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Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

January 11, 1943

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7-2-80 BY SP4 Jmf/te

MEMORANDUM FOR THE

RE: UNKNOWN SUBJECT  
EXPERIMENTS AT  
OF NIKOLA TESLA  
ESPIONAGE - R

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E.A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Kramer  
Mr. McGuire  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Beahm  
Miss Gandy

Nikola Tesla, one of the world's outstanding in the electrical field, died at his residence in the New York City, on January 7, 1943. In the course of his many experiments with respect to the transmission of radio and what is commonly called the "Death Ray" with respect to the wireless transmission of electrical energy, were completed and perfected, and Tesla had also completed and a revolutionary type of torpedo which is not in use at the present time. The specifications, explanations of the basic theories, working models of Tesla's scientific endeavors are reported to be his effects. Tesla is reported to have some 80 trunks in different places containing transcripts and plans having to do with his experiments as well as a working model of one of his developments in the safety deposit box at the Governor Clinton Hotel.

Information concerning Tesla's experiments was reported to the New York Office by A. N. Spanel and Bloyce Fitzgerald, the latter an electrical engineer who had been quite close to Tesla. Both of these individuals have indicated that no steps have been taken to preserve Tesla's records and models or to keep them from falling into the hands of individuals sympathetic to the Axis powers.

Tesla has a distant relative by the name of Sava Kusanovich, whom he intensely disliked. Kusanovich is reported to be taking steps to get possession of these important documents and plans, and Spanel believes there is a strong likelihood that Kusanovich will make such information available to the enemy. On January 7, 1943, Kusanovich, accompanied by George Clark, in charge of the Museum and Laboratory for RCA, and Kenneth Swezey of Brooklyn, New York, entered Tesla's rooms at the Hotel New Yorker where, with the aid of a locksmith, they broke into a safe in which Tesla kept some of his important papers, including important electrical formulae, designs, et cetera.

Mr. Spanel, in addition to reporting these developments to the Bureau, has also advised the headquarters of the Military Intelligence Division, a Mr. Workin of the Department of Justice in Washington, and Dr. JAN 18 1943 of the advisors to Vice President Wallace. Lorado advised Spanel that the Government was vitally interested in the effects of Tesla and requested that Spanel lose no time in doing all he could to preserve them.



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Best Copy Available

Memorandum for the Director

- 2 -

The New York Office was instructed to discuss the matter up with the State's Attorney in New York City with the possibility taking Kosanovich into custody on a burglary charge and obtaining the various papers which Kosanovich is reported to have taken from Tesla. It was pointed out that any activities pursued by the State's Attorney should be handled in a most secret fashion in order to avoid any publicity with respect to Tesla's inventions. The New York Office was also instructed to get the Surrogate Court in order that stops could be placed against the movements of Tesla both in his hotel and any other points, in particular, the safe boxes that he may have in order that no one may enter them without a Bureau representative being present and every precaution taken to preserve the secrecy of Tesla's inventions. The New York Office is to keep the Bureau advised of all developments.

Respectfully,

*D. L. Ladd*  
D. L. Ladd

*L. M. C. Smith is handling this with a lot of rope. To Custodian so there appears to be no need for us to mess around in it.*

*Ed*