

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. L. V. BOARDMAN *LB*

FROM : MR. A. H. BELMONT *AB*

SUBJECT: DR. J. ROBERT OPPENHEIMER
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

DATE: July 9, 1954

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Tolson _____
 Boardman _____
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 Belmont _____
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J. Edgar Hoover
W. C. Sullivan

Reference is made to the Director's memorandum dated June 29, 1954, informing that the Attorney General, at the suggestion of Admiral Lewis L. Strauss, Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, inquired as to the possibility of placing a surveillance on Oppenheimer for a few days. The Director informed the Attorney General that this would be taken care of. The Director then called Admiral Strauss and told him a surveillance would be placed on Oppenheimer for a week. Accordingly, Newark was informed on June 29, 1954, to reinstitute the physical and technical surveillances on Oppenheimer.

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As you are aware, the technical surveillance was instituted on the night of July 2, 1954, the delay being caused by inability to secure a leased line with adequate security precautions.

It has now been determined from the surveillances that Oppenheimer has been carrying out his usual duties at the Institute for Advanced Study. He has also been in contact with his attorneys and he has had social contacts with friends. None of these contacts appear to be of an unusual nature. The surveillances have further determined that Oppenheimer, his wife, and his children are contemplating a months vacation on a sailing vessel in the vicinity of the Virgin Islands. The Oppenheims are attempting to charter a 72-foot vessel, with a crew of four, which is known as "The Comanche." Oppenheimer has indicated he desires to remain in U. S. waters in order to avoid possible criticism. The Oppenheims have indicated that they desire to leave on their cruise within the next week. Pertinent data from the surveillances, as mentioned above, have been furnished to the Atomic Energy Commission and to the Department.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the physical and technical surveillances on Oppenheimer be continued for the time being in order to determine exactly when and where the Oppenheims will start their proposed cruise, which may be within the next week. If and when the Oppenheims leave on a cruise, further

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consideration will be afforded toward maintaining the surveillances and a memorandum will be submitted. If the cruise is postponed for any appreciable length of time, a memorandum will also be submitted with appropriate recommendation.

✓. [unclear]

F2. [unclear] glabr

OK.

[unclear]