

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : L. V. BOARDMAN

DATE: June 29, 1955

FROM : A. H. BELMONT

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7-2-80 BY SP4 Jm/rtc

SUBJECT: NIKOLA TESLA  
MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING (ESPIONAGE)

Tolson  
Boardman  
Nichols  
Belmont  
Harbo  
Mohr  
Parsons  
Rosen  
Tamm  
 Sizoo  
 Winter  
Tele.  
Holloman  
Gandy

(b)  
(7)  
(C)

Nikola Tesla, a native of Yugoslavia, was a famous electric inventor who died in New York City in 1943 where he had lived for many years. In attached letter to Bureau dated 6-25-55 Kenneth M. Swezey, Brooklyn, New York, advises he is gathering material to help in a nation-wide commemoration of Tesla's hundredth birth anniversary in 1956. Swezey relates he was present when Tesla's safe was opened by friends after his death and advises the contents were thereafter replaced and then impounded by the United States Alien Property Custodian. Later the safe was removed to Belgrade, Yugoslavia, to be installed in the Tesla Museum. Missing from Tesla's effects is a gold Edison medal he had been awarded. Swezey is seeking to locate the medal and has been advised by the Office of Alien Property (OAP) that OAP held none of Tesla's property. Swezey states he has heard the FBI assisted OAP in handling Tesla's effects while in storage, and accordingly, he asks whether Bureau could assist him in locating the Edison medal. Re FBI's assistance to OAP Swezey mentions that in the Tesla biography ("The Prodigal Genius" - 1944) by John O'Neill it was stated FBI broke into Tesla's safe the day he died (1-8-43 to protect contents from enemy hands). Swezey notes this same comment appears in article ("The Genius Who Walked Alone") by Alfred H. Sinks in the June, 1955, "Coronet." Swezey says he knows FBI did not do this. Bureau did not enter into Tesla safe matter upon Department's advice it was being handled by OAP. Bureau previously aware of comment in O'Neill's book.

In 1945 Sinks requested for his use as author data re Bureau's microfilm procedure. Was advised no such data available for publication.

Enclosure *sent* 6-30-55

100-2237

cc - 1 - 65-47953

Ticklers - Mr. Bird

Mr. Belmont

Mr. Boardman

ETB:jaa

(5)

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RECORDED

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EX-104

JUL 7 1955

Memorandum For Mr. Boardman

RECOMMENDATION:

That the attached letter be sent to Swezey advising Bureau did not participate in the handling of Tesla's effects and that the matter was handled by OAP. Therefore, Bureau unable to be of assistance; that no action be taken relative to Sinks' comment in "Coronet" article.

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SE  
H.A. SB  
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