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U.S. Civil Service Commission Report (January, 1967) - 2

Bern Porter

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UNITED STATES-CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION
REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

NAME BERNARD HARDEN PORTER AKA: Bern Porter	ADDRESS 2001 Lee High Dr., Huntsville, Ala.
DATE OF BIRTH February 14, 1911	PLACE OF BIRTH Houlton, Maine
POSITION Not Shown	AGENCY UNESCO
TYPE OF CASE Full Field	CSC CASE SERIAL NO. 4.24.67.638
PLACE(S) OF INVESTIGATION [REDACTED]	PLACE(S) OF RECORD SEARCH [REDACTED]
DATE(S) OF INVESTIGATION January 18 and 19, 1967	NAME OF INVESTIGATOR [REDACTED]

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The testimony of all witnesses is given in substance unless indicated by quotation marks.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I first met Bernard Porter in [REDACTED] in [REDACTED]. At the time he was [REDACTED]. We were both [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] This organization was made up of [REDACTED]

Porter and I both [REDACTED]

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However, he was a Physicist or Scientist by training and I believe held an advanced degree. In the 1940's he even joined or was conscripted into the Manhattan Energy Project. Around this time I

a philosophical journal of limited circulation. Porter submitted a number of philosophical essays and writings to this publication which was entitled "Falling Leaves".

Since the , I have only two or three times. All of these occasions were at the time he was the State of Maine where his family originally came from. A couple of years ago he

I have, however, continued to . I have . Over the years I have also . I have never been personally but have he had applied for a job as an Instructor, in Technical Courses, for a Peace Corps type program overseas.

Lately I have been wondering why he I concluded that it is due to the fact that I have could comment in a qualified manner on his

the type of individuals he has been associated with over the years. Porter has associated himself with an Arty or Bohemian crowd. One of his professional and personal contacts has been Henry Miller who is a well known author of off color novels. Porter has followed a similar line of thinking and living. After the Manhattan Project he went to Mexico where he lived and communicated with the peasants. He later opened up an art shop on the West Coast where he affiliated with the artists and beachcombers in the area. At one time or another he himself has followed a beachcomber existence. He has written articles which border on literary pornography. Not too long ago I received a copy of the publication "Nexus". One of the articles was written by Porter and in my point of view it did not live

up to the characterization of a philosophical essay. I thought it was more pornography than anything else.

Porter was always out of the ordinary. When I knew him in the [REDACTED] he wore clothes and suits that were at least 20 years behind the time in fashion. He is something of a social outcast. He is not very gregarious and doesn't give a damn about the other person. He holds general views on the brotherhood of man, art and beauty in nature. I am sure he would espouse universal peace. However, I don't think that he is the type of individual that would get down to the particular point of criticizing the war in Viet Nam or foreign aid to underdeveloped countries. He holds broad theoretical views and doesn't speculate on particular areas of government. He writes articles and dabbles in photography which expresses symmetry and beauty in schematic drawings of technical circuits. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] during the period of time that he has been married. There was something peculiar about his first marriage but I don't know any of the details. He apparently married the girl one day and divorced her the second. His present marriage has lasted four or five years. [REDACTED] During his present marriage he has been unemployed a couple of times [REDACTED] During his periods of unemployment he depicts himself as engaging in philosophical meditation. He usually reports himself as being affiliated with the Institute For Advanced Thinking. I believe this is a phrase he claimed himself and that it is separate and distinct from any national organization that may exist by that name.

Porter is a distinct and unusual individual. I would not entrust him with any project which required seriousness of purpose or an ability to manage a large scale project in an efficient and competent manner. I would hate to think of what would become of a project he were in charge of in a foreign country if he were given free reign. He is entirely unpredictable. He could just as easily open up an art studio with whatever funds he were given. I don't know of anything seriously detrimental to his personal or moral behavior. During the time I knew him his personal life seemed to be entirely ordinary and I didn't notice any unnatural inclinations. He used intoxicants but not to excess or habitually. His physical health is good and he should be able to withstand the environment of a foreign country.

Porter's mental and emotional frame of mind is another thing. I was never sure what situation Porter was getting himself into. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I found out that

he had somehow smuggled himself into the garret of a private home and was living there without the knowledge of the owners. I don't recall where this happened or just what he was doing in that area. Porter also has some unusual views on modern conveniences. He will not drive an automobile and I don't believe has ever owned one. I think he is against modernization but then am unsure as to just what his position is on many things.

Porter is a complicated and completely out of the ordinary individual. I don't know anything about his loyalty to the United States but would say that he was a good American. He does have some unusual associates and his writings are questionable from the area of morality. However, I have not seen him personally in [REDACTED] years and [REDACTED]. However, there may be a method to his madness so I will withhold any definite recommendation but will point to the reservations I have already mentioned.

NY; [REDACTED] 1-25-67