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VOLUME 1864

FILE 194

WILLY BRANDES
CANADA

DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP REGISTRATION BRANCH

FILE No. 194-380
Sub. 2 Chron 17 3
DO NOT WRITE ON MORE THAN ONE SUBJECT IN ANY ONE LETTER

IN YOUR COPY PLEASE REFER TO
CITIZENSHIP FILE NUMBER.....

20306/36.

Ottawa, April 11, 1947.

File

C. E. S. Smith, Esq.,
Commissioner of Immigration,
Ottawa.

G. K. GRANDE

Re: Status Joseph Wolodarsky alias
Armand (Abraham) Labis Feldman, your
file 758543

You wrote to this department on the 23rd August, 1946, concerning the above and since that date members of your staff have called at various times by telephone for a report on the subject. Your officers have intimated that Mr. M. J. Coldwell, M. P., was interested in the case. Unfortunately the file was lost for some time and has only now come to light.

The file shows that a certificate of naturalization, No. 23325, series E, issued at Ottawa on the 17th December, 1936, to Armand Labis Feldman, was revoked and cancelled under the provisions of section 9(1) of the Naturalization Act by an Order of His Excellency the Governor General in Council, P. C. 1403 of the 11th April, 1946, on the grounds of misrepresentation and the concealment of material circumstances, in that he concealed the fact that his correct name was Joseph Wolodarsky and that he was not the son of Marcu Labis, who was naturalized locally at Montreal, Quebec, on the 14th May, 1906.

Under the provisions of section 10(3) of the Naturalization Act, Feldman alias Wolodarsky reverted to the status of an alien and that of a subject of the State to which he belonged at the time his certificate of naturalization was granted. For the purpose of the Naturalization Act and of the Immigration Act, he was deemed never to have been naturalized.

The file also shows that Wolodarsky filed a Declaration of Intention in the Circuit Court, Montreal, on the 20th March, 1946. He was qualified to file his final application with the court on or about the 20th March, 1947. An official receipt of the Declaration of Intention is being issued.

J. E. Duggan
J. E. Duggan
Registrar of Canadian Citizenship.

Copies to: The Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs -
no record of previous correspondence;

The Commissioner, R.C.M. Police, reference his letter
August 24, 1945, file D 935-1072;

Messrs. Lavery & Guay, Barristers, 1575 Rue St. Denis,
Montreal, reference their letter of March 2, 1946;

Mr. B. G. Sivertz, Passport Officer, Ottawa, no record
of previous correspondence;

The Deputy Clerk of the Circuit Court, Montreal.

*No action
needed.*

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DEPT. OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

s.15(1)

SECRET

~~SECRET~~ Ottawa, September 6th, 1940.

Dear Commissioner Wood,

I wish to refer to your secret letter of August 20th, (your file [redacted] regarding Armand Labis Feldman, whom you desire to prosecute under Section 405 of the Criminal Code of Canada for securing a passport under false pretences. In the circumstances set forth, very clearly, in Detective Sergeant Scrogg's memoranda. I have no hesitation in authorizing you to prosecute Feldman on this count, and am prepared to leave it to your discretion to determine whether, all things considered, the public interest would be better served by prosecuting Feldman or by continuing to keep his movements under observation.

I am enclosing, as requested, three photostat copies of the complete file covering the application for passport No.3931, issued on February 12th, 1936, to Abraham Feldman, together with three photostat copies of the related application for passport No.22247, issued to Willy Brandes on the 2nd of October, 1936. We cannot, however, furnish you with copies of the actual passport No.3931 which is, so far as we know, still in Feldman's possession. It may be that the passport will be found on Feldman when he is arrested, though this is unlikely as his United States immigration documents, which he will probably have with him when he comes to Canada, are made out in the name of Armand Labis Feldman. I might add, in answer to your final question, that we are not in possession of any information which would indicate that passport No.3931 had been used by Feldman since its issue.

Yours sincerely,

O.D. Skelton

Commissioner S.T. Wood,
Royal Canadian Mounted Police,
Ottawa.

ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO BE ADDRESSED:-
THE COMMISSIONER
R. C. M. POLICE
OTTAWA



File R

119051

URGENT &

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

SECRET

s.15(1)

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

OTTAWA

REF. NO [REDACTED]

August 20, 1940.

~~X~~

Dear Dr. Skelton:

I attach hereto for your information a report dated August 15, 1938, headed, "Re: Willy Brandes", and copies of a memorandum dated 19-8-40, headed, "Re: Armand Labis Feldman", both submitted by D/Sgt. T. G. Scrogg of this Force.

2. Willy Brandes was a Soviet agent whom you will recall obtained the plans of military secrets in England in 1936 which resulted in the prosecution of four employees of the Woolwich Arsenal. Armand Labis Feldman, alias Abraham Feldman was in contact with Brandes in Montreal in 1935, and during our investigation in 1938 we suspected Feldman of being a Soviet agent and our subsequent investigation bears out that belief in an almost positive manner.

3. Since the beginning of 1937, Feldman has lived in the United States and his present address is 39 Sylvania Ave., Neptune City, New Jersey, U.S.A.

4. We are informed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation that Feldman intends to visit Montreal in the very near future. It is our intention to have him under constant surveillance while in Canada. We may find it necessary to arrest him, therefore, we should be pleased to be authorized to prosecute him under Section 405A of the Criminal Code of Canada. The attached memorandum indicates sufficient evidence to warrant such a prosecution.

5. As this important case is one of much delicacy, you will, of course, realize that our plans for Feldman's visit must remain elastic.

Dr. O. D. Skelton, M.A., Ph.D., LL.D.,
Under Secretary of State for
External Affairs,
OTTAWA, Ont.



AUG 23 1940 000005
Canada

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It is quite likely that our purposes may be best served by permitting Feldman to carry out his work in Canada and return to the United States unmolested. On the other hand, circumstances may arise indicating that his arrest for violation of Section 405A C.C.C., is more desirable.

6. Would you kindly furnish me with the following:

- (1) Three photostat copies of the complete file covering the application for Passport No. 3931 issued Feb. 12, 1936, to Abraham Feldman.
- (2) Three photostat copies of the actual Passport No. 3931.
- (3) Any information which might indicate that Passport No. 3931 was made use of by Feldman since its issue.
- (4) Your authority to prosecute Armand Labis Feldman under Section 405A C.C.C., if you believe it so warranted, with the understanding that such authorization be made use of at the discretion of this Force.

Yours sincerely,


S. T. Wood.

s.15(1)

URGENT & SECRET

August 20, 1940.

Dear Dr. Skelton:

I attach hereto for your information a report dated August 15, 1938, headed, "Re: Willy Brandes", and copies of a memorandum dated 10-8-40, headed, "Re: Armand Labis Feldman", both submitted by D/Sgt. T. G. Scrogg of this Force.

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Yours sincerely,

S. T. Wood.

MEMORANDUM TO:

The Intelligence Officer.

Re: Armand Labis FELDMAN

With reference to the report from the Officer Commanding "C" Division dated 14-8-40, in this connection, suggesting a summary of the evidence against Armand Labis FELDMAN for having obtained a passport fraudulently on Feb. 12, 1936, I give below in brief the evidence adducible.

2. There is the verbal statement made by Adolph Stark of 4405 Esplanada Ave., Montreal, to D/Sgt. T. G. Scrogg that Feldman approached him in September 1935 to obtain from him a Birth Certificate which would show that Feldman was born in Montreal (although, in fact, he was born in France). A false registration of Feldman's birth under the name of Abraham Feldman was registered at Montreal on Sept. 15, 1935, Adolph Stark signing the false registration.

3. On Feb. 12, 1936, Feldman obtained Canadian Passport No. 3931, under the name of Abraham Feldman. The photograph of the passport application is the photograph of Armand Labis Feldman and is the same photograph on file. The United States' Consul in Montreal covered the application of Armand Labis Feldman to enter the United States made on Dec. 21, 1936. The passport application of Abraham Feldman and the photograph thereon were signed by the voucher, J. E. Lebeau, Notary of 10 St. James St. E., Montreal. Mr. Lebeau acknowledges his signature but cannot remember the applicant. On the application for passport, Feldman gives his address as 4405 Esplanada Ave., Montreal, which is the address of Adolph Stark.

4. Miss Sarah Marcovitch, 5570 Esplanada Ave., Montreal, made a verbal statement to D/Sgt. T. G. Scrogg that in September 1936, when she was working in Stark's Office, she overheard Stark and Feldman quarrelling; Feldman was angry with Stark because he said he had already given him \$500. for Birth Certificate and a Passport, which were of no use to him for the purpose of going to the United States, and now he had to go to the extra expense of taking out naturalization.

5. On Dec. 17, 1936, (only two days after making application) Armand Labis Feldman obtained Naturalization Certificate No. 23325 Series E under the name of Armand Labis Feldman. He entered the United States with his wife and child on Jan. 5, 1937, after having been given permission to enter the United States under the French quota.

-2-

s.15(1)

6. The list of witnesses will be as follows:

1. Passport Officer to produce original passport application and photographs, and to show that passport had been issued. (The Passport Officer would also produce the full contents of his file which I believe contains a copy of the aforementioned Birth Certificate which was submitted with the passport application.)
2. Witnesses from the Superior Court of Montreal to produce certificate showing false registration of the birth of Abraham Feldman signed by Adolph Stark and Rabbi Ornstein.
3. J. E. Lebeau, Notary, to identify the accused with the passport application. (The photograph being that of the accused would also carry some weight in this) Mr Lebeau was very negligent in signing the application for Feldman without adequate knowledge of the applicant.
4. Adolph Stark to state the circumstances which surround false registration of birth which he signed and also to be interrogated regarding the allegation that he received \$500, for obtaining Birth Certificate and Passport for Feldman fraudulently.
5. Sarah Marcovitch to give her version of the quarrel between Feldman and Stark.
6. D/Sgt. T. G. Scrogg to be on hand in case either Stark or Marcovitch try to go back on their verbal statements to him.
7. Handwriting expert, if necessary, to show the signature on the passport application of Abraham Feldman to be that of Armand Labis Feldman.
8. Representations from the United States Consul and Immigration Service in Montreal to produce their records covering the entrance of Armand Labis Feldman into the United States -- These records bear his signature and his photograph.

7. From the above evidence, I believe the court will be able to come to the conclusion that Armand Labis Feldman did apply for and received Passport No. 3931 under the false representation that his name was Abraham Feldman and that he was a British subject by birth. We could also prosecute Stark and Lebeau for their complicity and negligence but we require them as witnesses.

OTTAWA, 20-8-40.

T. G. Scrogg, D/Sgt.

TGS/MAN

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"C" DIVISION.

212-857.

Montreal, P.Q. 15th August 1938.

SECRET.

The Officer Commanding,
R.C.M. Police,
Montreal, P.Q.

Re: WILLY BRANDES.

1. I beg to report that we have had little success in this principal aim of this investigation -- that is, to discover something definite about the antecedents and movements of Brandes -- yet some interesting information has been uncovered which indicate other channels for investigation.

2. Practically all persons interviewed in this matter have been so reticent, and so guided by the necessity of saving their own skins, that our information is a garbled mixture of fact and conjecture. To avoid submitting an involved report I shall first set forth what is known from official records of Willy Brandes and of Armand Labis Feldman. The connection between these two will become apparent later.

WILLY BRANDES:

9th September 1936: Willy Brandes married Mary Stern at Montreal, P.Q. Officiating priest was Rabbi J. Aspler; and witnesses were L. Sherkar and M. Friefield.

15th September 1936: Willy Brandes obtained Naturalization Certificate as the son of Shulim Brandes of Montreal. (As already reported, he is not the son of Shulim Brandes.) The application was recommended by Ernest Bertrand, M.P.

22nd September 1936: Willy Brandes applied for a passport. His address was 5249 Park Avenue, Montreal. It was recommended by Advocate Abe Mitchell of Montreal. (It has already been reported how Aaron Marcovitch took Brandes to Robert G. Webber to have the passport application recommended, and how Webber transferred the task to the actual signer Abe Mitchell.) Passport No 22247 was issued 2nd October 1936 for Brandes and wife.

ARMAND LABIS FELDMAN:

21st July 1901: Born in Paris, France; son of Marcu Labis. Correct name: Armand Labis.

15th September 1935: At Montreal he obtained a false registration of birth under the name of ABRAHAM FELDMAN. (Copy attached).

-2-

12th February 1936: Under the name of ABRAHAM FELDMAN he obtained Canadian Passport No 3931. (This was fraudulently obtained on the strength of the above birth certificate.)

11th December 1936: Under the name of ARMAND LABIS FELDMAN he married MARCIA BRETT (Marza Brajt) at Montreal. Officiating priest was Rabbi J. Aspler; witnesses were L. Sharker and S. Cohen. (At the time of this marriage they already had a son named William, aged six years.)

15th December 1936: Armand Labis Feldman applied for Naturalization, and Certificate No 23325 series E was issued to him on 17th December 1936. His address was 5175 Jeanne Mance Street, Montreal.

21st December 1936: Armand Labis Feldman, and his wife and child, applied at the U.S. Consulate in Montreal to enter the United States under the French quota. (His photograph on documents at the U.S. Consulate is exactly the same as the photograph on the Canadian passport file of ABRAHAM FELDMAN).

5th January 1937: United States Immigration Service in Montreal granted permission to Feldman and his family to enter the United States. (There is no record that he actually entered.)

3. A word in description of the locale of this investigation will make this report more intelligible. At the time Brandes and Feldman obtained the above mentioned Naturalizations and Passports a man named ADOLPH STARK was branch manager of the Sovereign Life Insurance Company, with offices at the corner of St. Lawrence and Mount Royal Streets, Montreal. Stark employed about a dozen insurance agents, and his office seems to have been open house for his acquaintances and those of his agents. It is this office which Brandes and Feldman frequented during their stay in Montreal, and it is from this office that all the affairs connected with the Naturalizations and passports were conducted. Stark's office is in the heart of the Jewish section of the city; all persons connected herewith are Jews; and all addresses mentioned in this report are within half a mile of that office.

4. One of the agents in Stark's office was AARON MARCOVITCH. The following is the gist of his story obtained during several interviews. Marcovitch would admit nothing that might incriminate him; but he was very frightened and really tried to give information to help us discover something about Brandes. Marcovitch says: Willy Brandes started to call at Stark's office about September 1936 and he had been introduced to Marcovitch as "Willy". Brandes spoke English, and was apparently a Jew. They often had short, casual conversations but nothing of importance. He denied having taken Brandes down to Webber's office to get the passport application signed -- he had merely met Brandes on the street car and both were destined for the same office. He also denies having obtained Shulim Brandes Naturalization Certificate for Willy Brandes Naturalization, or of having persuaded Ernest Bertrand, M.P., to recommend it.

5. Marcovitch said his daughter Miss Sarah Marcovitch had been employed in Stark's office as a stenographer and she had overheard conversations which lead him to believe that Brandes had come to Canada in an automobile from New Jersey by way of Niagara Falls, Ontario. (Miss Marcovitch's story will come later). He is certain that Brandes came to Canada with, or with the help, of Armand Labis Feldman. If we would investigate Feldman we would find something of value regarding Brandes, he said. Then he proceeded to tell us of the false registration of birth, etc, which when investigated proved to be true, as will be seen from paragraph two above. He believes Adolph Stark is the man through whom both Brandes and Feldman made their contacts in this country.

6. Miss Sarah Marcovitch, daughter of Aaron Marcovitch, was interviewed. She says: She started work as a stenographer for Adolph Stark at the beginning of September 1936 and quit 9th January 1937. Brandes was already visiting the office when she began the job. The partition between her office and the private office of Stark was very thin, and early in September 1936 she heard Brandes thanking Stark for having come down to the Immigration Office in Montreal when he unsuccessfully attempted to enter Canada a month previously. (This cannot be substantiated from local Immigration records.) Brandes was saying, also, that he had come into Canada, this time, by car from New Jersey, via Niagara Falls, Ontario, with a friend and they were staying at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel. (Neither can this be substantiated from the Ritz-Carlton Hotel records.) She says that at Brandes requests she typed the letters and declaration for passport which are to be found on the Brandes passport file. Brandes was a frequent visitor at the office until he disappeared about the 15th October 1936.

7. As regards Armand Labis Feldman, Miss Marcovitch says he was also a frequent visitor. The first time she saw Feldman was when Stark introduced him to her as "Joe". He first came to the office about the beginning of December 1936 and was around for a month and a half. One day, when Aaron Marcovitch and Marcu Labis (the father of A.L. Feldman) were in Ottawa fixing it up to get a Naturalization Certificate for Feldman, she overheard Feldman and Stark quarrelling. Feldman was very annoyed because he had already given Stark \$500 for a birth certificate and a passport, and yet they were of no use for his purpose of going to the United States; now he had to go to the extra expense of taking out a Naturalization. Stark refused to give back any money to Feldman, and repeatedly said he had arranged a conciliation between Feldman and his father so that the naturalization could be got and "what more did he want." Later, she heard Feldman tell Stark that he was applying at the U.S. Consulate for entry to the United States.

8. Before interviewing Stark certain investigations where necessary to check the antecedents of Feldman and to learn what connection there might be between him and Brandes. The following accounts are in brief what was learned at the mentioned sources.

9. At the Bureau of Vital Statistics, Montreal, there was registered on the 15th September 1935 the birth of Joseph Feldman as on the 16th April 1902. The witness to this registration was "A.Stark". (See Stark's explanation for this, later).

10. From Departmental Files: Canadian Passport Fyle 1867-36. Note that the applicant Joseph Feldman gives his address as 4405 Esplanade Ave, Montreal. This is the address of Adolph Stark. (Stark says Feldman never lived at that address; and that if he had had anything to do with the application he certainly would not have been stupid enough to let his own address be used.) The recommendation is signed by J.Ed.Lebeau, Notary, 10 St. James Street East, Montreal. Mr Lebeau acknowledges his signature yet cannot remember the applicant; but says that he must have been introduced to him at sometime, for he certainly would not have vouched for Feldman unless he had received assurance that he was worthy to obtain a passport. Canadian Naturalization Fyle covering certificate 23325 series E: Note that all attestations are sworn by Armand Labis Feldman before "A.Marcovitch". Note that Feldman's address is 5175, Jeanne Mance Street, Montreal -- (where he stayed for about five weeks only). Note the recommendation from Ernest Bertrand, M.P., (which Stark admits having obtained at Feldman's request.)

11. At United States Consulate, Montreal: On the 21st December 1936 Armand Labis Feldman, his wife and child, applied to enter the United States under the French quota. Hereunder I give the details appearing on the U.S.fyles. Be it particularly noted that the photograph of Armand Labis Feldman on the U.S.fyle is the same photograph as appears in the Canadian Passport fyle of Abraham Feldman:

ARMAND LABIS FELDMAN:

Address: 5175 Jeanne Mance Street, Montreal.
Born: Paris, France, 21st July 1901, son of Marcu Labis and Sophie Bercovitz. (Original birth certificate fyles.)
Married: Marcia Brett, December 1929. She is daughter of Israeli Brett and Fraida Feldman. States that at marriage Feldman agreed to take the name of his wife's mother: Feldman.
Description: Five feet eight inches. Complexion medium. Hair, brown. Eyes, Brown. English French Jew.
Father: Marcu Labis, 5568 Esplanade Avenue, Montreal.
Destination: New York, to establish domicile. Reference: Mr Louis M.Fine, 126 Sylvania Road, Avon, New Jersey, U.S.A.
Occupation: Salesman.
Reference letters from: Vice Pres and General Manager, Alpha Hatting Co., 509 Balfour Building, 3575 St Lawrence Blvd, Montreal.
Also one from: Manager, Royal Bank of Canada, Mt Royal and St Lawrence Branch, Montreal, dated 30-12-36 showing that Feldman had a balance at that bank of \$6396.41.

MARCIA BRETT LABIS FELDMAN:

Address: 5175 Jeanne Mance Street, Montreal.
Born: As Marza Brajt, 15th January 1908, at Tuvolin Lublin, Poland.
Description: Five feet nine inches. Complexion medium. Hair Brown. Eyes Grey.

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Born: [redacted] at Montreal. (This is the son of Armand Labis Feldman)

With this application Feldman presented Canadian Naturalization Certificate No 23325 series E. There is also a photostat copy of the registration of the Feldman marriage of 11th December 1936. There is also an affidavit of Adolph Stark covering the translations of Polish documents presented by Mrs Feldman.

12. Regarding the Marriages of Brandes and Feldman. Willy Brandes married Mary Stern at Montreal 9th September 1936. Officiating priest was Rabbi J. Aspler. Witnesses were L. Sherker and M. Friefield. Armand Labis Feldman married Marcia Brett at Montreal 11th December 1936. (They already had son [redacted] aged six years.) Officiating priest was Rabbi J. Aspler. Witnesses were L. Sherker and S. Cohen. Rabbi Aspler was interviewed but could not remember the marriages other than the record in his registers. Let it be noted that L. Sherker of 4539 Esplanade Ave, Montreal, was a witness to both marriages. When he was first interviewed by Cpl Noel, as per previous reports, he said he knew nothing about the marriage of Brandes. Sherker has been interviewed again; now he remembers the Brandes marriage but not the Feldman marriage. He said he was called in off the street as he was passing Rabbi Aspler's house to be a witness; he did not know the parties, and cannot remember them. Max Friefield of 4569 Esplanade Ave, Montreal, now remembers being at a marriage at Rabbi Aspler's with L. Sherker; but does not know the parties. He also was called in off the street to be a witness by Rabbi Aspler. (The witness S. Cohen in the Feldman marriage cannot be located, but it is significant that when Brandes was applying for passport and giving a history of his addresses in Montreal he gave an "S. Cohen".

13. Marcu Labis (the father of Armand Labis Feldman) was interviewed at 4824 Jeanne Mance Street, Montreal. He said his son Armand was born in Paris, France, and came to Canada when he was a few months old. Armand ran away from home when he was eleven years, and he has been seen by his father only three times since then: First time: When Adolph Stark came to get him to attend the ceremony of the circumcision of Armand's son [redacted] at Montreal sometime in 1930. Second time: In 1936 Marcu Labis called at Stark's office and Stark told Marcu he had a surprise for him in his private office. They entered, and there was Armand. Between them they persuaded Marcu (who is naturalized) to get a Naturalization for Armand. Therefore Marcu Labis went to Ottawa with Aaron Marcovitch and obtained certificate for Armand Labis Feldman on the strength of his father's certificate. Third time: In March 1937 Marcu Labis was in St Mary's Hospital, Montreal as the result of an automobile accident. Stark came to visit him. Stark returned a week later, and brought Armand Labis Feldman with him. He does not know why his son visited him then; and he has not seen him since. He recognizes the Canadian Passport photograph of Abraham Feldman as that of his son Armand Labis (Feldman).

14. Regarding the address of Feldman: 5175 Jeanne Mance Street, Montreal. This is the residence of Bonnie Katsoff, who was interviewed. He said he had a room for rent sign posted at his house and in December 1936 Armand Labis Feldman came and took the room. Feldman was also but said he expected his wife soon from Toronto. She

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about three weeks later with the son [redacted], and all three left some time in January 1937. During his stay Feldman told Katsoff the following: That he was a commission agent of Toronto with an export business to the West Indies and Africa; That he had a car in Toronto; That he was not long in Canada, having travelled extensively in Europe, especially England and Italy, and was in Austria before coming to Canada; That his wife was a Polish Christian -- her father was Polish and her mother was German; That he had married her in Europe, and she had not been long in Canada; That he had come to Montreal from Toronto in order to see the U.S. Consul and obtain entry to the United States. Mrs Feldman said she had a heated flat in Toronto. (No doubt the marriage in Montreal 11th December 1936 was merely fraudulent in order to cover his wife on the same Naturalization certificate). Katsoff says that both Feldman and his wife spoke English, though Feldman had a German accent. Katsoff is surprised that a man like Feldman, who is supposed to be good looking, well dressed, and of a gentlemanly bearing, could have married such a wife, for she was obviously of peasant stock. Since that time Feldman has been back at the Katsoff residence three or four times but only for a day or two each time. Katsoff says he doesn't know where Feldman is, but I think he is lying because before I saw him his young children told me that Feldman was in New York. (In this connection it should be recalled that Feldman presented a letter of reference to the U.S. Consul from the Alpha Hat Co. At the time of that presentation the Alpha Hat company was run by Bennie Katsoff and a man named Elie Simon of the Wonder Beret and Hat Co. Both deny having given a letter of reference to Feldman, though Katsoff admits Aaron Marcovitch used to frequent their office. It is practically obvious that what with Feldman living at Katsoff's house, and Marcovitch calling at Katsoff's office and handling Feldman's applications, Katsoff and Marcovitch must have arranged for the letter of recommendation.)

15. With reference to Feldman's Bank Account as mentioned in the U.S. Consul file the following information was confidentially obtained from the Royal Bank of Canada, Mount Royal and St Lawrence Branch, Montreal, where Feldman had his account. On the 16th December 1936 A. Labis Feldman of 5175 Jeanne Mance Street, Montreal opened a current account. Several large deposits within two months brought the total up to around seven thousand dollars. Since that time there have been only withdrawals. In March 1937 the account was changed to a Savings Account under the name of A. Labis, retaining the same address. There is a little more than one thousand dollars still remaining. There have been no withdrawals for several months now, but previously cheques had been drawn on this account and presented to New York banks. (Feldman told Katsoff he had several bank accounts.)

16. With the foregoing data the story as told by Adolph Stark will now be better understood. It should be remembered that when Stark was interviewed previously by Cpls Noel and Broome, as already reported, he had denied knowledge of anything in this connection. And indeed for the first hour and a half of the writers interview he continued to deny knowledge. Stark's story, the result of three interviews is rearranged to make it chronological.

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17. Stark's story: About three years ago (1935) FRED ROSE (Rosenberg), prominent communist, (formerly leader of the Communist Party in Montreal and now of Toronto), brought a man named STERN to Stark's office to ask if Stark could use his political influence to bring a family into Canada from Poland. Stark said it could not be accomplished because immigration was closed. STERN was a Jew, over fifty years of age, short -- about five feet two inches, and had a lot of gold teeth. Two months later STERN called again on the same mission with the same result; but this time he was accompanied by ARMAND LABIS FELDMAN whom STERN introduced to Stark as JOE FELDMAN. This is the first time Stark saw Feldman.

18. Feldman became a frequent visitor. He told Stark he was in the jobbing business in Toronto. About September 1935 Feldman told Stark that he had been born in Canada and had been left an orphan at the age of eleven. He had no birth certificate and requested Stark to become a witness to the registration of his birth; therefore Stark appeared before Rabbi Ornstein on the 15th September 1935 and attested to the fact of Feldman's birth in Montreal.

19. During his visits Feldman became quite friendly with another agent of Stark's, DAVID STERN SHEIN. (David Sternshein, formerly of 4602 St Urbain Street, Montreal, and now of California, was sentenced to one years imprisonment for forgery in 1930. In November 1937 he skipped out of Montreal for Los Angeles, California. In the Spring of 1938 he was indicted with Lawyer Morris Signer and others for wholesale forgery. Signer and others were convicted but Sternshein did not stand trial as the prosecuting bank would not go to the expense of his return from the United States.)

20. About the beginning of September 1936 FELDMAN BROUGHT BRANDES TO STARK. He was introduced as "WILLY". Brandes also became a frequent visitor and was often in the company of Feldman and Sternshein. Brandes told Stark he came from Germany; though he was born in Alsace-Lorraine -- that is why, he said, he could speak both French and German. Later Brandes asked Stark to fix him up with Naturalization papers, saying at the same time that he was a German refugee. Stark refused. Brandes then contacted Aaron Marcovitch for this job, and Marcovitch agreed to do it. Marcovitch asked Stark to get a letter of recommendation from Ernest Bertrand M.P., for Brandes, so Stark took Brandes down to Bertrand's office and got the letter. (This letter will be found on Brandes Passport File.) Stark says he did not hear of the marriage of Brandes. Brandes ceased to visit his office sometime in October 1936.

21. Sometime after Brandes had left Montreal Stark heard FELDMAN, MARCU LABIS, and AARON MARCOVITCH discussing the method whereby Willy Brandes "had gotten himself a father in Montreal" for purposes of Naturalization. (It was not until about this time, says Stark, that he found out Marcu Labis was the father of Feldman). Feldman wanted to do the same thing that Brandes had done. He already had a birth certificate and a passport but was dissatisfied with them because he could not take his wife and child into the States. He wanted some document that would also cover his wife. Therefore it was arranged to get Feldman a Naturalization on the strength of his father's naturalization, and to this end Marcu Labis and Aaron Marcovitch went to the Dept of Secretary of State and got the certificate. And for this purpose Stark got another letter of recommendation from Ernest Bertrand M.P.

-3-

22. After he had his papers fixed up Feldman told Stark he was applying at the U.S. Consulate to enter the United States. He then asked Stark if he would use his influence in getting a letter of introduction for him from S.W. JACOBS M.P., to CONGRESSMAN DICKSTEIN of New York. Stark refused. (Isn't this the U.S. Congressman who by his speeches in Congress stirred up the American people to a realization of the spy-menace in the United States and so started the recently publicized investigations?)

23. Since Feldman left Montreal at the beginning of 1937 he has called two or three times at Stark's office. Stark met him once at St Mary's Hospital, Montreal, but he certainly did not take Feldman there as Marcu Labis affirms. Feldman said he had his office in Toronto. Stark has not seen him for a year now. Stark says that if anyone can tell us who Brandes is, it is Feldman.

24. Referring to the STERN whom David Rose brought to Stark's office, and who in turn brought up Feldman: Stark has not seen him since that time, three years ago. (STERN cannot be located in Montreal. Curiously enough the maiden name of Brandes' wife, as given, was MARY STERN.)

25. To summarize:

In the first place I am convinced that neither Marcovitch nor Stark knew anything of the spying activities of Brandes, or even suspected as much. It should also be remembered that whatever Marcovitch and Stark did tell us they did so only after being frightened of the consequences, hence they said as little as possible, or made denials, of anything that would incriminate them regarding passports and naturalizations. In other words I believe we have gotten as much as is possible in Montreal regarding Brandes and Feldman.

26. The links in this case appear to be: FRED ROSE -- STERN -- FELDMAN -- BRANDES. As pointed out Fred Rose was the Communist leader in Montreal. And I understand that he has visited Moscow and is supposed to have some connection with Soviet exterritorial police work. It seems obvious that the Soviet Government would make use of Communist Party leaders in foreign countries to establish contacts and relationships in foreign affairs. Anyway "a family" wanted to come to Canada -- it may have been Feldman's wife and child, or it may have been Brandes and his wife. (Co-incidentally both Fred Rose and Feldman's wife, Marcia Brett, were born in Lublin, Poland.) Where the old man STERN comes in I cannot say. Perhaps he is the one who contacted Rose in this country. Stern introduced Feldman to Stark. Feldman got a birth certificate and a passport under the name of Abraham Feldman. This passport was for himself alone -- if his wife and child had been in Canada at the time would he not have included them also. Feldman then brought Brandes apparently from the United States. (One of the persons interviewed said the reason why Feldman wanted the Naturalization was to avoid all the trouble he had every time he went into the States, so it is certain he was living in the U.S., off and on, before Brandes came.) Then came the business of getting a father in Montreal for Brandes in order that he might be naturalized. It was very simply done: Someone picked on Shulim Brandes to be the "father" of Willy Brandes. (Shulim Brandes is Aaron Marcovitch's uncle). Then a number of names and addresses are furnished in order that Brandes may

-8-

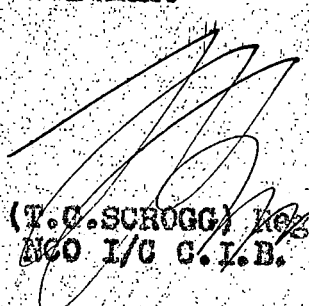
show a history of continued residence in this country when applying for passport. (See letter dated 28th September 1936 on Brandes passport file.) One of these was Mrs Sophia Haupt, 117 Mount Royal Street West, Montreal, who happens to be a cousin of Adolph Stark. (Mrs Haupt was not interviewed for Stark admits that Brandes never lived with her). And so Brandes is fixed up with everything necessary to go touring around the world as a Canadian citizen. I haven't the slightest doubt but that Marcovitch and Stark did all that was necessary for the passports and Naturalizations of Brandes and Feldman, but I don't think for a moment that either of them knew their true activities of the men they helped.

27. In my opinion if we can find ARMAND LABIS FELDMAN we shall be able to find out who is WILLY BRANDES. And when we take into consideration all the circumstances related above regarding Feldman I would not be at all surprised that we should at the same time find in Feldman, another spy. New York seems the most likely place to look for Feldman, and possibly the United States Immigration Service would be willing to make the search if they were informed how he had fraudulently obtained a passport in this country.

28. Regarding PROSECUTIONS:

It has been recommended in this file that Marcovitch, Webber, and Mitchell be prosecuted for conspiring to commit the indictable offense of Sec 405a CCC. That was before the facts of this report were known. Personally I am of the opinion that no prosecutions should be entered. The only definite evidence we have is: Against Mitchell for recommending Brandes passport application without having sufficient knowledge of the applicant; and against Notary Lebeau for recommending Feldman's application for passport without having sufficient knowledge of the applicant. In both cases these professional men would plead that they felt justified in signing the applications on being assured by reputable acquaintances that the applicants were worthy persons to have passports. Whatever would be the outcome of the cases I don't think the courts would look harshly on the offences; and in any event we should be missing the two main conspirators: Marcovitch and Stark. And to look matters straight in the face Ernest Bertrand M.P., was just as negligent as either Mitchell or Lebeau. And as for prosecuting Marcovitch and Stark, the only evidence we would have would be that of Webber who would say that Marcovitch brought Brandes to his office in order that he might get a passport application filled up; and there's nothing against Stark except what Marcovitch and his daughter have said. (Neither Marcovitch, his daughter, nor Stark would give signed statements). Furthermore, however reticent these men were regarding their own incriminating operations, they certainly did try to give as much information as was possible regarding the other activities of Feldman and Brandes.

29. During most of the interviews in this investigation I was assisted by D/Cpl Noel. D/Cpl Noel will keep in touch with Marcovitch and Stark in the chance that they may receive information as to the whereabouts of Feldman.


D/A/Sgt
(T.C. SCROGG) Reg No 9429.
NCO I/C C.I.B.

-10-

The Commissioner,
Royal Canadian Mounted Police,
Ottawa, Ont.

1. Forwarded. Four copies herewith.
2. Regarding the Communist FRED ROSE please refer to the report of S.A. 932 dated 15-6-37 H.Q. Ref: D935-159 Re: Fred Rose (Rosenberg), wherein it is suggested that he is acquainted with the Russian Secret Police and an agent of the Comintern. Rose was formerly Communist Party leader in Montreal, and was transferred by the Party to Toronto in November 1937.
3. If the suspicion is correct that Fred Rose was contacted in Montreal because of his alleged agency for the Soviet Government, then in such case I do not think that anything would be learned by questioning him, in fact it might be harmful. And the same comment could be made as regards Feldman; though efforts should be made to locate him, at least.
4. As to D/Sgt Scrogg's suggestion that no prosecution be entered I note by the file that the D.C.I., got in touch with the Department several times recommending prosecution but no encouragement was received from the Department. The question is well set out in paragraph 23 above and awaits departmental decision.
5. D/Cpl Noel will submit another report in due course should information be received as to Feldman's whereabouts.

D.D. 20-10-38.

SUPT.

(R.R. TAIT)

COMMANDING "C" DIVISION.

S.

s.15(1)

JER/S

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Ottawa, June 3, 1938.

Dear Sir,-

Referring to your secret communication dated the 1st June, 1938, under your file No. [REDACTED] concerning the case of Willie Brandes, I may say that this whole question was referred to the Department of Justice some time ago, with a view to possible prosecution of Marcovitz, Webber and Mitchell.

The Willie Brandes passport file was sent to the Department of Justice some time ago, for examination. If you want to show the file to Marcovitz you must get it from the Department of Justice and must also obtain an opinion, in writing, from the Department, authorizing you to show the file to Marcovitz. I may say that, in so far as this Department is concerned, there would normally be objections to showing a file of this sort to a person like Marcovitz, who undoubtedly is a criminal engaged in conspiracy to defraud the Passport Office. If, however, the Department of Justice are of the opinion that the ends of justice would be served by permitting Mr. Marcovitz to inspect the file, this Department is not prepared to offer a definite objection.

Yours sincerely,

O D SKELTON

The Commissioner,
Royal Canadian Mounted Police,
Ottawa, Canada.

Under Secretary of State for
External Affairs.

194-380

ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO BE ADDRESSED:
THE COMMISSIONER
R.C.M. POLICE
OTTAWA



s.15(1)

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
OTTAWA

50082

SECRET

REF. N° [REDACTED]

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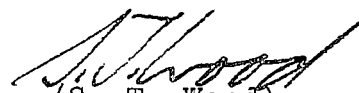
June 1, 1938.

Dear Sir:-

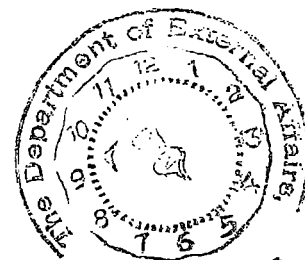
1. Further to previous correspondence in connection with the case of Willy Brandes who obtained naturalisation privileges and a passport in this country by means of false representation, we are now advised by our Montreal Office that Marcovitch has offered to supply this Force with certain particulars in connection with the subject of investigation. Mr. Marcovitch has already stated that he acted as the instrument of others who are engaged in systematic espionage in this country but, before furnishing further particulars, wishes to inspect the Passport Office file of Willy Brandes.

2. It would, therefore, be appreciated if the file referred to could be forwarded to this Office for transmission to our Officer Commanding at Montreal who will use his own discretion as to whether or not he accedes to the request made by Mr. Marcovitch in this matter.

Yours very truly,


(S. T. Wood)
Commissioner

The Under Secretary of State
for External Affairs,
OTTAWA, Ont.



JUN 3 1938
Canada.

000022

JER

JG

~~4~~

Ottawa, May 28, 1938.

Dear Mr. Plaxton,

Referring to your letter dated the 25th May, 1938, under file No. J.R. 3436 - 38, I am transmitting the Passport Branch file (No. 20579 - 1936) covering the case of Willie Brandes.

I assume that this is the file which you desire to examine. We have, in addition, a general departmental file dealing with the Willie Brandes case, and particularly with the proposed prosecution of Marcovitch, Webber, and Mitchell. If you need this file also, please let me know and I shall have it sent over immediately.

Yours sincerely,

C.F. Plaxton, Esq., K.C.,
Acting Deputy Minister of Justice,
O t t a w a.

LAURENT BEAUDRY

Acting Under Secretary of
State for External
Affairs.

ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO BE ADDRESSED:-
THE COMMISSIONER
R.C.M. POLICE
OTTAWA

s.15(1)



ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
OTTAWA

REF. NO. [REDACTED]

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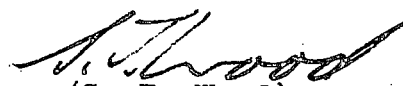
April 28, 1938.

Dear Sir:-

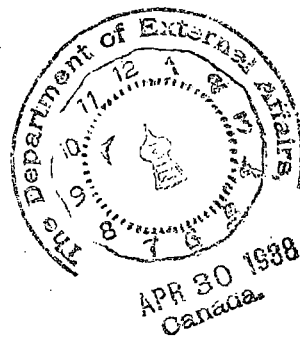
1. With further reference to our letters of March 1st and March 21st in connection with the subject of Willy Brandes, we may say that we have now received a communication from our overseas Correspondent which states that the G.P.U. agent who directed the Soviet espionage organisation in England prior to the arrival of Brandes has now been identified as a certain Paul Hardt who is described as being one of the chief agents of the G.P.U. operating both in England and in France. This person left England during June, 1937, and is understood to have subsequently taken an important part at a meeting of G.P.U. agents held in Paris on July 18th, 1937, at which the murder of a certain Ignace Reiss (a G.P.U. agent who desired to sever his connection from the organisation) was decided upon. Reiss was later murdered near Lausanne, Switzerland, on September 4th, 1937.

2. In view of the fact that Brandes took the place of Paul Hardt in England on the departure of this person to Paris it would appear logical to assume that Brandes is regarded as being of equal importance as a G.P.U. agent to his predecessor, and the Military Intelligence authorities in England, as previously stated, are anxious to determine his real identity.

Yours very truly,


(S. T. Wood)
Commissioner

The Under Secretary of State
for External Affairs,
OTTAWA, Ont.



000024

JER

JG

s.15(1)

Ottawa, April 27, 1938.

Dear Mr. Plaxton,

On the 21st April, 1938, I wrote to Mr. Edwards with regard to the question of prosecution of Marcovitch, Webber, and Mitchell. In the last paragraph of the letter I referred to the possibility of a charge relating to naturalization as well as to passports.

Since writing to you the Under Secretary of State has pointed out to me that a successful prosecution under the common law for the fraudulent obtaining of a certificate of naturalization was carried out some years ago, I think in 1923. Inspector Syms of the R.C.M.P. "E" Division is familiar with this question. The file is under [redacted] and I have no doubt that if you communicate with the R.C.M.P. record room they will be able to furnish you with a copy of the file for your information. The charge was against George H. Alexander, and it was tried before Judge Daly.

Yours sincerely,

O D SKELTON

Under Secretary of State for
External Affairs.

C.P. Plaxton, Esq., K.C.,
Acting Deputy Minister of Justice,
Ottawa, Canada.

JER/S

*Copy sent to Hon. Sec. State of Can.
Apr 22/38 JND*

Ottawa, April 21, 1938.

Dear Mr. Edwards,-

I desire to bring to your attention a question arising out of an investigation into the issuing of a passport to Willy and Mary Brandes.

On the 15th February, 1938, a report was received by the Department from the R.C.M.P., indicating that Willy and Mary Brandes were Soviet military espionage agents and that inquiries were being made with regard to their naturalization and passports.

Brandes obtained naturalization in Canada and immediately afterwards Canadian passport No. 22247 was issued to him, on the 2nd October, 1936, for the purpose of travelling to Europe to spend a honeymoon.

W. Brandes had obtained his naturalization by fraud, by stating that he was the son of Schulim Brandes who had previously been naturalized in 1913.

Brandes obtained naturalization through the collusion of A. Marcovitch, after he had examined the Naturalization Certificate which had been issued to Schulim Brandes and presumably with knowledge that the latter had no son.

Brandes left England for Moscow in November, 1937, and it is impossible to proceed against him at present.

The R.C.M.P. take the view that Marcovitch has rendered himself liable to prosecution on a charge of conspiracy to infringe Section 405(a) of the Criminal Code. The offence would be conspiracy to obtain a passport

W. Stuart Edwards, Esq., K.C.,
Deputy Minister of Justice,
Ottawa, Canada.

s.15(1)

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for Willy Brandes. The charge would be laid against Marcovitch, Webber and Mitchell.

If you so desire, I shall send the departmental file for examination. I think, however, that it would undoubtedly be more satisfactory for you to draw file [redacted] from the R.C.M.P. records. In so far as the question of the extent of evidence available in respect of the proposed charge is concerned, the R.C.M.P. file would certainly be as complete, and possibly more complete than the departmental file. Further, on the question of available evidence, I have no doubt that Superintendent Mellor would be able to give your further information.

The story is shortly this: that Marcovitch approached Webber on or about the 22nd September, 1936, introducing Brandes and explaining that Brandes was making application for a passport. Marcovitch asked Webber to assist Brandes in the preparation of the application and also to see Marin, a Notary Public, in order that he might sponsor the application. Marcovitch gave Webber \$10 or \$15 to cover his services and that of the sponsor. Marin was not available, so Webber went to Mitchell's Office, with the application, but not the applicant; and, on the basis of assurances from Webber, Mitchell sponsored the application, receiving \$5.00.

There are various reports dealing with interviews with Marcovitch, Webber, Schulim Brandes and Mitchell on the files.

The R.C.M.P. have proposed the institution of the prosecution and have asked that counsel should be named.

I should like to have your opinion as to whether, in view of the nature of the available evidence, this is a case in which a prosecution should be commenced.

-3-

In the event that you decide that a crime has been committed and that there is sufficient evidence to justify the institution of a prosecution, I should like to have your opinion as to whether the proper course would be the submission of the facts to the Attorney General of the Province of Quebec, with a view to action by him or the naming of counsel to commence proceedings independently of the Attorney General in the Quebec Courts.

In the event that you are of the opinion that the second course should be adopted, I should be obliged if you would name counsel and inform me as to what instructions should be sent to the person named.

In the event that you come to the conclusion that counsel should be instructed and the prosecution instituted by the R.C.M.P., I should like to have your view as to whether it will be carried throughout, or simply to the stage of committal for trial, the Attorney General undertaking all later proceedings.

I have discussed this matter with the Under-Secretary of State for Canada. In the event that you come to the conclusion that it is possible to charge these malefactors with any offence relating to naturalization, as well as to passports, the Department of the Secretary of State will be jointly responsible. Accordingly, I am sending the Under-Secretary of State a copy of this letter, and should be obliged if you would either communicate to him a copy of your reply to me, or furnish me with an additional copy for transmission to him.

Yours sincerely,

C. D. Skelton

Under-Secretary of State
for External Affairs.

194-38C



CANADIAN LEGATION
TOKYO

22nd March, 1938

CONFIDENTIAL

No. 160

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your confidential despatch No. 13 of February 18th, 1938 and in reply to state that should Canadian Passport No. 22247 issued to Willy and Mary Brandes on the 2nd October, 1936 come to the attention of our Passport Officers I shall see that it is immediately impounded in accordance with your instructions.

I have the honour to be,

With the highest respect,

Sir,

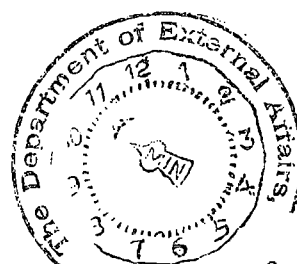
Your obedient, humble Servant,

The Right Honourable

The Secretary of State for External Affairs,

O t t a w a,

C A N A D A.



APR 8 1938
Canada.

ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO BE ADDRESSED:-
THE COMMISSIONER
R.C.M. POLICE
OTTAWA



194-38C

26132

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

SECRET

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OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

OTTAWA

REF. N°



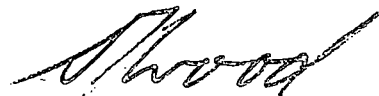
March 21, 1938.

Dear Sir:-

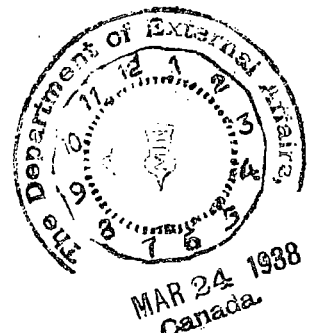
1. On March 1st we communicated with you requesting that counsel be appointed for the purpose of prosecuting Aaron Marcovitch, Robert G. Webber, and Abe Mitchell alias Mitchefsky for conspiracy to infringe Section 405(a) of the Criminal Code in connection with the case of Willy and Mary Brandes and also asking that the documents submitted by Brandes for passport purposes be provided together with copies of all correspondence to this individual. We have now received the Naturalisation file regarding Willy Brandes from the Under Secretary of State which has been forwarded to Montreal for the information of our Officer Commanding at that point. May we, therefore, please be supplied with the necessary information from your Department as soon as possible so that the prosecutions may be proceeded with.

2. In this connection we may say that the Intelligence authorities in England are anxious to ascertain the true identity of Brandes and it is considered it is possible, when this case comes to trial, that Marcovitch may make such disclosures as may clarify this point.

Yours very truly,


(S. T. Wood)
Commissioner

The Under Secretary of State
for External Affairs,
OTTAWA, Ont.





CANADIAN LEGATION
PARIS

No. 8/



7th March, 1938.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your despatch No. 12 of 18th February, 1938, informing us that Canadian passport No. 22247 issued to Willy and Mary Brandes on the 2nd of October, 1936, was obtained by fraud, and has been used in connection with illegal activities by the holders.

The matter is receiving our immediate attention.

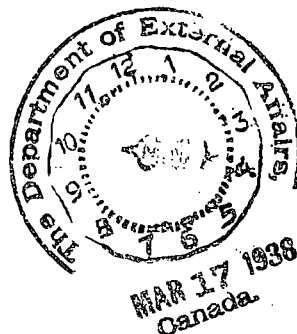
I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Th. H. G. G.

The Right Honourable,
The Secretary of State
for External Affairs,
Ottawa, Canada.



194-380

19574

ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO BE ADDRESSED:-
THE COMMISSIONER
R.C.M. POLICE
OTTAWA



ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
OTTAWA

s.15(1)

REF. NO. [REDACTED]

March 1st, 1938.

SECRET.

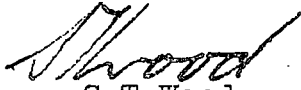
Dear Sir,-

Re: Willy BRANDES.

1. Further to previous correspondence in connection with the subject of Willy Brandes and Mary Brandes, who obtained passport facilities while in this country by means of false pretences, we are now forwarding, for your perusal, copy of a report, dated the 25th February, received from our Montreal Office, from which it will be noted that in the opinion of our Officer Commanding at that point charges should be laid against Aaron Marcovitch, Robert G. Webber and Abe Mitchell alias Mitchefsky for conspiracy to infringe Section 405 (a) of the Criminal Code. It will also be noted that our Officer Commanding at Montreal requests that the documents submitted by Willy Brandes for passport purposes be provided, also copies of all correspondence to Willy Brandes. It is requested, therefore, that the Passport Office file of the subject of investigation be forwarded to this Headquarters for transmission to Assistant Commissioner F.J. Mead at Montreal.

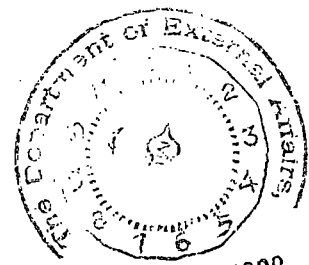
2. Our Officer Commanding at Montreal also requests that the services of a competent lawyer be provided for the purpose of prosecuting the persons referred to above. It would be appreciated, therefore, if the necessary arrangements could be made in this connection in accordance with Superintendent A.H.L. Mellor's conversation with your Mr. J. E. Read, of the 26th instant.

Yours very truly,


S.T. Wood,
A/Deputy Commissioner.

The Under Secretary of State
for External Affairs,
Ottawa, Ont.

Encl.
D.D. 15-3-38.



MAR 3 1938
Canada

Division File No. 212-857

F. 237

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

s.15(1)

Division	Sub-Division	Detachment
Quebec		Montreal
		Date
		25th February 1938

File References

Re: Willy Brandes

SECRET

Headquarters

Sub-Division

Detachment

P. C. R.

1. On the 24th February 1938 Mr Schulim Brandes was further interviewed and a short statement was taken from him regarding the facts pertinent to this enquiry. Copies of the statement are attached hereto.

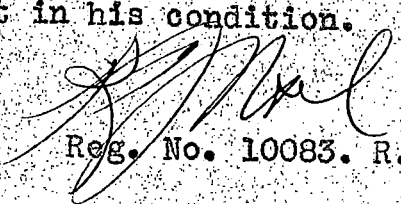
2. Owing to Mr Brandes lack of command of the English language the aid of Mr J. Ross was enlisted and, where necessary, he acted in the role of interpreter. Mr Ross is Superintendent of the Montreal Hebrew Old People's and Sheltering Home of which Mr Schulim Brandes is at present an inmate.

3. The statement contains all the pertinent facts which can be remembered by Mr Schulim Brandes and in view of the fact that this man is 73 years of age and his mental functions are failing, cannot be enlarged upon.

4. It is significant that the relationship between Brandes and Marcovitch, which was first mentioned by the latter and reported in paragraph No. 7., of L/Cpl Broome's report of the 10th instant, is now confirmed by Schulim himself.

5. Mr David Sommers, Commissioner of Oaths, who administered the oath to Willy Brandes on one of his Declarations for application for passport, has been interviewed but cannot recall performing this office, nor can he recognise the photograph of Willy Brandes which was exhibited to him. Mr Sommers declines to make a written statement until he can verify his signature on the document in question. On this account it is desired that the Declaration certified by D. Sommers be returned to us for this specific purpose. Upon receipt it will be possible to obtain a statement from Sommers.

6. Enquiries have been made at the Marcovitch home but it is ascertained that this man is still confined to his bed through illness and that there is no improvement in his condition.


Reg. No. 10083. R. J. Noel. D/A/Cpl

s.15(1)

212-857

Re: Willy Brandes.

1. Forwarded. Copy of statement referred to is attached.
2. We have not as yet been able to obtain a statement from L. Sherker who was a witness at the marriage of Willy Brandes. Mr Sherker is at present out of town but will be back next week.
3. It is considered that charges should be laid against Aaron Marcovitch, Robert G. Webber and Abe Mitchell, alias Mitchefsky, but before these charges are laid I should like to have all the documents submitted by Willy Brandes to the Department of External Affairs (Passport Branch) and to the Department of Secretary of State (Naturalisation Branch), also copies of all correspondence from these Departments to Willy Brandes. These documents will help us build up our case, they will not leave our possession and will be turned over to representatives of the aforementioned Departments when they are called here by Court Subpoena to give evidence and to submit the documents for purposes of court record.
4. You will note that Marcovitch is still confined to bed through illness. This does not prevent us from preferring our charges and I would request that the name of a ^{competent} lawyer be given me to prosecute.

Montreal.
25-2-38.

A/A/COM'R

(F. J. MEAD)
COMMANDING "C" DIVISION

C O P Y.

24th February 1938

STATEMENT OF SCHULIM BRANDES AT PRESENT INMATE OF
MONTREAL HEBREW OLD PERSON'S AND SHELTERING HOME,
GIVEN OF HIS OWN FREE WILL:-

I came into the Old Person's Home on November 11th 1935 and have been an inmate ever since. I once lent my citizen papers to Marcovitch during an election some two years or so ago. I came from Rumania in 1910. Marcovitch is a brother in law of my present wife's brother. I have known Marcovitch for twenty years. When Marcovitch borrowed my papers he had them for one day and gave them back to me. I have no sons and have only one daughter who I have not seen or heard of since I left Rumania. Marcovitch did not help in any way to get me into the Old Person's Home. My daughter is by my first wife. I have been married twice and have no children by my second wife. I do not know of any Willy Brandes a Hebrew Teacher. I lived on St. Dominique Street, Montreal before entering the Home. I cannot recognize the people on the photographs shown to me and I do not know them.

I have been made aware of the contents of this statement by Mr Ross of the Old Person's Home and I declare it to be the truth.

(Signed) SCHULIM BRANDES

WITNESSES

J. Ross.
C.R. Broome L/Cpl
R.J. Noel A/Cpl.

Q

CASE OF WILLY AND MARY BRANDES

1. February 7, 1938, the R. C. M. P. requested transmission of photographs of Willy and Mary Brandes and passport applications to Washington. This was done forthwith.

2. February 15, 1938, report was received from R. C. M. P. indicating that Willy and Mary Brandes were Soviet military espionage agents and that inquiries were being made with regard to their naturalization and passports.

Brandes obtained naturalization in Canada and immediately afterwards Canadian passport No.22247, on October 2nd, 1936, for the purpose of travelling to Europe to spend a honeymoon.

Willy Brandes had obtained his naturalization by fraud, by stating that he was the son of Schulim Brandes who had previously been naturalized, in 1913.

Brandes obtained naturalization through the collusion of A. Marcovitch, after he had examined the Naturalization Certificate which had been issued to Schulim Brandes, and presumably with knowledge that the latter had no son.

Brandes left England for Moscow in November, 1937, so that it is impossible to proceed against him at present.

The R. C. M. P. take the view that Marcovitch has undoubtedly rendered himself liable to prosecution on a charge of conspiracy to infringe Section 405(a)

2.

of the Criminal Code. They intimated at that date (February 15th) that if sufficient evidence could be obtained, it was their intention to lay the necessary charges.

3. Steps were taken immediately for impounding the passport. The R. C. M.P. had also brought the matter to the attention of the Under-Secretary of State. We have no information as to whether the Department of the Secretary of State will be taking any action in the matter.

4. It is now proposed by the R.C.M.P. to lay an information against Marcovitch, Webber and Mitchell for conspiracy to infringe Section 405(a) of the Criminal Code. The offence is that they conspired to obtain a passport for Willy Brandes.

5. The story is set forth in Webber's declaration. It appears that Marcovitch approached Webber on or about the 22nd September, 1936, introducing Brandes and explaining that Brandes was making application for a passport. Marcovitch asked Webber to assist Brandes in the preparation. He asked Webber, after helping Brandes to fill in the application, to see Marin, a Notary Public, in order that he might sponsor the application.

Marcovitch gave Webber ten or fifteen dollars to cover his services and also that of the sponsor.

-3.

Webber went to Mitchell's office with the application, but not the applicant, and, on the basis of assurances from Webber, Mitchell sponsored the application. He gave Mitchell \$5.00.

6. There is a report from the R.C.M.P., dated February 19th, setting forth the results of an interview with Marcovitch. It seems to be quite clear that he was a dishonest person, but taking all the reports into consideration, there may be some difficulty in establishing the essential facts.

7. The R.C.M.P. propose to institute the prosecution;— they want counsel assigned, because in their view the Quebec authorities will not unduly exert themselves in the infringement of a purely Dominion interest. It is true that they are dealing with an infringement of the Criminal Code, but the offence is so closely related to a purely Dominion interest, that they will be apt to think of it as analogous to crimes related to customs, coinage, etc., where the Dominion would, without doubt, carry the prosecution.

They are anxious to have competent counsel assigned, because of the importance of the case.

8. The following points are raised:

- (a) Whether the prosecution should be commenced by the R.C.M.P. of their own authority;

-4.

- (b) Whether the facts should be submitted to Justice for opinion, before commencing the prosecution. It seems clear that no prosecution should be commenced without the approval of Justice;
- (c) Whether, in a case directly related to this Department, the consent or approval of the Department should not first be obtained;
- (d) Assuming that it is intended to proceed, whether the facts should be laid before the Attorney General of Quebec or a prosecution launched at Dominion instance and carried through, either to committal for trial or right through to trial;
- (e) Whether the costs should be charged against External Affairs, or against External Affairs and State, or against Justice. The last alternative might possibly be considered, in view of the effect upon two different departments, namely State and External Affairs.



RECEIVED TO

FEB 25 1938

THE SECRETARY OF
STATE

*Done Feb 21/38
E. L. King*

CANADIAN LEGATION

WASHINGTON

February 21st, 1938.



Confidential

No. 222

Sir:

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your confidential despatch No. 84 of February 18th, 1938, stating that Canadian passport No. 22247 issued to Willy and Mary Brandes on the 2nd October, 1936, was obtained by fraud and has been used in connection with illegal activities by the holders. The Passport Officers of the Legation have been instructed to impound this passport should it come into their possession at any time.

I have the honour to be

with the highest respect

Sir

Your most obedient

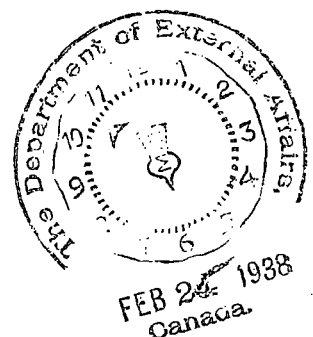
humble servant

[Handwritten signature]

The Right Honourable,

The Secretary of State for External Affairs,

Ottawa, Canada.



HLK/SR

Ottawa, February 21st, 1938.

Dear Sir,

Please accept my thanks for your letter of the 19th of February 1938, and for the enclosures, giving further information with regard to the case of Willy and Mary Brandes. These have been read with great interest.

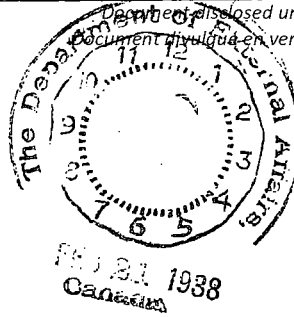
Yours sincerely,

O. D. Skelton

Under-Secretary of State
for External Affairs.

S. T. Wood, Esq.,
Acting Deputy Commissioner,
Royal Canadian Mounted Police,
Ottawa.

ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO BE ADDRESSED:-
THE COMMISSIONER
R.C.M. POLICE
OTTAWA



194-386

16456

s.15(1)

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
OTTAWA

SECRET

REF. N9




February 19, 1938.

Dear Sir:-

Further to our letter of February 15th in connection with Willy and Mary Brandes, as of interest to you we are forwarding herewith a copy of a subsequent report received from our Montreal Office dated the 10th instant which gives particulars of the version of Aaron Marcovitch in connection with the part taken by this individual in the obtaining of Willy Brandes' naturalisation and passport privileges. It will be noted from paragraph six of the attached report that Marcovitch was apparently fully cognisant of the fact that we are investigating this case from the standpoint of Willy Brandes having made a false assertion to the effect that Schulim Brandes is his father, although this aspect of the matter had not previously been brought to his attention. Our main object in obtaining further particulars from Marcovitch at the present juncture is, of course, to attempt to ascertain the real identity of Willy Brandes. In this latter connection a copy of a press clipping which appeared on February 12th in the Montreal Gazette is attached hereto for your interest. We may say that, according to the original information received from England, two persons were under arrest but it will be noted from the press clipping that this number has apparently now been increased to four persons.

Yours very truly,


(S. T. Wood)
A/Deputy Commissioner

The Under Secretary of State
for External Affairs,
OTTAWA, Ont.

Enc.2

Division File No. 212-857

F. 237

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

Division	Sub-Division	Detachment
"C"	s.15(1)	Montreal
Province		Date
Quebec		February 10th 1938

Re: Willy Brandes.

File References

SECRET

Headquarters

Sub-Division

Detachment

P. C. R.

1. On the 8th February a visit was paid to the residence of Mr Aaron Marcovitch at 5570A, Esplanade Ave, Montreal. The intent behind this visit was an attempt to induce Mr Marcovitch to visit headquarters for questioning. Marcovitch was found to be confined to his bed, obviously suffering, with an attack of acute rheumatism and high blood pressure. He had collapsed on the 3rd of February and is likely to remain in bed, under doctor's orders, for some while longer.
2. It was obvious that questioning of Marcovitch in his present condition would be inadvisable, but on the day of my visit he was inclined to be garrulous and practically an hour was spent listening to his conversation.
3. Marcovitch himself brought up the question of the Brandes naturalisation and passport applications. It is a significant fact that, although at the time that Cpl Noel and myself first visited Marcovitch, he disclaimed all knowledge of Brandes or his applications, he now has all the points which are being investigated at his fingertips.
4. Whilst denying any complicity in the obtaining of either naturalisation certificate or passport for Brandes, Marcovitch now states that he was acquainted with the applicant, having seen him on several occasions in the office of Mr Adolphe Stark of the Sovereign Life Assurance Company in Montreal. At this time Miss Marcovitch (his daughter) was employed in Stark's office and tells her father that she once typed out a declaration of sorts for Brandes but that it was not an application for either naturalisation or passport. She claims that at this particular time Brandes gave her the number of the naturalisation certificate which is now found under the name of Willy Brandes in the records kept by Marcovitch. Marcovitch is not too clear on the details of this matter and conveys the impression that it is a fabrication and not the truth.
5. Marcovitch claims that he one day travelled into the city with Brandes by street car and found that they were both going to the same office, that of Nick Grobstein. Marcovitch cannot remember now whether Brandes told him the nature of his business with Mr R. G. Webber (at that time occupying office space in Grobstein's office) or whether he eventually introduced Brandes to Webber, or whether he had previously recommended Brandes to go to Webber, but he

CONTINUED
000043

Division File No 212-857

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

Division	Sub-Division	Detachment
"C"	s. 15(1)	Montreal
Province		Date
Quebec		February 10th 1938

File References

Re: Willy Brandes.

Page No. 2.

Headquarters

5. (continued)
but he/

Sub-Division

remembers that he saw Brandes talking with Webber at the time that he (Marcovitch) was in Mr Grobstein's private office. He claims that any transactions between Webber and Brandes were consummated without his knowledge.

Detachment

6. Marcovitch went on to talk of Schulem Brandes, whose name appears on Willy Brandes application as being that of his father. He told me that he was aware of the fact that we were looking for Willy Brandes on account of the fact that he had committed a crime in claiming Schulem Brandes as his father. It is worthy of note that, at the time of our first interview with Marcovitch, the name of Schulem Brandes was not even mentioned, nor did any conversation at that time suggest that we were interested in Schulem, yet Marcovitch now brings the name of Schulem Brandes up himself, denoting that he is well aware of the circumstances surrounding the applications of Willy Brandes.

P. C. R.

7. According to the story told by Marcovitch, his wife is a niece of Mrs Schulem Brandes but that, to his knowledge, this married couple have no offspring at all. He claims that Schulem Brandes has for years been addicted to strong drink and that, under its influence, he becomes violent. Some three years ago he inflicted injuries upon Mrs Schulem Brandes during one of his drunken spells and it was on appeal from Mrs Brandes that Marcovitch used his influence to obtain entry into the Montreal Hebrew Old Person's and Sheltering Homes for this old couple. Marcovitch claims that they were penniless at the time and have been inmates ever since entry. Marcovitch states that he has visited the home on one occasion only following the admission of the Schulem Brandes's and that on this occasion he did not see Schulem owing to his intense dislike for the old man.

8. Regarding the foregoing statement of Marcovitch's it must be pointed out that Schulem Brandes is approaching eighty years of age, and, whilst mentally alert, he conveys the impression of being physically unable to inflict any considerable amount of damage even under the influence of strong dring. It must be assumed, from his rather "doddering" appearance that the same state of affairs existed some three years ago.

CONTINUED.

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICEDivision
"C"

Sub-District

Detachment

MONTREAL

District

Date

Quebec

Feb. 10/38.

Re:

File References

Willy Brandes

3.

Headquarters

Division of Dist.

9. All of the foregoing information was volunteered by Marcovitch without any prompting or suggestion whatsoever from myself. He was left with the impression that his explanations and protestations were accepted without question and that, so far as this Force is concerned, the file is likely to be closed.

Sub-District

(sgd.) C.R. Broome, L/Cpl.

Detachment

Reg.No. 10924

P. C. R.

Clipping taken from the Montreal "GAZETTE"

dated Montreal February 12th 1938

LONDON SPY LINKED TO SOVIET'S AGENT

Miss "X" Testifies That
British Data Delivered
to Moscow Envoy

London, February 11.—(P)—A shadowy "Mr. Stevens, of Moscow," was described today by slender, blond "Miss X," counter-espionage agent for the Government, as the link between an undisclosed foreign power and four Britons accused of stealing arms secrets.

Closed hearings were ordered in the old Bow Street Court when the case turned to experts' accounts of secret Army, Navy and Air Force weapons allegedly photographed by the ring.

Her identity concealed, "Miss X" filled in details of the story she told at previous hearings of watching the suspects for three years and then springing the trap that delivered them to the British Intelligence Service.

"Miss X" described the movements of "Stevens" and his wife to whom, she said, arms secrets were delivered until they vanished last year.

Crown Prosecutor G. B. McClure said "Stevens's" real name was Brandes. Mr. McClure has charged Stevens and his wife received photographs, blueprints and confidential arms information allegedly stolen by the four British defendants—P. E. Glading, former Woolwich Arsenal employee; Albert Williams, former Woolwich inspector; George Whomack, assistant Woolwich gun section foreman; and C. W. Munday, assistant chemist.

John Miller, an apartment house porter, testified at the open hearing the "Stevens" received Glading at their home about a year ago.

The witness, augmenting the story of "Miss X," said "Stevens" rented an apartment under the name of "Brandes," that he spoke little English and described himself as a French-Canadian. "Miss X" previously testified she was told he came from Moscow.

The Commissioner
RCMP. Ottawa, Ont.

1. Forwarded for your information. Please read
in conjunction with file no. D935-1072, Re- Willy Brandes

14-2-38

(F. J. MEAD)
COMMANDING "C" DIVISION

A/A/COM'R

HLK/SR



Ottawa, February 18th, 1938.

Confidential

No. 84

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that Canadian passport No. 22247 issued to Willy and Mary Brandes on the 2nd of October, 1936, was obtained by fraud, and has been used in connection with illegal activities by the holders. Under the circumstances, I shall be obliged if you will warn your passport officers that the passport under reference is to be immediately impounded should it at any time come into their possession.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

O. D. Skelton

for Secretary of State for
External Affairs.

The Hon. Sir Herbert Marler, K.C.M.G.,
Canadian Minister to the United States,
Washington.

HLK/SR

Ottawa, February 18th, 1938.

Confidential

No. 13

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that Canadian passport No.22247 issued to Willy and Mary Brandes on the 2nd of October, 1936, was obtained by fraud, and has been used in connection with illegal activities by the holders. Under the circumstances, I shall be obliged if you will warn your passport officers that the passport under reference is to be immediately impounded should it at any time come into their possession.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

O. D. Skelton

for Secretary of State for
External Affairs.

The Hon. Randolph Bruce,
Canadian Minister to Japan,
Tokyo.

HLK/SR

Ottawa, February 18th, 1938.

Confidential

No. 12

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that Canadian passport No. 22247 issued to Willy and Mary Brandes on the 2nd of October, 1936, was obtained by fraud, and has been used in connection with illegal activities by the holders. Under the circumstances, I shall be obliged if you will warn your passport officers that the passport under reference is to be immediately impounded should it at any time come into their possession.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

O. D. Skelton

for Secretary of State for
External Affairs.

The Hon. Philippe Roy,
Canadian Minister to France,
Paris.

HLK/SR

s.15(1)

Ottawa, February 18th, 1938.

SECRET

Dear Sir,

This will acknowledge receipt of your secret communication of the 15th of February 1938 (Reference No. [REDACTED]), concerning the case of Willy and Mary Brandes.

In view of the way in which these persons obtained their Canadian passport, we are now taking steps to inform our officers abroad that, should the said passport come into their possession, it is at once to be impounded.

Yours sincerely,

O. D. Skelton

Under-Secretary of State
for External Affairs.

S. T. Wood, Esq.,
Acting Deputy Commissioner,
Royal Canadian Mounted Police,
Ottawa.

194-386

RECEIVED TO
FEB 19 1938
THE MINISTER OF

CANADIAN LEGATION
WASHINGTON

February 17th, 1938.

No. 208

file - 12



Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you, herewith, 1
~~copies~~ ^{copy} of the paper mentioned in the subjoined schedule.

I have the honour to be

with the highest respect,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

(For the Minister)

The Right Honourable
The Secretary of State
for External Affairs,
Ottawa.

NAME AND DATE

SUBJECT

Note from the Department of State
dated February 15th, 1938.

Regarding the transmission of
photographs of Willy Brandes and
Mary Brandes and photostatic copies
of their application for a Canadian
passport.

Reference:

Your despatch No. 59 of

February 8th, 1938.



000051

February 15 1938.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your confidential communication no. 24 dated February 10, 1938, transmitting photographs of Willy Brandes and Mary Brandes and photostatic copies of their application for a Canadian passport.

Accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

For the Secretary of State:

G. S. Messersmith

The Honorable

Sir Herbert Harler, P.C., K.C.M.G.,

Minister of Canada.

ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO BE ADDRESSED:-
THE COMMISSIONER
R.C.M. POLICE
OTTAWA



s.15(1)

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
OTTAWA

SECRET

REF. N° [REDACTED]

February 15, 1938.

Dear Sir:-

1. Further to our letter of February 7th in connection with Willy and Mary Brandes, who are involved in the case which has recently been reported in the press as taking place in London, England, in regard to which certain British subjects are being prosecuted for collecting and photographing secret military documents on behalf of the Soviet Union, the following information is forwarded as of interest to you.

2. On January 22nd we received a cablegram from Military Intelligence No. 5 in London asking whether there was any trace of a Canadian passport issued to a certain Willy Brandes and stating that this individual was known as a Soviet military espionage agent; particulars were also requested in regard to a woman posing as his wife whose Christian name was unknown.

3. Inquiry being made at the Passport Office, it was established that Canadian passport No. 22247 had been issued to Willy and Mary Brandes on October 2nd, 1936, who had obtained the document for purposes of travelling to Europe to spend a honeymoon vacation. Further inquiries established that Brandes had obtained the privileges of a British subject immediately prior to making application for passport and had been recommended in this connection by Mr. Ernest Bertrand, a Member of Parliament of Montreal.

4. Additional inquiries made at Montreal also established that Willy Brandes had obtained his naturalisation privileges by fraud by stating that he was the son of Schulim Brandes, an individual who had previously obtained naturalisation during 1913. Schulim Brandes, on being interviewed, stated that he had no male issue whatever, as will be noted from the contents of the attached report dated the 6th instant which covers the subject of these inquiries. It will be noted in paragraph nine of the attached report that certain addresses are referred to; these are the addresses given by Brandes at the time of making applic-

The Under Secretary of State
for External Affairs,
OTTAWA, Ont.

FEB 16 1938

- 2 -

ation for passport as being the places in Montreal at which he resided between 1931 and 1936. No information concerning this individual could be found at any of the addresses mentioned.

5. It is evident, from the contents of the attached report, that Brandes obtained his naturalisation privileges through the collusion of A. Marcovitch after the latter individual had examined the Naturalisation Certificate issued to Schulim Brandes. Unfortunately Willy Brandes left England for Moscow during November, 1937, so that it is impossible to proceed further against this individual unless he returns to Canada. Marcovitch, however, has undoubtedly rendered himself liable to prosecution on a charge of conspiracy to infringe Section 405(a) of the Criminal Code and if sufficient evidence can be obtained it is our intention to lay the necessary charges. In the mean time photographs of Willy Brandes and Mary Brandes have been forwarded to London, England, as of general informative value and for identification purposes, as has also the information contained in the attached report.

6. It is presumed that under the circumstances you may wish to take action to impound the passport issued to Willy Brandes and Mary Brandes so as to prevent these people from making further use of the document referred to. The details contained in this letter have also been forwarded to the Under Secretary of State for Canada for his information insofar as the question of revocation of naturalisation privileges obtained by Brandes are concerned.

Yours very truly,


(S. T. Wood)
A/Deputy Commissioner

Encs. 2

ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO BE ADDRESSED:-
THE COMMISSIONER
R.C.M. POLICE
OTTAWA



12128



ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
OTTAWA

s.15(1)

REF. NO

SECRET

February 7, 1938.

"Urgent"

Dear Sir:-

1. On the 5th instant we received a cable-gram from England requesting that photographs of a certain Willy Brandes and a woman travelling with him as his wife, also photographs of their application form for passport be forwarded direct to the State Department at Washington, U.S.A., who are also investigating these persons. Photographs referred to above are, therefore, enclosed herewith and we would ask that they be forwarded as soon as possible.

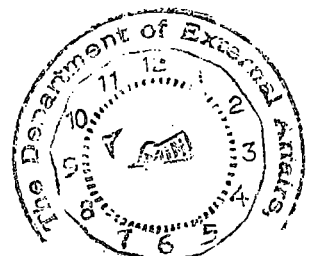
2. Willy Brandes and Mary Brandes are known to be Soviet espionage agents and to have been implicated in the photographing of certain official documents in England in regard to which two British subjects are now under arrest. These persons obtained naturalisation privileges during September, 1936, under very suspicious circumstances which now form the subject of investigation in Canada and shortly afterwards applied for and were issued with Canadian passport No. 22247 on October 2nd of the same year. A full report on this subject will be forwarded to you in due course when our inquiries have been completed.

Yours very truly,


(S. T. Wood)

A/Deputy Commissioner

The Under Secretary of State
for External Affairs,
OTTAWA, Ont.



FEB 8 1938
Canada.

000055

Division File No. 212-857

F. 237

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

Division Sub-Division Detachment
C Sub-Division Montreal
Province s.15(1) Date
Quebec 6th February 1938

File References

Re: Willy Brandes.

SECRET

Headquarters

1. With reference to the D.C.I's Memorandum of the 24th January and subsequent Memorandums under the same heading, extensive discreet enquiries have been made and the following is submitted.

Sub-Division

2. The address at 5249, Park Avenue, Montreal, given by Brandes in his application for Naturalisation, was checked and it is found that he resided there from the 15th to the 30th September 1936. The present janitor, being but newly employed, has no knowledge of this man whatsoever. The administrators of this property reveal that Brandes left this address during the night and that, owing to his manner of departure, he is classed in the company's books as "Undesirable".

Detachment

P. C. R.

3. The Janitor employed at 5249, Park Avenue during Brandes' residence is at present in the Ste Anne de Bellevue Hospital where he was interviewed by L/Cpl Broome. Whilst his recollection of this man is very hazy he describes him as about 5' 8" in height, of fair complexion, speaking broken English and of a Scandinavian type. This description can not be taken as authentic inasmuch as Venne (the Janitor) could not at first remember any details of Brandes appearance. Venne volunteers the information that during the years 1934, 1935 and 1936, the apartment house at 5249, Park Avenue, was occupied largely by persons of an undesirable character.

4. All of the Brandes contained in the Montreal City Directory were interviewed on discreet pretext but none knew or had heard of the subject. The directories for the past six years contain no record of Brandes himself or of the person, Schulim, alleged to be his father.

5. There is nothing on file at the Canadian Immigration office, nor has there been any application for a visa filed with the U. S. Immigration authorities.

6. The passenger manifests at the Shipping Branch of the Canadian Immigration Department were checked for the months of October and November 1936 for the Port of Montreal, but no record of Brandes was found.

7. With regard to Brandes' alleged profession of "Hebrew Teacher" employed in the Montreal Hebrew School, it was ascertained through the Jewish Educational Institute that this man was not, nor had he ever been, employed by them.

8. The Export and Import records of the Customs Department were checked in connection with Brandes alleged

Continued.

212-57.

s.15(1)

re. Willy Brandes.

8. (Continued)
alleged/

agency with the Phantome Red Cosmetics and Charak Furniture Company, 444, Madison Avenue, New York City., but no record of any transactions with this man were registered.

9. Upon receipt of further information from Inspector Rivett-Carnac, which covered the various addresses of this party from 1931 to 1936, all of these addresses were checked but no information which would be of assistance to this investigation could be obtained.

10. Information was gleaned from the proprietor of 262, Laurier Ave, West, at which address subject is supposed to have lived with one Sofia Haupt, that Mrs Haupt, a woman of approximately sixty years of age, was re-married in 1936 to a person of about the same age as herself. The married name of Mrs Haupt is unknown and as records in the Archives are filed under the name of the bridegroom it has, as yet, been impossible to trace this marriage.

11. The family of Cohens, with whom subject is supposed to have resided, left their last known address after a very short stay and have completely disappeared from sight. In view of the fact that Cohen was an employee of the C. P. R., the records of this organisation have been checked but merely show that Cohen left the employ of the C. P. R., in 1934 and failed to leave any record of his address at that time. He has not since been employed by the Company. All present employees of the C.P.R. bearing the name of Cohen have been checked but none of them have any knowledge of the one in which we are interested.

12. Montreal Light Heat and Power Company records have been checked, without result. The subject of this enquiry has never possessed a contract with this company. The Haupt family, mentioned in paragraph 10 of this report, left the Laurier Avenue address without paying their final bill to the company and investigators of the M. L. H. & P., Company have attempted to trace the family but have, to date, met with failure.

13. Mr. E. Bertrand, M.P., who recommended Brandes' application for Naturalisation, has no knowledge of the man and his recommendation was made at the instigation of Mr A. Marcovitch, who campaigned for Mr Bertrand at a previous election.

14. This Mr A. Marcovitch is reported to be an agent for a Hebrew Sick Benefit Association and on further information being received from Ottawa he was interviewed. Marcovitch denied all knowledge of Brandes. On examination of the passport photograph of the subject he declared that the face was somewhat familiar but that he could not place the man. He denied any connection with the naturalisation certificate issued to Brandes, either with regard to the framing of the application or the introduction to Mr Bertrand. In an effort to convince us of the truth of his assertions he examined his records and announced that his records contained no entry under the name of Brandes. Later on in the interview he invited us to examine his records ourselves and to his consternation this offer was accepted and an entry was found under the name of "Willy Brandes, 5247, Park Avenue. This record contained the number of the naturalisation certificate (Series E. number 22970E) and also the date on which it was issued. Mr. Marcovitch stated that this information must have come from the office of Mr Adolphe Stark, Manager of the Sovereign Life Assurance Company, for whom Marcovitch's daughter worked at one time. Marcovitch claimed that Stark took applications for naturalisation and sometimes gave the particulars to Miss Marcovitch.

(Continued -

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212-857

s.15(1)

re-Willy Brandes.

14. (Continued)

Mr Stark, on being interviewed, maintained that he has not been in any way connected with an application for Naturalisation for the past eighteen years.

15. During the course of investigation a visit was paid to the Montreal Hebrew Old Persons Sheltering Home and it was found that a Mr Schulem Brandes was an inmate of this institution, having been there since September 1935. Schulem Brandes is naturalised and possesses Certificate No. 10164, which was issued to him in 1913 on October 9th. This is the date and certificate number given by Willy Brandes as being that of his father. Mr Schulem Brandes emphatically denies any knowledge of Willy Brandes. He has one daughter who is still in the country of his birth and from whom he has not heard since his arrival in Canada. Mr Schulem Brandes definitely states that he has no son.

16. Schulem Brandes states that shortly after his admittance to the Sheltering Home he was approached by Marcovitch, who asked him if he was naturalised and on being assured that Schulem was, asked to see his certificate. This was produced to Marcovitch who examined it and returned it to the owner. It will be noted that on Form "M" of Willy Brandes application it states "That I am the person named in the local certificate which was issued to my father on October 9th 1913". This certificate could not be examined as it has been forwarded to Quebec City in connection with an application by the Home to obtain provincial assistance in the case of Schulem Brandes. On the return of this certificate from Quebec City it will be examined.

17. Mr Abe Mitchell, who sponsored the Brandes Passport application, was interviewed and identified the photograph shown to him as that of a Hebrew Teacher whom he had known, through introduction, for a period of three years or more. He could not, at the time, recall the name of the subject. At a later date Mr Mitchell was again interviewed and following very close questioning he admitted that he did not know the applicant and had sponsored the application on the recommendation of Mr R. G. Webber (Commissioner of Oaths for the Superior Court who administered the oath to Brandes on his declaration for passport). Webber is a friend of Mitchell's whom he claims to have known for several years. Mitchell admitted that he did not know the applicant, nor had he ever seen him. He gave as his reason for sponsoring the application, the fact that Webber was a close friend of his, that the naturalisation certificate was produced to him, that everything seemed to be in order and that Webber vouched for the legitimacy of the application, and that the applicant was described as a Hebrew Teacher in constant employment in Montreal. Following his admissions Mitchell volunteered to take us to Webber, whom we had been attempting to locate. This last he did.

18. Mr R. G. Webber was interviewed and informed us as to the facts leading to his part in the affair and also those concerning Mitchell's part in the sponsoring of the application. Attached hereto is a Declaration taken from Webber covering both his own and Mitchell's part in this case.

Continued-

s.15(1)

200-852

re- Willy Brandes.

19. A search at the Archives in Montreal elicited the information that a marriage between "Willy Brandes, son of Schulem Brandes, and Mary Stern, daughter of Michael Stern and Leah Stern" was solemnized before the Rev J. Aspler of Montreal. The Notary recording the marriage was J. A. Theoret and the two witnesses shown as being present at the ceremony are L. Sherker and M. Friefield. This ceremony took place on 9th September 1936.

20. The Rev. J. Aspler has been interviewed, but, whilst having record of this marriage, he cannot recall any of the circumstances surrounding it and cannot identify the photographs shown to him as being the parties participating in the marriage. The Notary J. A. Theoret has been dead for some months now. The only two persons known in Montreal to possess the same names and initials as those of the two witnesses to the marriage have both been interviewed. Mr Sherker is emphatic that he never attended any marriage ceremony at which the Rev. J. Aspler officiated, whilst Mr Friefield also cannot recall being present at any such ceremony.

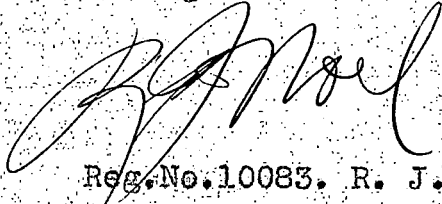
21. All persons bearing the name of M. Stern and shown in the local directory, have been interviewed but none of them bear the name "Michael", nor is the name of their wife "Leah". None of these parties lay claim to a daughter by the name of Mary.

22. Mr. Erwin. B. Blond, who administered the Oath of Allegiance to Brandes, stated that he cannot recall this party who had come to his private residence at night time with another man who was unknown to him. Mr Blond informed us that Marcovitch was not present at the time, but he cannot remember if there was any discussion between himself and the parties concerned as to whether they had been recommended to come to him by some third party. Blond is well acquainted with Marcovitch and admits dealings with him in various other connections.

23. Mr Marcovitch has not, as yet, been further interviewed as efforts are being made to smass further evidence which will leave no doubt as to Marcovitch's complicity in the obtaining of both passport and naturalisation certificete for Brandes.

24. D. Sommers, who also administered the oath to Brandes on a Declaration for passport on the 1st October 1936, has not yet been interviewed as difficulty has been experienced in locating him. He will, however be interviewed at the first possible opportunity.

25. The investigation is being continued and further report will be submitted.


D/A/Cpl.
Reg. No. 10083. R. J. Noel.

(COPY)

DECLARATION OF ROBERT GEORGE WEBBER

I, ROBERT GEORGE WEBBER, residing at 5249 Park Avenue, in the City of Montreal, being in full possession of my faculties and of sound mind, make the following declaration of my own free will.

I have known Aaron Marcovitch for approximately ten years. On, or about, the 22nd day of September, 1936, Aaron Marcovitch came to the office where I was employed, at 159 Craig Street, West, in the City of Montreal, with a man who was introduced to me as Willy Brandes and Marcovitch explained to me that Mr. Willy Brandes was making an application for a passport for himself (Brandes) and his wife. Marcovitch asked me if I would assist Willy Brandes in the preparation of the application for passport. I assisted Brandes in the preparation of the application by explaining to him several of the points on the application form which he could not understand. The application form itself was filled out by Willy Brandes in his own handwriting. From information given to me by Willy Brandes, in the presence of Marcovitch, I prepared and typed out a declaration which was signed by Willy Brandes in my presence and sworn to before me on September 22nd, 1936.

Aaron Marcovitch then asked me to see a Mr. Marin, a Notary Public with offices at that time at 210 St. James Street, West, in the City of Montreal, in order to have Marin sponsor the application for passport. I proposed to Marcovitch that he should take the application form to Marin himself, but he offered as a reason for not going that he was sick and it is true that at the time Marcovitch had difficulty in walking. I then suggested that the applicant Brandes accompany me to the Notary Marin but Marcovitch held that it was not necessary as I had the application form, the naturalization certificate of Brandes and two photographs which were produced by Brandes as being those of himself and his wife. Marcovitch then gave me ten or fifteen dollars, I am not sure which of these two amounts was given to me, but I am certain it was at least ten and not more than fifteen dollars. This money was to cover my service and also payment to the sponsor of the application. I then proceeded to Marin's office whilst Marcovitch and the applicant Brandes remained at my office.

On arrival at Marin's office I found out that Marin was not there but asked Mr. Abe Mitchell, a lawyer who at the time shared this office with Mr. Marin and whom I have known for a period of about ten years, if he would sponsor the application for passport. Mitchell examined the documents I gave him, application form, declaration and photographs. At the time, and before signing the form, Mitchell asked me where the applicant was and questioned me as to his standing in the community. I told Mitchell that Brandes was at present in my office and offered either to take Mitchell to see Brandes or bring Brandes to Mitchell's office. I also told Mitchell that I had an assurance that the applicant was a Hebrew Teacher and at the time was employed by the Hebrew School in Montreal. This last assurance was given to me by Marcovitch and the statement was substantiated by Brandes himself. Owing to the fact that Mitchell was expecting a visit from a client at the time and that he had been convinced by the documents and my own assurance, he sponsored the application and certified the photographs which had been given me by Brandes. Mitchell was then given, I think it was five dollars, by me for his services.

- 2 -

I returned, with the signed document, to my office where Brandes and Marcovitch were awaiting for me. Marcovitch examined the application and then he took one of our office envelopes which he handed to me with the request that I address it to the passport officer, which I did. Marcovitch took the envelope and he and Brandes left my office ostensibly to proceed to the post office to mail the envelope.

Shortly after these events I asked Marcovitch if Brandes had been successful in obtaining his passport and Marcovitch informed me that there had been something wrong with the application and that he, Marcovitch, had gone to Ottawa where he had certain connections through whom he had succeeded in straightening the matter out and that Brandes had left on his honeymoon. Some three months or so after this I asked Marcovitch if the Hebrew Teacher had returned from his honeymoon but Marcovitch told me that he had not returned and that he did not expect him to return.

I, the undersigned, having taken communication of the foregoing declaration, herewith declare that the same contains the truth to the best of my knowledge and belief and that the same has been given voluntarily, of my own free will and without any threats or promises of favour.

DATED Montreal, this third day of February, Nineteen Hundred and Thirty-Eight, and I have signed

(sgd.) ROBERT G. WEBBER

witnesses -

R. Broome, L/Cpl.

R. J. Noel, A/Cpl.

194-38^e

HLK/SR

Ottawa, February 8th, 1938.

SECRET AND URGENT

No. 59

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police have received a request from England, asking that photographs of a certain Willy Brandes and a woman travelling with him as his wife, and also photographs of their application form for passport, be forwarded direct to the United States Department of State.

It is alleged that Willy Brandes and Mary Brandes are known to be Soviet espionage agents and to have been implicated in the photographing of certain official documents in England in regard to which two British subjects are now under arrest. We are informed that these persons are also under investigation by officials of the United States Government.

Our records here show that Willy Brandes and Mary Brandes obtained naturalization privileges during September, 1936, under circumstances which are now the subject of investigation in Canada. Shortly afterwards they applied for, and were issued with, Canadian passport No. 22247 on the 2nd of October of the same year.

The Hon. Sir Herbert Marler, K.C.M.G.,
Canadian Minister to the United States,
Washington.

2.

I shall be very much obliged if you will
forward the enclosed photographs immediately to
the United States Department of State.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

L. C. Christie

for Secretary of State for
External Affairs.

CONFIDENTIAL

No. *194*

Year *1938*

DEPARTMENT
OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Subject:

*Activities of Willy +
Mary Brandes.*

*&
Status of
Joseph Wlodarsky
alias Armand
(Abraham) Harris Feld-
man -*

bot 265575

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