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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

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NO.

B-35

DATE

8 February 1968

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

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J. Long (2 Feb 68)Based on: ²²(OELA)-48626, 19 Jan 68
SOURCE: (RODIGAST, Rufus F)
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8 FEB 1963

Black Nationalist Writers in Paris

1. At present there does not seem to be many black nationalist (American Negro) writers residing in Paris, apart from William Gardner SMITH who is employed by Agence France Presse as editor of its English language service; the latter is now at work on a book about his summer trip to the United States and meetings with black power and other civil rights activists there.
2. According to Carlene POLITE, American Negro writer living in Paris who is of moderate views although she knows many black nationalists here, there are a couple of young Negro writers being handled by Ellen WRIGHT, white widow of the late Richard WRIGHT (author of Native Son), who is now a literary agent at 20, rue Jacob, Paris 6.
3. Ellen WRIGHT's daughter Julia is married to a Frenchman named Herve, and Julia is an editor of Jeune Afrique. The Herves lived in Ghana along with the William Gardner SMITHS until the coup which overthrew Nkrumah. Ellen WRIGHT has another daughter who, according to Carlene POLITE, was seen at a jazz concert on 7 January with Leon BIBBS. BIBBS, according to POLITE, has written some pamphlets which he has had published himself, as well as a poem or pamphlet attacking James BALDWIN as an inadequate leader of his people (whom he characterizes as a homosexual). Julia Herve and her husband want to publish BIBBS' work, according to POLITE.
4. Leroy HAYNES an American Negro about 56 years old has been a resident of France for eighteen years and runs an American Negro restaurant near Pigalle. HAYNES is mentioned in William Gardner SMITH's last novel, The Stone Face. His restaurant is a meeting place for all American Negroes who visit France. His guest book contains signatures of the Martin Luther KING group and Stokely CARMICHAEL. HAYNES gave a party for CARMICHAEL during his recent visit to Paris.
5. Leroy HAYNES said that the writers he knows are Chester PHIMES and Alex HALEY. According to HAYNES, PHIMES is not known for his nationalist views and now mainly an author of crime novels. PHIMES used to live in Paris but apparently lives in Copenhagen. Alex HALEY is the author of The Autobiography of Malcolm X. HALEY has been living in France temporarily (his address is 13, rue du Dr. M. Provencal, Haut-de-Cagnes, Alpes-Maritimes), but will return to the United States in February. He recently traveled in Africa and claimed to have traced his ancestry back to a particular African community, according to HAYNES.

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6. Another Negro writer living in Paris is Melvin Van PEEBLES, who is also not particularly known for militancy. He has had 3 or 4 works of fiction published in France (in French) and has just made a film, La Permission, which is being shown at a U.S. film festival (possibly in San Francisco); Van PEEBLES went back to the USA for this showing.

DDP/CA/CF/J. Long (2 Feb 68)

Based on: ²²(OELA) - 48626

19 Jan 68

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