



**Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
New York 7, New York**



IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

October 17, 1945

4-18-89

Director, FBI

Re: ~~SP1 AGG~~ # 291460
UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;
SAVA KOSANOVICH;
Experiments and research of NIKOLA TESLA (deceased)
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Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the Bureau letter dated January 21, 1943, which bore a caption similar to that mentioned above.

The referenced letter dealt with the death, on January 7, 1943, of the famous inventor, NIKOLA TESLA, who as well as being the inventor of Alternating Current, perfected many electrical devices. He is also credited with having developed the so called "death ray" which would safeguard any country from attack by air.

On June 9, 1945, [redacted] of New York City furnished information of a nonspecific nature indicating that it was his belief that persons sympathetic to Russia were making an effort to secure the effects of NIKOLA TESLA in order to salvage therefrom any models or designs of possible military value. [redacted] claimed that he heard that ABRAHAM N. SPANER, President of the NATIONAL LATEX CORPORATION, of Dover, Delaware was the motivating influence behind this attempt to obtain TESLA'S papers which are presently held in storage at the MANHATTAN STORAGE WAREHOUSE in New York City. [redacted] promised to return to the New York Field Division shortly after his initial visit and furnish further and more specific information to support his claims.

ENCLOSURE ATTACHED

He was not heard from again, however, until September 27, 1945, at which time he furnished the following additional information:

He said that a boyhood chum of his from Wichita, Kansas, BLOOMER FITZGERALD, had been TESLA'S protege and one of the inventors few confidants. According to [redacted], FITZGERALD who is now an Army Private stationed at Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio, is a brilliant 29 year old scientist who spent endless hours with TESLA prior to the latter's death, during which time TESLA explained to him most secret experiments. [redacted] stated that FITZGERALD met TESLA in November 1942, but he had been corresponding with the latter since 1935. According to the informant, FITZGERALD had developed some sort of anti-tank gun, the details of which he presented to TESLA who made certain corrections in design and specifications to further perfect the weapon.

[redacted] related that sometime in December 1942, when FITZGERALD was attending a meeting of the AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS, he made the acquaintance of ABRAHAM SPANER who became interested in FITZGERALD'S

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gun. SPANEL offered financial aid to FITZGERALD and the two were in the closest contact with each other for a considerable period of time. [REDACTED] said that FITZGERALD had lined up a deal for the purchase of the gun by the REMINGTON ARMS COMPANY, but for some reason SPANEL blocked this deal by reaching top men in the REMINGTON COMPANY. SPANEL is then reported as having obtained a job for FITZGERALD with the HIGGINS SHIP BUILDING COMPANY in New Orleans and negotiated a contract with FITZGERALD for the purchase and manufacture of the gun in a manner which would return 80% of the profits derived to SPANEL.

[REDACTED] stated that in November of 1943, for some unknown reason but which he believes to be attributable to SPANEL, FITZGERALD was fired by the HIGGINS COMPANY. In September of 1944, FITZGERALD was inducted into the Army and for a considerable period of time was located at an ordnance experimental station at Elgin Field, Florida. [REDACTED] stated that at the present time FITZGERALD is engaged in a highly secret experimental project at Wright Field in Dayton, Ohio. In spite of his rank of Private, FITZGERALD actually is the director of this research and is working with many top young scientists who were inducted into Army from leading industrial posts.

According to [REDACTED], FITZGERALD is presently working on the perfection of TESLA'S "death ray" which in FITZGERALD'S opinion is the only possible defense against offensive use by another nation of the Atomic Bomb. In this connection, it is noted that the New York Times of September 22, 1940 in an article entitled "SCIENCE IN THE NEWS" by WILLIAM A. LAURENCE, Science Editor states that TESLA divulged to LAURENCE the fact that he had developed a "death ray" or "tele-force" which TESLA claimed would melt airplane motors at a distance of 250 miles, so that actually an invisible Chinese Wall would be built around a country against attack by an enemy air force. (b) (2) (C)

According to the article in the TIMES, this electrical device would operate by the generation of power from a plant, a number of which might be located strategically along our coast lines and the beam from which would melt any engine within a radius of 250 miles.

[REDACTED] stated that during FITZGERALD'S acquaintance with SPANEL, FITZGERALD had told SPANEL of his associations with TESLA and had apparently described to SPANEL some of TESLA'S most secret work. [REDACTED] believes that SPANEL, who he claims is definitely pro-Russian in attitude, is now attempting through legal procedure to secure custody of TESLA'S effects which are now held by TESLA'S only heir, one SAVA KOSANOVICH, who is presently in Yugoslavia occupying some governmental post.

It will be recalled that in an article published on March 15, 1945, by the KING FEATURE SYNDICATE INCORPORATED, WESTBROOK PEGLER charged SPANEL with spreading pro-communist and pro-Russian propaganda through his full page advertisement in the newspapers, which SPANEL characterized as being published for the INTERNATIONAL LATEX CORPORATION, as a public service feature. It is also interesting to observe that in the New York Times of October 2, 1945, an article appears which states that SPANEL is suing the KING FEATURE SYNDICATE INCORPORATED for six million dollars alleging the column by PEGLER to have been libelous.

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[REDACTED] stated that through FITZGERALD he too had met SPANEL and from this personal acquaintance he formed the opinion that SPANEL was definitely a communist and is probably one of the financial supporters of the Communist Party in this country. [REDACTED] stated that SPANEL was born in Russia, but is now an American citizen. He also charged that SPANEL exerted tremendous political influence in Washington, D. C., and said that one of SPANEL'S closest political friends was HENRY WALLACE.

[REDACTED] advised that two agents from Army Intelligence contacted and stated that in an investigation to determine the qualifications of FITZGERALD for a commission, they had developed information indicating that SPANEL was definitely endeavoring to secure possession of TESLA'S effects. [REDACTED] indicated that Army Intelligence was pursuing an investigation along these lines in an attempt to ascertain the complete story in this regard.

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[REDACTED] stated that FITZGERALD had interested a group of young Army scientists now working with him at Wright Field in this foundation, and their ultimate goal is to secure the support of a wealthy backer in order that a foundation might be established and that a sort of "idea factory" might result. He said that they intended to contact HENRY FORD, SR., to solicit his aid in this regard.

[REDACTED] related that probably the greatest idea of TESLA'S was that involving the wireless transmission of electrical power. He claimed that TESLA had performed a successful experiment many years ago at Pikes Peak, at which time he harnessed local current from the sun's rays which he built up into a huge potential of electrical energy. [REDACTED] said that according to FITZGERALD, if this idea could be furthered, all electrical energy to operate the world's machinery might be gotten absolutely free rather than by the costly method with which electrical power is presently generated. He said that his idea was to conduct further experiments along this line in China where the need for electrical power is very great.

Inquiry was made at the MANHATTAN STORAGE WAREHOUSE in New York City, and it was determined that the effects of NIKOLA TESLA are contained in some

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75 packing cases and trunks and are presently under seal by the New York State Department of Taxation. It was learned that the rental for this storage, which approximates \$15 per month, is being paid by one CHARLOTTE MUZAR, 134 East 63rd Street, New York, New York, who is listed as the agent for SAVA KOSANOVICH.

Inquiry was also made at the office of the Alien Property Custodian in New York City, concerning an investigation conducted by this office at the time of TESLA'S death, and at which time the latter's property was placed under seal by the United States Government. Mr. WALTER GORSUCH, Chief Investigator for the Alien Property Custodian, provided a cover letter and a summary of materials owned by TESLA at the time of his death which was examined by JOHN G. TRUMP, of the office of SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT. Mr. GORSUCH also stated that his file in this matter reflected that on the night TESLA died his safe was forced open by a representative of the SHORE & WALKER SAFE COMPANY. It was Mr. GORSUCH'S belief that a Mr. SWEEZEY who is believed to be one of the editors of the POPULAR SCIENCE MAGAZINE was present in TESLA'S room shortly after the safe was opened. These individuals were WILLIS GEORGE, EDWARD PALMER, and JOHN J. CORBETT.

There are enclosed herewith two typewritten copies of the report by Mr. TRUMP of the ALIEN PROPERTY CUSTODIAN reflecting the findings of Mr. TRUMP, following his examination of TESLA'S effects. There is also enclosed herewith a photostatic copy of a list of persons associated with NIKOLA TESLA. This latter item was furnished by [REDACTED] (S)(X)(C)

The above information is furnished for the Bureau's information, and no investigation is being conducted by this office.

Very truly yours,

E. E. Conroy
E. E. CONROY, SAC

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