

FILE - 8

CONFIDENTIAL

File

#5025

Chief, Employee Activity Branch/P3D/OS

3 October 1956

John F. Meredith

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(PAXSON, Emma Fell)(#20891) - Clearance of Affidavit

1. Reference is made to Subject's memorandum dated 17 September 1956 informing this Office that she intended to submit an affidavit in connection with a divorce suit instituted by Major Lucien Conein against his present wife, Mrs. Carmen Conein. Subject attached a copy of the substance of the information which she would provide in her affidavit in support of Mrs. Conein's action in contesting the divorce.

2. It was ascertained from Mr. Harrison, Clearance Branch, Personnel Security Division, that there is a current security action concerning Subject under Executive Order 10450, the questionable information which brought about E. O. 10450 processing being concerned with Subject's sister's associations, rather than her own.

3. A review of Major Conein's file (#5025) discloses that Conein is a regular Army officer who has been assigned to this Agency for a number of years. He is presently on home leave after a Far Eastern tour and the Office of Security has been advised that Conein will probably be returned to the Army in October, 1956, in order to serve two years to complete twenty years service. After his Army retirement, there is a possibility that he will be considered for assignment to this Agency as a staff employee. Conein's file contains no record of his most recent marriage, i.e., his marriage to Carmen Conein. It is noted that Mr. Myers, Clearance Branch, Personnel Security Division, has been instructed to develop information concerning Conein's present spouse inasmuch as it was learned indirectly that Conein is married at present.

4. A search of Office of Security indices in the name of ~~Carmen~~ Conein revealed that this person who is Major Conein's wife, is the subject of File #28995 and was a CIA employee until her resignation in October, 1951. Her file reflects that she married Major Conein in Germany in December, 1948.

5. On 28 September 1956 I contacted Subject intending to advise her that there would be no security objection to her submitting an affidavit in support of Mrs. Conein's contesting of the divorce action brought by her husband provided that she does

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not indicate her employment as CIA in the affidavit. I learned, from Subject that she had already submitted an affidavit and that she had not mentioned her present employment therein. Subject stated that (Mr. Berkaw)⁰² Security Officer, FI Staff, had informed her that she could submit the affidavit, but that she should advise the Office of Security as a matter of information. Subject described Major Conein as a very unscrupulous person and mentioned that Conein wants to prove that his wife, Carmen, has established residence elsewhere and will not live with him. He will try to deny that he has resided in the Washington area, although she and other persons, including a realty agent who sold their present home to the Major and his wife, can testify to the contrary. Subject mentioned that Carmen Conein is now employed by the National Security Agency.

6. I instructed Subject to contact this Office for appropriate briefing in the event that she is called upon to appear in court in connection with the Conein divorce matter. She agreed to do this, but expressed the opinion that there would be no need for her to appear in this case.

7. It should be noted that technically speaking Major Conein should have notified the Office of Security relative to his intention to file suit for divorce; however, circumstances indicate that he has not returned to Headquarters since completion of his recent Far Eastern tour and that the divorce action apparently was initiated within the past month or two during the Major's home leave. In view of the fact that Conein has natural cover as an Army officer so that no publicity to CIA would result from his divorce action, and in view of the probability that he will return to the Army this month for a two year tour, it is believed that no further action is necessary by this Branch. In view of the current interest by the Clearance Branch, Personnel Security Division in regard to the identity of Subject's spouse, it is suggested that this memorandum be forwarded to the attention of John Myers of Clearance Branch.

John F. Meredith

OS/JFM:mab

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