Melman, Professor of Industrial Engineering at CU, is involved with SESPA and has publicly spoken out against universities being involved in classified projects. (u)

On August 13, 1970, a third source, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that [redacted] appears to be the "grinding light" or at least the "front man" of SESPA at CU. [redacted] and a couple of other persons (unknown) have shown up at RRI to picket. SESPA seems to have few other sympathizers. The source stated that the objective of SESPA is to do anything to break down the offensive/defensive capability of the United States, by trying to get people who work at places like RRI to get jobs in non-defense work. (u)

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The above source stated that [redacted] caused a disturbance at CU last spring and was removed (not arrested) from a room in which the noted physicist, Dr. Edward Teller was speaking. (u)

The above source furnished a leaflet which announced a demonstration that was held at the RRI, 632 West 125th Street, NYC, on August 6, 1970. The leaflet was headed, "Stop ABM On Hiroshima Day" and contained in part as follows: (u)

"RRI employs 400 and spends \$6 million a year on ABM and other weapons research. (u)

"They are helping to carry on where the Manhattan Project left off. (u)

"There will be opportunities for non-violent direct action. Those wishing to participate in such action should provide their own bail. (u)

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Scientists and Engineers For
Social and Political Action

"For further information contact: New York Chapter, Scientists and Engineers for Social and Political Action (SESPA), 865-4766 evenings." (u)

On August 6, 1970, Special Agents of the FBI observed approximately 75 persons conduct a picket line demonstration at RRI, 632 West 125th Street from 12:00 noon until 1:00 pm, which was sponsored by SESPA. Members of the Committee of Returned Volunteers performed a guerrilla theater skit which opposed the use of Dow Chemical Company and Monsanto Chemical Company defoliating agents. The guerrilla group consisted of ten individuals, four wearing sampans wearing names of Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Thailand. Three individuals wore skull masks while two wore costumes bearing names of "Dow" and "Monsanto". Demonstrators chanted, "Rip Off Riverside", "Shut Down Riverside, Science For the People." (u)

[redacted] and [redacted], both identified as SESPA members, spoke briefly at the above demonstration, condemning the United States for bombing Hiroshima and for the "War Think Tank" research being conducted at RRI. Mary Kochiyama of Asian Americans for Action also spoke in condemnation of the bombing of Hiroshima and the activities at RRI. [redacted] stated that SESPA has approximately 1,000 members in various "caucus" groups throughout the country. He indicated they were all autonomous with only one officer in the national organization, namely the secretary, whose primary responsibility is the publication of a newsletter. He claimed that SESPA was currently active at Los Alamos, New Mexico, Livermore, California, and RRI, NYC. (u)

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During the above demonstration, three individuals were arrested and charged with disorderly conduct by the New York City Police Department (NYCPD) when they attempted to block the entrance at the RRI. A representative of the NYCPD advised that those arrested at the RRI were: (u)

[redacted], described as a white male, born [redacted], Boston, Massachusetts, residing at [redacted], NYC. (u)

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Scientists and Engineers For
Social and Political Action

[redacted]
[redacted], described as
a white female, born [redacted], Bronx, NY,
residing at [redacted], NYC. (u)

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[redacted], described as
a white female, born [redacted], St. Louis, Missouri,
residing at [redacted], NYC. (u)

[redacted]
On June 13, 1969, a fourth source, who has
furnished reliable information in the past,
advised that [redacted]

"Win" magazine, a publication of the War
Resisters League, a pacifist organization. (u)

On September 22, 1970, a fifth source, who has
furnished reliable information in the past, furnished a
leaflet headed, "SESPA is for Scientists", which stated that
SESPA is a national organization within the technical
professions concerned with establishing a basic level of
professional ethics in science and engineering. The leaflet
stated as follows: (u)

"Our projects include:

"Circulating a scientists' pledge not to participate
in war research and to pressure colleagues who do. (u)

"Continuous demonstrations at the RRI, formerly
Columbia's Electronics Labs, the largest anti-ballistic
missile and nuclear war think tank in New York City. We've
been able to slow their research program and have convinced
over a dozen employees to quit. (u)

"Vigils at the homes of weapons scientists. These
demonstrations have brought public pressure on men for whom
anonymity is a crucial working condition. (u)

"Demonstrations at technical meetings against
weapons scientists who use legitimate science as a smokescreen
for weapons activities. (u)

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Scientists and Engineers For
Social and Political Action

"A national scientists' boycott of the Los Alamos and Livermore weapons facilities. (u)

"If you're interested in our program join us on our picket line at the RRI, 64th St. and West End Ave. (The Ripley Building) Wednesday 8:45-9:30 AM, Friday 4:30-5:30 PM or call 865-4766 Evenings." (u)

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Federal Bureau of Investigation
Records Branch

10/26, 1976

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☒ Return to Room 932
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Type of References Requested:

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☐ All References (Subversive & Nonsubversive)
☒ Subversive References Only b6
☐ Nonsubversive References Only b7C
☐ Main References Only

Type of Search Requested:

☐ Restricted to Locality of
☒ Exact Name Only (On the Nose)
☐ Buildup ☐ Variations

Subject
 Birthdate & Place
 Address

Localities N.Y.
 R# Date 10/26 Searcher Initials MMW
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FILE NUMBER SERIAL

25-577970
 100-459865-3
 62-112228-47-1148159

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Federal Bureau of Investigation
Records Branch10/26, 1970

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☐ All References (Subversive & Nonsubversive)
☒ Subversive References Only
☐ Nonsubversive References Only
☐ Main _____ References Only

Type of Search Requested:

- ☐ Restricted to Locality of _____
☒ Exact Name Only (On the Nose) b6
☐ Buildup ☐ Variations b7C

Subject [Redacted]
 Birthdate & Place [Redacted]
 Address [Redacted]

Localities N.Y.

R# _____ Date 10/26 Searcher Initials MMV

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[Redacted]

NR

[Redacted]

100-454971-23 EP7
100-459865-3

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Federal Bureau of Investigation
Records Branch

10/26, 1976

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Supervisor Room Ext.

Type of References Requested:

- ☐ Regular Request (Analytical Search)
☐ All References (Subversive & Nonsubversive)
☒ Subversive References Only b6
☐ Nonsubversive References Only b7C
☐ Main _____ References Only

Type of Search Requested:

- ☐ Restricted to Locality of _____
☒ Exact Name Only (On the Nose)
☐ Buildup ☐ Variations

Subject _____

Birthdate & Place _____

Address _____

Localities *N.Y.*R# _____ Date *10/26* Searcher Initials *RM*

Prod. _____

FILE NUMBER

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100-454971-23 P8

100-459865-3

97-3-211 P4

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