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FBI Report on Bern Porter

Bern Porter

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of:

Office: Anchorage

Date: 5/26/59

File Number: AN 140-381 Bufile 140-20103

Title: BERNARD HARDEN PORTER, aka.,
Bern Porter
Physicist - Applicant
Long Beach Naval Shipyard
Department of the Navy
Character: Long Beach, California
SECURITY OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

Synopsis: Mr. PORTER employed Federal Aviation Agency (then Civil Aeronautics Administration) 3/1/58 to 9/8/58 as Electronics Engineer, described as able and competent engineer, but unable to work with a group or adjust to the organization. Made allegations that fellow employees were plotting to kill him and that his supervisor was going to "get him". These allegations were investigated by Civil Aeronautics Administration and found to be untrue and it was concluded Mr. PORTER was mentally ill. This is opinion and not based on medical report. No information reported reflecting adversely upon character of Mr. and Mrs. PORTER. Mr. PORTER had no close associates in Alaska and is not known to have been member of any organization. Mr. PORTER described as very unhappy person and very depressed.

- RUC -

This report does not represent the results of a full field investigation and should not be construed as such in connection with Executive Order 10450.

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DETAILS:

This report does not represent the results of a full field investigation and should not be construed as such in connection with Executive Order 10450.

RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION

EMPLOYMENT

Federal Aviation Agency (FAA) advised on 5/19/59 that FAA files contain only a card concerning Mr. PORTER's employment by this organization. stated that Mr. PORTER's personnel file had been forwarded to A.F. Overseas Employment Company, 1206 South Maple Avenue, Los Angeles 15, California. made available the above-mentioned employment card of Mr. PORTER, which contained the following information:

The employment card reflected Mr. PORTER was hired by Civil Aeronautics Administration (CAA) (now FAA) on March 1, 1958, as an electronics engineer, and resigned on August 2, 1958, giving as his reason "to return to private practice in California". Mr. PORTER was reinstated on August 27, 1958, and resigned on September 8, 1958, giving as his reason "on advice of physician".

made available a suitability file for Mr. PORTER which contained the following information:

Mr. PORTER was assigned to the Anchorage area approximately two months, and on May 26, 1958, was sent to Southeast Alaska on a special assignment. He was to return to Anchorage on August 4, 1958, however, he did not report to his office as he had resigned on August 2, 1958.

Mr. PORTER was interviewed by placement personnel on August 19, 1958, as to why he resigned, and Mr. PORTER stated he had been told by his supervisor that his work was satisfactory, however, he did too much, his reports were too long, too complicated, and that it had been brought to his, Mr. PORTER's, attention that he had too many degrees. He stated he had two degrees, whereas his supervisor had indicated that he did not have any degrees, and had stated frankly that he was afraid of PORTER and felt ill at ease in reading and reviewing some of his, PORTER's reports. Mr. PORTER stated he had submitted seven employee suggestions and that all had been rejected, and that his supervisor had indicated he had too many suggestions. Mr. PORTER further stated his supervisor, Mr. GORDON WIGHT, had at one time stated he would "get him"; also that his supervisor had spread the word that he, PORTER, had lied on his form 57.

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The file indicated there had been a question about some of the work history of Mr. PORTER; however, the work history had been verified. Mr. PORTER stated that as a result of the above, he felt insecure in his job. At the time of the above interview, Mr. PORTER indicated that he liked CAA and would be interested in re-employment.

The file reflects that investigation was conducted by CAA of the allegations made by Mr. PORTER, and it was determined that Mr. PORTER was an able and qualified engineer, but somewhat eccentric. This was based on information from Mr. PORTER that he found it difficult to associate with installation personnel in that he did not care to engage in their usual social activities and small talk; that when he submitted reports he requested receipts for them; also that he was unable to drive a car and would not learn, however, he was considered so valuable to the organization as an engineer that the organization assigned him a chauffeur.

The file contains a memorandum from Electronics Establishment Branch, dated September 2, 1958, in which stated that Mr. PORTER's allegations regarding had been found to be completely unfounded and that it was the opinion of that PORTER was seriously ill mentally and his continued employment was not in the best interests of the Government.

It was also pointed out that it was the opinion of the Personnel Section that Mr. PORTER lacked the capacity to function jointly with several other employees in work performance.

The file indicated that Mr. PORTER had been under the professional treatment of was contacted by the however, refused to advise of the nature of Mr. PORTER's illness without Mr. PORTER's consent. illness, and became quite indignant and questioned reason for involvement in the case. suggested to that Mr. PORTER come to office for consultation; however, Mr. PORTER never visited office.

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Federal Aviation Agency, advised that contact with Mr. PORTER had been as a with an employee and that had talked with Mr. PORTER on two different occasions. advised that Mr. PORTER was employed in the Electronics Establishment Branch as an engineer, which required that he spend considerable time on the road. Mr. PORTER spent several weeks in Southeast Alaska at various Civil Aeronautics Administration installations, which also included Juneau, Alaska.

advised that Mr. PORTER made some serious allegations in that he claimed fellow employees at Juneau and Anchorage had it in for him because he did not belong to the "clique" and that he believed his life had been threatened; that supervisor, had told him would get his, PORTER's job. stated Mr. PORTER also advised that he had made a number of suggestions which had not been adopted.

advised that as a result of these allegations, it was decided that Mr. PORTER was imagining these things and they had the impression that Mr. PORTER had a mental problem of some type. pointed out that it was merely an opinion that Mr. PORTER had a mental problem since they have no report of such a condition from a competent medical authority.

advised that Mr. PORTER was practically a genius so far as electronics engineering went, however, he was a "lone wolf" and it appeared he could not be a part of a team. He appeared unable to adapt himself to people or to bring himself down to the level of fellow employees with whom he was obliged to work and who were merely technicians and not engineers.

stated that had no information regarding the character, loyalty, or associates of Mr. PORTER, and as previously mentioned, only contact with was as with employee.

Interview with _____ File # AN 140-381
on 5/20/59 at Anchorage, Alaska Date dictated 5/22/59
by Special Agent _____

Date 5/25/59

Electronics Establishment Branch,
Federal Aviation Agency (FAA) advised that Mr. PORTER was
employed under

Mr. PORTER
was able and competent as an engineer, however, he was unable
to cooperate with other personnel and made some allegations
that created considerable conversation in the organization
and which tended to disrupt the department. Mr. PORTER
accused his associates of improperly installing equipment;
of plotting to kill him; and accused his immediate supervisor,
of plotting to have him fired.

said investigation by the FAA (then Civil Aeronautics Adminis-
tration) disclosed these allegations were completely unfounded
and utterly false.

said it was their opinion
that Mr. PORTER was mentally ill and that to retain him in
the organization was not to the best interest of the Government.

advised that Mr. PORTER resigned in
August, 1958, and was reinstated the last of August, 1958.

said they were in desperate need of engineers at the time
and it was thought that if Mr. PORTER was placed in another
section under a different supervisor, he might possibly
adjust. Mr. PORTER was, therefore, placed in the Design
Section, Electronics Establishment Branch. Mr. PORTER
then became ill and, after about ten days, resigned.

advised Mr. PORTER's personal habits
were beyond reproach so far as knew. Mr. PORTER had no
close associates in the organization or, to knowledge,
outside the organization. said knew of no
organizations of which Mr. PORTER was a member.

said that had no reason to doubt
Mr. PORTER's loyalty to the United States, however, due to
Mr. PORTER's apparent mental instability and his attitude,
stated would not care to comment further regarding
Mr. PORTER's loyalty to the United States or to recommend
him for further Government employment.

Interview with _____ File # AM 140-231
on 5/20/59 at Anchorage, Alaska Date dictated 5/22/59
by Special Agent _____

Electronics
Establishment Branch, Federal Aviation Agency (FAA) advised
Mr. PORTER worked as an electronics engineer

advised that as a basic engineer, Mr. PORTER's ability and application to work were satisfactory; however, Mr. PORTER was unable to get along with other personnel or adjust to the organization. Mr. PORTER admitted that he did not care to engage in the social activities of his fellow employees or to associate with them after hours. said assured Mr. PORTER that he was not required to engage in the social activities of fellow employees after work. said Mr. PORTER appeared incapable of working with other people and displayed no ability or desire to accept leadership of those employees with whom he was associated. As an engineer he should have assumed the leadership of his group, which was composed of technicians.

stated Mr. PORTER appeared to have the idea that _____ was out "to get him". For this reason, _____ said got the impression that Mr. PORTER had a persecution complex.

said that in addition, Mr. PORTER did not appear to be socially acceptable to his fellow employees. This was due to Mr. PORTER not bathing and changing clothing as frequently as he should, as well as not dressing properly.

As an example of this last item, _____ said Mr. PORTER wore a "T" shirt with only a jacket over it, usually unbuttoned, and appeared in public in this dress.

said Mr. PORTER's morals appeared to be unquestionable and so far as _____ knew, Mr. PORTER had no problem with alcohol. Mr. PORTER apparently had no associates in or out of FAA and was not known to be a member of any organization.

stated _____ had no reason to doubt or question Mr. PORTER's loyalty to the United States.

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on 5/22/59 at Anchorage, Alaska Date dictated 5/25/59
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concluded by stating would recommend Mr. PORTER for employment by the Government if Mr. PORTER could be given an assignment where he would require little or no supervision. specifically mentioned research work in this connection.

Date 5/25/59

Electronics
Establishment Branch, Federal Aviation Agency (FAA) advised
that Mr. PORTER was employed

for
and the

said was very
much impressed with Mr. PORTER's ability as an engineer
and considered him competent. stated, however, that Mr.
PORTER was rather sensitive, a deep thinker, very thorough,
and at the beginning of his employment with this agency,
his responsibilities were not commensurate with his ability
and training.

stated that had no reason to doubt
or question Mr. PORTER's loyalty to the United States, and
that would consider Mr. PORTER's character as most
satisfactory. stated Mr. PORTER kept to himself in the
field and did not associate with other employees in the
organization, or with people outside the organization to
knowledge.

stated that contact with Mr.
PORTER had been insufficient to furnish a basis upon which
to recommend Mr. PORTER for a position with the Government.

Interview with _____ File # AN 140-381

on 5/20/59 at Anchorage, Alaska Date dictated 5/22/59

by Special Agent _____

advised that Mr. PORTER and his wife resided in one of number 501, at 133 East Fifth Avenue, from approximately March of 1953 to September, 1958. stated that Mr. PORTER and his wife were and caused no disturbances in the neighborhood.

stated that Mr. PORTER was an odd person in that he was very moody and kept to himself. He normally did not drink or smoke, had no parties or visitors in the apartment, and, so far as knows, was not a member of any organizations.

stated had no reason to doubt or question Mr. PORTER's loyalty to the United States, and that knew of no questionable associates of Mr. PORTER.

stated that of Mr. and Mrs. PORTER, and that they had some association with Mr. and Mrs. PORTER. stated that knows of no other people who were associated with Mr. and Mrs. PORTER in the Anchorage area.

Interview with _____

File # AN 140-331

5/20/59

at _____

Date dictated

5/22/59

Special Agent _____

advised that knew Mr. and Mrs. PORTER casually as during the period they resided at 133 East Fifth Avenue, during the year 1958. stated that had very little contact with Mr. PORTER as Mr. PORTER was seldom in town, however, did have some contact with stated that to knowledge, Mr. and Mrs. PORTER had no close associates. stated they were very quiet people and that had no reason to doubt or question their loyalty to the United States. stated they appeared to be of very good character and morals and that knew of no organizations of which they were members.

advised that from observation of Mr. PORTER, Mr. PORTER appeared to be quite unhappy and a very depressed person. stated that Mr. PORTER was unhappy in his position with Civil Aeronautics Administration and subsequently resigned and returned to the United States.

Interview with _____ File # AN 140-331
5/20/59 at _____ Date dictated 5/22/59
Special Agent _____

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