Freedom of Information Release

On

Subject: Nikola Tesla

File #: 100-2237
Pages Reviewed - 160
Pages Released - 160

Federal Bureau of Investigation

[redacted]

b7C [redacted] Weehawken, N.J., 9/24/40.

Department of Justice,

Atten. Mr. G. Edgar Hoover,

Washington, D. C.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-2-80 BY SP4 Jan/ptc

Dear Mr. Hoover:

The appended article was printed in the New York Times issue of Sunda September 22, 1940 and if based on proven facts, should be of vital importance to our War Department as well as to that of other nations now controlled by insane dictators.

If, as the author states, the teleforce has been perfected by Nikola Tesla, it would be a measure of foresightedness to insure his constant guarding against his beir molested, possibly kidnapped and tortured, by alien enemies for the purpose of seizing the secret of such an invaluable instrument of war and/or defense

The foregoing is offered just in case the article and its inferences have not been called to your attention.

Very truly yours

[redacted] b7C

1 ENCL

INDEXED & INDEXED

Mark 10/1/40 ENT: 2M
100-2237-1
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
2 Sep 1940
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

NY Times 9/25/40

"Death Ray" for Planes

Nikola Tesla, one of the truly great inventors who celebrated his eighty-fourth birthday on July 10, tells the writer that he stands ready to divulge to the United States Government the secret of his "teleforce," with which, he said, airplane motors would be melted at a distance of 250 miles, so that an invisible Chinese Wall of Defense would be built around the country against any attempted attack by an enemy air force, no matter how large.

This "teleforce," he said, is based on an entirely new principle of physics that "no one has ever dreamed about," different from the principle embodied in his inventions relating to the transmission of electrical power from a distance, for which he has received a number of basic patents. This new type of force, Mr. Tesla said, would operate through a beam one one-hundred-millionth of a square centimeter in diameter, and could be generated from a special plant that would cost no more than $2,000,000 and would take only about three months to construct.

A dozen such plants, located at strategic points along the coast, according to Mr. Tesla, would be enough to defend the country against all possible aerial attack. The beam would melt any engine, whether Diesel or gasoline-driven, and would also ignite the explosives aboard any bomber. No possible defense against it could be devised, he asserts, as the beam would be all-penetrating.

High Vacuum Eliminated

The beam, he states, involves four new inventions, two of which already have been tested. One of these is a method and apparatus for producing rays [illegible] other manifestations of er[illegible] free air, eliminating the [illegible]sh, for a high vacuum; a second is a method and process for producing "very great electrical force"; the third is a method for amplifying this force, and the fourth is a new method for producing "a tremendous electrical repelling force." This would be the projector, or gun, of the system. The voltage for propelling the beam to its objective, according to the inventor, will attain a potential of 50,000,000 volts.

With this enormous voltage, he said, microscopic electrical particles of matter will be catapulted on their mission of defensive destruction. He has been working on this invention, he added, for many years and has recently made a number of improvements in it.

Mr. Tesla makes one important stipulation. Should the government decide to take up his offer he would go to work at once, but they would have to trust him. He would suffer "no interference from experts."

In ordinary times such a condition would very likely interpose an insuperable obstacle. But times being what they are, and with the nation getting ready to spend billions for national defense, at the same time taking in consideration the reputation of Mr. Tesla as an inventor who always was many years ahead of his time, the question arises whether it may not be advisable to take Mr. Tesla at his word and commission him to go ahead with the construction of his teleforce plant.

Such a Device "Invaluable"

After all, $2,000,000 would be relatively a very small sum compared with what is at stake. If Mr. Tesla really fulfills his promise the result achieved would be truly staggering. Not only would it save billions now planned for air defense, by making the country absolutely impregnable against any air attack, but it would also save many more billions in property that would otherwise be surely destroyed no matter how strong the defenses are as witness current events in England.

Take, for example, the Panama Canal. No matter how strong the defenses, a suicide squadron of dive bombers, according to some experts, might succeed in getting through and cause such damage that would make the Canal unusable, in which case our Navy might find itself bottled up.

Considering the probabilities in the case even if the chances were 100,000 to 1 against Mr. Tesla the odds would still be largely in favor of taking a chance on spending $2,000,000. In the opinion of the writer, who has known Mr. Tesla for many years and can testify that he still retains full intellectual vigor, the authorities in charge of building the national defense should at once look into the matter. The sum is insignificant compared with the magnitude of the stake.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11-9-92 BY SP4 [illegible]

100-2237-1

RECORDED & INDEXED

EWT:ZM
100-2237-1

October 1, 1940

[redacted]
Weehawken, New Jersey

b7C

Dear [redacted]

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated September 24, 1940, together with its enclosure.

Your courtesy and interest in bringing this information to my attention are indeed appreciated, and you may be assured your letter will receive appropriate consideration.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-2-80 BY SP4 Jam/rtc

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Clegg
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Nathan
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Egan
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rendon
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
★ OCT 1 1940 ★
P M
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

[redacted]

JAN 12 1943

TELETYPE

[redacted]

FBI NYC 1-12-43 11-06 PM WHS

DIRECTOR

VEST

UNSUBS --- EQUIPMENT, EXPERIMENTS AND RESEARCH OF NIKOLA TESLA, DE-
CEASED, [redacted] ESPIONAGE - M. RETEL UNDER ABOVE HEADING TO THE BUREAU
FROM THIS OFFICE DATED JAN NINE LAST. INQUIRY DEVELOPS THAT TESLA DIED
JAN EIGHT, RATHER THAN THURSDAY, JAN SEVEN, AS [redacted] STATED IN
REFERENCE TELETYPE. ON THE NIGHT OF JAN EIGHT, SAVA KOSANOVICH, GEORGE
CLARK, AND KENNETH SWEEZEY VISITED TESLA-S HOTEL WITH A REPRESENTATIVE
OF SHAW WALKER CO. IN ORDER TO OPEN THE SAFE IN THE ROOM OF TESLA.
KOSANOVICH LATER REPORTED TO WALTER GORSUCH, OFFICE OF ALIEN PROPERTY
CUSTODIAN, NYC, THAT HE WENT INTO THE ROOM IN ORDER TO SEARCH FOR A
WILL OF TESLA. KOSANOVICH AND THE OTHERS MADE THE SEARCH OF THE SAFE
IN THE PRESENCE OF THREE ASST MANAGERS OF HOTEL NEW YORKER AS WELL AS
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE YUGOSLAVIAN CONSULATE, IDENTITIES OF LATTER NOT
YET KNOWN. AFTER THE SAFE WAS OPENED, SWEEZEY, TOOK FROM THE SAFE A
BOOK CONTAINING TESTIMONIALS SENT TO TESLA ON THE OCCASION OF HIS SEVEN-
TY FIFTH BIRTHDAY. THIS BOOK WAS ARRANGED FOR TESLA BY SWEEZEY.
KOSANOVICH TOOK FROM THE ROOM THREE PICTURES OF TESLA, TWO BEING EN-
LARGED NEWSPAPER PICTUREX. ACCORDING TO MANAGERS OF HOTEL AND KOSANO-
VICH HIMSELF, NOTHING ELSE WAS REMOVED FROM THE ROOM OR SAFE. THE
SAFE WAS THEN CLOSED UNDER A NEW COMBINATION, WHICH COMBINATION IS
NOW IN POSSESSION O[redacted] KOSANOVICH. ON SATURDAY AFTERNOON, JAN
NINE, GORSUCH AND [redacted] FTIZGERALD OF ALIEN PROPERTY CONTROL WENT TO
HOTEL AND SEIZED ALL THE PROPERTY OF TESLA, CONSISTING OF ABOUT TWO
TRUCKLOANDS OF MATERIAL, SEALED ALL ARTICLES AND TRANSFERRED THEM TO
THE MANHATTAN STORAGE AND WAREHOUSE CO. NY, WHERE THEY ARE NOW LOCATED.
AT THAT [redacted] TIME THERE WERE ALSO IN THIS WAREHOUSE APPROXIMATELY
THIRTY BARRELS AND BUNDLES BELONGING TO TESLA WHICH HAD BEEN THERE SINCE
ABOUT NINETEEN THIRTY FOUR. THESE HAVE ALSO [redacted] BEEN SEALED AND
ARE NOW UNDER ORDERS OF ALIEN PROPERTY CUSTODIAN. IN VIEW OF FACT TESLA
IS A US NATURALIZED CITIZEN, ALIEN PROPERTY CUSTODIAN FEELS THAT ITS
JURISDICTION OVER PROPERTY IS DOUBTFUL BUT [redacted] FEELS THAT NO OTHER
AGENCY WILL BE ABLE TO GET [redacted] TO THIS PROPERTY FOR AT LEAST TWO DAYS.

COPIES DESTROYED 3/10/58 mm

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 1-13-83 BY [redacted]

100-2237-2

16 JAN 13 1943

Rec'd 12:15 a m
1-13-43
EW

COPY IN FILE

77 FEB 5 1943

[redacted]

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NOT FOIA DELETIONS

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

AFTER THAT TIME IT IS POSSIBLE THAT A PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR WILL BE APPOINTED FOR THE PROPERTY WHO MAY TAKE THE PROPERTY INTO HIS CUSTODY. TESLA ALSO HAD SOME PROPERTY, [redacted] ALLEGED BY INFORMANT FITZGERALD IN THIS CASE, TO BE A WORKING MODEL OF AN INVENTION IN A SAFE DEPOSIT BOX IN GOVERNOR CLINTON HOTEL IN NY. INQUIRY SHOWS THAT THIS WAS PLACED HERE BY TESLA IN NINETEEN THIRTY TWO AS SECURITY FOR FOUR HUNDRED DOLLARS OWED HOTEL. THIS BILL IS STILL OWED AND HOTEL APPEARS UNWILLING TO RELEASE THIS PROPERTY TO ANYONE AT LEAST UNTIL [redacted] DEBT IS PAID, BUT THIS OFFICE WILL BE ADVISED IF ANYONE ATTEMPTS TO PAY BILL AND OBTAIN PROPERTY. CONCERNING TESLA HOTEL MANAGERS REPORT HE WAS [redacted] VERY ECCENTRIC IF NOT [redacted] MENTALLY DERANGED DURING PAST TEN YEARS AND IT IS DOUBTFUL IF HE HAS CREATED ANYTHING OF VALUE DURING THAT TIME, ALTHOPRIOR TO THAT HE PROBABLY WAS A VERY BRILLIANT INVENTOR. THEREFORE, ANY NOTES OF VALUE WERE PROBABLY THOSE MADE PRIOR TO THAT TIME. KOSANOVICH IS A NEPHEW OF TESLA WHO DESCRIBED HIMSELF AS FORMERLY QUOTE YUGOSLAV MINISTER OF STATE UNQUOTE AND NOW QUOTE [redacted] PRESIDENT OF EASTERN AND CENTRAL PLANNING BOARD REPRESENTING YUGOSLOVIA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, POLAND AND GREECE, UNQUOTE. SWEEZEY IS A WRITER FOR POPULAR MECHANICS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS WHO IS [redacted] DESIROUS OF PUBLISHING A BIOGRAPHY OF TESLA AND THERFORE WOULD LIKE TO OBTAIN CONTROL OF HIS NOTES FOR THIS WORK. CLARK IS EMPLOYED BY RCA AND WOULD ALSO PROVIDE STORAGE ROOM FOR TESLAS EFFECTS IN ORDER TO USE THEM IN WRITING A BIOGRAPHY. TESLA AT ONE TIME REPORTED TO BE WORKING ON EXPERIMENTS FOR YUGOSLAVIAN GOVERNMENT IN EXILE. IT IS DESIRED THAT BUREAU ADVISE IMMEDIATELY WHETHER IT IS INTERESTED FURTHER IN THIS PROPERTY FOR PURPOSES OF TAKING CONTROL OF IT. SUGGEST THAT, IN VIEW OF FACT THAT THE NOTES AND OTHER MATERIAL WOULD BE HIGHLY TECHNICAL IN CHARACTER AND FOR THAT REASON [redacted] COULD NOT BE REVIEWED [redacted] EXCEPT BY A TRAINED PERSON THE OFFICE OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT MIGHT BE INTERESTED.
FOXWORTH
END NYC S2 WHS
HOLD WA R 2 RSG

[redacted]

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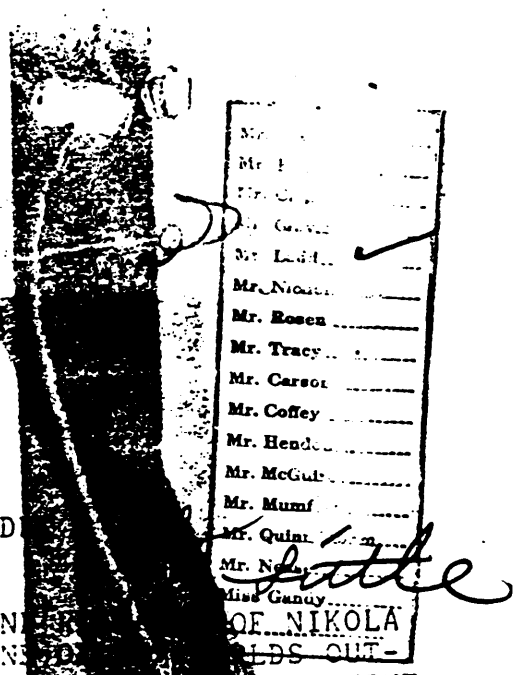

FBI NYC 1-9-43 11-30 PM D

DIRECTOR

COAT

UNKNOWN SUBJECTS. [redacted] EXPERIMENTS AN[redacted] OF NIKOLA TESLA, DECEASED. ESPIONAGE - M. NIKOLA TESLA, ONE [redacted]LDS OUT-STANDING SCIENTISTS IN THE ELECTRICAL FIELD, DIED [redacted]TH, NINE-TEEN FORTY THREE AT THE HOTEL NEW YORKER, NEW YORK [redacted] HIS LIFETIME, HE CONDUCTED MANY EXPERIMENTS IN CONNECTION [redacted] WIRELESS TRANSMISSION OF ELECTRICAL POWER AND [redacted] WHAT IS [redacted] CALLED THE DEATH RAY. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION FURNISHED [redacted] ONE ONE THREE SIX FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY, THE NOTES AN[redacted]LAS EXPERIMENTS AND FORMULAE TOGETHER WITH DESIGNS OF [redacted]RY TO VITALIZE THEM ARE AMONG TESLAS PERSONAL EFFECTS, AND [redacted] HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO PRESERVE THEM OR TO KEEP THEM FROM FALLING INTO HANDS OF PEOPLE [redacted] UNFRIENDLY TO THE WAR EFFORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS. ACCORD-ING TO SPANEL, A DISTANT RELATIVE OF TESLA, NAMED S[redacted]ANOVICH, WHO WAS INTENSELY DISLIKED BY TESLA, IS TAKING STEPS TO[redacted]SSESSION OF THESE IMPORTANT DOCUMNTS AND PLANS. SPANEL BELIEVES [redacted] THERE IS A STRONG LIKELIHOOD THAT KOSANOVICH WILL MAKE THIS MATERIAL AVAILABLE TO TO THE ENEMY. SPANEL ADVISED G TWO HEADQUARTERS IN WASHINGTON, AS WELL AS MR MORKIN OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE IN WASHINGTON, CONCERING THE ABOVE. SPANEL WAS ALSO INTELEPHONIC COMMUNICATION WITH [redacted] DR D LOZADO, ONE OF THE ADVISORS TO VICE PRESIDENT WALLACE CONCERNING THIS MATTER, AND LOZADO TOLD SPANEL [redacted] THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS VITALLY INTERESTED IN THE EFFECTS OF TESLA AND REQUESTED SPANEL TO LOSE NO TIME IN DOING ALL HE COULD TO PRESERVE [redacted] THEM. BLOYCE FITZGERALD, AN ELECTRICAL ENGINEER WHO HAD BEEN QUITE CLOSE TO TESLA DURING HIS LIFE TIME, ADVISED THE NEW YORK OFFICE THAT ON JANUARY SEVENTH, NINETEEN FORTY THREE, SAVA KOSANOVICH, GEORGE CLARK, WHO IS IN CHARGE OF THE MUS-EUM AND LABORATORY FOR RCA, AND KENNETH SWEZEY OF ONE SIX THREE MILTON STREET, BROOLKYN, NY, WENT TO TESLAS ROOMS IN THE NEW YORKER, AND WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF A [redacted] LOCKSMITH BROKE INTO A SAFE WHICH TESLA HAD INHIS ROOMS IN WHICH HE KEPT SOME OF HIS VALUABLE PAPERS, INCLUDING IMPORTANT [redacted] ELECTRICAL FORMULAE, DESIGNS, ET CETERA. WITHIN THE PAST MONTH, TESLA TOLD FITZGERALS THAT HIS EXPERIMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE WIRELESS TRANSMISSION OF ELECTRICAL POWER HAD BEEN COMPLETED AND PERFECTED.

ENCLOSURE

Memo Mr. Tolson 1/11/43 JBL

Memo to Director 1/11/43 JBL.

RECORDED

100-2237-3

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1 JAN 18 1943

FIVE

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FITZGERALD ALSO KNOWS THATTESLA HAS CONCEIVED AND D[redacted] A REVOLUTION-
ARY TYPE OF TORPEDO WHICH IS NOT PRESENTLY IN USE B[redacted] THE NATIONS.
IT IS FITZGERALDS BELIEF THAT THIS DESIGN HAS NOT B[redacted] AVAILABLE
TO ANY NATION UP TO THE PRESENT TIME. FROM STATEME[redacted] TO FITZ-
GEARLD BY TESLA , HE KNOWS THAT THE COMPLETE PLANS, [redacted]CATIONS
AND EXPLANATION OF THE BASIC THEORIES OF THESE THIN[redacted]OME PLACE IN
THE PERSONAL EFFECTS OF TESLA. HE ALSO KNOWS THAT [redacted] A WORKING
MODEL OF TESLAS WHICH COST MORE THAN TEN THOUSAND D[redacted]O BUILD IN
A SAFETY [redacted] DEPOSIT BOX BELONGING TO TESLA [redacted]OVERNOR
CLINTON H[redacted]X HOTEL, AND F[redacted] FITZGEARLD B[redacted] THIS MODEL
HAS TO DO WITH THE SO CALLEDE DEATH RAY OR THE WIRE[redacted]NSMISSION OF
ELECTRICAL CURRENT. TESLA HAS ALSO TOLD FITZGEARLD[redacted] CONVERSATIONS
THAT HE HAS SOME [redacted]X EIGHTY [redacted] TRUNKS INDIFFERE[redacted]CES CONTAINING
TRANSCRIPTS AND PLANS HAVING TO DO WITH EXPERIMENTS [redacted]ED BY HIM.
BUREAU IS REQUESTED TO ADVISE IMMEDIATELY WHAT, IF A[redacted]ION SHOULD
BE TAKEN CONCERNING THIS MATTER BY THE NEW YORK FIEL[redacted]ION.

FOXWORTH

CORRECTION- THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE TELETYPE THE NAME THAT SHOULD APPEAR
IS FITZGEARLD NOT FITZGERALD [redacted] AS IT SOMETIMES IS
SPELLED

HOLD

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JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

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

JBL:ed

January 11, 1943

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 2-2-80 BY SP4 Sample

MEMORANDUM FOR THE [redacted]

RE: UNKNOWN SUBJEC[redacted]
EXPERIMENTS A[redacted]
OF NIKOLA TESL[redacted]
ESPIONAGE - [redacted]

Nikola Tesla, one of the world's outsta[redacted] in the electrical field, died at his residence in the [redacted] New York City, on January 7, 1943. In the course of h[redacted] ducted many experiments with respect to the transmission of electri[redacted] by means of radio and what is commonly called the Death Ray. His e[redacted] with respect to the wireless transmission of electrical power were [redacted] to have been completed and perfected, and Tesla had also conceived and [redacted] d a revolutionary type of torpedo which is not in use by any nation [redacted] e present time. The specifications, explanations of the basic theories, [redacted] rking models of Tesla's scientific endeavors are reported to be among 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 has been 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.

1 ENCLOSURE

COPIES DESTROYED

Tesla has a distant relative by the name of Sava Kosanovich, whom he intensely disliked. Kosanovich is reported to be taking steps to get possession of these important documents and plans, and Spanel believes there is a strong likelihood that Kosanovich will make such information available to the enemy. On January 7, 1943, Kosanovich, 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 valuable papers, including important electrical formulae, designs, et cetera.

RECORDED & INDEXED 63 100-2237-3 JAN 18 1943

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

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS

55 JAN 26 1943

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

C-287

The New York Office was instructed to discreetly take the matter up with the State's Attorney in New York City with the view to possibly taking Kosanovich into custody on a burglary charge and obtaining the various papers which Kosanovich is reported to have taken from Tesla's safe. 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 contact the Surrogate Court in order that stops could be placed against the estate of Tesla both in his hotel and any other points, in particular, the safety deposit 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. M. Ladd

I.M.C Smith is handling this with alien Property Custodian so there appears to be no need for us to mess around in it.

EV

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

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

7

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

EAT:DS

January 12, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

On Friday, January 8th, Mr. L. M. C. Smith called me in connection with the death of Nikola Tesla. He advised me that he was concerned about the possibility of enemy agents confiscating some of the trunks of Tesla, who had died on January 7th. He understood that the War Department was interested in this matter and that apparently the Alien Property Custodian's office was taking some action. He desired to know whether the Bureau would take some steps to refrain relatives of Tesla from taking the contents of his trunks and whether the Bureau would seize possession of the trunks. Mr. Smith indicated that he was talking to the Alien Property Custodian along the same lines. I told him that in view of the fact he was going to handle the matter with the Alien Property Custodian's office, there did not appear to be any action which the Bureau could or should take.

1 ENCLO.

INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-2-80 BY SP4 JMP/pkb

Very truly yours,

Edw. A. Tamm

12 3:30 pm 1/13/43
Called Dorsey and instructed him to take no further action.

RECORDED 100-2237-3
B
1 JAN 13 1943

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES DEFENSE BONDS AND STAMPS

53 JAN 22 1943

b7C [redacted]

Milwaukee 6, Wis.
April 16, 1948

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-3-80 BY SP4 JRW/jrtc

Mr. J. E. Hoover
Federal Beacau of Investigation
Washington D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover,

I am a student at the Milwaukee School of Engineering, studying Electrical Engineering. I am also interested in the life and work of Nickola Tesla. I understand, that at the time of his death, your department took his manuscripts and experiment data for national security. I am preparing a paper to be presented before the student branch of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers on Tesla.

RECORDED 14 SEP 16 1948 100-2227-3X

If it is possible, I would appreciate material bearing on Tesla's [redacted] of the inventions and methods of experiment.

FBI
MAR 28 1948

This information would help me in a better presentation of this paper and consequently a far greater appreciation of this work in the field of science.

I know that a part of these experiments are known to have a secret classification, and I do not expect any of it.

I am interested in "Ground Current Transmission" as the basis of my thesis for graduation. If it is possible to obtain this information, I would be very grateful.

Yours very truly,

b7C [redacted]

[redacted]

100-2237-3X April 22, 1948

RECORDED 105-4 1953-12

[redacted]

Dear [redacted]

b7C

Your letter of April 16, 1948, has been received and I want to express my appreciation to you for having written me as you did. The effects of Nickola Tesla were handled by the Office of Alien Property, and not by this Bureau. It is suggested you may desire to communicate with the Office of Alien Property, United States Department of Justice, 101 Indiana Avenue, Washington, D. C.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

NOTE: This individual requests information relative to the work of Nickola Tesla relative to electrical experiments he was conducting, which Swain understands were taken by this Bureau and held for security reasons. Bureau file 65-47252 reflects that the effects of Tesla were handled by the Office of Alien Property.

VW:rjec

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-3-80 BY SP4 Jm/ks

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 8
APR 23 1948 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED READING ROOM
APR 22 7 00 PM '48

Tolson
E. A. Tamm
Clegg
Glavin
Ladd
Nichols
Rosen
Tracy
Carl
Gurnea
Harbo
Hoey
Pennington
Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Ingram
Miss Gandy

April 3, 1950

[redacted]

b7C

Washington, D. C.

My dear [redacted]

Reference is made to your inquiry by telephone on March 29, 1950, concerning certain technical papers which belonged to the late Nikola Tesla.

From an examination of our files, we have been able to determine that this Bureau has never been in possession, as had been indicated to you, of a copy of Dr. Tesla's papers.

Very sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

PJC:mes

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-2-80 BY SP4 Jan/etc

100-22347-2X1

RECORDED - 53

APR 7 1950

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EX-115

Tolson
Ladd
Clegg
Glavin
Nichols
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Tracy
Carbo
Hmr
Tele. Room
Nease
Sandy

MAILED 4
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COMM - FBI

APR 3 5 19 PM '50
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U.S. DEPT OF JUSTICE

APR 4 11 20 AM '50
RECEIVED READING ROOM
F B I
U.S. DEPT OF JUSTICE

Director, FBI

SAC, New York

April 17, 1950

SAVA N. KOSANOVIC
INTERNAL SECURITY-YU
(Bufile 65-47953)

Rebulet dated April 3 last.

On April 7, 1950 agents of this office interviewed Mr. J.V. POTTS, Vice President of the Manhattan Warehouse and Storage Company, 52nd Street & 7th Avenue, New York City, and at that time MR. POTTS advised that the rules of his firm required that all persons gaining access to goods stored by Manhattan first had to fill out an appropriate form setting forth their names, date of visit, and reason for requesting access to the goods.

In a review of the file pertaining to the storage of the effects of NIKOLA TESLA, MR. POTTS revealed that only one such visit had been made by persons outside of the management of Manhattan Storage itself. This one occasion took place on January 26 and 27, 1943, at which time representatives of the Alien Propert, Custodian made a thorough review of the entire effects of the TESLA estate. NIKOLA TESLA

The TESLA effects are stored in rooms 5J and 5L of Manhattan Storage's warehouse at 52nd Street & 7th Avenue, New York City. MR. MICHAEL KING, who stated he had been Floor Supervisor for approximately 10 years on the floor in question, stated that he could recall only the one occasion in early 1943 when an examination was made of the TESLA effects. He stated that at that time numerous photographs were taken by the examiners. His description of the equipment used would tend to show that a microfilm reproduction was made of some of the papers of the deceased scientist. MR. KING added that several of the group making the examination wore U.S. Navy uniforms, and during the two days required to complete the examination the civilian assistants in the group were identified to him only as "FEDERAL AUTHORITIES". According to MR. KING, no other instance of microfilming of the records of the TESLA estate has taken place since that time.

It should be noted that the Bureau was informed of the examination mentioned above by New York letter (with attachments) dated October 17, 1945, entitled UNKNOWN SUBJECT; SAVA KOSANOVICH; Experiments & Research of NIKOLA TESLA (Deceased), Espionage-M.

ORIGINAL FILED IN

cc: 65-12290

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jmp/ptc

100-2237-
NOT RECORDED
148 [illegible] 29

EHH:JJC
105-1391

[redacted]

MR. POTTS stated that no inquiry had been received by Manhattan from SAVA N. KOSANOVICH, nor had Manhattan informed him, in any way, that an examination of the TESLA effects had been made by anyone. In fact, added MR. POTTS, the only correspondence relating to the TESLA estate has been in the form of bills for storage.

MR. POTTS stated that any personal inquires regarding the estate would of necessity be directed to him, and to date no such inquiries have been made.

Interviewing agents explained to MR. POTTS that the examination made, as mentioned above, was not instigated by the Bureau, nor had the Bureau taken part in that examination.

Unless advised to the contrary, this investigation is being placed in a closed status, and no further investigative action is contemplated by this office. CLOSED.

b7C [redacted]
Minneapolis 14, Minnesota
August 18, 1952

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-2-80 BY SP4 JRM/rtc

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Records
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

In a manner of introduction, I wish to state that I am working toward a degree in Electrical Engineering at the Institute of Technology of the University of Minnesota.

For several years, I have been engaged in a study of extensive compass and detail concerning the researches and writings of the late, world renowned scientist, Dr. Nikola Tesla. At considerable expense, I have acquired an extensive collection of materials relating to Dr. Tesla and his works which include:

1) Personal letters written by Tesla to his close friend.

2) Numerous periodicals, some of which are to be found in only a few libraries throughout the United States.

3) A few rare books which have now become "collector's items".

4) A collection of issued patents.

Although the items listed are considerable in number, the specific information desired is lacking.

As I understand it, because of the nature of Dr. Tesla's role in scientific developments, all research papers, patent applications, etc., were secured by the Federal Bureau of Investigation at the time of Dr. Tesla's death in January of 1943.

The purpose of this seizure, as described in numerous articles, was to determine whether these papers contained suggestions leading toward advancements in the field of science.

RECORDED - 68

Reply
8-26-52

5-28

Now it seems that sufficient time has elapsed for an investigation of this kind. If Dr. Tesla's Estate has been released by the department in charge, any records that can be made available for examination will be welcomed.

A letter from Harold I. Baynton, Assistant Attorney General, Director, Office of Alien Property, informed me that the Library of Congress listed certain works, writings and research studies prepared by the late Dr. Tesla. However, a letter addressed to the Library failed to bring results as the Library "has no files on the researches of Tesla".

A similar result was obtained from the Bureau of Naval Research and the Department of Commerce.

I am especially interested in the research work in which Tesla was engaged in his later years. There are various unpublished works, such as a 10-page typewritten statement presented in 1937 at a meeting of several well-known editors outlining his discoveries and giving a resume' of his work in the fields of gravity and cosmic ray research, etc. Also, Tesla prepared various papers, one of which was in effort to secure the Pierre Gutzman Prize from the Institute of France. My inquiry is in effort to determine whether any of these documents, as well as others, are at this time available.

I will greatly appreciate any information in regard to any records which you may have.

Very truly yours,

b7C [redacted]

August 26, 1952

EX. - 28

[redacted]
Minneapolis 14, Minnesota
100 - 2237 - 4
Dear [redacted]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-2-80 BY SP4 Jrafeta

67C INDEXED 68
RECORDED - 68

(D)(2)

With reference to your letter of August 18, 1952, our files disclose that the effects of Nikola Tesla were taken into custody at the time of his death by the Office of Alien Property, and not by this Bureau. Consequently, you may wish to communicate further with that agency, which may be addressed as follows: (65-47953)

Assistant Attorney General
Rowland F. Kirks
Director, Office of Alien Property
United States Department of Justice
101 Indiana Avenue, N. W.
Washington 25, D. C.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

cc - 1 - Assistant Attorney General (with copy of incoming)
Rowland F. Kirks
Director, Office of Alien Property
United States Department of Justice
101 Indiana Avenue, N. W.
Washington 25, D. C.

MAILED 10
AUG 27 1952
COMM-FBI

PJC:awy

100-2237

NOTE: No reference Bureau files on correspondent in Minnesota.. 8-22-52...per [redacted] 67C

RECEIVED
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FBI

SEP 10 1952

PJC

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Tolson
Ladd
Nichols
Belmont
Clegg
Glavin
Harbo
Rosen
Tracy
Gearty
Mohr
Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Holloman
Sizoo
Miss Gandy

TO : MR. A. H. BELMONT

DATE: May 5, 1953

FROM : M. L. L. LAUGHLIN

SUBJECT: NIKOLA TESLA (Deceased)
INFORMATION CONCERNING

INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-2-80 BY SP3 jmp/tc

A [redacted] Ordnance Section of the Bureau of Standards (Em 2-4540, extension 623) called on the afternoon of May 4, 1953.

[redacted] stated that he had been reading a book entitled, "The Prodigal Genius - The Life of Nikola Tesla" by John J. O'Neill, whom [redacted] described as a science writer for a New York newspaper (publisher - Ives Washburn). [redacted] noted in this book that Bureau Agents went to Tesla's room following his death on January 7, 1943, opened his safe, examined his papers, and took over his personal files. [redacted] said this appeared on page 277. Mr. [redacted] stated that Tesla is the father of modern power engineering, being responsible for the invention of the A. C. generator, motor transmission, and other electrical engineering feats. He inquired (1) if the papers and works of Tesla were in the possession of the Bureau, and (2) if so, were they available for review in view of their scientific importance.

b7C

I told Mr. [redacted] that the statement concerning the Bureau's taking Tesla's files did not seem very logical but that I would check on the matter.

The Bureau's files reflect that shortly after the death of Tesla in his hotel room in New York City on January 7, 1943, Sava Kosanovich, a distant relative, and other individuals entered his room and opened the safe, examining certain materials which he possessed. On January 8, 1943, Mr. L. M. C. Smith of the Department advised Mr. Tamm that he was concerned about the possibility of enemy agents confiscating some of the trunks of Tesla and apparently the Office of Alien Property Custodian was taking some action regarding these effects. Since the matter was being handled by the Office of Alien Property Custodian, the Bureau did not make any inquiries into this situation. (65-47959-6)

It is noted also that the Bureau received a letter dated April 16, 1948, from Mr. [redacted] of [redacted] Milwaukee, Wisconsin, explaining that he was studying electrical engineering at the Milwaukee School of Engineering and

100-2237-4X

INDEXED

MAY 6 1953

SP SEC

LLL:mer

65-47959

1 - Mr. Nichols

was interested in the life and works of Tesla. [redacted] stated that he understood at the time of Tesla's death the Bureau took his manuscripts and experiment data for national security. The Bureau on April 22, 1948, advised [redacted] that the effects of Tesla were handled by the Office of Alien Property and not by the FBI.(65-47953-18)

I called Mr. [redacted] this morning and told him that it was the office of Alien Property and not the FBI which took over the effects of Tesla following his death. Accordingly, I suggested that Mr. [redacted] might wish to communicate with the office of Alien Property for further information concerning this matter.

The book "Prodigal Genius - The Life of Nikola Tesla" is not in the Bureau Library. A copy is being obtained from the Library of Congress. It will be examined to determine specifically the reference made to the Bureau's taking these papers. At that time a determination can be made as to what further action should be taken.

b7C

ADDENDUM: LLL:mer 5-14-53

Page 277 of the "Prodigal Genius - The Life of Nikola Tesla," describing Tesla's death, contains the following statement: "Operatives from the Federal Bureau of Investigation came and opened the safe in his room and took the papers it contained, to examine them for a reported important secret invention of possible use in the war."

Since this work was published in 1944, it is not felt that any particular purpose would be served by raising an objection with the publishers at this time. [redacted] the individual who raised the question, has been set straight and, therefore, no further action is being taken.

IDAHO FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: 3/10/54

FROM : SAC, New York (62-[redacted])

SUBJECT: [redacted]
NIKOLA TESLA

INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS UNCLASSIFIED 3-22-82 BY [redacted]

INDEXED

Mr. GEORGE H. SCHERFF, JR., 149 Beechord Road, New Rochelle, New York, advised that he received two letters from LELAND I. ANDERSON, 127 Seymour Avenue Southeast, Minneapolis, Minnesota, photostatic copies of which are being furnished the Bureau and Minneapolis.

Mr. SCHERFF stated that he was an associate of Dr. NIKOLA TESLA in 1914 and that for many years his father had been Dr. TESLA'S private secretary. Mr. SCHERFF said that he never heard of LELAND I. ANDERSON nor did he ever hear of any of the names mentioned in ANDERSON'S letters.

Mr. SCHERFF stated that he has quite a bit of Dr. TESLA'S writings in his possession and he didn't know whether or not they would be of value to a foreign government.

Mr. [redacted] is an Engineer with Consolidated Edison in New York. [redacted] the letters sounded "fishy" to him [redacted] he thought they should be brought to the attention of the proper authorities in the U.S. Government.

Mr. SCHERFF stated that if there was anything wrong with the [redacted] letters he would be willing to cooperate with the FBI.

No further action is being taken by the N.Y. Office, UACB.

Encs. (29)
1 - Minneapolis (2 Encs.)

EXP. PROC.

1 - ENCL

memo: New York
ETB:aas
3-10-54

100-2237-4X1
~~100-49173~~

RECORDED - 15
INDEXED - 15
EX-12

MAR 1954

FILED

FLS:JH

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Leland I. Anderson
127 Seymour Avenue Southeast
Minneapolis 14, Minnesota

February 3, 1954

Mr. George H. Scherff, Jr.
149 Seacord Road
Westchester, NEW YORK

Dear Mr. Scherff:

re.: The Life and work of Dr. Nikola Tesla.

Recently, I have founded an organization in name and honor of Dr. Tesla in cooperation with several people who were intimately associated with Tesla during his lifetime, and with others who are interested in Dr. Tesla and his achievements from a scientific and historical standpoint. (See enclosed brochure.) I have had some difficulty locating a few of Tesla's associates, and, the name of George Scherff is among them. Therefore, it is my sincere hope that you, Mr. Scherff, are the person I seek as having been associated with Tesla.

I have personally studied the works of Tesla for a number of years, being particularly interested in elaborating upon his researches regarding high-tension radiant beams. Through some travel and other efforts, I have been fortunate to locate many original collections of Tesla's correspondence and manuscripts, and in a few cases obtained a number of interesting items.

I was in New York a short time ago on business, and while there I visited Mr. Kenneth M. Swezey. He intends to undertake some significant work on behalf of Tesla in the near future, and since he knew Tesla for so many years during his later life, it will be handled with great understanding.

I hope that you may have some interest in the work which I have initiated on behalf of Dr. Tesla. There are many matters that I wish to discuss with you, provided of course, that you are the Mr. Scherff related to the Tesla story. I would be most happy to hear from you at your earliest convenience, and will send you all publications of the organization if you wish to receive them.

Very truly yours,

Leland I. Anderson

TESLA-INTERNATIONAL
University Station, Box 135
MINNEAPOLIS · 14 · MINNESOTA

To Those Who Are Interested in the Life and Work of
DR. NIKOLA TESLA

Following the death of Dr. Nikola Tesla on the 7th of January, 1943, Mr. John J. O'Neill, former Science Editor of the New York Herald Tribune, presented the biography

PRODIGAL GENIUS
The Life of Nikola Tesla

- a memorable tribute to one of the most outstanding figures in the entire field of electrical science. Many reading this biography learned of Nikola Tesla for the first time, despite his monumentous achievements with which he has won world-wide acclaim in scientific circles. Even those closely associated with the fields of science and engineering discovered a remarkable story not generally known of the brilliant genius Tesla whose sensitive personality and seclusion kept his fame in a shadow

The TESLA-INTERNATIONAL organization is being established in the United States in name and honor of Dr. Nikola Tesla by those sharing a mutual interest in his life and works. The organization has as its objective the promulgation of the truth about Nikola Tesla; that a full recognition be made for his unparalleled research work on the effects of currents of high frequency and high potential, and for his achievements in the realms of polyphase power transmission and telecommunication. It would be the duty of the organization to do all in its power that the name of Tesla win in the eyes of the nation the fame deserving of a truly great American for his contributions to science, industry, and to this country.

A journal of the TESLA-INTERNATIONAL organization was issued beginning the month of November, 1943. In addition to items of rec nt and historical interest related to Tesla, the journal will include

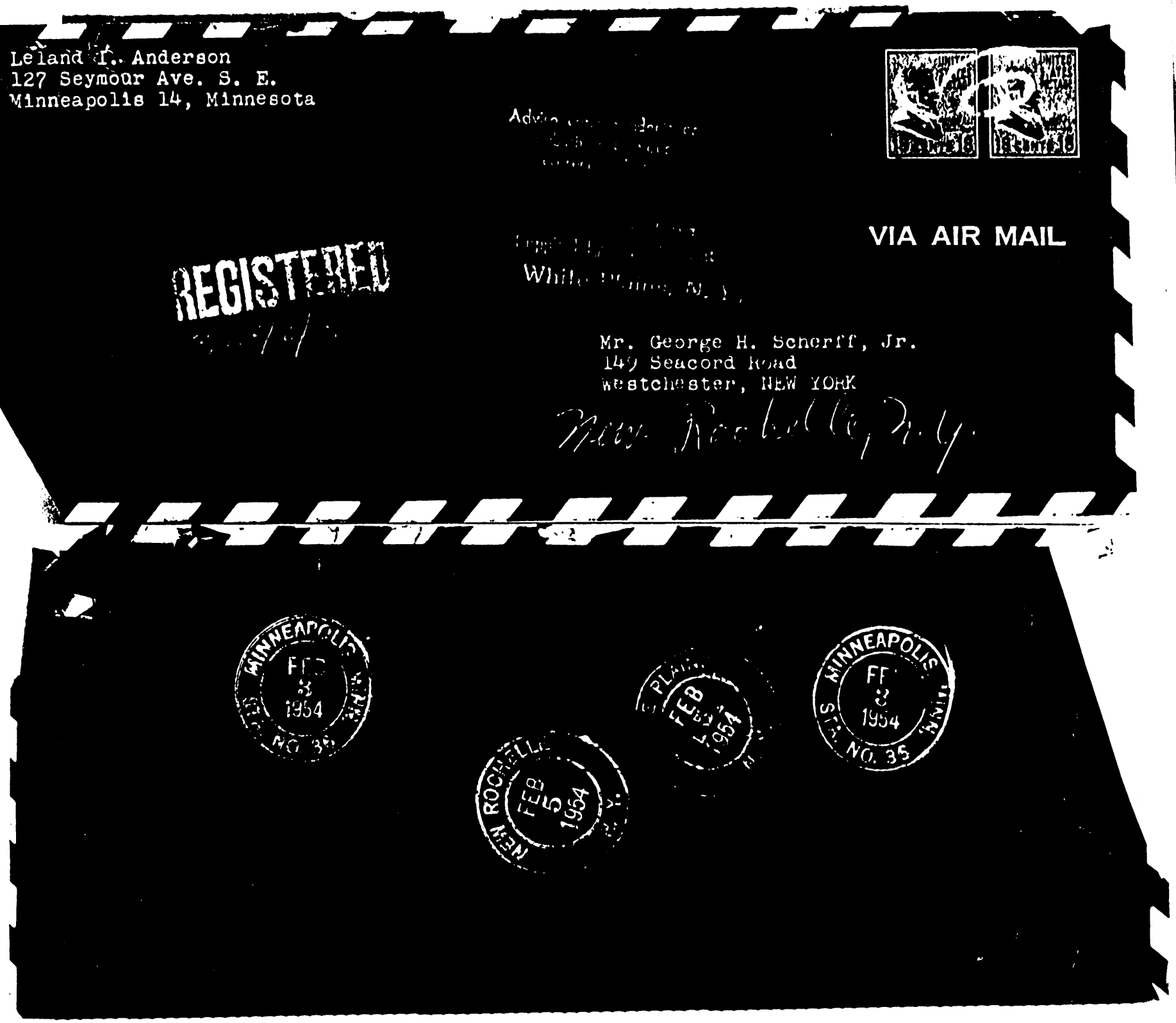
1) A formal roster of all those who have an interest in the Tesla organization and wish to engage in its activities.

2) An opportunity of editorial exchange by members of the organization through the medium of the journal.

3) A comprehensive bibliographical listing of all available items concerning Tesla, which would include a cataloging of the various collections of Tesliana not generally known. Such a listing will be of particular importance to scholars in the research field.

4) A presentation of hitherto unpublished writings and analyses of Tesla's technical research studies as they become available.

The Journal of the TESLA-INTERNATIONAL organization will be forthcoming at intervals of 1½ - 2 months. Subscription rate is $1.00 for 10 issues. Membership in the TESLA-INTERNATIONAL organization is concurrent with subscription to the Journal.


Leland L. Anderson
127 Seymour Ave. S. E.
Minneapolis 14, Minnesota
REGISTERED
VIA AIR MAIL
Mr. George H. Scherff, Jr.
149 Seacord Road
Westchester, NEW YORK
New Rochelle, N.Y.
MINNEAPOLIS
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NO. 35

Leland I. Anderson
127 Seymour Avenue Southeast
Minneapolis 14, Minnesota

February 12, 1953

Dear Mr. Scherff,

It was so very rewarding to receive your reply concerning Dr. Nikola Tesla... I have initiated an undertaking on behalf of Tesla because I feel that in all right and justice something should be done to perpetuate the name of Tesla and see to it that his name becomes a part of the heritage of this nation. A great task perhaps, but as time goes on I believe the name of Tesla will become more significant in scientific developments. I hope that you may have an interest in the organization which I have proposed and established, and I will be honored to have you as a member. The organization is presently set up on the basis of those having a mutual interest in Tesla, with a free exchange of information between members. The first two issues of the journal of the organization are being sent to you under separate cover, and should reach you in a day or two.

Some other members which may be of interest to you are; Muriel Arbus, Dorothy Skerritt, Kenneth Swezey and W. W. Wilhelm. The recent deaths of John O'Neill and Edwin Armstrong were very unexpected, and it is with a great sadness that I received the news and loss of these two members.

Do you know if Mr. Lowenstien had a daughter? The reason I ask is that a woman visited Mr. O'Neill before his death and told him that she inherited a great amount of Tesliana from her father - whom I presume to be Mr. Lowenstien. This woman was afraid of disclosing the information by reason of her mistaken notion and fear that she would rudely be raided by the army. You see Mr. O'Neill related to her that a few army officials visited his home with insistent requests for information. Of course all this sort of government interest was aroused by Tesla's "Death-Ray" rumors, played up by enterprising journalists. Well, the result of all this is that she refused to give Mr. O'Neill her married name - only that she married a Siamese prince no less, and moved to some mid-western city. If this woman has the amount of material that Mr. O'Neill intimated, it would certainly be important to locate her.

I believe that one of the valuable efforts of the Tesla organization would be to catalog every piece of information concerning Tesla. I have made a beginning effort along this line, and I hope that before too long all collections of Tesliana may be located, cataloged, and reproduced for fear of eventual loss. Through Mary A. Benjamin (of Walter R. Benjamin Autographs in New York) I have obtained a number of significant items of correspondence between Tesla and Robert U. Johnson. The entire collection of correspondence with Mr. Johnson numbers in excess of 70 pieces. I share this collection with Mrs.

Leland I. Anderson
127 Seymour Avenue Southeast
Minneapolis 14, Minnesota

James W. McChesney of Long Island. The period of this correspondence runs from 1894-1930. Mrs. McChesney has another group of correspondence between Tesla and George Sylvester Viereck which is very interesting in that it is from a period later in Tesla's life. (If you wish to receive any photostatic copies from these collections I will be happy to send them to you.)

I am interested to learn whether you have collected any mementoes, correspondence, writings, etc. of Tesla. For a long while I have been trying to locate a copy of the brochure which Tesla issued the first week of February, 1904. It came in a large square envelope bearing a large red wax seal with the initials "N.T." stamped thereon. Quite a number of them were distributed throughout New York and elsewhere by the Tesla enterprise in an effort to secure financial backing for the tower and power plant erected at Wardenclyffe, Long Island. You no doubt know of the brochure of which I speak. I thought it would be interesting to reproduce this brochure and distribute it among the members of the Tesla organization as a memento. Although I have written and inquired about this brochure extensively, I have not been able to locate a copy. Did you ever have one?

I have hopes that in 1956 (The Tesla Centenary) some significant observance may be organized here in the United States in honor of Tesla. The Tesla Museum in Yugoslavia has obtained the Tesla inheritance, which amounts to 9 tons of apparatus, writings, etc. It is the intention (so stated) of the Museum to publish the entire writings of Tesla, including those in the inheritance, on the Tesla Centenary. I don't know what sort of political propaganda might be injected in this publication, but it occured to me that it may be appropriate to arrange an advance publication in this country of Tesla's unpublished works. Unfortunately, there is not much to work on as yet. While the Tesla estate remained in this country, photostats of nearly every important paper in the estate were made under order of Wright Field Development Center in Ohio. If these photostats could be located there would be much material for a publication. However, in working with the Library of Congress in preparation of a file on Tesla, these photostats have escaped the most extensive search thus far.

Hoping that you may be interested in the efforts of the TESLA-INTERNATIONAL on behalf of Tesla and wish to associate yourself with it, I am,

Yours faithfully,

Leland I. Anderson

TESLA-INTERNATIONAL
University Station, Box 135
MINNEAPOLIS · 14 · MINNESOTA

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

To: Members of the TESLA-INTERNATIONAL organization
and those interested in the works of
Dr Nikola Tesla

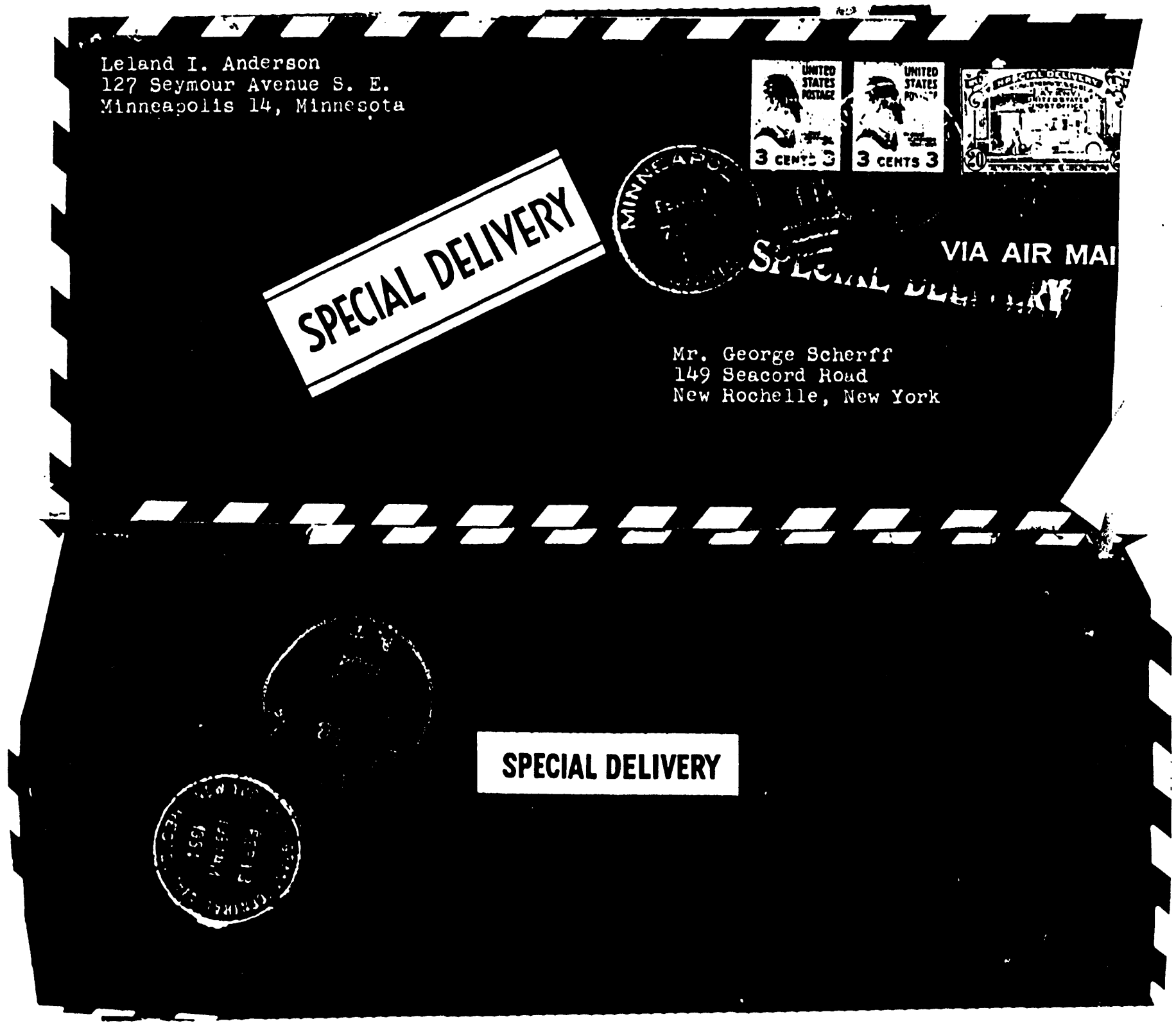
RARE EDITION REPRINTED

"The Inventions, Researches and Writings of Nikola Tesla"
by
Thomas Commerford Martin

Through special arrangement, it is with great pleasure that the TESLA-INTERNATIONAL organization announces the reprinting of this classic of technical literature.

Long recognized as the most important and significant work on the early researches of Tesla, a great demand for this book is anticipated. THIS LIMITED EDITION IS STRICTLY LIMITED. This special offer will not be repeated when the supply is exhausted. Those desiring a copy of the book are therefore urged to reply promptly.

Cost of this book at the special printing rate is only $4.00 post-paid anywhere within the United States to members and friends of the TESLA-INTERNATIONAL organization.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127 Seymour Avenue S. E.
Minneapolis 14, Minnesota
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VIA AIR MAI
Mr. George Scherff
149 Seacord Road
New Rochelle, New York
SPECIAL DELIVERY

March 10, 1954

SAC, New York

RECORDED 15 ~~105-0-4773~~

EX-129 [redacted]

Director, FBI
100-2237-4X1

Not an FOIA Redaction

LELAND I. ANDERSON
MISCELLANEOUS; INTERNAL SECURITY - YU

Reurlet 2-19-54 concerning the above-captioned individual. Relet forwarded to the Bureau two Photostats of two letters from Anderson which were received and made available to your office by George H. Scherff, Jr.

There is returned herewith one set of the Photostats received by the Bureau as enclosures with your letter inasmuch as it appears this set was intended for retention in your office file.

Attachment

ETB:aas

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 2-2-80 BY SP4 Jrm/etc

Tolson
Ladd
Nichols
Belmont
Clegg
Glavin
Harbo
Rosen
Tracy
Gearty
Mohr
Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Holloman
Miss Gandy

MAILED 16
MAR 10 1954
COMM-FBI

KENNETH M. SWEZE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 1-2-80 BY SP4 Jenkins

163 Milton Street
Brooklyn 22, N.Y.
June 25, 1955

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Back in 1943, the local Alien Property Custodian searched through the belongings of the late electrical inventor, Nikola Tesla, stored in the Manhattan Storage Warehouse in New York City. Tesla had been a naturalized American for more than fifty years, so I believe that the search was made on the grounds that the property was to be sent to Yugoslavia, through Tesla's nephew and heir, Mr. Sava Kosanović (Mr. Kosanović had been Minister of State under the King's government, later became Ambassador to the United States from the present government, and is now a Minister serving in Belgrade).

According to the attorney who handled the Tesla estate, Mr. Philip Kittenberg, the Alien Property Custodian assured him that nothing had been held. I have a letter from the Office of Alien Property, dated March 15, 1955, which confirms this statement.

In gathering material to help in a nation-wide commemoration of Tesla's hundredth birthday next year---which will be participated in by leading scientific and engineering societies, museums, and universities---I have just discovered, however, that Tesla's solid gold Edison Medal somehow vanished during that search.

As a friend who had known Tesla well during his last twenty years, I was with Mr. Kosanović in Tesla's room in the Hotel New Yorker on the day he died. A safe expert was called in to unlock Tesla's safe. Among its contents were several honorary degrees, a volume of greetings which I had gathered for him on his seventy-fifth birthday, a bunch of keys, and the Edison Medal. We kept out the book of greetings (I mentioned this at the time to the assistant manager of the hotel and later to a Mr. Gorsuch of the Alien Property Custodian's office), but everything else, including the medal and the keys, was replaced and the safe was locked.

Except when it was inspected by the Alien Property Custodian, the safe was never reopened until it

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JUN 27 1955
62 JUL 11 1955

arrived in Belgrade (where Tesla's property was to be installed in a special Tesla Museum) and was there opened by Mr. Kosanovic. According to his former secretary, both the bunch of keys and the medal were missing. The keys were later found in a tin box outside the safe; the medal was never found.

I learned of the disappearance of the medal only by accident. Mr. Kosanovic had asked his former secretary to get permission from the American Institute of Electrical Engineers (who gave Tesla the Medal) to have it duplicated. This was given, but the cost, it turned out, would be about four hundred dollars. In the meantime, the Tesla Museum, in Yugoslavia, is quietly trying to raise the money to pay for it.

The irony of this situation is more disturbing than the money involved. By giving us a system which made electric power universally available, Tesla---probably more than any other one man---helped put America on top of the world. At the time he died, his gold Edison Medal was the only material evidence left of this country's appreciation. That this last token should have disappeared ---to have to be replaced by his materially poor countrymen overseas for whom he had done nothing---seems a tragic denouement.

John O'Neill, in his biography of Tesla, states that the FBI broke into Tesla's safe on the day he died, and an article in the current (June) Coronet repeats this. I know this isn't true. I did hear, however, that the FBI somehow lent a hand to the Alien Property Custodian during the latter's search in the warehouse.

If that is so, I thought that perhaps some of your men might remember the conditions under which the search was made and therefore might have a suggestion as to what could have happened to the medal. After this long time, I have no hope that the medal can actually be restored, and I am already trying to interest Americans in making a replacement But future biographers might be spared a lot of wild guessin and wrong blaming if some hint could be obtained as to whether the original got lost, strayed, or stolen---and who might have been responsible.

With best regards and sincere appreciation for any help you can give,

Sincerely,

Kenneth M. Swezey

Kenneth M. Swezey

P.S.: I am enclosing an editorial from last month's POWER magazine which outlines Tesla's contribution to the electric power industry. K.M.S.

LOUIS N ROWLEY, EDITOR • MAY 1955 • ESTABLISHED 1882 **Power**

Strange Genius

ASK ANY GROUP of power men to name those who laid the foundation for today's electrical generation and distribution. You'll wind up with an impressive list—Edison, Brush, Thomson, Westinghouse, many others. But there is almost sure to be a significant omission.

Yet this forgotten man conceived the polyphase ac motor—still basic—and devised a suitable system of generation and distribution for applying it. To grasp the magnitude of this contribution, we must turn back to the 1880's when the electrical era was being born, and the "battle of the systems" held sway.

Arc lights and motors were being operated on constant-current series systems. Edison's Pearl Street generating station had opened in 1882, supplying incandescent lamps and, later, dc motors on a constant-potential system. Under the leadership of Westinghouse and Stanley, the advantages of ac distribution were demonstrated. But there was no successful ac motor.

In May, 1888, a young Yugo-Slav engineer, but four years in the United States, read a paper before the American Institute of Electrical Engineers. In it he described a new ac system. Its heart was the induction motor with its basic and beautiful concept of the rotating magnetic field. The man was Nikola Tesla, the system he described was destined to sweep the field.

With characteristic vision, George Westinghouse realized the fundamental importance of the polyphase ac system and acquired the basic patents. Its first impact on the general public was at the Chicago World's Fair of 1893. There a 2-phase generator supplied motors and lamps, and, through rotary converters and motor-generators, a variety of dc equipment.

But it remained for the Niagara Falls power project to demonstrate in the most dramatic way possible that polyphase ac was the system of the future. Since 1886 when a charter to develop its power had been granted, the eyes of the world had been on Niagara. An international commission, headed by Lord Kelvin, had reviewed 17 proposals, found none acceptable. Later, just five years after Tesla's AIEE paper, it was officially decided to use the polyphase system.

In August, 1895, Niagara power was delivered to the first industrial customer and in 1896 ac transmission to Buffalo, 22 miles away, was begun. By that time, the steam turbine had been introduced in America and the modern age of electric power had truly opened.

For Nikola Tesla, these far-reaching inventions were but a beginning. Still to come was brilliant work in high frequencies, thinking basic to much of today's radio art. Yet by the time of his death in 1943, both he and his work had begun to slip into obscurity. Why?

A man of flashing insights and enormous brilliance, Tesla was largely indifferent to the development of his ideas. This he left to others while he followed the lure of new challenges. In later years, his projects became more grandiose, his ways more mysterious, his pronouncements more Olympian. And working alone, as he did, he formed none of the institutional ties that help to perpetuate a record of accomplishment.

Next year—July 10, 1956—will be the 100th anniversary of Nikola Tesla's birth. It would be fitting for our engineering societies to commemorate this occasion, to acknowledge our debt to this strange and lonely genius who changed our world for the better.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-14-82 BY [illegible]

100-2237-5

(REPRINTED BY PERMISSION)

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THE AMERICAN SRBOBRAN
Second Class Mail Privileges Authorized at Pittsburgh, Pa.

THE LARGEST AND OLDEST SERBIAN DAILY NEWSPAPER IN AMERICA
Published Daily Except Sat's, Sundays and Holidays by SERB NATIONAL FEDERATION
3414 Fifth Avenue Telephone MAyflower 1-6600 Pittsburgh 13, Pa.

MOMCHILO SOKICH, Editor — JOVAN BRATICH, Ass't. Editor
MILAN M. KARLO, Editor English Section

ПРЕТПЛАТА НА ЛИСТ

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Рукописи се не враћају никоме. — Огласи се плаћају унапред.

RECOGNITION FOR TESLA

Largely thru a young American engineer's efforts, the world today is re-scanning the record and achievements of our inventive genius, Nikola Tesla. Of late, even the big-time magazines have devoted space to the amazing career and fascinating character of the pioneering electrical wizard.

The man behind this belated recognition for the one-time Serbian immigrant boy who made millions but died almost a pauper is Leland P. Anderson, head of the **Tesla Society,** which has headquarters at the University of Minnesota.

Thru travels, correspondence and detailed research, Mr. Anderson has dug up many friends of the late genius and induced them to join in his noble work. A good many of these are American-Serbians. They serve Mr. Anderson and he serves them, with information issued thru his TESLIAN publication. This is, at present, a mimeographed publication issued monthly which casts new light on the known life and record of the late Dr. Tesla.

The latest issue (March-June) informs of progress plans to honor Dr. Tesla even more. It also presents an account of a fascinating editorial, "Strange Genius", by the POWER magazine of the powerful McGraw-Hill publishing line. This editorial traces the introduction of Dr. Tesla's polyphase system, described by Mr. Anderson, as the **"most tremendous event in all engineering history."**

Editorialist Louis M. Bowler, according to the TESLIAN, answers the perplexing question why, in view of Tesla's important discoveries, he fell short of the comparative popularity won by Edison and Bell. Then in closing, he suggests: "It would be fitting for our engineering societies, in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of Nikola Tesla's birth (July 10, 1956), to acknowledge our debt to this strange and lonely genius who changed our world for the better."

This appears to be just what Mr. Anderson was waiting for. For now, in the same issue of his TESLIAN, he has prepared a form to petition Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield to issue a Tesla commemorative stamp next year.

We are printing this form in duplicate in this issue and we urge all our readers to endorse it with their signatures. Send the completed petitio

ION CONTAINED
CLASSIFIED
BY SP4 Jenkins

INDEXED-59
NOT RECORDED
138 JUL 1 1955

ICAN SRBOBRAN
29, 1955
sburgh, Pennsylvania

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

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

SUBJECT: NIKOLA TESLA
MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING (ESPIONAGE)

Nikola Tesla, a native of Yugoslavia, was a famous electrical 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 a 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. Bufiles not pertinent re Swezey. 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. Per Bufiles Sinks was officer of American Civil Liberties Union in 1930-40; staff member of Communist line newspaper "The Anvil" 1933-37; member of League of American Writers (CUA report 1944); close friend of [redacted] reported CP member and suspected underground member - In 1945 Sinks requested for his use as author data re Bureau's microfilm procedure. Was advised no such data available for publication.

b7C

Enclosure Letr 6-30-55
100-2237
cc - 1 - 65-47953
Ticklers - Mr. Bird
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Boardman

ETB:jaa
(5)

RECORDED - 89 100-2237-6

6 JUL 7 1955

Ex-104

6 JUL 11 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.

Mr. Belmont
Mr. Boardman

June 30, 1955

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12-2-80 BY SP4 Jan/ltc

Mr. Kenneth H. Sweezey
163 Milton Street
Brooklyn 22, New York

(Original)

Dear Mr. Sweezey:

With reference to your letter of June 25, 1955, our files disclose the effects of Nikola Tesla were taken into custody after his death by the Office of Alien Property and not by this Bureau.

Since we did not participate in the handling of Mr. Tesla's effects, we are unable to supply the information you requested.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover
Director

COMM — FBI
JUN 30 1955
MAILED 25

100-2237-6X
65-47153-113
RECORDED - 26
INDEXED - 26
24 JUL 1 1955

NOTE:

A cover memorandum from Belmont to Boardman was prepared by ETB:jaa on 6-29-55 in connection with this outgoing mail.

Bufiles contain no derogatory data re correspondent; reflect only that he was close friend and admirer of Tesla.

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

ETB:jda/jaa
(5)

64 JUL 8 1955

b7C [redacted] Downey, California.

August 1, 1955.

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D.C.

[redacted]

Dear Mr. Hoover:

In his book, "Prodigal Genius", The Life of Nikola Tesla, Mr. John J O'Neil says, on page 277, that the F.B.I. went to Tesla's hotel room, opened his steel safe and removed from it, the papers it contained.

Was there ever any publication of what these papers contained? If so, could you inform me where I might obtain a copy of such publication?

If there was no publication of the Safe's content, after more than 10 years, would it be improper to publish them?

If there was no publication of the safe's content, but there were no particular secrets found there in, could you inform me where I might learn what the safe contained?

Any information on this matter will be appreciated.

Thank you for your trouble.

Sincerely,

b7C [redacted]

b7
b7C
b7D

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-2-85 BY SP4 Jan/sr

EX-104

100-2237-6X1

2 AUG 12 1955

INDEXED - 7

CALLAHAN RMC

100-2237-6X1
~~65-47953-34~~

August 11, 1955

[redacted]
Downey, California

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-2-80 BY SP4 Jmp/tc

EX-104

Dear [redacted]

Your letter dated August 1, 1955, has been received, and in response to your inquiry, I would like to advise that our files reflect that the effects of Nikola Tesla were taken into custody after his death by the Office of Alien Property and not by this Bureau.

Since we did not participate in the handling of Mr. Tesla's effects, we are unable to supply the information you requested.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

COMM-FBI AUG 11 1955 MAILED 19

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Boardman
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tamm
Miss Gandy

NOTE: Bufiles reflect no record on correspondent. This type of reply utilized by Internal Security Division in answering similar inquiries on 6/30/55. (65-47953-33) Cover memo from Mr. Belmont to Mr. Boardman dated 6/29/55 set out background of this matter which concerned the death of Tesla, a famous electrical inventor. Bureau was not involved in this matter, and the opening of the safe mentioned was done by the Office of Alien Property.

JRH:sms
(3)
65 SEP 28 1955

b7C [redacted] (5)7/6

[redacted], California.

September 10., 1955.

Mr. John Edgar Hoover,
Federal Bureau Of Investigation,
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Refering to my letter to you August first, this year - your letter to me, August 11th., reletive to the matter of the papers of Mr. Nikola Tesla.

On August 26, I wrote the office of Alien Property regarding this matter, indicating that I had received the information from you that it was their department which had taken the Tesla Property into custody - not yours..

I have a letter from Mr. Henry G. Hilken - that Department - File Number HGH:H SH:elk 017-3566, in which I am told that office "never had custody, nor has vested, any property of Nikola Tesla".

As I began this matter with you - because it was stated in Mr. O'Neill's book that it was your department who opened Tesla's safe - I am wondering if you have any further suggestions along lines I might follow to obtain some information in this regard?

Thank you for your time and trouble.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

b7C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-2-80 BY [illegible]

EX-PROC SEP 12 1955

RECORDED-12 100-2237-6X2

EX-107

CR

RECORDED
INDEXED-12

100-2237-6X2

EX-107

September 20, 1955

[redacted]

b7C

Downey, California

Dear [redacted]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-2-80 BY SP4 Jem/rtc

I have received your letter dated September 10, 1955.

As you were advised by my letter of August 11, 1955, this Bureau was not connected in any respect with the acquisition or custody of the effects of Nikola Tesla, and it is therefore not possible to furnish you any additional information.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

b7C

NOTE: By letter 8-11-55, we referred [redacted] to the Office of Alien Property, which Office was reported to have assumed custody of Tesla's effects subsequent to his deat (65-47953-6)

JRH:vjs
(3)

COMM - FBI
SEP 20 1955
MAILED 30

SEP 28 1955

INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-3-80 BY SP4 Jm/ptc

RECOGNITION FOR TESLA

(Please fill out this form and mail to the address appearing below.)

THE TESLA SOCIETY
University Station, Box 135
Minneapolis 14, Minnesota

(date)

(city & state)

Hon. Arthur E. Summerfield
Postmaster General, Postoffice Dept.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Nikola Tesla's contributions to science, industry, and to his adopted country have greatly inspired engineering progress. His electrical systems helped create an American conomy of world pre-eminence.

We respectfully request issuance of a 1956 commemorative stamp to be issued on the centennial of Tesla's birth (1856-1943).

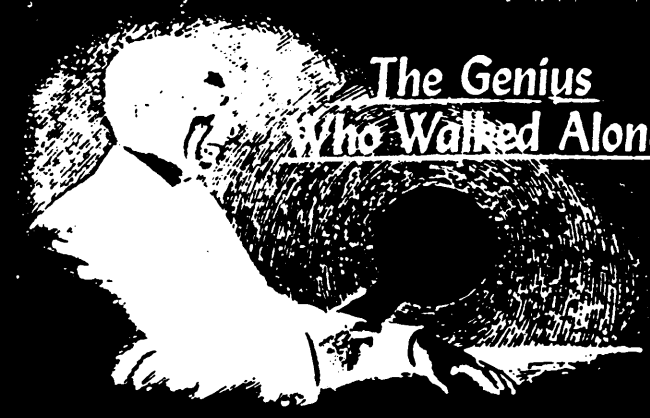
(signed) _____

"AMERICAN SRBOBRAN"
June 29, 1955
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Ex. - 106
INDEXED-59
NOT RECORDED
13 JUL 1955

60 JUL 13 1955

PLEASE RETURN THIS [illegible]
TO THE BUREAU [illegible]



The Genius Who Walked Alone

by ALFRED H. SINKS

Nikola Tesla was a great inventor—and also a prophet without honor

COUNTER-ESPIONAGE WHEELS started turning early on the morning of January 8, 1943. Anxious FBI agents slipped into a room in the Hotel New Yorker where, late the night before, a chambermaid had discovered the body of Nikola Tesla, dead at 86, regarded by many as the greatest scientific genius of his time.

For years, Tesla had been making scientific predictions so fantastic as to be literally out of this world. Of late he had been working—or so he said—on revolutionary new weapons powerful enough to annihilate armies at a single blow.

There was only one Tesla, and the story might—incredible as it sounded—be true. The old man's safe might hold these secrets, and the Government could not risk the chance of enemy spies getting there first.

Half hoping to find something which would bring a sudden and decisive end to World War II, the G-men broke open the dead man's strong box. If anything of importance was discovered, it has never been revealed.

Yet, their quick action was justified, for you could never be sure about Tesla, one of the strangest men who ever lived. Most people took him with a grain of salt, yet no serious scientist dared shrug away his claims as nonsense. Not after Thomas Edison tried it and Tesla proved him wrong.

The world's leading physicists and electrical engineers had to eat crow back in the 1880s when Tesla solved a problem they had thought impossible. That one accomplishment—the invention of a practical alternating-current motor and gen-

erator—put Tesla's name among the world's top scientists.

From his inventions sprang the industrial age we live in. For without his alternating current, there would be no mass production of automobiles, aircraft, refrigerators; no great water-power dams and generating plants, no Diesel-electric trains; we could not have developed radio, television or atomic power.

The *direct* current that Edison worked with—a feeble force at best—could be sent no more than a couple of miles over wires because its power leaked away rapidly into the surrounding atmosphere. Lights near the power station might burn brightly and steadily, but those near the end of the line would be dim and flickering.

Tesla sold his basic alternating-current patents in 1888, for a million dollars down. By 1895, the first great power station at Niagara Falls had been built, and by the end of 1896, two more Tesla generators had been installed. Within a few years, the pace of life over half the earth had changed from a crawl to a fast gallop—and it has been gathering speed ever since.

THE MAN WHO, by his brilliant idea of a "rotating magnetic field," changed the face of the earth and the living habits of the human race was a Croat, born in 1857 in Smiljan, a village in what is now Yugoslavia, but was then part of the old Austro-Hungarian Empire.

When he was about six, Nikola Tesla's father, the village priest, was transferred to a larger parish in the city of Gospic. There, the lad grew up and perfected his earliest "inventions." Of these, his favorite was an "engine" powered by 16 June bugs, harnessed in sets of four to spokes which radiated from the drive shaft.

Nikola was a frail lad, often ill; and he nearly went blind from too much reading. He read everything he could get his hands on, not only science but also religion, philosophy, history, literature. By the time he finished high school, he was fluent in French, German and Italian, as well as his native Serbo-Croat.

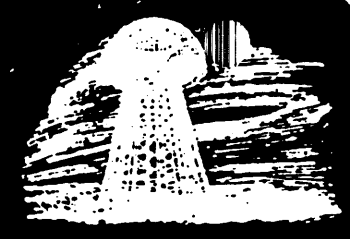
He got his schooling—the best his doting family could afford—at Gospic, Carlstadt, Gratz, the University of Prague and, finally, at Budapest. At the University, he saw his first electric motor, a new type direct-current affair whose brushes and commutators sent out showers of crackling blue sparks.

"If we got rid of those brushes and commutators, with all that noise and loss of energy, we'd have a much better motor," Nikola told his professor. "Perhaps it might be done with an alternating current."

"Nonsense!" barked the professor. "An alternating current would never run anything. You're not the brilliant student I thought you were. Forget it!"

But Tesla could not forget. The teacher's ridicule only stamped the idea indelibly on his brain. It became an obsession, a passion—how to make an alternating current drive a motor. In every idle moment, wherever he went, he wrestled with this problem.

Tesla's mind had an unusual twist. Almost from infancy, he had been able to see things in his mind's eye so vividly—and in such minute detail—that often he had trouble telling the real from the imaginary.



Where the average engineer or inventor would reach instinctively for drawing board, paper and pencil, Tesla would simply switch on that uncanny magic lantern inside his brain. He would fix a mental image there. Then he would alter this detail or that, discard one plan, try another, without ever putting a line on paper.

Years later—from these mental images alone—he could give his workmen exact instructions on how to build each part of a new device, though it was unlike anything ever seen before.

Thus, needing no drafting room and few laboratory conveniences to work on an idea, Tesla could use every spare minute that he had to test and revise his theory of alternating current.

His first real job was manager of a newly organized telephone company in Budapest. But telephone circuits were dull stuff compared with the challenge of that one big idea. He moved to Paris where he became a kind of general trouble-shooter for the Continental Edison Company.

His brain was still chipping away at his big problem, but the trouble was, he couldn't share it with trained men who might have helped him work it out. For whenever he mentioned alternating current to an electrical engineer, the man would look at him as though he were crazy.

But then came the moment when he knew he had solved it. He was walking with a friend in the Bois de Boulogne. Suddenly, he stopped short and began jabbing with his cane at some invisible object in the air.

"See—it works!" he shouted. "It is the rotating magnetic field which causes the armature to turn. It pulls the magnets around with it, causing the shaft to revolve. As I oscillate this switch, causing the current to flow first in one direction, then the other . . ."

Never mind what his friend thought. Tesla had the answer.

At the office, his colleagues scoffed or looked blank. But the manager, listening to the outpourings of scientific jargon, suddenly thought of his boss back in the United States. If there *was* some truth in what the Croat said, surely the famous electrical wizard would be smart enough to see it.

So he gave Tesla a letter of introduction to Thomas Edison and urged him to try his luck in America. Thus, Tesla, now 27, arrived in New York. He was handsome, over six-feet-two, with a distinguished head and deep-set blue eyes. His Slavic face was broad across the cheekbones, his dark hair thick, his chin sharply pointed. Of worldly goods, he had the clothes on his back, four cents in cash, the letter to Edison, and the idea which was to change the world.

Edison thought less than nothing of the idea. It seemed so preposterous that he wouldn't even listen

—and, of course, Tesla had no drawings with which [illegible] to convince him. But Edison gave him a job, for he had excellent training as an engineer and Edison needed trained men.

Busy with routine electrical work, Tesla waited nearly three years for a chance to turn his mental image into an actual motor he could show to others. In 1887, he was able to borrow enough money to start his own laboratory, and the following year the alternating-current motor and generator were practical realities—on a laboratory scale—though much practical engineering would still be needed to fit them to commercial use.

George Westinghouse, another inventor, was the first to see their value. He bought the patents and gave Tesla a job as engineer in his Pittsburgh factory.

But Tesla couldn't get along with the other Westinghouse engineers. From his standpoint, the alternating-current job was done. Even "schoolboys" could now iron out the few remaining kinks. Meantime, his brain had started to hatch even bigger dreams. He went back to his laboratory in New York.

"Be alone—" he once told a science writer. "That's the secret of invention. Be alone—that's where great ideas are born."

ALONE HE was. In the years that followed, Tesla had many admiring acquaintances, but seldom a friend. After his mother, no woman ever entered his personal life.

His manner toward others was cordial but reserved, distant. His words were as if uttered by some god, sitting on an Olympus high above the rest of humanity. Backed by his fame, those words made a tremendous impression.

He lectured at every scientific center in this country and in all the important capitals abroad. Things which, as yet, existed only inside that amazing brain of his were so real to him, he made them real to his listeners.

He described radar and radio broadcasting and even television. He advocated electro-therapy. He foresaw a day when man would control nature in every respect—even the weather—when machines of all kinds, and the power to run them, would be so cheap that poverty would vanish from the world.

Without wanting to be, Tesla was a superb actor. After listening to him and seeing his wonders, audiences were ready to believe nearly anything.

Tesla reasoned that you could sell electric power cheap if you could do away with the millions of poles and insulators, the millions of tons of copper wire used to transmit it from place to place. He thought he knew how to do it—and J. P. Morgan backed him with $300,000.

On Long Island, Tesla built a huge power plant with a 154-foot steel-ribbed tower topped by an enormous mushroom-shaped copper dome. From this dome he planned to bombard the earth's crust with millions of volts of electric energy. The power so added to the earth's permanent charge could be drained off at some other point—*any* point—on the earth's surface. Thus, it would be possible for electric power to be sent anywhere without conduits, poles or wires. Or so he thought, until he tried it.

In November, 1928, Tesla announced that he could abolish war.

The inventor had designed a small, inexpensive, radio-controlled boat which, through its supposed ability to destroy the biggest battleships, would make great navies useless. Not many years later, he was talking of another super-weapon: a "death ray" which would annihilate whole armies.

Yet Tesla never suspected that the real super-weapon of the future would come from atomic fission. For Einstein's basic notion which led to smashing the atom, he had only ridicule. Alone in his middle age, he had fallen out of step with the world's great thinker.

Not all Tesla's later inventions were fantastic. Some, like his induction coils and oscillators, and pioneer work on "tuned" electrical circuits, were highly important.

Though he never succeeded in transmitting power without wires on a big scale, he *did* prove that a single wire is enough. And some of his brilliant prophecies inspired the more plodding scientists to work out the practical problems of induction heating, radio-telephone, radar and many other electronic marvels of today.

But as he grew older, he withdrew further and further within himself. His strange prophecies sounded like a voice from another planet. For companionship now, the old man had only his dreams, and they grew stranger with the years. Completely alone at last, a stooped, gaunt figure with thin, silvery hair, he used to slip from his hotel room, buy a bag of birdseed and trudge slowly over to a park where hundreds of pigeons awaited him. These were his friends. They needed him, though the world did not.

When he grew too ill to go out, each day he sent a Western Union messenger to the park. After feeding the birds, the boy was instructed to see if any of them seemed sick. If so, he was to bring them back to Tesla's room where the inventor would nurse them gently back to health.

Perhaps this sad little labor of love showed that the man who changed the world had, at last, discovered a great truth. Perhaps he knew now that the greatest power for good lies not in lonely thought but in a human heart pulsating—like his own "tuned circuits"—in tune with the hearts of his fellowmen. Or did he ever know? You could never be sure about Tesla.

Winnie Wit

IN THE EARLY 1920s, when Winston Churchill had offended both his own supporters and the political opposition, the late George Bernard Shaw wrote him: "I enclose two vouchers for the première of my new play, for yourself and a friend—if any."

Back to the playwright promptly came the theater checks with this note from "Winnie": "I regret I am unable to attend the première of your new play. Please send me two vouchers for the second performance —if any."

—Quoted in *Cleveland News*

RECOGNITION FOR TESLA

At long last Serbians—American and Canadian—have acted to honor the memory and achievements of one of Serbia's greatest sons.

For the world-wide Centennial celebration of Dr. Nikola Tesla's birth next year, Serbs on this Continent plan to erect a bust statue of the electrical genius to stand before the entrance of the Monastery at Libertyville, Ill.

Steps looking towards that end were taken at the recent SNF convention following the reading of a letter by President Mike Radakovich from His Grace, Bishop Nicolai. As the universally-renowned churchman stated, erection of a suitable monument, by Serbians, would forever remind other Serbs of the honor and glory of Dr. Nikola Tesla . . . . And that he was a SERBIAN, son of a SERBIAN ORTHODOX clergyman, born in the SERBIAN SELO of Smiljan in Lika.

Further, His Grace urged that the undertaking be a joint one and representative of ALL the Serbian organizations in the United States and Canada. He naturally looked to the SNF for leadership, and the greatest monetary contribution. But he also besought the help of the Serbian Nat'l Defense and the Jedinstvo beneficial society.

The Convention voted $1000 for the project and a hand collection was taken up among the delegates and guests, kinsmen Milos Konjevich of Joliet, Ill., giving $200. It is probable that the balance of the needed $3000 will be raised thru public good-will offerings and via cash gifts of the other two organizations mentioned.

And after a suitable bust has been erected for Dr. Tesla, Bishop Nicolai suggested a similar-like monument honor the memory of Dr. Mihajlo Pupin, also a world-renowned scientist, author and educator.

This is a subject near and dear to all good Serbian hearts

"AMERICAN SRBOBRAN"
September 28, 1955
Pittsburgh, Pa.

INFORMATION CONTAINED IS UNCLASSIFIED
7-3-80 By [illegible]

INDEXED - 36

NOT RECORDED
10 OCT [illegible]

FBI - 113

60 OCT 7 1955

INFORMATION CONTAINED
UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jamfte

SNF Opens Drive for Tesla Memorial at Libertyville—

$2000 PUBLIC AID SOUGHT

PITTSBURGH, PA. — The Serb Nat'l Federation Executive Board has acted quickly to implement a Convention decision to honor the memory of the illustrious Dr. Nikola Tesla.

At its first meeting of October 8, the Board drafted a resolution calling on all SNF members and good Serbians to help finance a memorial project for the late scientist-inventor genius.

This would stand before the entrance of the Monastery in Libertyville, Ill.

Cost of the contemplated project, which would clarion to the world that Dr. Tesla was a Serbian, is estimated at $3000. The Convention voted $1000 to the cause and a hand collection among 122 delegates yielded several hundred dollars more.

Kinsman Milos Konjevich of Joliet, Ill., gave $200.

Public Aid Sought

Balance of the needed sum is now being sought thru good-will offerings of the general Serbian populace in the United States and Canada.

A fund, similar to the one being conducted to help defray mortgage expenses on Shadeland, has been established.

It is hoped to raise the necessary monies and complete the project in time for the world-wide Centennial celebration for the genius next year.

Spearheading the movement for recognition, especially among American elements, is the TESLA SOCIETY, founded by scientist-engineer Leland Anderson, a fanatical admirer of the late Dr. Nikola Tesla.

Mr. Anderson right now is conducting a search for a famous portrait of the Serbian electrical wizard done at the turn of the century in New York.

Seek Missing Portrait

In his current TESLAIAN publication, Mr. Anderson revealed the work, by Princess Vilma Lwoff-Parlaghy, is missing.

Reviewing developments, Mr. Anderson wrote:

"On March 1, 1916, the Princess gave a reception in her new studio in New York especially to exhibit her latest protrait of Nikola Tesla. An article in the NEW YORK TIMES for March 2, 1916, stated—

" 'It was one of the beliefs of Mr. Tesla that there was something unlucky about posing for a picture and he never sat to any before he entered the studio of the Princess. The room which she had chosen did not have a sky-light in it and the much desired North exposure was missing.

" 'At the suggestion of Mr. Tesla, a cluster of powerful incandescents was put up in the corner of the apartment and the rays, filtered thru blue glass, were just the right quality. The portrait was shown under the same illumination.

At Ease for Sitting

" 'Mr. Tesla, having solved the problem of the artifical sun, fell to thinking about other parts of the universe, and there he sat oblivious to his surroundings.

" 'The painter was able to produce a likeness in which there is no evidence that the subject was conscious that anybody was watching him, much less studying his features from the other side of the easel.

" 'Among those who attended the reception were Mrs. C. B. Alexander, Henry P. Davison, the Countless de Rittenburg and Mrs. E. T. Isham.' "

After the Princess died, in 1923, her studio and all objects of art, was sold at auction.

The Telsa portrait, 53x48 inches, appeared on the cover of TIME magazine (July 20, 1931) and in the ELECTRICAL EXPERIMENTER (January 1919), Mr. Anderson says.

Its location is not now known.

INDEXED - 14

NOV 3 1955

AMERICAN SRBOBRAN
October 26, 1955
Pittsburgh, Pa.

TESLA F $1580

Half of $3000 Costs For Statue Pledged

Cadiz, O., Serb Gives $100 For Bust Image of Inventor To Be Placed at Monastery

Pittsburgh, Pa.—Half of the $3000 fund goal for a statue memorial of the late Dr. Nikola Tesla has been realized, the SNF announced today.

In fact, total contributions counted so far come to $1580.

The Fund is an outgrowth of a plea by Bishop Nicolai for Serbians to do honor for the memory of the noted electrical wizard during the world-wide Centennial celebration planned for the genius next year.

In the wake of the plea, voiced at the recent 7th Convention at Niagara Falls, Canada, the delegates approved a $1000 gift from the SNF and decided to raise, by public grant, the balance of $2000.

A hand collection among the 122 grass-roots leaders of the Society raised another $450. Then, at its first meeting October 5, the newly-elected Executive Board of the SNF appealed to the membership at large to fulfill the balance required.

First Contribution $100

A scant 24 hours after the appeal was published in the Society's "Srbobran" organ last Wednesday, Sime Zelich of Cadiz, O., gave $100.

The proposed memorial, a statue image, would be placed before the entrance of the St. Sava Serbian Monastery in Libertyville, Ill.

historians, writers, educators, scientists, etc., would not be misled, Bishop Nicolai believes.

Be that as it may, the SNF's goal is to amass the needed monies in time to erect and dedicate the memorial before the Tesla Centennial celebration ends.

Donors and the amounts of their donations are as follows:

SNF	$ 1000.00
Delegate M. Konjevich	200.00
" Todor Drazich	50.00
" Petar Borovich	25.00
SNF Counsel N. Stone	25.00
Delegate N. Stepanovich	20.00
" Maxim Jakovac	20.00
" Ilija Janjanin	20.00
" Lou Balta	10.00
" Jovan Vukcevich	10.00
" Milan Kajganovich	10.00
" Stevan Rogulia	10.00
" Bogdan Dragisich	5.00
" Milan Tomich	5.00
" Todor Vuicich	5.00
" Djuro Lukich	5.00
" G. Stoisavljevich	5.00
" R. Vukadinovich	5.00
" Janko Mrmich	5.00
" Petar Maravich	5.00
" Mirko Baranin	5.00

INFORMATION CONTAINED IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 2-3-80 BY [illegible]

NOV 14

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ue image, would be placed be-
e the entrance of the St. Sava
bian Monastery in Libertyville,

**"There it would proclaim to
ns of thousands of Serbian
sitors annually that Nikola
esla was of Serbian immigrant
ock and son of a Serbian
rthodox clergyman," Bishop
icolai declared.**

For half a century and more,
general American public has
en misled anent the nationality
the man who foretold the com-
of atomic energy power.

**Only recently, a prominent
merican magazine listed him,
ncorrectly, as of Croatian
tock. The mistake was subse-
uently publicly corrected with
nologies by the publication.**

But lacking an image reference,
th historical statistics, similar
ors are likely in the future.

Old References Poor

The magazine publication, for
tance, explained it obtained its
ference material from an anti-
ated guide book.

Since the misleading matter
re was never challenged by
rbians and other interested
rties before, the magazine logi-
lv assumed it was factual.

**Erection of a bust statue,
lso listing Dr. Tesla's date of
irth, birthplace, parents, etc.,
ould counter the old guide
nd make certain that future**

Centennial celebration ends.

Donors d the amounts of their donat. .e are as follows:

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" Todor Vuicich	5.00
" Djuro Lukich	5.00
" G. Stoisavljevich	5.00
" R. Vukadinovich	5.00
" Janko Mrmich	5.00
" Petar Maravich	5.00
" Mirko Baranin	5.00
" Stanko Jelich	5.00
★ ★ ★	
Prof. Anthony Tomovich (Edmonton, Alberta, Can.)	10.00
Teta Andia Mamula (Pittsburgh)	5.00
Martha Mamula Bjelosh (Pittsburgh)	10.00
Sime Zelich (Cadiz, O.)	100.0
Milinko Alexich, war invalid (Omaha, Nebr.)	
Total	$ 1,[illegible]

—the honoring, forever, of two of Serbia's best-known immigrant sons who contributed so greatly to the welfare and prosperity of their adopted America.

We hope to report developments as soon as they take place, remembering Bishop Nikolai's concluding remarks:

"Nikola Tesla, in the field of science, brought the Serbian name great glory—just as did the greatest Serbian knights on the field of battle."

23 June 56

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington 25, D.C.

Gentlemen:

During my senior year at Georgetown University I read J.J.O'Niel's Biography of Nikoli Tesla; the book, entitled "Prodigal Genius" described quite a few of Tesla's experiments, most of which I tried myself in the physics lab. I am interested in reviewing Tesla's experiments in wireless electric power transmission.

Unfortunately, Tesla died in 1945 just at the time he supposedly had developed a system of wireless power transmission. Since World War 11 was then in progress his papers were seized and sealed by the F.B.I. I suppose that by now Tesla's papers have been released for publication, but a call to the Library of Congress produced no results. Therefore, I have two questions:

1) Does the F.B.I. now have Tesla's scientific papers?

2) If so, are they available for public inspection?
If they were released, who has them?

I will certainly appreciate any help you can give me along these lines. Tesla published very little of his findings; this, coupled with the fact that wireless power is connected by most people with "Death Rays" and crack-pots has made it nearly impossible for me to find anything on the subject.

Yours very truly,

b7C [redacted]

b7C [redacted]
Arlington 3, Virginia

RECORDED - 86 100-3437-

JUL 3 1956

INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-3-80 BY SP4 Jonpete

RECORDED - 86
INDEXED - 86

EX-122

[redacted]

L INFORMATION CONTAINED
EREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-3-80 BY SP4 Jmp/tc

June 29, 1956

[redacted]
Arlington 8, Virginia

Dear [redacted]

Nikola Tesla

Your letter dated June 23, 1956, has been received, and in response to your inquiry, I would like to advise that our files reflect that the effects of Nikola Tesla were taken into custody after his death by the Office of Alien Property and not by this Bureau.

Since we did not participate in the handling of Mr. Tesla's effects, we are unable to supply the information you requested.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

COMM — FBI
JUN 29 1956
MAILED 24

JUN 29 3 [illegible] PM
RECEIVED BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FBI
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

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

NOTE: Bufiles reflect no record on correspondent and reveal the correct spelling of Tesla's name as "Nikola." Bufiles reflect this type of reply has been utilized by the Domestic Intelligence Division in answering similar inquiries. (65-47953; 100-2237) Cover memo from Mr. Belmont to Boardman 6-29-55, set out background of this matter which concerned the death of Tesla, a famous electrical inventor. Bureau was not involved in this matter, and the opening of the safe containing his effects was done by the Office of Alien Property.

ELJ:jh:mmh
(3)

JUL 17 1956

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum · UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 7/25/57

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (65-12290)

SUBJECT: NIKOLA TESLA (Deceased)
IS -YU

[redacted] Street, New York 24, New York, a United States citizen of Yugoslav extraction, who on occasion, voluntarily furnishes the New York Office with information he considers to be in the interests of the Security of the United States Government, furnished Special Agent NICHOLAS J.MASTROVICH the following information on July 3, 1957:

[redacted] stated that a certain woman named Mrs. MARGARET STORM who lives with her husband, JOHN, at the Colonial Hotel, 51 West 81st Street, New York 24, New York, has been issuing newsletters which contain information pertaining to flying saucers and interplanetary matters.

[redacted] stated that in his opinion Mr. and Mrs. STORM are exploiting the reputation and genius of NIKOLA TESLA, deceased, inventor of Yugoslav extraction who achieved world wide fame as a result of his inventions in the United States.

TESLA was born in Smiljan, Yugoslavia in July, 1859 and came to the United States in 1894 and became a naturalized United States citizen. In 1886 TESLA designed the arc-lighting system and two years later he invented the Tesla motor and designed a plan for the transmission of alternating current. In subsequent years, TESLA's discoveries and inventions included such fields and appliances as wireless communication, electrical oscillation, radiant power and radio active matter. After 1900, communications and wireless power transmission occupied most of his research.

(2) - Bureau (RM) (Encs.2)
1 - Los Angeles (Info) (Encl.1) (RM)
1 - New York (65-12290)

NJM:mcd
(4)

SE 43 100-2237-8

RECORDED-56

INDEXED-56

14 JUL 29 1957

0 1957

INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jmp/sto

b7D b7C -1, 2

b7D b7C

b7D b7C

TESLA's only military invention was a method to which he once eluded but never fully described. This invention was a means whereby an inpenetrable "wall of force" can be erected around the United States' borders which would render helpless any military attack. TESLA disclosed the existence of his plan in 1934 and stated he intended to present it to the Geneva Conference but seldom referred to it afterward.

The "New York Times" dated 9/22/40, carried an article setting forth NICOLA TESLA's plan for a "Death Ray". This article included information to the effect that TESLA, on his 84th birthday, July 10, 1940, advised New York Times reporter WILLIAM A. [redacted]RENCE that he was ready to divulge to the United States Government the secret of his "teleforce", with which he said airplane motors would be melted at a distance of 250 miles so that an invisible Chinese wall of defense would be built around the country against any attempted attack by an enemy airforce no matter how large. According to TESLA, this "teleforce" was based on an entirely new principle of Physics that "no one has ever dreamed about" and was different from the principle embodied in his inventions relating to the transmission of electrical power from a distance, for which he received a number of basic patents.

TESLA stated that this new type of force would operate through a beam one hundredth millionth of a square centimeter in diameter and could be generated from a special plant that would cost no more than two million dollars and would take only about three months to construct. TESLA stated that a dzen such plants located at strategic points along the coast, according to TESLA, would be enough to defend the United States against all possible aerial attacks. TESLA stated that this beam would melt any engine and would also ignite explosives aboard any bomber. TESLA stated that no possible defense against it could be devised and he asserted that the beam would be all penetrating.

TESLA stated to Mr. LAWRENCE that he makes one important stipulation before he would divulge this secret to the United States Government and that was that should the United States Government decide to take up his offer, he would go to work at once but that the United States Government would have to trust him. TESLA stated that he would suffer "no interference from experts."

In this "New York Times" article Mr. LAWRENCE commented that with conditions as they were in 1940, and with the United States getting ready to spend millions of dollars for National Defense, Mr. TESLA's great reputation as an inventor, who always was many years ahead of his time, should be given careful consideration. Mr. LAWRENCE stated, in his opinion, the United States Government should take Mr. TESLA at his word and commission him to go ahead with the construction of his "teleforce" plant.

The New York file of Mr. TESLA bears no indication that any additional developments were carried on in connection with TESA's invention and whether or not TESLA fully divulged his new plan to the United States Government.

TESLA died at the age of 85 on January 7, 1943.

Mr. [redacted] provided a two page copy of the above mentioned newsletter which Mr. and Mrs. STORM have been distributing in connection with the alleged invention by TESLA, which, according to Mr. and Mrs. STORM, consists of a radio type machine known as the Tesla Set which was invented by Mr. TESLA in 1938 for interplanetary communication. Mr. and Mrs. STORM claim that TESLA's engineers did not complete the Tesla Set until after TESLA's death in 1943. Mr. and Mrs. STORM claim that this Set was placed in operation in 1950 and since that time TESLA engineers have been in close touch with space ships. etc.

b7D
b7C

The Newsletter furnished by Mr. [redacted] included the following names: b7D b7C

MARGARET STORM
JOHN STORM
GEORGE VAN TASSEL, Yucca Valley, California NY
DAN FRY NY - INDEX
GEORGE KING, London, England

The files of the New York Office contained no pertinent information regarding any of the above mentioned individuals. ARMY HQ NY

Two photostatic copies of this newsletter are being sent to the Bureau for purposes of information while one copy is being submitted to the Los Angeles Office for information purposes.

[redacted] (6) (7) (C)
Philadelphia, 34, Pa.

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover

Dear Sir:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jam/rtc

I an hopeful that you can help me obtain certain information on records and data, which belonged to Dr. Nikola Tesla. He was an Electrical Engineer and prolific inventor.

He was born in Yugoslavia in 1856 and died in the United States, New York City, January 7th, 1943. He was a naturalized citizen of this country.

The only information I could find of his records was a report that the F.B.I. removed his papers for examination, and that the records were sealed by the custodian of alien property.

I have been doing some theoretical research of my own, which I believe may be along the same lines he followed in certain of his experiments. I also believe the development of his ideas would be in the interest of our country regardless of who developes them.

If it is at all possible for me to have access to at least some of his experimental work, I would certainly appreciate it. I am not able, by reason of the vast finances, which would be required, to conduct such experiments myself, so the data he made and collected would be invaluable.

Of course, it is possible that his records do not contain material pertinent to his electronics work, because from what I understand from reading about him, he kept most of his records in his head and wrote down very little of his data.

It is also possible that some of his ideas are impractical, but I feel sure that certain of his ideas will be of immense value to our country within the next several decades or even before, if they are developed at a rapid rate.

I would appreciate hearing from you on the subject, if you have any information pertaining to it, which you could make available to me.

REC-1 62-2237-7

Sincerely,

16 MAR 18 1958

[redacted]

b7C

Ack 3/14/58 "from C"
DCL

March 14, 1958

REC-1 100-2237-9

[redacted]
Philadelphia 34, Pennsylvania

b7C

Dear [redacted]

Your letter postmarked March 7, 1958, has been received.

In response to your inquiry, I would like to advise that our files reflect that the effects of Dr. Nikola Tesla were taken into custody after his death by the Office of Alien Property in the Department of Justice and not by the FBI.

Since we did not participate in the handling of Dr. Tesla's effects, we are unable to supply the information you requested.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

NOTE: Bufiles reflect no record on correspondent. Bufiles reflect above type of reply has been utilized in the past in answering similar inquiries. (100-2237-7) Cover Memorandum from Belmont to Boardman 6/29/55 set forth background of this matter which concerned the death of Tesla, a famous electrical inventor. Bureau was not involved in this matter, and the opening of the safe containing his effects was done by the Office of Alien Property.

DCL:abs

Tolson
Nichols
Boardman
Belmont
Mohr
Parsons
Rosen
Tamm
Trotter
Nease
Tele. Room
Holloman
Gandy

MAIL ROOM

COMM - FBI
MAR 14 1958
MAILED 19

b1 b3 b(1) SECRET

8 MAR 21 1958

b1 b3 SECRET

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Sinfeld

June 24, 1959

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington 25, D.C.

INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jmp/rtc

Dear Sirs,

I am doing a research study on the life of Dr. Nikola Tesla of New York City (1856 - 1943), and desire information which you may have. It was reported in the book "Prodigal Genius" that Dr. Tesla's papers were seized from his New York hotel room upon his death in 1943 by the F.B.I.. I am very interested in getting copies of his papers for my study and would like to know if this report is true and where I might obtain further information about them or if you are holding them.

EX 101

REC-91 100-22?-7-10

Sincerely ~~yours~~,

b7C [redacted]
Milwaukee 15, Wis

CRIME REC.

EX 101

REC-91

100-2237-10

July 2, 1959

[redacted]

Milwaukee 15, Wisconsin

b7C

Dear [redacted]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jmp/ste

Your letter dated June 24, 1959, has been received.

In response to your inquiry, I wish to advise that our files reflect that the effects of Dr. Nikola Tesla were impounded, after his death, by the Office of Alien Property of the Department of Justice and not by the FBI. Since we did not participate in the handling of Dr. Tesla's effects, we are unable to supply the information you desire.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

MAILED 5
JUL 2 1959
COMM-FBI

NOTE: Bufile 100-2237 reflects that Dr. Tesla was a world-famous electrical inventor, and at the time of his death, all of his personal papers and effects were believed dangerous to the country's security if they fell into unauthorized hands. The book, "Prodigal Genius," by John J. O'Neil, alleges that the FBI took over a certain safe and opened it, appropriating his property. Bufiles clearly indicate that it was the Office of Alien Property of the Department who did so, and the above reply is forwarded in answer to related inquiries.

DCL:mch
(3)

Tolson
Belmont
DeLoach
McGuire
Mohr
Parsons
Rosen
Tamm
Trotter
W.C. Sullivan
Tele. Room
Holloman
Gandy

FBI

57 JUL 9 1959

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐