

November 4, 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL



I refer again to a message I had some time ago from Arthur Sulzberger and which I referred to you for comment by J. Edgar Hoover. The reason for suggesting re-study of this case is that Mr. Hoover obviously answered under the misapprehension that I was concerned with Communists. I am in full agreement with what he says about anyone who is now or who has ever been a Communist.

The Communists are a class set apart by themselves. Indeed, I think they are such liars and cheats that even when they apparently recant and later testify against someone else for his Communist convictions, my first reaction is to believe that the accused person must be a patriot or he wouldn't have incurred the enmity of such people. So even when these "reformed" Communists have proved useful in helping us track down some of their old associates, I certainly look for corroborating evidence before I feel too easy in my mind about it.

The object of my concern is not a Communist -- he is another individual entirely. He -- or she -- is the younger person who in the late thirties and early forties was inclined toward leftish thinking, and particularly toward giving expression to his sympathy for the Soviets. This individual may have done this through joining organizations that later came to be classified as subversive, or in any number of other ways.

Let us remember this. Many prominent officials of the Allied Governments were at that time talking in terms of support of the Soviets; witness Winston Churchill's comment when the Soviets came into the war on the allied side. In Washington there was much of the same. In fact, starting in December 1941, it was a policy of our government

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