

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. TOLSON

FROM : L. B. NICHOLS

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

DATE: Jan. 30, 1951

(b)(7)(c)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 2-22-89 BY SP1/AC/CM

[REDACTED] called yesterday and said he would be in town for the next two or three days and wanted to see me. I told him I would be glad to see him late yesterday or today at his convenience. He is coming in today at 2:30 p.m.

I asked him if there was anything special which would require my doing any checking. He stated there were two things he wanted to discuss.

1. The case of Nikola Tesla and Abraham N. Spanel, President of International Later Corporation.

Our files reflect that Nicola Tesla was one of the world's outstanding scientists and in fact designed the generators installed at Niagara Falls. He died in New York on January 7, 1943, and is supposed to have left details and plans for a so-called death ray.

Our files also reflect that Colonel Erskine of Military Intelligence called us on January 9, 1943, advising that Tesla had died, that A. Spanel had communicated with the War Department regarding this death, that Tesla had a nephew named Sava Kosanovich who had taken possession of Tesla's papers and Spanel thought the papers might be used against our Government.

We made an immediate inquiry in New York and the first report was that Kosanovich and others entered Tesla's room with the aid of a locksmith, broke into a safe containing some of Tesla's valuable papers including formula.

Coincident with this, on January 8, L. M. C. Smith called Mr. Tamm regarding the death of Tesla and Smith stated he was talking to the Alien Property Custodian about seizing these items.

We interviewed Spanel who expressed concern over Tesla's effects and Spanel stated that Kosanovich had turned over the effects of Tesla to the Alien Property Custodian. Spanel further stated the day before Tesla died, he tried to get in touch with the War Department to make available certain patents.

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[REDACTED] (b)(7)(C)

In 1945, we talked to a Private Bloyce Fitzgerald, who stated he had been associated with Tesla, and that the Army believed that Tesla's "death ray" is the only defense against atom bombs.

It was very clear we had no responsibility for Tesla's effects, that the Alien Property Custodian seized them and we learned later that Naval authorities made microfilms of all his papers.

Kosanovich communicated with the Bureau on March 29, 1950, and under date of April 3, 1950, in response to his request for the microfilms of the papers of Tesla, who was a relative of Kosanovich, we advised Kosanovich that this Bureau had never been in possession of Tesla's papers.

[REDACTED] (b)(7)(C)
(b)(7)(D)

Senator [REDACTED] furnished the Bureau five communications received from a [REDACTED] which pertained primarily to Abraham Spanel. This individual mentioned the FBI at length in these communications, pointing out that Mr. Foxworth had been called in on the Tesla case but was killed shortly thereafter. He further stated that he was associated with Fitzgerald and as such came in touch with Tesla. He stated the FBI investigated this matter but their hands were tied, that there was nothing the FBI could do as they had been stopped from a higher level, that [REDACTED] the FBI Agent he dealt with, resigned and requested [REDACTED] never to discuss the matter with him again, that he had a wife and family to consider and that the last hope was Congress. These communications were furnished to the Department on September 19, 1950. (b)(7)(C)
(b)(7)(D)
(C)

[REDACTED] (b)(7)(C)

[REDACTED] (b)(7)(C)
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] We did have an Agent, [REDACTED] who entered on
duty [REDACTED] resigned [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] The file
does not indicate that we have ever interviewed [REDACTED] on the basis
of [REDACTED] allegations.

I think we should see what specifics [REDACTED] wants. I
think we can tell him on the Tesla papers that when they were
reported to us, the Department stated that the Alien Property
Custodian was going to seize the papers and that we learned Spanel
had called the War Department about the papers falling into the
wrong hands. [REDACTED] (b)(7)(C)
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Right.
H.

Page.
H.

Am by
in Belmont

Why wasn't he
interviewed?

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