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WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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In Reply, Please Refer to
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RICHARD THOMAS GIBSON, aka

On April 18, 1961, T-1, a confidential source abroad, provided the following information concerning the subject and his activities while in France: (C)

MRS RICHARD THOMAS GIBSON, born May 13, 1931, at Los Angeles, California, was married at Paris, France, on March 24, 1956, to JOY MARJORIE KAYE, British citizen, who was born July 12, 1926, at London, England. They have two children, DOMINIQUE, born October 26, 1956, at Paris, and FREDERIC, born March 5, 1958, at Paris. FRANCE (C)

After having studied at Kenyon College in the State of Ohio, GIBSON came to Europe in 1952 and resided in Rome, Italy, until February 1953. After fulfilling his military obligations in the United States, he spent a short time in West Germany and came to France on December 15, 1954. (C)

In Paris, GIBSON resided successively at 15 rue Delambre, 31 rue de Seine and 93 rue Belliard, prior to purchasing a small house at 10 Allée des Pommiers, Rosny-sous-Bois, near Paris, on November 9, 1957. (C)

When he first came to France, GIBSON was enrolled at the College of Letters of the University of Paris and at the Ecole Supérieure de Préparation et de Perfectionnement des Professeurs de Français à l'Etranger (Advanced School for Preparation and Improvement of Foreign French Teachers), 46 rue St. Jacques, Paris. (C)

In August 1955, having become a professional journalist, Press Card No. 15,481, he went to work for the Agence Française de Presse as a translator, art and book critic, and, in particular, handling Far Eastern matters. (C)

On January 31, 1958, OLIVER W. HARRINGTON, another American journalist, 74 rue de Sevres, Paris, filed a complaint against "X" for forgery and use of forgery. GIBSON was "X". This matter is summarized as follows: (C)

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HARRINGTON, who was away from Paris for several months, had allowed GIBSON, who was then single and living in a hotel, the use of his apartment. Violent arguments took place between the two men in connection with the apartment, and GIBSON resolved to seek revenge by trying to bring about the expulsion of HARRINGTON from France. For this purpose he sent to a weekly American publication and to the British daily "The Observer", over the signature O. HARRINGTON, violently anti-French articles which were printed in these publications and were of such nature that they could have brought about the expulsion of their author from France. (c)

Upon being informed of the publication of these articles of which he was not the author, HARRINGTON located proof of the very probable guilt of GIBSON and filed a complaint. The resulting investigation, which was conducted by the Police Judiciaire (Criminal Police) of the Sûreté Nationale, quickly led to the confession of GIBSON, who admitted having tried to bring about the expulsion of HARRINGTON, to whom he apologized and who accepted the apology before withdrawing his complaint. (c)

Although the Agence France Presse did not so specify, it appears logical that it was as a result of this incident that GIBSON ceased working for that agency. (c)

The investigation in connection with the above matter, in addition to reflecting GIBSON's lack of principles, also developed the following additional details: (c)

It was learned from a source in the Agence France Presse that GIBSON was the animator of a group for aid to Cuba. This report confirms another, received from an American source, to the effect that GIBSON was chairman of the New York section of a crypto-Communist organization called "Fair Play for Cuba Committee" which had as its purpose agitation in favor of the CASTRO regime in Cuba. (c)

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OLIVER W. HARRINGTON, the complainant in this matter, appears to be identical with the American Negro, OLIVER WENDELL HARRINGTON, reported as being left wing, if not Communist. (c)

This report fits in with a portion of the statement made to the French police by GIBSON in which he claimed that HARRINGTON was a friend of a Korean, PETER HUYN, who was a protege of CLAUDE BOURDET. (c)

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Both GIBSON and HARRINGTON have been reported as favoring the Communist Party. (C)

The various persons interviewed in connection with this matter, including RICHARD WRIGHT, the American Negro writer who recently died; WILLIAM SMITH, an American journalist with the Agence France Presse, with whom GIBSON lived for a time at 93 rue Belliard, Paris; and JOHN FLINT, another American journalist with the Agence France Press, with whom GIBSON also lived at 31 rue de Seine, Paris; all took sides with HARRINGTON, praising his neutrality. They also affirmed GIBSON's neutrality, although they did not approve of his behavior in this matter. (C)

GIBSON left his residence at 10 Allée des Pommiers, Rosny-sous-Bois, in the late summer of 1958, claiming that he was returning to the United States, where his grandmother was very seriously ill. His wife departed in the spring of 1959, after having sold their house. (C)

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