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DCE-17437

Chief CI/SRS

22 September 1955

S. E. Johnson

James A. PERRY

#90178

James A. PERRY, Jr., mailed two letters from Washington, D. C., on 29 June 1955, one to his father, and another to Severino D. GOMEZ; however, in so doing, PERRY placed the letter to his father in the envelope addressed to GOMEZ, and the letter to GOMEZ in the envelope addressed to his father. When the letters were received by PERRY, Sr. and GOMEZ, both noting the error, they exchanged letters. However, GOMEZ considered the contents of the letter he had at first received important enough to turn over to his brother-in-law, Leal GOMEZ, who in turn referred it to the Boston Office of the FBI.

The letter, in substance, indicated that while PERRY was serving in South America, under cover for this Agency, he had revealed his true status to his wife's father, Mr. GONZALEZ, on a visit to South America, and who later had revealed this information to PERRY's father. In correspondence following PERRY's father having become knowledgeable of PERRY's true status, he indicates that therein he might have intimated that his work was not so hush-hush, and that on that basis PERRY's father "had dropped his guard" in effect, and had told others of PERRY's true status. This letter was a warning to PERRY's father that he should attempt to correct the indiscretion of revealing PERRY's status while he was in South America. The letter refers to other letters which PERRY indicates contained information revealed through indiscretion on his part, and which he asks his father to destroy.

According to our records, PERRY was granted an Operational Clearance on 22 May 1953, for use as a sitting informant or as a contract agent on anti-Communist student activities. He was used as a contract agent from September 1953 to February 1955 in (S) under (S) cover.

He is of Portuguese extraction, and he or his father had changed the family name from (S) to PERRY. His wife's maiden name was G. GONZALEZ. She was a student at Northeastern University prior to attendance at Northeastern University.

He attended Northeastern University from 1947 to 1951 and received an AB Degree; Boston University from 1951 to 1952 where he received an MA Degree in Latin American Regional Studies; and at Vanderbilt University from 1952 to 1953 working toward a Ph.D. Degree.

His position at Northeastern University was as a Professor Emeritus. His relationship with students was considered by most informants as no more than professor-student relationship; however, covering CI and CS and FBI.

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the letter intended for **PERRY's** father, advised the FBI that he, **OMEZ**, had attended Boston University during the period **PERRY** was studying under **HALPERIN**. **OMEZ** was of the opinion that the **HALPERIN-PERRY** relationship was more than just the professor-student type because **PERRY** saw **HALPERIN** during the evenings, but never told **OMEZ** what he discussed with **HALPERIN**.

**OMEZ** also advised that about June 1953, just before **PERRY's** departure for Rio de Janeiro, **PERRY** called **HALPERIN** on the telephone and at that time **HALPERIN** was under investigation. **PERRY** told **OMEZ** that **HALPERIN** was in a predicament, and that he, **PERRY**, felt sorry for him. Earlier **PERRY** had told **OMEZ** that **HALPERIN** had a lot of influence in Washington, and was going to get a job for **PERRY**.

According to the FBI, the **HALPERIN** mentioned above, appears to be identical with Maurice Ryan **HALPERIN**, former employee of OSS, who was identified in November 1945 by Elizabeth **SENTLEY** as having furnished information for transmittal to the Soviets.

**PERRY** recently contacted this Agency requesting permission to state that he had worked for the Agency in his application for employment with USIA. WH Division, to whom this request was forwarded, was advised that **PERRY** was not to disclose his past employment with this Agency. WH Division, in turn, informed Security of their desires that USIA be informed of **PERRY's** past connections with this Agency.

Security, on the basis of the above request by WH Division, contacted the appropriate person in USIA and advised them on a controlled basis of **PERRY's** former affiliation with this Agency.

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