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SAC, Dallas

March 3, 1954

Director, FBI (100-405298)

THOMAS R. PEASNER
SECURITY MATTER - C
RECAP K, PART II

Classified by ~~11/15-94~~
Declassify on: ~~11/15-94~~
(JFK)

As a result of the interrogation of returned prisoners of war, G-2 has advised that captioned individual apparently cooperated with the Communists and is considered a security risk. Subject was a Private First Class assigned Serial Number RA-18323089 and according to Army records, his home address is 4943 Reiger Street, Dallas, Texas. (u)

There is attached for your information one Photostat of an extract from a Weekly Summary of Domestic Intelligence dated June 28, 1953, prepared by G-2, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, which contains information concerning subject.

Bufiles reflect that G-2 has advised that during the interrogation of David W. Ludlow, U. S. Army Serial Number 19361682, he listed under the heading "Number of Progressives" the name Thomas Peasner and stated in reference to subject "He worked for own benefit." (u)

(100-400646-11 page 1406)

G-2 also advised that Vernon E. Bowling, Army Serial Number 52001892, was questioned as to the identity of "any American who acted in a pro-Communist manner before capture." He listed Thomas Peasner and stated "Heard that his father has been run out of a few states, one Penn. Wrote home for such things as Geneva Convention." (u)

(100-400646-12 page 101)

The name Thomas L. Peasner, Jr., appeared in the address book of Francis J. Mosnicka, Route 4, Tomah, Wisconsin, also a returned prisoner of war. A security investigation is presently being conducted concerning Mosnicka due to his collaboration with the enemy while held as a prisoner. In this address book, Peasner's address is listed as Route 2, Box 166D, Lancaster, Texas, or 4616 Gaston Avenue, Dallas, Texas. It is noted that these two addresses do not correspond with the address furnished by the Army. (u)

(100-407994-1)

Enclosure

Tolson _____
Ladd _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Clegg _____
Glavin _____
Harbo _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Gearty _____
Mohr _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Miss Gandy _____

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G-2 has advised that during the interrogation of Winthrop B. Hibberd, Army Serial Number 19360997, home address 1228 South Lane Street, Burbank, California, Hibberd stated that Peasner visited camp officials frequently while a prisoner. For your information, the interrogation of Hibberd indicated that Hibberd also collaborated with the Communists while held as a prisoner. (S)(U)

(100-408384-1)

Kenneth D. Heitkamp, former prisoner of war who now resides at Route 5, Menomonie, Wisconsin, alleged that Thomas R. Peasner was one of several prisoners who visited with camp officials frequently, received better treatment than other prisoners, received special instructions and training, apparently believed in the "true value" of Communism and voluntarily attended study group meetings. It was the opinion of Heitkamp that Peasner, among others, did not support Communism merely to gain personal favors. Heitkamp also alleged that Peasner, among others, collaborated with camp officials by supplying answers to any and all questions, acted as informants and reported all incidents to the camp authorities as a matter of loyalty to the camp authorities. He alleged that Peasner was one of several prisoners who had pro-Communist leanings and reflected their leanings by applying themselves and cooperating with the Chinese.

(100-407808-1)

Wayne E. Hubener, Army Serial Number 1196288, also a former prisoner of war, advised that Thomas R. Peasner, who came from Texas, was one of a group of prisoners who said that we (the United States) started the war. He advised that in December, 1951, Peasner was having trouble with his feet and thereafter deliberately froze his feet by placing them in a snowbank at night until gangrene set in.

(100-407977-1)

Frank J. Page, Army Serial Number 13163949, advised that Thomas R. Peasner was one of several prisoners of war who appeared to have leanings toward Communism and who appeared to be sincere.

(100-407329-1)

Robert E. Brooks, Army Serial Number 17364305, stated that (FNU) Peasner was one of the prisoners who was very active in attempting to influence other prisoners. Although Brooks did not specifically state what type of influence he meant, he indicated that it was influence along progressive lines. He stated that Peasner was selected by the Chinese for his pro-Communist leanings to be on the peace committee at Camp 1. He was also selected by the

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Chinese as a leader and speaker at this camp and was one of the prisoners who went for walks with camp officials and who collaborated with them.

Hiroshi H. Miyamura, Army Serial Number 38584192, advised that he had heard that Peasner had studied Communism prior to his capture. He alleged that Peasner voluntarily made recordings for which he was paid Chinese money.

George J. Matta, also a returned prisoner of war, advised Thomas Reasmer, or Peasmer, possibly identical with the subject, was an American prisoner of war in Camp 5 who attempted to indoctrinate other American prisoners to accept the Communist propaganda program. (S)(u)

(100-405298)

In the report of Special Agent L. D. Nolan dated October 2, 1944, at Little Rock, Arkansas, captioned "Communist Infiltration of United Steel Workers of America, CIO, Internal Security - C," reference is made to one Thomas Peasner of Dallas, Texas, who may possibly be related to captioned subject. Source "A" identified as J. G. Wood, manager of the Texarkana Water Corporation, State Line Street, Texarkana, Arkansas, advised that the only person that could be suspected of having Communistic tendencies is the union representative of the United Steel Workers of America, CIO, Thomas Peasner, whose headquarters at that time was 3204 1/2 Commerce Street, Dallas, Texas. The source stated that in speaking for the union in a demand for higher wages, Peasner made the impression that he was a professional agitator who cared little for the members of the union but was out to "feather his own nest."

(100-62018-555)

On the basis of information available, the Bureau is of the opinion that a security investigation should be conducted providing this subject has been discharged from the military service. You are instructed to promptly determine whether Peasner has been discharged and promptly advise the Bureau. If he has been discharged, you should immediately initiate a security investigation. In this connection, you should be guided by the instructions contained in SAC Letter 53-58.

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